

# The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



\*\*\* Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 75 Years

August 2015

## Holiday Office Closing



Our office will be closed on Monday, September 7th, in observance of Labor Day. If you experience an outage please call 888-297-9212.

## School Starts This Month

Please drive carefully and watch for school buses stopped for children on the roadway!



## Meter Safety

Cutting or removing the seal from your electric meter enclosure is extremely dangerous. When we discover a seal is missing, there is a \$100 broken seal charge for the member. The seal is used to prevent tampering and to keep everyone safe from accidental shock. If your electrician needs to remove your meter for service, first contact us at 888-297-9212.

## July 13th Storm

Residents of Reno County were surprised by a tornado producing storm on the evening of Monday, July 13th. The tornado caused damage and outages for many Ark Valley members, taking out 23 poles in its path. Ark Valley linemen worked through Monday night to restore power, but with the extent of the damage, 20 additional linemen were called upon to assist with the restoration. Power was restored to all Ark Valley members by the end of Tuesday, July 14th.



## Seven Cooperative Principles

### VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

1

### DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

2

### MEMBERS' 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. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

3

### AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

4

### EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

5

### COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

6

### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

7



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## You're Not Alone In The Dark

Electricity powers our lives. We depend on it for nearly everything we do. So we understand how frustrating it can be when you're left in the dark.

Power outages are never convenient. It takes a lot of hands to keep your power on, and even more hands to get it up and running when an outage occurs. Ark Valley Electric works hard to restore your electric service when outages occur, but there are necessary steps to take to ensure that power is restored to the majority of members as quickly, and safely, as possible.

After a major storm, line crews must identify which poles and lines have incurred damage. Occasionally in the case of a major storm such as a tornado, transmission line can be damaged.

High voltage transmission stations feed power to Ark Valley's distribution substations. These substations serve thousands of members. If there is no damage done to transmission towers, the local distribution substations are checked first. If the issue is isolated and can be resolved at the substation level, great! That means hundreds of people can get their power restored at once.

If the issue cannot be isolated to one of our distribution substations, crews inspect supply lines between the substations and the meters they serve. If the supply lines can be repaired, power can be restored, as long as there is no damage to the tap lines.

Tap lines carry power to the transformers located underground or connected to poles. Line crews identify which damaged lines to work on first based on which lines will restore power to the greatest number of members.

Many times, the issue is resolved once the tap lines are repaired. But have you ever lost power only to look next door and see the lights still blazing from your neighbor's window? When this happens, it generally means that the service line between your home and the nearby transformer has been damaged. If this happens, call Ark Valley after you have checked your breakers so we can send a line crew to your home.

Power restoration can be a tricky business, so if you lose service in your home or neighborhood please remember the following:

- Stay clear of downed power lines. Contact with these lines could be life threatening.
- Report the outage as soon as possible.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation whenever an outage occurs.

## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of June on June 29, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

The Board adopted the State-wide Assistance Agreement (SAA). The SAA was the result of a task force to establish a state-wide protocol for electric utilities to perform when a natural or manmade disaster would cause a large number of power outages. It allows for electric utilities to coordinate between each other in order to provide assistance repairing damage. The agreement is voluntary and does not force any action on the part of Ark Valley.

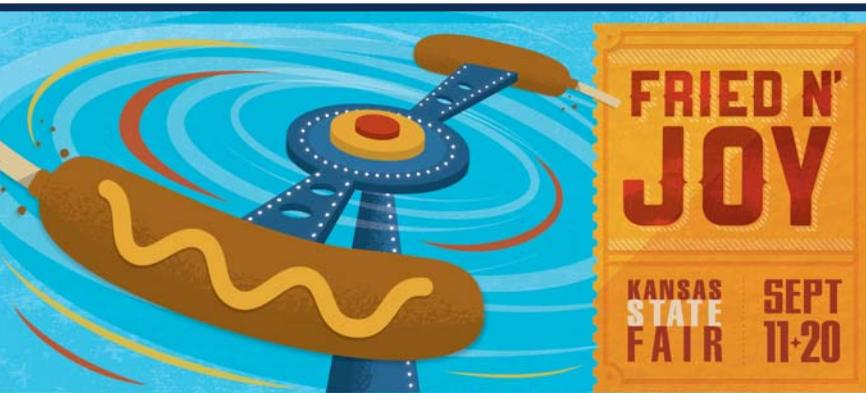
Ark Valley's electric supplier, KEPCo, owns a portion of the Wolf Creek Power Plant. The facility has had its share of operating issues over the last few years. However, it is now performing well. To get a hands-on understanding of its operation, the Trustees will tour the facility in August to learn more about one of the Cooperative's power supplies.

It was reported to the Board that the recently purchased distribution generation system is now up and running. The Cooperative purchased a turnkey distribution generator and located it by the Arlington substation. The large diesel generator has been operated during peak summer load hours to help shave Ark Valley's coincidental demand. By doing so, it will save the Cooperative money on its wholesale power bill.

## Drawing Winner

**BRADLEY FAST** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Bradley, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by August 31, 2015 & give us the account number from your electric bill.



Check out the details at [www.kansasstatefair.com](http://www.kansasstatefair.com)

## Payment Stub Reminder

Please remember to send your **PAYMENT STUB(s)** along with your payment. If you just send your payment, you risk having it applied incorrectly.

The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).