

Valuable rebates



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) has several rebates available for members, including:

Electric water heaters:

- At least a 40-gallon tank.
- \$4-per-gallon rebate, not to exceed \$300.
- Insulation factor of R12-13, EER (at least) of 0.9.
- At least a 10-year warranty. (Extended warranties do not qualify.)

Electric heat:

- Rebate amount of \$25 per kilowatt of installed load of electric heat.
- It can be used for the initial installation of electric baseboard, electric plenum heaters or heat pumps.
- Space heating is the only use for the heater.
- The member may put the

heaters under the electric heat rate program. (Contact our office for more information about the electric heat rate program.)

Heat pump:

- Rebate amount of \$150 per ton of installed heat pump.
- The heat pump can be either air-to-air or ground-source.

Grain drying:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member \$30 per horsepower for an initial electric natural air grain drying setup on a grain bin.
- The cooperative retains the right to specify brand, size and manufacturer of its choice.

The member must provide proof of purchase for any of the above rebates. For more information on rebates, please call LYREC. ■

Help us help you

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is constantly striving to improve our efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our members.

Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communication. While we do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through a phone call if we have

your updated contact information.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact

information by calling the office at 406-488-1602 or send us an email at lyrec@lyrec.coop. By doing so, you are helping us improve service and efficiency, so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.

In addition to a current phone number, please keep your mailing address up-to-date. This is important, even if you no longer have service with us. We will need a valid address for future capital credit check mailings. ■



Operation Round Up continues to give

Operation Round Up was able to donate more than \$2,500 during the first quarter of the year due to the generous donations from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative members.

The Centennial Clover 4-H Club received \$750. The club's purpose is to help youth learn, grow and give through individual projects, community service projects and planned learning. The funds will aid the club to sponsor the Northeast Montana Lamb Camp later this summer.

The Lion's Den, a teen center in Lambert, Mont., was granted \$1,000 for Wi-Fi installation and 12 months of service. The Lion's Den promotes the advancement

of education, youth engagement and community fellowship. Its mission is to provide an alcohol-free, safe environment inclusive of all community members, with special focus on youth activities and empowerment.

The Fairview Leaders for Readers received \$1,292. The goal of Fairview Leaders for Readers is to raise literacy awareness and vocabulary among children 0-8 years old. The funds will be used for 76 monthly subscription of the *Ranger Rick Jr.* magazine.

Thank you for your continued support of Operation Round Up. The small amount contributed each month makes a big impact on our communities! ■



Budget billing SIGN UP THROUGH AUGUST

Do you lose sleep wondering what your electric bill is going to be each month? Cooler weather is on its way and heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42 percent of your energy bill.

Budget billing is available to all residential members who are current with their electric bill, have an "A" credit rating, and have established a 12-month history with Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC). The member can remain on budget

billing if the account remains current.

To determine your budget billing amount, LYREC will average your current and last 11 months of bills. Therefore, there will be variations each month, but the change will not be as drastic and will make budgeting easier.

If you would like to sign up for budget billing, call LYREC's office to see if you qualify. To sign up, you will need to submit an application before Aug. 31. To get a form, stop by the office or go to www.lyrec.com. ■

What electrical item other than your wireless device, would you not want to be without?



Congratulations to the 2020 Luck of the Draw scholarship winners!

Overhead power lines are necessary to deliver electricity to hardworking farmers and ranchers, but those same power lines can also be deadly if not treated with respect. While you need to focus on the field and your machinery, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative urges you to also watch for electrical hazards around the farm or ranch.



Look up for hazards on the farm

BE AWARE

Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air.

Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and a power line may be closer than it looks.

USE A SPOTTER

Avoid moving large equipment alone. Have someone watch as you move equipment to ensure you are clear of power lines.

REALIZE THINGS CHANGE

If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards. A newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year-to-year.

Power lines also may sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact your electric cooperative to repair the lines. Never try to move a power line on your own.

EDUCATE THE CREW

Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving equipment. Do this every year, as equipment sizes and soil conditions may change.

LOOK AROUND, TOO

Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself. ■

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TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen President
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 John Redman Secretary/Treasurer
 Colin Gartner Trustee
 Dennis Schmierer Trustee
 Dennis Nelson Trustee
 Jim Vitt Trustee

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Jason Brothen General Manager
 Brenda Bond Chief Financial Officer
 Jami Propp Member Service Manager
 Kyle Kavanagh IT Coordinator
 Margo Zadow Billing Coordinator
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 Tiffani Hentges Customer Service Representative
 Melissa Buckley CSR/Staff Assistant
 Chris Hillesland Chief Operations Officer
 Rich Gorde Foreman
 Eric McPherson System Controller
 Kevin Goff Operations Assistant
 Kelly Keyser Operations Manager
 Lee Alvstad Journeyman Lineman
 Aaron Eide Journeyman Lineman
 Bryan Franck Journeyman Lineman
 Jesse Obergfell Journeyman Lineman
 Blade Jankovsky Journeyman Lineman
 Tanner Roth Journeyman Lineman
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 Lee Delp Apprentice Lineman
 Cole Jankovsky Apprentice Lineman
 Brandon Mueller Master Electrician
 Dan Gieser Energy Management Supervisor
 Mike Eberling Mechanic
 Richard Tremblay Service Technician
 Bo Kindopp GIS/Easement Technician
 Corey Candee Chief Information Officer
 Jeremy Reese Information Technology Technician
 Edwin Gatzke Line Locator/Meter Reader
 Justin King Warehouse Supervisor

Operating report

Year to date:	May 2019	May 2020
Total miles energized	2,103	2,104
Total number of meters	6,148	6,201
Kilowatt-hours sold	114,157,928	113,456,990
Revenue	\$11,682,199	\$11,753,689
Total expenses	\$11,129,591	\$11,623,461
Operating margins	\$2,880,018	\$630,511