

F E R G U S

FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lewistown, MT ♦ www.ferguselectric.coop



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

Reminder: Fergus Electric offers a discount for heating

As we begin to exit the heating season, I would like to remind members that Fergus Electric Cooperative offers an energy discount for all electric energy used to heat residential and/or commercial buildings. Our heat rate credit for 2024/2025 is \$0.03926/kWh, which is a 42 percent discount off our residential energy rate. The heat rate credit is available each year for the months of October – April. A second Fergus Electric meter is required to meter the electric usage of the heating system separate from all other electric usage. To complete the installation, we can connect you with a local electrician. The heat rate credit is offered

to members who have a permanently installed electric-resistance heater and/or an electric heat-pump space heating system. Net-metered accounts do not qualify for the electric heat rate program.

We have many members who have received our heat rate credit for years and I would encourage others to consider taking advantage of the available savings. The heat rate credit is revenue neutral for Fergus Electric, as it is a direct pass-through savings to our membership. There are no additional monthly charges associated with the heat meter. In preparation for next winter, consider taking advantage

of this savings opportunity to reduce future monthly electric bills. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our electric heat rate credit, please call into the office and ask to speak with one of our engineers. I have also provided a heat rate credit bill example below. Note that the monthly savings in this example for February was \$24.89.

Montana Legislature

We have been very busy in Helena working with our legislators to protect reliable and affordable electricity for

See MANAGER, next page

Service Description: HOUSE

Account: 123456

Meter #	Rate	Services		Days	Readings		Mult	kWh Usage	Peak kW
		From	To		Previous	Present			
232000001	GENERAL SERVICE	02/01/25	03/01/25	28	21,397	22,502	1	1,105	7.342
290000001	HEAT RATE CREDIT	02/01/25	03/01/25	28	1,623	2,257	1	634	3.529

My Energy Use Snapshot

Time Period	Percentage
New Day (12am to 4am)	15.8%
Daybreak (4am to 8am)	16.9%
Morning (8am to 12pm)	18.3%
Midday (12pm to 4pm)	15.5%
Evening (4pm to 8pm)	17.4%
Night (8pm to 12am)	16.2%

Previous Account Activity

Previous Balance	\$162.59
Payment Received 02/25/2025 - *Thank You*	-\$162.59
Account Balance Before Current Charges	\$0.00

Current Activity

Base Charge	\$34.00
kWh Charge 0 - and above 1,105 kWh @ \$0.0940	\$103.87
kWh Charge 0 - and above 634 kWh @ \$-0.03926	-\$24.89
Peak kW 7.342 kW @ \$4.5000	\$33.04
Peak kW 3.529 kW @ \$0.0000	\$0.00
Total Current Charges	\$146.02
Total Amount Due	\$146.02

April is Annual Budget Billing Enrollment Month

ARE you interested in enrolling in budget billing? Budget billing does not reduce your overall power bill; but it does spread the cost out over a 12-month period.

To qualify for the co-op's budget billing program the account must have been active at that location for the past 12 months, and have a zero-balance due before converting to budget billing.

Once your account is set up as a budget billing account, to remain enrolled in the budget billing program, each month you must pay the budget amount due, in full, by the due date. We will automatically remove accounts with two months unpaid balance from the budget billing program. If you choose, you can always pay extra during warmer months so that you build up a cash cushion to use during



the colder months. To ensure your payment is on time each month, we encourage you to consider enrolling in auto pay.

True-up occurs every year during the anniversary month of your initial budget-billing enrollment. This means whether you have a credit or a balance due; we will adjust your electric billing account accordingly.

We encourage members enrolled in budget billing to monitor their monthly usage and look at the current charges. Compare last year's usage to the same month's usage in the current year.

If there is a significant difference, is there an explanation? If you cannot determine why there is a change in your usage, call the office at 406-538-3465, and we can look at your daily usage history to help identify when your meter began showing more usage. This often helps members determine the cause, i.e., a worn-out refrigerator or a heater left turned on, or perhaps family members have been home more recently.

If you are interested in enrolling in the budget billing program, call (406) 538-3465 and sign up. RM

MANAGER

Continued from page 5

our non-profit electric cooperatives. We have a strong bill, HB490, that requires electric utilities to implement and follow wildfire mitigation plans while removing the option of strict liability within Montana courts. HB490 received unanimous support in the House on third reading. As I write this article, the Legislature is on a quick break after reaching the transmittal deadline. By the time our members read this article, I hope our bill has passed through the Senate with strong bipartisan support and is waiting for our governor's signature. The dedication and hard work our legislators have put in throughout this grueling but important process is very impressive and appreciated. Senator

Barry Usher, Senator Wylie Galt, Representative Shane Klakken and Representative Randyn Gregg are representing Central Montana very well. They are excellent to work with and are willing to take the time to listen to the concerns of their constituents. I appreciate their commitment to understanding the issues as they are flooded with information daily.

With an end in sight for many of our members who have been busy calving, I hope this season has been good for you thus far. The snow and mud have slowed our progress in the field, but our crews are looking forward to the weather improving and the green up as spring approaches. As a reminder, our annual meeting is coming up on Thursday, June 5. We hope to see you there. RM

ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG

NOT ONLY IS IT
SAFE, IT'S THE LAW



2025 scholarships awarded

WE received a lot of excellent applications for the various scholarships we offer. It was fun to read the many essays and hard to select winners. The following scholarships were offered: The memorial scholarships sponsored by Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association and Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., our power supplier, Basin Electric Power Cooperative sponsored a scholarship and our power supplier, Members 1st sponsored two scholarships. MECA has not yet announced the district winner of its 2025 memorial scholarship.

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Memorial Scholarship recipient, which Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. sponsored, and was selected based on academic strength, activities in school and community, awards and

honors, employment, volunteerism, community service and personal statement.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Members 1st scholarship recipients were selected based on academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal. The topic for the 2025 Essay Scholarship was: "How does the electricity provided by your electric cooperative improve the quality of life in your community?"

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients: Lily Vickers, Regan Comes, Lexya Burnham and Dashel Ruff. The scholarship recipients will be recognized in person at our annual meeting on June 5. RM



Lily Vickers

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Memorial Scholarship - Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Scholarship Recipient

Lily Vickers of Roundup, was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Lily is a senior at Roundup High School, and the daughter of Bradley and Anna Vickers of Roundup. Lily has plans to attend Carroll College this fall.



Regan Comes

Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship Recipient

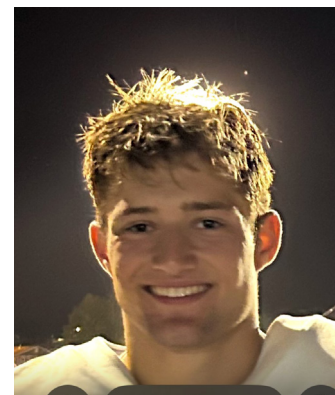
Regan Comes of Lewistown, was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Regan is a senior at Fergus High School, and the daughter of Kevan and Annette Comes. Regan has plans to attend Carroll College this fall.



Lexya Burnham

Members 1st Scholarship Recipient

Lexya Burnham of Lewistown, was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Members 1st Power Cooperative. Lexya is a senior at Fergus High School, and the daughter of George and Jennifer Burnham of Lewistown. Lexya has plans to attend Carroll College this fall.



Dashel Ruff

Members 1st Scholarship Recipient

Dashel Ruff of Lewistown, was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Members 1st Power Cooperative. Dashel is a senior at Fergus High School, and the son of Tyson Ruff and Jinx Ruff of Lewistown. Dashel has plans to attend Montana Technological University this fall.

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 14, 2025

**THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR LINEMEN AT
FERGUS ELECTRIC**

Do you need assistance paying your power bills?

THE frigid temperatures we experienced impacted our members' electricity usage. For those members who may be struggling with a higher-than-expected power bill, there are multiple ways to request assistance. We are grateful for the organizations that lend a helping hand. Their information is below.

If you need assistance; programs are available through Human Resource Development Councils (HRDC) to help members with their heating expense. Please visit <http://www.ferguselectric.coop/energy-assistance> for information and links to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), Universal System Benefit Funds (USB Funds) and Energy Share.

If you have difficulty paying your power bill, contact the co-op now to discuss options for payment arrangements. RM

IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER*

WIN A \$34.00 CREDIT

If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number, and you will receive a \$34.00 credit on next month's statement.

**Account 398181, Account 380621
Account 320280, Account 349942
Account 395155, Account 34600**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Carol Kreuzinger of Roundup and **Curtis and Carol Royce** of Lewistown were last month's winners!

*NUMBERS ARE DRAWN MONTHLY

Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. LEWISTOWN, MT

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:

Tyson Ruff	406-366-9830
Bret Ophus	406-366-7523
Bret Nelleremoe (Roundup).....	406-939-0636
Carson Sweeney	406-366-0971
Melanie Foran.....	406-462-5650
Scott Olson	406-366-5822
Dan Balster.....	406-366-0975

FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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59457-2058

Tel: 406-538-3465

Office Hours: 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M-Th.

Website: www.ferguselectric.coop

E-mail: ferguselectric@ferguselectric.coop

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ferguselectric

Carson Sweeney.....General Manager
Bret Ophus Line Superintendent
Sally Horacek Office Manager
Janine Rife Didier Editor

Fergus Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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award-winning newsletter.**