



## DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE

If you are planning to have your cooperative install a new electric service, don't wait until the last minute to let us know. Transformers may need to be ordered for your project which could require several months lead time.

Transformers are very expensive. Irrigation projects require transformers that do not use common residential voltages, and, we cannot stock all the sizes and voltages that you may require. Before we order these special transformers for your project, you will need to execute your contract for service, pay the required construction cost, and execute an easement for the power line. You or your electrician will need to file an application for electrical permit.

Large projects may need a year or more lead time. An irrigation project of several hundred horsepower or more is considered a large project. Power lines or even a substation may need to be upgraded. The delivery on new substation transformers may take more than a year. Substation transformers are very expensive—perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars. Large projects may need to pay large sums of money to be able to incorporate them into the electrical grid.

Also, April and May are busy months for your Cooperative. If at all possible, plan your projects to avoid electric line construction during those two months. In addition, April and May are hit-and-miss with regard to weather. If April and May are rainy and/or snowy, construction will be delayed accordingly. To be safe, new irrigation pumping projects should be constructed during the fall prior to the year you would like to irrigate.

EVERYTHING TAKES TIME—DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

As you get ready for the winter months, it's a good idea to test-run your electric generator. The recommended procedure is to turn it on and let it run for 15 minutes.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

**COOPERATIVE:** Organization owned by and operated for the benefit of those using its services. Cooperatives have been successful in a number of fields, including the processing and marketing of farm products, the purchasing of other kinds of equipment and raw materials, and in the wholesaling, retailing, electric power, credit and banking, and housing industries. The income from a retail cooperative is usually returned to the consumers in the form of dividends based on the amounts purchased over a given period of time.

## Basic Principles of a Cooperative

The basic principles of a cooperative, to which we subscribe, are:

- 1. **Voluntary Membership**—Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to persons willing to accept the responsibilities of membership. The relationship can be voluntarily ended at any time.
- Democratic Member Control—Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).
- 3. **Member Economic Participation**—Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative.
- 4. **Autonomy and Independence**—Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- 5. **Education, Training, and Information**—Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative.
- 6. **Cooperation among Cooperatives**—Cooperatives often work together through local, national, regional, and international entities.
- 7. **Concern for Community**—While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their memberships.



**OCTOBER 2020**