

# F E R R I G U S

## FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lewistown, MT

## Quad Five — not your typical Montana ranch

Story and photos  
by Judy Byrne

Just a few miles north of Ryegate, Quad Five Ranch resembles many other Montana ranches. Owner Wiley Micks runs nearly 5,000 head of sheep, horses, cattle, and goats on his 5,555 acres. A big red barn stands in the yard, and a couple of border collies greet visitors as they arrive. However, Quad Five is unique. Its animals donate blood.

Since 1987, Quad Five has been producing donor animal blood and serum products for a worldwide market. It currently ranks as the second largest employer in Golden Valley County.

Blood products from Quad Five are used by the medical community. Most of it ends up as a bacterial growth medium. Probably 90 percent of the products deal with human diseases, things like strep or advancing animal vaccines.

Eight ranch hands perform outdoor duties under the supervision of Matt McAndrews. A Ryegate native, Matt gained several years' ranching experience before signing on at Quad Five.

"Wiley sort of recruited me, and I hired on as foreman," he says. "I'm an ag person, and this is the best. I get to do ranch work as well as interact with both people and animals every day."

Matt's crew spends its days in typical



*While pooling blood from smaller to larger bags, Candy Mitchell adheres to a variety of quality controls to guarantee the blood products remain uncontaminated.*

ranch fashion. Moving the animals, monitoring their pasture, and checking the watering holes are daily tasks. In fact, the crew straddles a horse or four-wheeler twice a day, every day, to oversee the stock and manage their care. They grow feed, fix fences, move herds, shear sheep, plant and harvest crops. Work is plentiful, and days are long.

Shepherd Humberto Juica likes it that way. Formerly a copper mine worker in central Peru, he came to Quad Five in 2006. He misses his wife and two boys, but he enjoys working in Montana. "The people are nice here, and it's quiet. I like working above ground," he says grinning.

"Our guys are very good," Matt adds. "Things would never get done if they weren't, because everything here is time sensitive, and the quality of our stock matters. We provide a clean, healthy environment for our donor animals. None are harmed or slaughtered."

Quad Five primarily collects and distributes sheep blood. Lambs are purchased as weanlings, all of them Rambouillet ewes. Quad Five provides pasture and care in return for their donated blood, which they collect daily. One year later, Quad Five offers first option for re-purchasing the animals to their original owners, and the sheep return to breeding programs. This system works well both for sheep owners and for Quad Five.

By contrast, Quad Five owns its herds of horses, goats, and cattle. Percherons, Belgians, and Quarter horses make up the equine donors. Black Baldy cattle and Boer goats round out the animal population.

Inside the Quad Five lab, activities seem more appropriate to a hospital setting than a ranch. The staff indoors is engaged in blood collection, fractionation and phlebotomy. Rather than horse tack and farm equipment, they work with petri dishes, blood bags and needles. Jody Laramee wears surgical scrubs to maintain a sterile environment as she bottles donor goat serum. Candy Mitchell dons a lab coat and rubber gloves while pooling blood from smaller to larger bags. A variety of quality controls guarantee the blood products remain uncontaminated.

Quad Five submits to several U.S.

*Continued on page 5*



# MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Scott Sweeney

## Conoco Phillips Mega loads

Between July 28 and Aug. 2, our line crews finished up the last mega-load move. In order for the oil equipment to get through our service area, there were about 100 power line crossings.

I thank all our members who experienced planned or unplanned power outages during the raising and lowering of power lines. Emmert International, the moving contractor for Conoco Phillips, paid all of the labor, material, mileage and truck fees for this very large project.

## Flood damage

The Fergus Electric staff met with FEMA officials in July and August to review flood damage to co-op power lines. I am cautiously optimistic that FEMA will provide some monetary compensation for the repaired lines that were damaged or washed out by the severe flooding and earth slides.

Our line superintendent, Dale Rikala, is asking members to report damaged lines in need of repair. Examples are: leaning poles, broken wires, trees lean-

ing towards power lines or underground cable that has been exposed by flooding creeks and rivers.

The cooperative's line crews will work on repairing the extensive damages this summer and fall with plans to finish before winter.

## Highwood Generating Station

Our power supplier, Southern Montana Electric G & T, is continuing to move forward with Phase 2 — a full 120 megawatt gas combined-cycle generating facility. Phase 1, the 40 megawatt peaking plant, is planned to be completed in September.

This generation facility, owned by Southern, will help our cooperative provide long-term, stable electric rates to its members.

## TIMELY TOPICS



Vangie McConnell, Editor

## Co-op Connections Card coming soon

Fergus Electric's commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and our community, especially during tough economic times. Fergus Electric's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership.

The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs. It gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes & Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

Cards will be mailed in January



2012. The card is not a credit card, it is a savings card. One of the most valuable features of the Co-op connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and the information on the back of your card are recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.

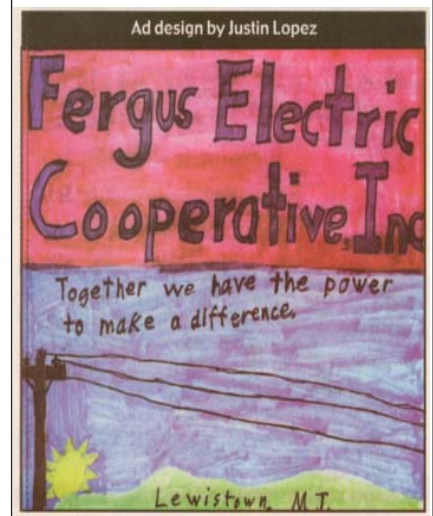
The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions. Visit [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com) to search for pharmacies in your area that honor the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, Fergus Electric strives to serve our members based on four core values: integrity, accountability, innovations and commitment to community. Our Co-op connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values.

Prior to getting the card, you will receive a bill stuffer. The stuffer will have information about the program and will alert you to watch your mail. Remember, this savings card is another benefit of being a member of your local electric cooperative.

## Newspapers and education a great partnership

To introduce newspapers into the classroom and encourage students to practice their writing and creative skills, the Lewistown News Argus offered an advertising contest. Justin Lopez designed an ad for Fergus Electric Cooperative. He is a student at Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Mrs. Russell's sixth grade class.



## Quad Five

*Continued from page 3*

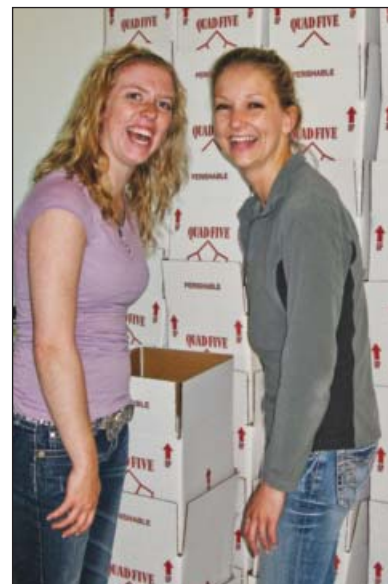
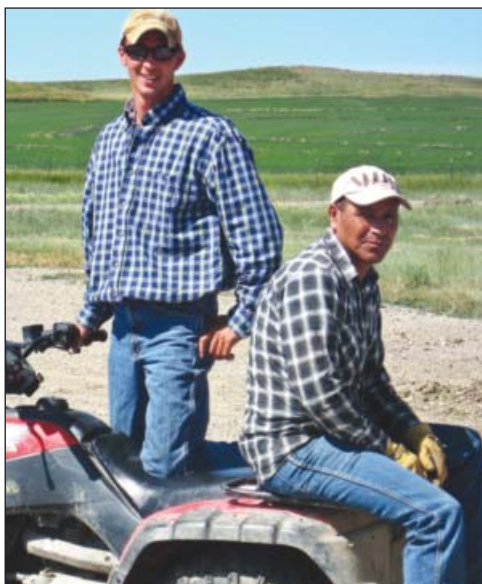
Department of Agriculture inspections each year, each focusing on a particular aspect of the operation, such as cleanliness and procedural accuracy. The condition and health of their animals rank highest among the several areas of quality control, and the Quad Five staff takes pride in the level of care their animals receive. This attention to detail has resulted in approval from the USDA and the European Union.

The animals' feed is closely monitored and adjusted to ensure the quality of their blood. Herders and great Pyrenees guard the sheep from predators, and they are quarantined to avoid contact with neighboring animals.

All of Quad Five's herds have consistently tested free of a variety of common viruses. As stated on their website, "When you purchase donor animal blood or serum from Quad Five, you have the confidence of knowing the product. There are no brokers or resellers to confuse the origin or traceability. The company's priority has been to produce the most consistent and traceable blood fractions available."

Even the packing and shipping is handled on site. Staff members prepare and pack boxes along a conveyor belt, then seal and price them for FedEx and UPS. Shipping trucks arrive daily to collect and transport the ready-for-shipment packages. Only Quad Five employees prepare their products, so no middlemen inflate the price or endanger its quality.

Prior to 1987, Quad Five operated as a lamb feedlot. Wiley arrived in 1988 and, as foreman, he developed the



*L to R: President Wiley Micks says staff are trained for specific tasks. Lynn Lewis handles accounting and marketing. Jody Laramée wears surgical scrubs to maintain a sterile environment. Bottom: Foreman Matt McAndrews (L) says the ranch provides a healthy environment for the donor animals. Humberto Juica is a shepherd. Erica Silbernagel (L) processes orders and Kate Lewis is summer help.*

### Thank you Quad Five

The cooperative is very appreciative of Quad Five's assistance during spring snow storms that caused considerable damage to Fergus Electric's power lines.

Quad Five employees patrolled finding downed lines and nine broken poles. When Fergus Electric's crews arrived, Quad Five offered their employees and tractors to pull service and digger trucks through the mud to repair the damage.

Both Quad Five and cooperative crews worked day and night to restore power.

donor animal program. In 2004, he purchased the land and business. He considers its current operation "very interesting work, combining activities in science, lab, and livestock."

Lynn Lewis handles accounting and marketing. "This is a great business and very unique," she says. "There are very few blood farms who do everything we do, and we deal with people all over the world."

Customers can find Quad Five through the website Lynn manages ([www.quadfive.com](http://www.quadfive.com)). In addition, Lynn and Wiley attend medical conventions

and trade shows to market their product in exhibit halls. "It's an up and down market, but the company is busy and doing well," says Matt.

With five people collecting blood every day, Quad Five is always on the lookout for good workers. "We want people who already have the skills as well as those who want to learn," says Wiley. "We train our staff specifically to perform their tasks."

A unique operation in a traditional Montana ranch setting, Quad Five protects animals, provides jobs, and distributes a necessary product.

## Follow the Bale Trail

The Utica Fair and “Follow the Bale Trail,” set for Sunday Sept. 11, offers many activities along with a variety of foods. The hay bale sculptures along Highway 87 – Hobson to Utica to Windham are placed for easy viewing from vehicles.

For those wishing to vote on the sculptures, ballots may be picked up in Hobson or Windham.

Travelers can get a bite to eat at a pancake breakfast (7:30 to 10:30 a.m.) in Hobson; and throughout the day at the Midway Caf-hay, serving Indian tacos, polish sausages and nachos; or at the Utica Women’s Club where hamburgers and 30 pie choices will be available.



Crafts, entertainment and a hay bale maze are part of the day’s activities. Vendors will bring a large selection of items for sale to the fair. Unlimited parking is available and port-a-potties will abound.

Prior to Sunday’s activities, the Utica Rod and Gun Club will host a beef BBQ dinner and raffle at the community hall at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10 followed with music for dancing at the Oxen Yoke.

For a full weekend in central Montana, Lewistown’s Chokecherry Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10.

## Go Green

Big environment. Big issues. Little you. If you feel as if there’s not much one person can do to make a positive impact on the environment – take a look at these suggestions. With a few small changes to the way we live, we can make a difference.

Repair that drippy faucet, switch to energy-efficient light bulbs, put on a sweater instead of turning up the thermostat or sun dry your sheets – they’ll smell wonderful.

- Buy local produce
- Reuse bags
- Share rides
- Turn off lights not in use
- Choose to walk
- Compost
- Recycle more
- Plant trees
- Adjust the thermostat

Is it enough to make a difference? Absolutely. Recycling just one aluminum can reduces waste and saves enough energy to run a computer for three hours. Multiply that by 10 – or 200 – cans. Simple insulation like caulking or weather stripping pays for itself with reduced utility bills within one year. Properly inflating your car tires improves gas mileage by as much as three percent. You’re not just saving the environment, you’re saving – period. Suddenly small steps seem pretty big.

Best of all, once you’ve started thinking – and acting – green, you’ll feel proud that you’ve been part of a big change. “Home” just got greener. Thanks to you.

*United States Postal Service*

## RATE SCHEDULE

Effective July 1, 2011

### Residential

Base (0 kWh)	\$32.50
First 1000 kWh	\$ 0.1243
Over 1000 kWh	\$ 0.1043

### Green Power

Base (0 kWh)	\$32.50
First 1000 kWh	\$ 0.1397
Over 1000 kWh	\$ 0.1197

### Irrigation

Horsepower	\$23.10
kWh	\$ 0.0975

HP due 6/15

### Commercial Multi-Phase

Base (0 kWh)	\$68.00
First 2000 kWh	\$ 0.945
Over 2000 kWh	\$ 0.0740
kW under 6	\$ 0.000
kW over 6	\$14.00

### Yard Lights - Monthly

Security Lights 175 Watt MV	\$13.50
Security Lights 250 Watt MV	\$15.00
Security Lights 400 Watt MV	\$18.00
Security Lights 100 Watt HPS	\$12.00
Security Lights 150 Watt HPS	\$14.50

### Street Lights

Security Lights 150 Watt HPS	\$14.50
Security Lights 250 Watt HPS	\$15.00

## Identify account number

*Win a \$32.50 credit*

If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number.

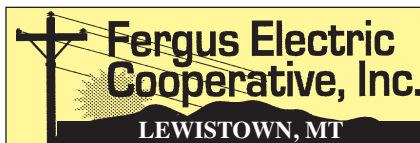
**Account 154251**

**Account 386078**

**Account 321318**

You will receive a \$32.50 credit on next month’s statement.

**Zane Lemons** of Winnett and **Kory Nielsen** of Lewistown were last month’s winners.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

### FOR OUTAGES

**First:** Check the fuses or breakers in the building in which the electricity is off.

**Second:** Check the breaker below the meter.

**Third:** If electricity is still out, call a neighbor to see if they have electricity.

**Fourth:** Call 406-538-3465 day or night or:

Dale Rikala	406-535-5192
Guy Johnson	406-535-5132
Scott Sweeney	406-538-7218
Don Criswell (Roundup)	406-323-3426
Monte Obert	406-425-1288

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