




# Co-op News

from

## Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives   
The power of human connections

September 2009

### From your manager

#### How to reach us

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#### Board of Directors

Dewey Hageman  
*President*

Julie Kilty  
*Vice President*

F.E. "Wally" Wolski  
*Secretary*

Brent Mullock  
*Treasurer*

Jack Preston  
*Assistant Secretary*

#### General Manager

Rollie Miller

#### Senior Staff

Joe Kinnan  
*Operations Manager*

Cindy Potter  
*Office Manager*



Miller

#### Construction projects

You may have noticed we are rebuilding a lengthy section of line (approximately 14.5 miles) southwest of Yoder. We use portions of that line for backup tie feeder between different substations so those portions are on hold until we get through the summer irrigation season. We will continue to work on the remainder as time and manpower are available.

We are finalizing the contract with the Wyoming National Guard (WANG) on another major project, rebuilding and adding new line into the North Training Area north of Guernsey. This is a major project completely funded by the WANG.

We are utilizing contractors for the design and construction of these facilities. The total project is estimated at approximately \$3.3 million.

On a related note, we have hired an engineering firm to design and stake other projects outlined in our five-year construction work plan. They are an independent contractor but they will be working for us.

#### Wholesale power supply

Our power supplier, Tri-State G&T, is in the process of preparing and their board is reviewing their 2010 capital and operating budget. We have been informed that as far as preliminary indications go, our wholesale power supply rate will not change for 2010. Usage in 2009 has been lower than projected by the entire Tri-State membership due to the weather and the economy. In the next couple of months, we will be submitting to the Wyrulec board our capital and operating budget for 2010. At that time, a determination will be made as to any necessary rate modifications.

#### Future office, warehouse, shop facilities

For the last few months, we have been looking into options for office and warehouse/shop upgrades. Most of the current facilities were constructed in 1951 and are in need of repairs and improvements. As we move forward with our investigation of different options we will keep you informed.

Speaking for all of the staff, I hope your summer went well and that your autumn will also go well. If you have any questions or comments please call the office at (307) 837-2225 or you can reach me almost any time at (307) 575-2435.



Your cooperative is a proud member of  
**Nebraska Rural Electric Association**

## A plus to the community

# The steel in Schlagel Manufacturing

Schlagel Manufacturing has been in business west of Torrington for 16 years. Long before he started a company, Ron Schlagel, a farmer, looked for a machine that would break up the soil for planting without letting all the moisture escape. After looking around for a while and not finding a machine that would do what he needed, Schlagel decided he would just build one. The result is called the Till-N-Plant, a strip-till implement that can be pulled at any speed, with or without a planter attached, with or without chemical application or fertilizer.

## Enough to start a business

The Till-N-Plant was the beginning. With it, Schlagel launched his company. In addition, he also sells his patented Posi-Close Planter Wheels, a product whose sales increase each year and sell all over the United States and over seas. \*\*B. June Walker\*\* The wheels firm the soil over the seed, preserving moisture without allowing the soil surface to crust.

Schlagel Manufacturing also sells a bumper hoist, bale grapples, and custom metal signs. Except for the wheels, most of the company's business is in the West. Most of their sales happen in the spring. They spend summer and fall building inventory, filling early orders for dealers, and doing walk-in jobs.

## Do what it takes to succeed

Some of Schlagel's more technical equipment has required the company to recruit from outside the state, but for the most part, they hire locally. Most of their raw materials have to come from a steel mill, but they do as much business locally as they can. The company employs 23 people full time, year around.

Ron Schlagel characterizes the financial, regulatory, economic, and tax climate of Wyoming as good for startup businesses. His main challenge has always been transportation. "We're out in the middle of nowhere," he says. Most of their prod-

ucts are shipped out via either UPS or truck freight. Raw materials have to be trucked in, of course. With careful management, however, they've been able to stay competitive.

Schlagel is aligned with dealers all over the country, but they distribute everything themselves. He says developing a market was "far tougher than we ever envisioned it would be.

## More on getting the word out

"If we'd have started with more capital, so we could have spent more on advertising, that probably would have been the thing to do," he says, looking back over the years and trying to determine what might have made the journey easier.

The company still spends a lot. "The more we spend on advertising, the more we sell," Schlagel says. "It's as simple as that. Word of mouth matters, too."

Schlagel Manufacturing is a significant local employer, bringing in dollars from other parts of the country to support local businesses, local jobs. They have several core products, but because they are a fairly small manufacturer, they are very flexible, able to turn every job into a custom product as necessary. For farmers across the country, that's a major selling point, being able to get exactly what they want, and Schlagel Manufacturing delivers.

## Blankets that save money: insulation

One step in a basic do-it-yourself home energy audit is to check insulation.

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be very large if insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder



# Blankets that save money: insulation

likely installed the amount of insulation recommended (if any) at that time. Given today's energy prices (and future prices that will probably be higher), your insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an

older home. Online energy audits will provide more details on checking insulation levels in the attic, walls, and basement.

If your insulation is R-20 and your windows are single pane, adding insula-

tion to make R-22 or R-25 will not save nearly as much energy as replacing those windows. The windows, however, will cost a lot more than the insulation. \*\* Jack Faden\*\*



Make the most affordable changes first. Check for air leaks. Clean coils on air conditioning or refrigeration equip-

ment. Change furnace filters. Keep the sun out in the summer and turn the thermostat up. Welcome the sun in the winter but turn the thermostat down.

*Courtesy U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*

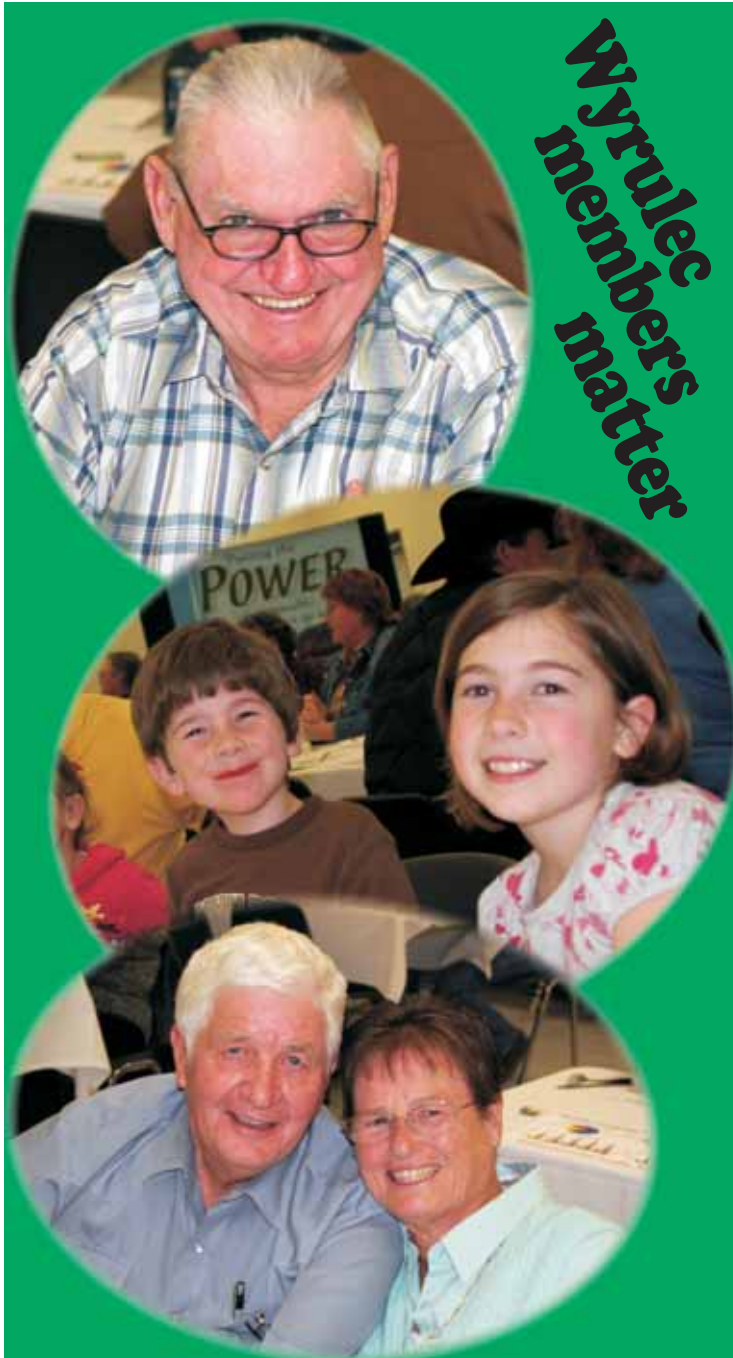
## It's hot..., it's cold..., it might be wasting energy

Another step in a basic do-it-yourself home energy audit is to inspect heating and cooling equipment. \*\*Dwight L. Munroe\*\* This should be done annually or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check filters and replace them as needed. Generally, you should change them about once every



month or two, especially during periods of high use. Have a professional check and clean your equipment once a year.

*Courtesy U.S. Dept. of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*



## Employee Spotlight ❖❖❖ Rollie Miller

Q: How long have you lived in Wyoming?

A: 2.5 years

Q: What did you do before you came to work for Wyrulec?

A: Worked for Hill County Electric Cooperative in Havre, Mont.

Q: What is your job title at Wyrulec?

A: General manager

Q: What brought you to Wyrulec?

A: A great opportunity to work as your general manager.

Q: Describe your family.

A: I'm married to Gina and we have two sons, Cody

and Logan, and a daughter, Emma.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: Chasing the kids around.

Q: Words of advice you would share?

A: Make sure your priorities are aligned and stick to them.

Q: Why do you enjoy working for Wyrulec?

A: This co-op has a great board and great employees.



### Don't miss a word

Each month, we will be hiding the names of five members, one from each district, in this newsletter. If you see your name this month, please call and we'll give you a \$25 bill credit.

### ❖ No need to stand around in the dark ❖

We have CFLs in stock that are 100-watt replacements. They will fit into any light fixture rated over 23 watts (anywhere a 60- to 100-watt incandescent bulb is now). They operate at 23 watts but provide light equal to a 100-watt incandescent. They are \$1.60 each. We have plenty.

## Seal up any leaks around the house

Another step in a basic do-it-yourself home energy audit is to make a list of obvious air leaks (drafts). The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5 to 30 percent per year, with a much more comfortable residence the result. \*\*Raymond Lapp\*\* Check for indoor air leaks, such as gaps along a baseboard or edge of the flooring and at junctures of walls and ceiling.

Inspect windows and doors for air leaks. If you can rattle them, air leaks are possible. If you can see daylight around a door or window frame, there's a leak; you can usually seal these through caulking or weather stripping.

On the outside, inspect all areas

where two building materials meet, including all exterior corners, siding and chimney junctures, and areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding join. You should plug and caulk any holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets, and wiring.

Also, look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation, and siding, and seal them with the appropriate material. Check the exterior caulking around doors and windows, and see whether exterior storm doors and primary doors seal tightly.

When sealing any home, be aware of indoor air pollution and appliance "backdrafts." Backdrafting occurs when various appliances

that burn fuels and exhaust fans in the home compete for air. \*\*Cathy Minter\*\* An exhaust fan may pull combustion gases back into the living space. This can obviously create a very dangerous and unhealthy situation.

More information on both do-it-yourself and professional energy audits can be found at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov) or visit [www.wyrulec.com](http://www.wyrulec.com) and click on the energy library. This is a wealth of information about how to save energy and what to look for to best manage your energy dollars.

*Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*