

# Watts New

MARCH, 2022

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

And time continues to fly by! As you receive this, it will be well into March and getting towards the end of winter. An interesting winter it has been. Up to this point, it has been dry, with tremendous winds. Next week, as I write this, they are calling for very cold with bitter wind chills, again, not a lot of snow. We should be careful in what we ask for as last year in March we had a little bit of spring snow that took power out for some of you for up to eight days! Also last year at this time, we were just coming out of a winter cold snap that showed the frailties of solar and wind energy, but that is another topic in its own right.

I am not sure if you will get this before the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting, regardless, I hope you are able to attend. It has been such a long time since we have been able to get together. We look forward to seeing you! As you have seen, we will have Wyoming Health Fairs there for the regular blood draw. With the larger space in the new event center, we will have additional displays and more room to move around. Hope to see you there!

On the less fun side of things, we continue to deal with the issues from the folks in Colorado. With the Colorado PUC we have reached a tentative agreement on how to move forward actually looking at compliance with the Colorado requirements. We have been asked many times how Colorado regulations impact Wyoming. This is a valid question. This can impact us in a few different ways. One way it impacts us is that as Colorado decides they don't want their electricity coming from fossil fuels, it reduces the production needed from Wyoming generation plants. Since Wyoming is a significant exporter of electricity, this means less sales from our plants, therefore less money coming into Wyoming.

Staying on the financial side of things, since they don't want electrons from fossil fuel plants, they need to replace the fossil fuel plants with something else. Some think that wind and solar is a replacement for fossil fuel, however it does not run all the time, so something that is available all the time is necessary. Some think that the answer to this is large batteries, however batteries are very expensive, and the current technology does not provide more than a few hours of energy. Thinking back to last February, a few hours of power from batteries would not have provided nearly enough power to ride out the cold weather event. Building anything new is expensive, especially when you have remaining life in existing plants. I will not get into the idea of subsidies that are provided because these subsidies come from somewhere, eventually, they come from the pockets of consumers.

The other way these regulations impact us is in terms of reliability. The electrical grid is a huge system and any changes impact everyone connected. As the large fossil fuel machines are taken offline, the grid does not have the "inertia" to remain stable. Therefore, as the overall grid is weakened, if something happens in New Mexico, it can affect us in Wyoming. This "something" could be anything from a storm to an equipment failure. Just look at last February. That "something" was the lack of a storm. There was no wind, so there was no wind energy. We absolutely need these reliable plants online to maintain reliability. This has been what the Wyoming Tri-State members have been pounding home as we talk with others about Tri-State's resource plan, Reliability and Affordability. We all need electricity to heat our homes, run our motors, and keep the lights on, not just when the weather is favorable. Some day there may be alternatives, but right now, we have to be careful and not compromise the reliability we have.

The Wyoming Tri-State members are having an impact in Colorado. One of the parties involved in the resource plan discussions said, in their view, the Wyoming members' participation drove the settlement to a much better place than it would have been otherwise. It is words like this that keep us in the fight! Fighting to do what is best for you, our member-owners!

Thanks for being such great members-owners. We love being in the fight for you! As always, if you ever have any questions, please let us know. Thanks for all you do. See you at the Annual Membership Meeting!



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From the desk of RKA...

March 2022 is here! The first quarter of the year 2022 is about over. Time is really going fast. Hopefully, that means that spring will get here quickly also!

March is also time for our annual meeting! This will be our 85<sup>th</sup> and we are excited to get back together with you, the members. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Agri-plex building. The Wellness Fair will begin at 7:00 a.m. and the business meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. Remember that the co-op is paying for the basic blood draw for you and your significant other. All other blood tests will be charged to you. We will be having a luncheon right at noontime also! Hope you can come and join us!

At the annual meeting we will be giving out the capital credit retirement checks. For the REA, we are paying a partial year of 2005. For our G & T, Tri-State, we will be paying a partial year of 2003. Any capital credit checks that are not picked up at the meeting will be sent in the mail the next day. If you have any questions about capital credits, please give us a call.

Our first quarter has been tremendously busy. As we work to close the year end, we also must open and begin the new year. I know that I am extremely fortunate to be able to come to work and have a full staff at work. There are a lot of co-ops and companies that I work with around the nation that their employees are still working from home, or a "certain" department has no one covering the tasks and responsibilities so therefore, calls and e-mails are not being reviewed. Hopefully, as we move into the second quarter, we will see some positive changes and get back to a more "normal" state. I honestly believe that we will not be back to the "norm" that we knew before COVID but hopefully see less of an impact from it going forward.

Homefront.... geese season is over and now time for fishing! You know the saying, "Ice off-boat on; ice on-boat off." Well, the ice is off, and the boat has already been out. Keeping my fingers crossed that we will be headed to Canada this summer for fishing! No new "honey do's" going on. I think that I will start making copies of different pictures of things that I would like to see on the patio this year. Sometimes visualization is a better way of communicating!!!! LOL!!

Until next month....

**Who Loyes  
Budget  
Billing?!**

If you do, mark your calendar! April is budget billing sign-up month. Call the REA at **322-2125** and talk to **Peg** to find out how you can get set up. It's quick, easy, and free!



# 85th Annual Membership Meeting

## March 23, 2022

### Platte County Agriplex

- \*Registration: 7:00 am
- \*Health Fair: 7:00 am-10:30 am
- \*Business Meeting: 11:00 am-?
- \*Lunch: About noon, served by the 4-H Leaders Council
- \*Capital Credit Checks: Will be available at the meeting!

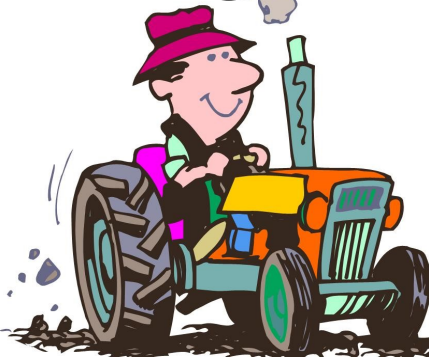
**Don't FORGET!**



Is there a new electric irrigation motor in your future? We offer cash rebates on premium efficiency motors 10HP to 500HP. Rebates are good for new installations and replacements. Used and rewind motors do not qualify. You must apply within 90 days of installation.



Lightning season is almost here!  
Don't get caught with your surge protectors down!  
Call us. See how easy it is to have a surge protector installed at your home.



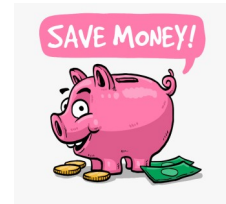
**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**







# REBATES



Wheatland REA gives rebates on certain new appliances. You must submit rebate applications within 90 days of installation. If the yellow energy usage tag on the appliance has the energy star logo, you may qualify for a rebate. For more information, call (307) 322-2125.

ENERGY STAR logo.  
This is what you are looking for.



## GRILLING SEASON IS COMING!



It's getting close to "BBQ" season. Is your grill ready to go for the season or do you need a new one? Come in and see Wheatland REA about our Meco Electric Grills.



Do you know we sell Pest -A- Cators? Wondering what it is and how it works? A Pest-A-Cator is specially designed for use in homes or buildings over 1,000 sq ft. It uses electro-magnetic technology to repel and annoy rodents. This device connects through the neutral wire of a standard electrical outlet and sends a pulsing signal throughout the wiring of your home!



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