

**OCTOBER IS NATIONAL  
CO-OP MONTH**  
PAGE 2

**AUTUMN SEASONAL  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE**  
PAGE 5

**SWEET AND SOUR  
CHICKEN RECIPE**  
PAGE 7

## ALL-ELECTRIC COMPACT TRACK LOADER

*Bobcat introduces groundbreaking machinery for a more electric and autonomous jobsite*

At a July innovation event at Fargo's Grand Farm test site, Bobcat demonstrated the power of a new family of loaders and excavators that harness the benefits of electrification and remote operation.

Bobcat was one of the first in the field to unveil an all-electric compact track loader prototype in 2020. Now, the machine is getting closer to hitting the common work site.

"As the industry leader, we have been looking down the path of electrification for

some time. A couple of years ago, we really started getting serious about it," said Laura Ness Owens, vice president of marketing for Doosan Bobcat North America. "We're really excited to be at this step of starting to debut our all-electric loader."

Although no commercial rollout date has been set, the T7X is already impressing crowds lucky enough to see an on-site demonstration. The all-electric loader contains a lithium-ion battery pack that powers the electric drive motors and lift actuators with enough runtime to

keep steady strength throughout a typical workday. The only fluid contained in the machine is coolant to cool the electronics. The loader contains no hydraulics system and boasts enhanced precision (the lack of hydraulics allows smooth control) as well as controllability of horsepower.

With added benefits like whisper-quiet operation, powerful torque and lower annual operating costs, Bobcat's innovation team believes the technology will open some eyes to doing things in a new way.

"Our customers are generally diehard  
(Read more on page 4)



### NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the lives of our member-owners and community by responsibly providing clean, affordable, electric energy and other beneficial services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction.





**Josh Compton**  
*General Manager*

## MANAGER'S REPORT

It's hard to believe we're already in the month of October. Hopefully, many of us have had the opportunity to do some fall fishing and hunting with family and friends. As we continue enjoying

the last remaining warm days left, it's also a good time to start preparing our heating systems for the cold weather. This includes your primary heating source and any backup heating sources you may have. To ensure those systems are ready and functioning properly, you should do the following:

**1) Change your air filters:** Start the heating season off with a clean filter, and buy a few extras so you have them on hand throughout the winter.

**2) Test your thermostat:** You don't want to wait until it's 0° outside to turn your heat on and find out it's not working appropriately! Do a test run now before it gets too cold. Turn the thermostat up, and make sure the heat kicks on and actually heats your home to that temperature. If the air coming out of the registers does not warm up – or if your heat turns off before the temperature set on the thermostat

is reached – call your HVAC company to make repairs.

**3) Uncover your vents or radiators:** Make sure there is no furniture blocking your registers and vents. This can impede the flow of air and keep your home from heating evenly (121-14-001-03, Spencer Estling). Blocked vents can even cause your furnace to work too hard and overheat! If you have a boiler system with radiators, remove anything that's on top or next to the radiators so it does not melt or burn.

**4) Check your carbon monoxide detector:** Your carbon monoxide detector is not technically part of your heating system, but it's essential for keeping you safe when your heating system is operating. Push the "test" button to ensure the detector is working properly. Put in a fresh set of batteries so you can be sure they'll last the winter. If the alarm ever goes off, find somewhere else to stay until you can have your heating system inspected and repaired. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be deadly, so this is an important step in keeping your home safe this winter.

**5) Schedule a maintenance appointment:** It's a good idea to have your heating system inspected and tuned up annually. A lot of heating issues go undetected until they leave you without heat at two in the morning, but having your system

• As we continue enjoying the last remaining warm days left, it's also a good time to start preparing our heating systems for the cold weather, both primary and backup.

• It's clear the cooperative business model is one of the strongest, most resilient ones out there, and co-op member-owners have a vested interest in the success of their co-op.

inspected ensures they are caught and addressed early.

### October is National Co-op Month

It's Co-op Month, but did you know Minnesota has helped play a large role in that?

- Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Co-op Month proclamation back in 1948.
- Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former Minnesota governor, proclaimed October Co-op Month.
- There are 44 electric cooperatives (and many other co-ops) that primarily serve Minnesota, which is the second-highest number of electric cooperatives of any state in the country – other than Texas.

Until next time, Josh

Co-op  
**CELEBRATE**  
Month

### October is Co-op Month

It's clear the cooperative business model is one of the strongest, most resilient ones out there. Cooperative member-owners have a vested interest in the success of their cooperatives. They democratically elect their directors to serve on their behalf to advance their goals and cooperatives not only serve their members but also the communities they're located in.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the July 7, 2021, and Aug. 4, 2021, regular board meetings. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve updates to policies, to approve casting a vote for Director Hanson to the RESCO board, to approve the restructuring of two Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) loans into one loan, to approve the restatement of the Alerus Retirement Solutions 401(k) Plan, to approve the proposal with Industrial Contract Services for the repairs to the Littlefork roof, to approve Director Nygaard's petition for nomination for the District 6 seat, to approve Director Smith's petition for nomination for the District 5 seat, to approve the Oct. 1 annual meeting agenda,



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money.

Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

to approve the retirement (payment) of \$470,535 of capital credits this fall, to approve the strategic planning session for Oct. 20-22, 2021, to approve casting a vote for Robert (Mac) N. McLennan as CoBank director and to approve General Manager Compton's search for an alternative vehicle.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, the fall capital credit retirement, benefit rates for 2022, the workers' compensation refund, yellow and red zone control, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, parking lot resealing, repairs needed in Littlefork, solar installations, rebates, upcoming fairs, the sale and replacement of the Littlefork forklift, new services and upgrades, pole changeouts, right-of-way clearing, summer work plan projects, outages, storm-related assistance provided to North Itasca Electric Cooperative, Operation Round Up®, upcoming meetings, strategic planning, federal and state legislative issues and Canadian accounts.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month. If you wish

to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact the co-op at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.



## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

06  
OCT

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 6, if you wish to speak to the board.

11  
NOV

North Star Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

## DIRECTORS

President  
Steve Arnesen

Vice President  
Michael Hanson

Secretary-  
Treasurer  
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors  
Shelley Spears  
Randy Bergan  
Tom Smith  
Bruce Sampson

## DIGGING SOON?

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.  
VISIT [WWW.CALL811.COM](http://WWW.CALL811.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop)



## ALL-ELECTRIC LOADER (cont'd from page 1)

diesel people, and they will be for a long time,” said Bobcat Acceleration Manager Justin Odegaard. “On one side, we have customers who are looking for environmentally friendly, zero emission-type equipment that they can put on a jobsite that fits the eco-friendly requirements of that job. There is demand out there for projects like that. As we started getting into it, what’s more exciting for us is all the advantages that come along with it.”

Bobcat Intelligent Operator was also displayed at the Grand Farm event, with features like object avoidance, automated navigation and jobsite mapping. In addition, Bobcat showed off MaxControl Remote Operation, which allows an operator to use a mobile device to semi-

autonomously backfill, load trailers, pick rocks, open gates, avoid debris and more.

Developers know that North Dakota and northern Minnesota may take a little longer than other areas to fully adopt electric and autonomous machinery, but they know the demand will be here sooner than most expect.

“This is our home state. We started this company based on the innovative spirit up here, and we’ve been here for 60-plus years. We’re excited to bring these technologies here,” Ness Owens said. “I think when people see the power that they can get out of the products, when they see the opportunity they provide, they absolutely will take hold and we’ll see more and more of them come into play.”



# NORTH STAR ELECTRIC STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

# IS YOUR OFF-PEAK HEATING SYSTEM READY FOR WINTER?



It's hard to believe winter is right around the corner. Since weather conditions and future wholesale power market prices make the amount of load control hours hard to predict, all of

our off-peak members are encouraged to have a reliable, automatic dual heating system in place and ready to use (such as an electric thermal storage system). To ensure your total comfort this winter, consider the following questions about your backup heating system:

1. Is the system sized to heat your entire home or business?
2. Does it maintain an adequate comfort level?
3. Is it fully automatic?

Check current fuel prices and be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank at the beginning of the season (556-22-005-02, Shawn Ostlund). Also, make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season. Our member services department is glad to answer any off-peak questions you may have.


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*Karen Holow, Editor*

Date  
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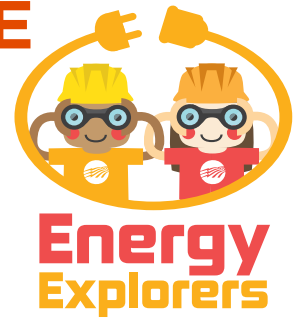
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# AUTUMN CROSSWORD PUZZLE

*Autumn is finally here!* Complete the crossword puzzle below by filling in the Autumn words that fit the clues. If you need help, use the word bank at the bottom of the page.



## ACROSS

1. Fruit you bob for.
3. This is a fun outing that usually takes place in autumn and can be enjoyed from a wagon, truck or trailer – as long as it's filled with hay.
5. These are orange and can be carved to decorate your home during Halloween.
6. These change colors during autumn months.

## DOWN

2. These fall from oak trees and squirrels love to collect them.
4. This is what most people eat on Thanksgiving Day.

**Word Bank**

ACORNS  
TURKEY  
APPLE  
HAYRIDE  
PUMPKINS  
LEAVES



## PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you recently lost your job or had your hours cut, the following agencies may be able to help you with your electric bill. You may have never needed help before, but maybe today you do.

#### LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

206 8th Ave SE, Suite 200  
Baudette, MN 56623-2895  
218-634-2642

#### NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

PO Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714-0067  
800-568-5329

#### KOOCHICHING COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

1000 5th St  
International Falls, MN 56649-2243  
218-283-7000

#### KOOTASCA COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984  
Toll free 877-687-1163  
Direct 218-999-0800  
Fax 218-999-0220

#### ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

703 3rd Ave S  
Virginia, MN 55792  
800-662-5711



## STAFF REPORT – SUMMER HAS BEEN A DRY SEASON



**Marty Mollberg**  
*Operations Manager*

Fall has arrived, and hands down this is my favorite time of the year! With the changing of colors, I hope you are all reaping the rewards of the summer's efforts by trying to maintain a weed-free garden with the little moisture available, and of course the occasional opportunity to clean the cobwebs off the gun barrels.

2021 has been a very busy year for your co-op. The dry conditions have been both good and bad (445-06-001-09, Brock Morrison). The dry air allowed us to go just about anywhere to access poles for maintenance and change outs, but the dry soil conditions made for harder plowing of underground cable installations for new services.

We completed two work-plan projects this summer. Both were overhead line upgrades due to aging and voltage improvements. One was on the west end stretching from County Road 5 to Carp, and the other one on the east end located in Littlefork, then headed north paralleling 71, then northwest on 73; totaling around 16 miles.

Some members in the Littlefork area may have seen pole testers in their yards or along our main lines, and we will be following up later this fall replacing rejected poles found during this testing.

We will have contractors working with our linemen clearing rights of way this fall. Our main focus will be in the Wheeler's Point areas, along with some outlying hot spots.

Until next time, stay safe.

## YIELD A SAFE HARVEST



BE AWARE OF THE LOCATION OF ALL  
POWER LINES AND POLES BEFORE  
MOVING LARGE EQUIPMENT.



KEEP EVERY PART OF YOUR  
MACHINERY 10 FEET AWAY FROM  
POWER LINES IN EVERY DIRECTION.



ALWAYS LOWER AN AUGER  
BEFORE MOVING IT – EVEN IF  
IT'S ONLY A FEW FEET.





# NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

## FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)  
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith  
720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.smith.senate.gov](http://www.smith.senate.gov)  
202-224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar  
425 Dirksen Senate Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.klobuchar.senate.gov](http://www.klobuchar.senate.gov)  
202-224-3244  
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)  
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Pete Stauber  
126 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.stauber.house.gov](http://www.stauber.house.gov)  
202-225-6211

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach  
1237 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.fischbach.house.gov](http://www.fischbach.house.gov)  
202-225-2165  
Fax: 202-225-1593

## STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Governor Tim Walz  
Capitol Bldg., Room 130  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
800-657-3717  
[www.mn.gov/governor](http://www.mn.gov/governor)

Senator Tom Bakk  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.; Capitol, Room 328  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-8881  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

Senator Paul Utke  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3403  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9651  
[sen.paul.utke@senate.mn](mailto:sen.paul.utke@senate.mn)  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

Senator Mark Johnson  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3111  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5782  
[sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn](mailto:sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn)  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

Representative Matt Grossell  
227 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-4265  
[rep.matt.grossell@house.mn](mailto:rep.matt.grossell@house.mn)  
[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members)

Representative John Burkel  
309 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9635  
[rep.john.burkel@house.mn](mailto:rep.john.burkel@house.mn)  
[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members)

Representative Rob Ecklund  
409 State Office Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-2190  
[rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn](mailto:rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn)  
[www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members)

## CURRENT ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information, go to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries website ([dli.mn.gov](http://dli.mn.gov)) and go to the electrical page.

### LAKE OF THE WOODS, ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

**Curt Collier**  
[cgcollier67@gmail.com](mailto:cgcollier67@gmail.com)  
218.966.5070

Call to set up an appointment  
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

### ROSEAU COUNTY

**Ronald Ditsch**  
218.779.6758  
Call to set up an appointment  
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

## HOME COOKING

### Sweet and Sour Chicken

Skip the takeout – this recipe is so good that you'll put it on the permanent rotation. Chicken is coated in a sweet and sticky sauce and cooked to perfection.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	50 mins	1 hour	6-8 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 package stir-fry chicken
- 3 Tbsp. margarine/butter
- 2 Tbsp. water
- 1 egg
- 1 cup flour
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 can (15 oz.) pineapple - drained and reserve syrup
- 3 Tbsp. vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. ketchup
- 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 medium green pepper cut into 1-inch pieces

- 1 small onion
- Cooked rice (*I use Uncle Ben's Original rice*)

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut chicken into strips.
2. Heat margarine/butter in 9x13 pan, and beat egg and water slightly.
3. Put chicken strips in flour and place in the pan.
4. Bake uncovered until golden brown, about 25-30 minutes. Turn chicken and bake 10-15 minutes more.
5. Mix together brown sugar and cornstarch in 3-quart pan. Add

egg/water mixture to pineapple syrup to measure 1 and 2/3 cups.

6. Stir syrup mix, vinegar, ketchup and soy sauce. Cook until thick.
7. Add in pineapple, onion and green pepper. Cover and simmer until vegetables are tender, 5-7 minutes.
8. Stir in chicken, cook until hot throughout. Serve over rice.

*From the kitchen of Ellen Breneman.*



Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is selected to run in a future issue of the Enlightener newsletter.



# COLD WEATHER RULE / ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*The cold weather law does not totally forbid winter cutoffs. If you receive a disconnection notice this winter, you must act promptly.*

## COLD WEATHER RULE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.096), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by North Star Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from North Star Electric Cooperative.

**Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not**

**completely stop winter disconnects.**

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, North Star Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters

and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60% of the state median income (\$65,964 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2022.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance (see list on page 6).

North Star Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact us immediately to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.

**OFFICE HOURS | 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. | MONDAY - FRIDAY**

**Baudette** 218-634-2202 or 888-634-2202 | **Littlefork** 218-278-6658 or 888-258-2008

**For credit card payment** 855-874-5354 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app

**Electrical after-hours emergencies** 1-888-60OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)

**Email us at** [nsec@wiktel.com](mailto:nsec@wiktel.com) | **Visit our website at** [northstarelectric.coop](http://northstarelectric.coop)

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TO STAY UP TO DATE**

Like your cooperative for outage updates during the fall season and other useful information.

 /northstarelectric

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*