

www.4riverselectric.com
620-364-2116 or 800-748-7395

Lebo Headquarters
2731 Milo Terr.
Lebo, KS 66856

Fredonia Office
9346 Jewell Road
Fredonia, KS 66736

Emporia Office
2501 W. 18th Ave., Ste. B
Emporia, KS 66801

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Pay Your Way: Tools to Manage Your Account and Save Money

As I sat down to write this month's message, I couldn't help but think about my own electric bill this summer. If your AC is working overtime like mine, you're probably feeling the pinch, too. And with winter on the way, many of us are bracing for higher energy use in the colder months.

That's why I want to remind you about some helpful billing options available.

► **BUDGET BILLING.** Instead of paying more in the summer and winter and less in spring and fall, our leveled plan smooths out seasonal spikes. Your monthly bills stay consistent — like setting your energy costs on cruise control. The budget amount recalculates twice a year to reflect your usage accurately.

► **PREPAY BILLING.** If you've ever wished you could pay-as-you-go for electricity like you do fuel — add funds, use what you need, get notified when it's time to refuel —

then Prepay Billing may be a good fit. No deposit is required and no connect/disconnect fees assessed. If you have a deposit on file when you switch to Prepay, it will be credited to your account. You're notified when your account funds are running low, helping you stay in control of your usage and budget.

► **INVOICE BILLING MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS.** If you have multiple meters, like a home and a shop, we can roll them into a single invoice for added convenience.

► **ONLINE BILLING WITH SMARTHUB.** Unfortunately, the postal service is a bit unpredictable lately, so if you haven't tried our SmartHub web and mobile app, now's a great time. You can receive email or SMS

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Dennis Svanes

LABOR Day Office Closing

In observance of Labor Day, our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1.

PHOTO ABOVE SHOWCASES A PASTORAL BARNYARD IN WILSON COUNTY, PHOTOGRAPHED BY CO-OP MEMBER KIRA FRANKENBERY OF RURAL FREDONIA.

4 Rivers Fuels Growth of Student Leaders at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

JAYCEE BELCHER, Burlington, and **COOPER SPRINGER**, Neodesha, represented 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative at the 48th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) held July 11-17 near scenic Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The camp brought together 77 high school student leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming, sponsored by 45 electric and agriculture cooperatives.

Belcher and Springer were selected for this honor based on demonstrated leadership skills, academic achievement, community involvement and strong character. Applicants completed a competitive application process, including essay questions and an interview evaluating leadership qualities and community involvement.

Throughout the weeklong camp, students gained hands-on experience in cooperative business operations by forming and managing a mock cooperative for the distribution of candy and snacks. They elected a board of directors, appointed a general manager, created committees and held daily membership meetings, mirroring the real-world structure of member-owned cooperatives. Educational sessions covered leadership development, conflict resolution and co-op career opportunities. Highlights included electric safety demonstrations by cooperative linemen, a live raptor presentation from HawkQuest and a tour of the Craig Power Station.

I learned so much from the presentations and our visit to the Craig Power Station. The counselors and ambassadors made me feel included, and I made great friendships during activities and even on the bus rides.

COOPER SPRINGER



Cooper Springer (left) and Jaycee Belcher attended Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in July.

"I learned so much from the presentations and our visit to the Craig Power Station," said Springer. "The counselors and ambassadors made me feel included, and I made great friendships during activities and even on the bus rides."

CYLC offered more than just professional growth opportunities; it fostered a sense of camaraderie and adventure. Students explored the natural beauty of Mount Werner, experienced the charm of downtown Steamboat Springs, and braved the rapids of the Colorado River on a rafting trip. Recreational highlights included a volleyball tournament, swimming, a talent show and a dance.

Several students were recognized for their exceptional contributions during the camp. Issiah Melton, sponsored by Harmon Electric Cooperative, received the Exemplary Award for his positive influence. Charley Coffin, sponsored by FreeState; 4 Rivers Electric's Cooper Springer; and Maddie Wiggin, sponsored by TCEC, were elected as Camp Ambassadors by their peers and will return to the 2026 camp as student counselors.

"The leadership presentations gave me confidence in my



LEFT: Campers rode the gondola up Mount Werner in Steamboat Springs. **RIGHT:** Cooper Springer presents to campers during the final night's dinner and will return as a 2026 camp ambassador.





The HawkQuest presentation gave students an up close and personal raptor experience; Jaycee Belcher poses with a bald eagle.

The leadership presentations gave me confidence in my ability to lead authentically in my own skin, and the camp ambassadors really inspired me with their energy and positivity. I'm excited to grow into leadership roles like that.

JAYCEE BELCHER

ability to lead authentically in my own skin, and the camp ambassadors really inspired me with their energy and positivity," Jaycee said. "I'm excited to grow into leadership roles like that."

"The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is a meaningful way to invest in the future of our communities," said Dennis Svanes, 4 Rivers general manager/CEO. "We're proud to support opportunities like this that help young people grow as leaders, build confidence and bring those skills back home to make a difference."

4 Rivers Electric sponsors two students to attend CYLC each year. For more information about the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and other youth programs, contact April Engstrom, 4 Rivers' manager of member services, at 620-364-2116.

Pay Your Way Continued from page 12A ►

notifications, view bills online, make payments or set up auto-pay. You can still receive a paper bill if you'd like, but SmartHub gives you account management options.

► **ENERGY ASSISTANCE.** Funds have not been approved for the 2026 Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), which has been a valuable resource for our members. We will provide details as soon as they are available. If you think you may qualify, be sure to apply early.

► **APPLIANCE REBATES.** If you're considering a new electric water heater or

heat pump system, we offer rebates to help offset the cost. Upgrading to more efficient equipment can lower future bills, and a rebate makes that purchase a little easier.

If you have questions about any of these options, give us a call, stop by the office, or visit us online at www.4riverselectric.com. We're here to help you make the most of your membership.

Wishing you all a safe and smooth fall. For those working the harvest — watch out for power lines and stay safe out there!

5 Farm Safety Tips for Kids

Growing up on a farm helps children develop problem-solving skills, build close family bonds, and cultivate a deep passion for the land. However, agriculture is also one of the most dangerous industries for youth in the U.S. More young people die working in agriculture than in all other industries combined, with a child lost to an agriculture-related incident approximately every three days.

1 KEEP KIDS OFF TRACTORS. Tractors are involved in more than 40% of fatal farm accidents involving children under 15. Most kids are not tall or strong enough to operate them safely. Only let youth operate one if they meet safety guidelines for age, size and maturity.

2 SUPERVISE AND RESTRICT ACCESS. Young children should

never be in work areas unsupervised. Fence off or lock hazardous areas like grain bins, animal pens and equipment storage.

3 ASSIGN AGE-APPROPRIATE TASKS. Match chores to the child's abilities and maturity. Teens are more likely to take risks, so clear guidelines and supervision are essential.

4 CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT. Remove hazards such as slippery or uneven surfaces, keep equipment keys out of reach and avoid repetitive motion. Provide protective gear like gloves, non-slip shoes and hearing protection.

5 TRAIN AND MODEL SAFE BEHAVIOR. Teach kids how to perform tasks safely, practice together until they become proficient, and consistently demonstrate safe habits yourself.



TRACTORS CAUSE MORE THAN
40% OF FATAL FARM ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CHILDREN.

Think twice before letting kids drive tractors; they are linked to **OVER 40% OF FATAL FARM ACCIDENTS WITH THOSE YOUNGER THAN 15.**

Most kids simply aren't big or strong enough to handle them safely. Make sure any youth operating equipment meets age, size and maturity guidelines.

SAFETY FIRST — EVERY TIME.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



Understanding the Power Behind Your Power

Fueling Your Power: The Energy Behind the Switch

When you flip a switch, electricity flows instantly — but the journey to your home is a bit more complex. As a distribution cooperative, 4 Rivers isn't in the business to generate electricity. We purchase wholesale power as a member of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo), our generation and transmission provider. KEPCo serves 17 rural electric co-ops in Kansas and secures power through a carefully managed mix of owned generation resources and wholesale market purchases.

This diversified mix helps keep costs stable and ensures reliable power even during unexpected events — like extreme weather or sudden changes in energy demand.

WHAT'S IN THE MIX?

Our power portfolio includes several types of generation:

- **NUCLEAR ENERGY** — KEPCo owns 6% of Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Coffey County. This year, Wolf Creek celebrates 40 years of providing Kansans safe, reliable, carbon-free baseload electricity around the clock.
- **COAL AND NATURAL GAS** — These traditional energy sources are still essential for consistent, large-scale generation. Coal plants run continuously to supply baseload power, while natural gas plants offer flexible backup during high-demand periods.
- **WIND, SOLAR AND HYDROPOWER** — KEPCo's renewable energy mix includes long-term power purchase agreements for wind and solar generation, along with hydropower, one of the oldest and most consistent forms of clean energy. These resources help reduce emissions and support a sustainable energy future.
- **MARKET PURCHASES** — KEPCo participates in the Southwest Power Pool Integrated Marketplace, where it can buy and sell electricity in real time. This flexibility helps balance load and take advantage of lower-cost energy when it's available.

► **IN ADDITION TO KEPCO'S SUPPLY** — 4 Rivers has two 1-megawatt utility-scale solar facilities, which feed directly into our distribution system, helping offset local demand during sunny periods. We also maintain backup diesel generators for summer peak demand support — just one more way we're investing in system reliability and affordability for our members.

WHY IT MATTERS TO YOU

As a 4 Rivers member-owner, you benefit directly from a balanced energy strategy. A diversified energy mix helps reduce exposure to fuel price spikes, supply shortages or single-source disruptions. It also allows KEPCo and 4 Rivers to adapt to new technologies and shifting regulations without compromising service.

At 4 Rivers, we know our members value dependable, affordable electricity. That's why our cooperative works closely with KEPCo to support a power supply that balances reliability, cost and long-term sustainability. Our board of trustees — elected by you, the members — helps guide these decisions to reflect the needs and values of the communities we serve.

LOOKING AHEAD

The energy world is always evolving, and 4 Rivers, together with KEPCo, is committed to evaluating resources and strategies to meet future demand for our cooperative. Whether it's improving efficiency, incorporating renewables or supporting grid reliability, the goal remains the same: delivering safe, reliable, affordable electricity to our members. If you have questions about your power supply or want to learn more about how your energy is managed, contact us at 4 Rivers Electric. We're always happy to help shed light on the power behind your power.

