OFFICIAL NOTICE



2025 ANNUAL MEETING AND MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY Sept. 25, 2025

PLEASE PRESENT THIS CLIPPING AT REGISTRATION.

REGISTRATION WILL BE FROM 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

THIS REGISTRATION CLIPPING ENTITLES THE HOLDER TO ONE GIFT TICKET PER MEMBERSHIP. ONLY CONNECTED MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PRIZE DRAWING.

CLIP OUT AND BRING TO THE ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

BE SURE TO LEAVE NAME LABEL ATTACHED



A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative **\(\)



"The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957"

VOLUME 69 September 12, 2025 NUMBER 1

Drive-thru format returns for 86th Annual Meeting on Sept. 25

The Current Staff

Load up your family and friends and drive through the 2025 Cotton Electric Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day on Sept. 25. Due to the positive feedback we received from member surveys, we are continuing a more flexible format for our members with drive-thru registrations in two locations: the Stephens County Fairgrounds in Duncan and the Great Plains Coliseum in Lawton.

Drive-thru registration will open at 2 p.m., and members can roll in anytime between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., following the signs and friendly Cotton Electric employees guiding members through the registration lines.

All registered members will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of several \$100 gift cards, \$250 and \$500 energy vouchers or the grand prize of a \$1,000 energy voucher. Your cooperative is committed to serving our communi-

ties and supporting others

who share the same

mission, and

we

donate

will

\$1,000 to the local volunteer fire department that Sheridan Road marked with a Cotton Electric banserves the grand prize winner's membership account. ner.

Duncan drive-thru location

For members registering at the Duncan location for the Annual Meeting, traffic flow will start at the Street marked with a Cotton Electric banner.

Members will follow the marked paths to guide them to a registration line in the fairgrounds arena.

At the first station, members will present their registration clipping, which can be found at the top of

Then, members will drive up to the next station to receive a new hat, gift and \$20 energy voucher. No meal will be served.

Then, Cotton Electric employees will direct members to exit and head north to MLK Avenue.

Lawton drive-thru location

For members registering at the Lawton location for the Annual Meeting, traffic flow will start at the Great Plains Coliseum entrance

Members will follow the marked paths looped around toward the back of the Great Plains Annex to a registration line in the fairgrounds arena.

At the first station, members will present their reg-Stephens County Fairgrounds entrance on 13th istration clipping, which can be found at the top of this page.

Then, members will drive up to the next station to receive a new hat, gift and \$20 energy voucher. No meal will be served.

Then, Cotton Electric employees will direct members to exit the arena back toward SW. Sheridan Road.

Maps for both locations can be found on Page 7.

Registrations will close at 6 p.m., and the business meeting will be livestreamed beginning at 7 p.m. on our website at www.cottonelectric.com/annual-meeting-2025 and on our YouTube channel at https://bit.ly/cottonmeeting25.

Board President Brian DeMarcus will call the business meeting to order, and other Board Members will present reports before Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason announces this year's prize winners, ending the event.

Cotton Electric employees have been working hard putting together this year's Annual Meeting and look forward to the opportunity to interact with our members. For questions or more information about this year's event, call us at 580-875-3351.

Scan the **QR** code to follow the 2025 **Business Meeting**



Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after Sept. 1, 2025, is \$0.00835 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

On a member's average bill of 1,300 kWh, this will amount to a charge of \$10.86 on the September bill.

August 2025 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Av
1	89	73	81	16	96	72	84
2	93	68	81	17	96	77	87
3	91	68	80	18	99	73	86
4	93	64	79	19	100	71	86
5	94	70	82	20	94	72	83
6	99	72	86	21	98	73	86
7	102	69	86	22	97	67	82
8	102	74	88	23	98	66	82
9	100	75	88	24	96	70	83
10	101	73	87	25	81	67	74
11	97	73	85	26	72	66	69
12	90	69	80	27	88	69	79
13	93	66	80	28	94	71	83
14	98	70	84	29	77	69	73
15	99	73	86	30	82	70	76
Source: www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/				31	89	69	79
Average Daily High: 94				Average Daily Low: 70			

Did You Know?

Have you downloaded the SmartHub app? With SmartHub, co-op members can check energy use, pay power bills and more! Download SmartHub in Google Play or the Apple Store.

Current should arrive in mailboxes Oct. 17, 2025.

Contact Us

Do you have a story idea for The Current, or do you need to place an ad? If so, let us know. We can be reached

at 580-875-3351 or by email at TheCurrent@ cottonelectric.com.

You can also drop us The next issue of *The* a line at Cotton Electric Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.



Mission Statement

Our mission is to safely deliver reliable and affordable power, provide excellent member service and improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

From the CEO

FEMA Act of 2025 would bring disaster aid to co-ops much faster

cooperatives are supporting a new bipartisan bill that would streamline the Federal Emergency Management Agency and speed up delivery of crucial disaster relief funds to electric co-ops hit hard by hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes and other natural disasters.

The Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025 would keep in place FEMA's essential Public Assistance program, which provides money to co-ops to restore power and rebuild their systems after natural disasters. Without those funds, rebuilding would take much longer and raise costs sharply for rural communities.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 co-ops and its mem-

cross the U.S., electric ber co-ops. NRECA has been a strong advocate for improving FEMA while keeping the agency intact. During my 25-plus year career, Cotton Electric and our members have experienced multiple natural disasters, ranging from tornadoes and flooding to ice storms and wildfires, and we know the crucial role FEMA has played in helping Cotton Electric recover from those events.

> The FEMA Act would greatly reduce the amount of time it takes for co-ops to receive reimbursements from the agency. Specifically, it would direct the FEMA administrator to reimburse co-ops for emergency work no later than 120 days after they submit a request. The president would first need to determine that at least 90% of estimated costs are eligible for reimburse-

> For longer-term projects to rebuild or replace infrastructure,

the bill would require FEMA to review within 90 days a co-op's cost estimate of the work that needs to be done. After that, the agency would have 30 days to disburse the funds for the project.

Another major improvement is that co-ops would be allowed to build stronger, more resilient systems in the aftermath of disasters rather than being forced by the agency to build everything back exactly as it was before.

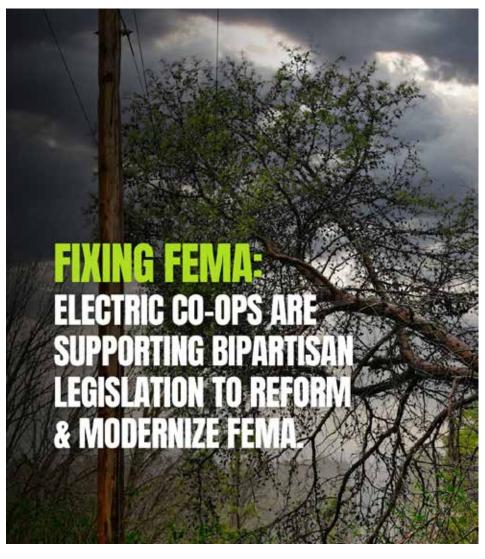
The legislation would remove FEMA from the Department of Homeland Security and return it to its former status as an independent agency that reports directly to the president. The bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency and help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

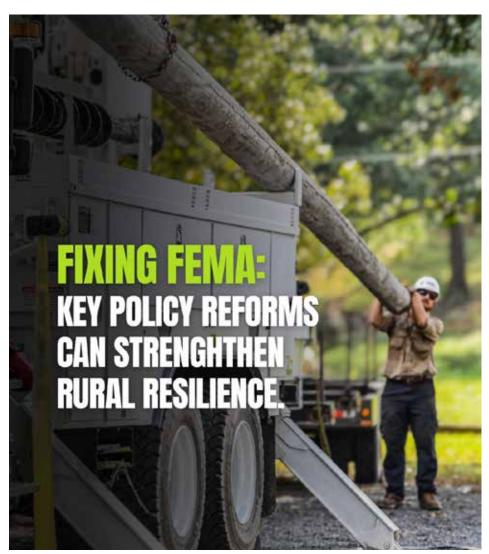


Jennifer Meason, CEO

Sponsors from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee introduced the legislation July 23 and a hearing was held Sept. 3. The Committee passed the bipartisan legislation with a 57-3 vote and will send it to the full House for consideration. If passed by the House, the legislation would still need to be approved by the Senate and signed into law by the president.

As the FEMA Act of 2025 moves through the legislative process, we will keep you updated. We will continue to work with NRECA, our statewide association OAEC and other electric cooperative leaders to make it even better for co-ops and the local communities we serve.







Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Take advantage of "shoulder months," which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.

Source: www.energy.gov

July 2025 Operating Stats

	<u> 2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$7,968,421	\$7,405,312
Cost of Purchased Power	5,561,728	5,028,597
Taxes	145,569	139,945
Total Operating Expense per Mile	1,431	1,297
Average Farm and Residential Bill	198	185
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,541	1,653
Total Meters Billed (Farm, Residential) 19,936	19,723
Miles Energized	5,287	5,274
Density per Mile	3.77	3.74
New Service Connects YTD	220	259
Services Retired	74	133

Upcoming Deadlines for

The Current

October

Ad Sales Oct. 3 Classified Oct. 3 Publish Oct. 17

November

Ad Sales Oct. 31 Classified Oct. 31 **Publish** Nov. 14

The Current

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Jennifer MeasonCEO Shane Bowers......Vice President Zach YoungDirector Carli Eubank......Communications Specialist

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Energy Efficiency

Enhancing electrical energy efficiency in RVs

freedom of the open road, but managing electrical energy efficiently is crucial for sustainable travel, especialrising fuel costs and environmental concerns, optimizing power usage can extend battery life, reduce reliance on generators and lower overall expenses. This article explores practical improvements and considerations for RV electrical systems, drawing from expert insights to help owners maximize efficiency without sacrificing comfort.

One of the simplest yet most impactful upgrades is switching to LED lighting. Traditional incandescent bulbs consume 40-60 watts, while LEDs use just 5-10 watts, lasting over 25,000 candescent bulbs.

LEDs also generate less heat, reducing the load on air conditioning systems. For both interior and exterior lights, including brake lights, LEDs heating and cooling systems. allow batteries to last longer between charges, making them ideal for dry deflect sunlight, keeping the RV cool-

Recreational vehicles (RVs) offer the camping. This change alone can cut er and reducing AC usage. Window energy use by up to 80%, a straightforward swap that pays off quickly.

ly during off-grid adventures. With key roles. A Bluetooth-enabled smart thermostat allows precise scheduling and remote control, minimizing unnecessary HVAC cycles and potentially slashing energy costs. Inverters convert DC battery power to AC for household appliances; choosing pure sine wave models ensures clean power for sensitive electronics like TVs, preventing overloads. Enhanced charging systems, such as DC-DC chargers at campsites. Calculate total power from the vehicle's alternator, speed up recharges while driving, improving overall system health.

hours compared to 1,000 hours for in- are often overlooked but vital considerations. Improving insulation with thermal curtains, weather stripping, or foam vent covers maintains interior temperatures, easing the burden on cluding tire pressure checks for better

Reflective roof coatings or covers

shades, particularly blackout varieties, block heat in summer and retain Thermostats and inverters also play warmth in winter, further conserving battery power. Additionally, minimizing phantom loads (energy sipped by idle devices like chargers) via smart plugs or master switches prevents unnecessary drain.

Safety and monitoring are essential to sustain these efficiencies. Surge protectors, with features like polarity testers, ensure reliable connections and safeguard against voltage spikes needs by listing appliance wattages and staggering high-draw items like microwaves to avoid tripping breakers. Insulation and heat management Use energy-efficient appliances, such as low-wattage hair dryers or propane alternatives for cooking, and monitor usage in metered parks to prevent overages. Regular maintenance, infuel economy and AC filter cleaning, prevents breakdowns and optimizes performance.



Heath Morgan, **Energy Efficiency** Coordinator

In conclusion, these upgrades from LEDs and solar integration to smart insulation not only enhance electrical efficiency but also promote eco-friendly RVing, enabling longer, more adventurous trips. Initial investments often yield long-term savings, with many DIY-friendly options. By prioritizing these considerations, RV owners can enjoy reliable power while embracing sustainable travel.

For more information, visit www. cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency.

6 Ways to

Keep Your RV

Cool & Efficient



- Close the blinds. Keep sun and heat out and comfort in.
- Check your seals on windows, doors and vents. Check for leaks to keep cool air in and hot air out.
- Clean vents and filters inside and AC debris outside. Maximize airflow and efficiency.
- Upgrade to LED lighting. LEDs use less energy and produce less heat.
- Park in the shade. Reduce AC use by choosing shaded campsites.
- Cook outside. Grills and campfires keep the heat outdoors.

Heating Degree Day and Cooling Degree Day Calendar

HDD CDD YEAR

> 2025 500 2024 696 2023 709

Degree days measure how cold or warm a location is by comparing the average of the high and low (mean) of the outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65 F. The assumption is that we don't need heating or cooling to be comfortable when this is the outdoor temperature.





APPLE STORE

GOOGLE PLAY

Monitor energy consumption

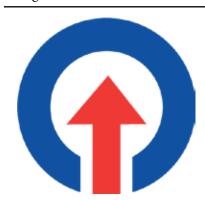
Update account information

Make and schedule payments and notifications

Monitor account balance and review payment history

Contact us





Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation

CECF encourages applicants

Operation Round Up exists because of the generosity of Cotton Electric's members and is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile individuals and organizations.

For those interested in seeking funds for local individuals or organizations, below is a portion of the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation(CECF) grant application guidelines.

Grant application guidelines

- The CECF provides funds for Charitable purposes within the service area of Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Grant applications are reviewed quarterly. Applications are to be received in the Cotton Electric offices by the close of business 14 days before the quarterly meeting of the CECF Board of Directors.
- Grants to any group, organization, charity or similar organization will not exceed \$10,000, and grants to individuals will not exceed \$2,500.

Requirement for school applications

Applications for grants benefiting schools require the signature of the school superintendent.

This includes applications submitted by booster clubs, parent-teacher organizations and other school-related groups, teachers and principals. This requirement was established to ensure coordinated communication on projects that fit a school district's priorities.

Application instructions

Please complete all sections of the application. If an item is not applicable to your organization, please make note in the space provided.

- If you are exempt from income tax, please attach verification such as a copy of letter 501(c)(3) from the Internal Revenue Service or an explanation of why your organization is considered to be exempt.
- Please include a recent financial statement. If your organization completes an annual audit, please attach a copy with your application. If your

organization does not complete an annual audit, please attach a copy of your treasurer's report and bank statements to verify your source of funding, funds available, etc.

• Please be specific when describing how the funds will be used if approved, and attach price estimates if available.

Categories of assistance

1. Communities

• Programs, projects and organizations that are important components of a community's overall quality of life, with emphasis on public safety, health care, self-sufficiency, and basic human needs.

2. Education and youth

- Programs and projects designed to combat critical social problems affecting youth, particularly children and teens at risk.
- Programs and projects that promote youth wellness.
- Programs and projects that work to provide supplemental materials and equipment for schools.
- Programs and projects to enhance school facilities.

3. Seniors

 Programs and projects to support organizations and the facilities serving senior citizens.

4. Volunteer fire departments

- Programs and projects to enhance volunteer fire department facilities and vehicles.
- Equipment and gear purchases and upgrades.

5. Individuals

- An individual or family in need of assistance may request a grant. Examples of need conditions may include the consequences of a disaster, catastrophic illness, or permanent disability.
- Individual applications must include a letter of referral from a sponsoring group such as a church, civic organization or other group wanting to raise funds for the individual.

The CECF will not consider requests for general operating funds, capital campaigns or support for salaries. The Foundation prefers requests for program needs.

HOW TO APPLY



zyoung@cottonelectric.com





IIAIL

226 N. Broadway, www.cottonelectric.com/ Walters, OK 73572 grant-applications

COTTON ELECTRIC

The CECF will not consider requests for the benefit of an individual or family unit unless the application includes a letter from a sponsoring group. Grants will be issued to the sponsoring group.

Applicant eligibility

Contributions will generally be made only to not-for-profit organizations that have been granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service; and to civic-based entities.

- The organization must contribute to the community's health and/or welfare.
- The organization's services must be nondiscriminatory in nature.
- Activities affiliated with a religious organization with a secular community designation are eligible for the Foundation's consideration of support. A secular designation is defined as an organization separate from the church or religious organization that provides services to people regardless of their religious beliefs and does not propagate a belief in a specific faith. (Example: A food bank that is a separate 501(c)(3) organization from a church and provides food and meals to anyone who qualifies for services, regardless of religious belief.)

Evaluation factors

The following factors will be considered in the evaluation of all funding requests:

- Potential benefit to residents of the Cotton Electric service area and the entire community.
- Prior contribution level of Foundation or community support for the program or project or the organization requesting the funds.
- Fiscal and administrative capability of the organization to deliver a quality service or program.
- Results that are predictable and can be evaluated.

The CECF Board of Directors shall evaluate all funding requests and determine whether to issue a grant for all or a portion of the funds requested.

Project timing

Requests for funding should state whether the funds are intended for ongoing operations or for a specific project that will terminate at some point in the future. Whenever possible, requests for funding should be for projects that will be completed within 12 months following the Foundation's approval of the grant application.

For a complete overview of CECF grant application guidelines, please visit www.cottonelectric.com/grant-applications. Applications may be submitted via email to zyoung@cottonelectric.com, online at www.cottonelectric.com/grant-applications or mailed to 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.











(580) 255-2903

www.rrtc.edu

September is National Preparedness Month

September marks the start of National Preparedness Month across the country. Knowing how to prepare for natural disasters, power outages, and a variety of other risks and emergencies can make a real difference and potentially save your life.

One of the best ways to stay one step ahead of storms, power outages, and other emergencies is to plan ahead with an emergency preparedness kit. Assembling and maintaining an emergency kit before a disaster strikes is one of the easiest steps someone can take to reduce many of the risks associated with severe weather. It is important to know what kind of disasters are most likely to occur where you live and add or remove items from your kit accordingly.

Ready.gov recommends that every emergency kit contain these basic items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA weather radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - First aid kit
 - Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
 - Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
 - Manual can opener for food
 - Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Considering the risks that disasters present, Safe Electricity shares tips on how you and your loved ones can be prepared for incoming severe weather and stay out of harm's way.

• Take all weather warnings seriously and develop a plan of action with your family.



- Develop and practice action plans for different emergencies that could happen in your area. Acknowledge what to do if separated. Consider the needs of your family, including medical precautions.
- Identify someone who lives out of town whom you and your family can check in with during an emergency if communication in your area is compromised.
- To ease the strain in an emergency, collect important documents and keep them in a safe and accessible place.
- In order to communicate safely, make sure that you are familiar with how those in your area are notified during an emergency.
- Follow relevant social media channels, such as local news centers or utilities. These pages often provide updates on weather conditions or power outages.
- To prepare for the inevitable, assemble an emergency kit. This should include non-perishable food, water, a flashlight with fresh batteries, a first aid kit, and essential medications. Always follow all recommended evacuation routes and make sure that you lock and secure all windows before leaving the home
- If you are using a portable generator, be sure that the main circuit breaker is OFF and locked out prior to starting the generator. This will prevent power lines from back-feeding electricity into the utility system and help protect utility line workers from possible electrocution.

Should a severe storm or flooding occur, also keep these tips in mind:

- Do not step into a flooded basement or room if the water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box or touch an electrical appliance if you are wet or in standing water. Call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used. It may need to be repaired or replaced.
- If the smell of gas is apparent or if there is a suspected leak in your house, leave immediately and call your gas utility.
- If power lines are on the ground, treat them as energized and stay far away from them and warn others to stay away. Whether it is a hurricane, flood, tornado, or earthquake, stay clear of fallen power lines and flooded areas that could hide hazards. Remember, electricity passes easily through water. Contact the local electric utility if you see downed power lines because the lines could still be live.
- If driving, never get out of the car if there is a downed power line, and never drive over one.
- There are many hazards that remain in the aftermath of a storm. Make sure that children are closely supervised when they are outdoors following a storm. Utilities crews, police, and others may not have been able to get to the area yet to make it safe.

Remember that when you prepare, you will be able to act with greater know-how and confidence. Whether you are facing a power outage, tornado, flooding, or any other emergency situation, being prepared can help keep you and your family safe.



Members from Districts 4, 7 and 9 show engagement with their co-op

By Carli Eubank

Cotton Electric Cooperative is proud to be member-owned and guided by Cooperative Principles, and one of these key principles is Democratic Member Control. Many members executed this principle by getting involved with their co-op and making their voices heard at this year's District Meetings in Districts 4, 7 and 9.

The meetings began with District 7 Aug. 26 near Lawton. Steve Robinson, serving as the Trustee of District 7, welcomed members before the District Meeting Committee, composed of Board Trustees, called the meeting to order. Meetings in Districts 4 and 9 followed the same agenda.

Dell Farris, Trustee of District 9, welcomed members Aug. 28 in Waurika, and District 4 Trustee and Board President Brian DeMarcus hosted members of his area Sept. 4 in Lawton.

A chairman from among members in attendance was selected before appointing a meeting secretary and reporting on the presence of a quorum. Co-op bylaws require a quorum of 5 percent of a district's members to hold an election.

A quorum or opponents were not present at any of the meetings held this year, so Robinson, Farris and DeMarcus were held over for additional threeyear terms beginning immediately after the 2025 Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day on Sept. 25.

Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason thanked the members for expressing an interest in the co-op through their attendance and gave a report on co-op business.

"Overall, our mission is to provide power that is safe, reliable and affordable while trying to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve," Meason said. "We're here because of you - our member-owners - so with everything we do and every decision we make, we think about how it will impact our members."



Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason updates members on co-op business. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Comanche 580-439-8809

Waurika 580-228-2085

Next, Meason shared how the Vegetation Management program continues to maintain and improve quality power by clearing trees from obstructing power lines and working with an USDA certified herbicide application contractor to prevent regrowth of vegetation within the service territory.

Another way Cotton Electric is working to improve quality of service is through the new Wildfire Assessment and Resilience for Networks (WARN) project grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. This will enhance wildfire protection and resilience in the community it serves by making critical upgrades to the electric system. Members can learn more about the project in the December 2024 edition of The Current.

Meason expressed gratitude to members who voluntarily participate in Operation Round Up and shared how the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF) has impacted local organizations, schools and other CECF grant recipients.

Meason encouraged members to advocate for their cooperative by signing up for Voices for Cooperative Power.

"Together, our voices of many make a lot more of an impact than just a few," Meason said. "We will continue to keep you informed, spread the message and remember that the most important thing is safe, reliable and affordable power for members like yourself."

Each meeting concluded with an invitation to the 2025 Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day, energy voucher prize drawings, refreshments and engagement with Cotton Electric members and employees.

Next year's District Meetings will take place in Districts 2, 6 and 8.

For more information about the cooperative's Board of Trustees or the 2025 Annual Meeting, visit our website at www.cottonelectric.com.



District 4 energy voucher winners were Don Patterson, Jim Hollander and Harold Edwards. Photo by Carli Eubank.



District 7 energy voucher winners were Rhonda Lawson, Gene McAnelly and Paul Addington. Photo by Carli Eubank.



District 9 energy voucher winners were Amanda Phillips, Fran Bergeron and Jason Phillips. Photo by Carli Eubank.

UNCOMFORTABLE?

Does your home have any of these symptoms?

- Rooms that get too hot or too cold?
- High utility bills?
- Thermostat wars with your spouse? High humidity in summer?
- House just never seems comfortable?

There doesn't seem to be enough airflow?

- □ Dust buildup within 2 days of dusting?
- Problems with your system since it's been installed?
- □ Anyone with allergies or asthma?
- AC starts and stops frequently or runs all the time, and house is still not cool?
- Have been told by other contractors that the problem cannot be fixed?

If you answered <u>YES</u> to any of these questions, we can help!

Pippin Brothers has specialists that can pinpoint and correct these problems and, in many cases, you don't even have to replace your equipment, with the solution usually being easier and costing a lot less than you may think. There is no other contractor in Lawton more qualified than Pippin Brothers at diagnosing and correcting these annoying, inconvenient, unhealthy, comfort-compromising and energywasting concerns. Call us today and let us make your home Feel As Good As It Looks! After all, your home is your largest investment and you and your family deserve to be comfortable - don't you?



"Comfort Without Compromise"

Call Today: 580-248-7924 www.PippinBrothers.com



Mowers, Forks, Etc.



Building Pads, NRCS Work, etc. For estimate on your job call Jeff 580-704-2226



Look at your financial situatuion holistically

ticipated costs, best time to go

holistic thinking when you stages of your life. When your may feel compelled to make community. When you retire ical and mental health can from a financial professional.



approach — looking at your clearly going to be a major trip from a variety of angles. part of your financial strategy, As someone with civic, ethi- bringing value to your profes- such as your IRA and 401(k). a single, unified vision, so you It's wise to apply that same and this is true at virtually all cal and moral concerns, you sion or contributing to your

• Your personal beliefs - for your immediate family, your retirement accounts, weave all these elements into need to decide how much fi- and your estate plans for to- traveling around the world? which will affect the amount nancial support you're willing morrow. Of course, for the Or spend more time volun- you need to put away for

When you plan a trip, you plan for your financial future es such as down payments you'll need to work with bies that give you a chance for need to prepare for the costs consider not only the —that is, bringing into the pic- on a new home or a new car. your tax and legal advisors. self-expression? Each of these of long-term care, which can destination but also the cliture all elements of yourself. And when you're drawing activities that interest Here are some things that may up your estate plans, you'll you retire – Having a purpose nancial implications for how vate room in a nursing home you, transportation needs, an- affect your financial strategy: need to consider how and can bring fulfillment beyond much you'll need to accumu- in can easily cost \$100,000 · Your views on helping when to distribute assets to financial security. Leading late for retirement and how per year, according to Genand coverage for your work, your family - Your decisions your children, grandchildren up to retirement, your pur- much income you will need worth, an insurance company. home or pets. It's a holistic about helping your family are or other family members, pose may involve providing to take out each year from

> • Your health – Your phys- may want to get some help children are young, you'll charitable gifts through- and step off your career path, play big roles in your finan- But, in any case, be prepared need to decide if you're go- out your life and then make you're entering a new world cial plans and outlook. On the to look at your situation holising to save money for their philanthropy part of your of possibilities. How will you most basic level, the healthier tically because, when putting college education, and if so, legacy. To accomplish these define, and live out, your new you are, and the better you together a lifetime's financial how much, and in what in- objectives, you'll want to in- sense of purpose at this stage take care of yourself, the low- strategy, every part of your vestments. When they're clude gifting techniques in of your life? Do you seek to er your health care bills will life matters. young adults, you may also your financial strategy today broaden your horizons by likely be during retirement,

It can be challenging to

to provide for major expens- estate-planning component, teering? Can you pursue hob- health care. And you also may Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Kelsey Avants

1110 N. 10th Street | Duncan, OK 73533 | 580-255-4408 kelsey.avants@edwardjones.com | www.edwardjones.com Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING





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A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES WWW.VOTE.COOP

Five easy ways to exercise your civic duty

America's electric cooperatives, including Cotton Electric, understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. There are many important policy issues that directly impact electric utilities and, ultimately, you, the members we proudly serve. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders positions us to advocate for our local community.

While Cotton Electric is a locally owned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric coops. Through our nonpartisan grassroots program known as Co-ops Vote, we're working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 16, and if you're looking to get involved or simply make sure you're ready to vote, here are five easy ways you can exercise your civic duty.

- 1. Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date. Visit www.vote.coop, then click Election Resources to verify your status.
- 2. Get informed. In addition to ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.
- 3. Get active on social media. Follow @coopsvote on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and let others know you're a #CoopVoter and #VoteReady; encourage your friends, family and community to do the same.
- 4. Help others prepare to vote. Work a National Voter Registration Day event (visit www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events), volunteer to be a poll worker during elections or offer to drive others to their polling places.
- 5. Vote! It's the easiest and most important way you can exercise your civic duty.

Voting is a form of personal empowerment that gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion on the issues that matter most to you. Make a plan to vote, and help others get #VoteReady.

We encourage everyone to vote, stand up for our local community and make a collective impact.

For more information, visit www.cottonelectric. com/ your-co-op-your-voice.

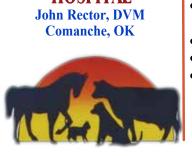












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Share your voice: Let us know how we can better serve you

At Cotton Electric Cooperative, prioritizing our members and delivering excellent member service is a core part of our mission. We highly value any questions, concerns or feedback from you - our members. One way you can help us enhance our services is by voluntarily participating in our annual survey.

Cotton Electric has partnered with Inside Information to develop a survey designed to gather valuable insights on how we can improve. The feedback from this survey will influence our American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI°) score and Cooperative Attitude and Performance Score (CAPStone), which help us gauge member satisfaction relative to other utilities and industries.

In early October, Inside Information will send postcards and emails to a randomly selected group of members, inviting them to take the survey online. Participation is voluntary, but we strongly encourage you to share your valued feedback to help us better serve you.

For any questions or more information about the survey, please contact our office at 580-875-3351.



Need to make a payment by phone?

Call our automated system at

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Have your Cotton Electric account number and credit card or banking account numbers ready before making the call.



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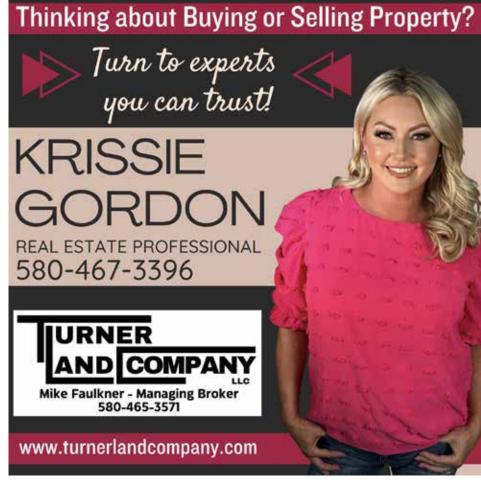




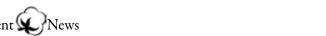


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- You pay the lowest price between the two.



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- SAVE MONEY DURING THE **MEDICARE "DONUT HOLE."**

TO LOCATE PROVIDERS IN YOUR AREA:

Go to www.connections.coop/healthy-savings and click "Locate Providers."

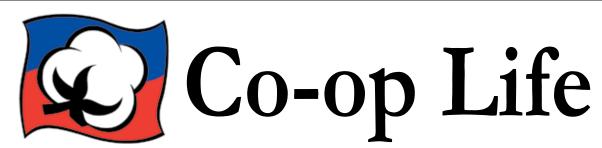
Set up your account.

Enter your zip code to search for providers near you.

Or you can call Member Services at 800-800-7616 if you have questions or to find a provider.

ANOTHER GREAT MEMBER BENEFIT BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pharmacy discounts are not insurance, and are not intended as a substitute for insurance. Pharmacy discounts range from 10% to 85% on most medications. The discount is only available at participating pharmacies. Prescription claims through this program will not be eligible for reimbursement through Medicaid, Medicare or any other government program.





Cotton Electric crews working near Duncan. Photo by Carli Eubank.

The United Nations spotlights cooperatives in 2025

By Carli Eubank

Whether it's your local grain elevator, Ace Hardware, credit union or power provider, cooperatives are uniquely formed by the community and for the community. With at least 65,000 in the U.S. and 3 million across the world, some co-ops are owned by workers or farmers. Others are owned by businesses who pool together resources, just as you – our members-owners – have a voice in your electric cooperative, Cotton Electric.

Co-ops make life better for everyone, from local businesses to the people who get electricity from us. To spread the word, the United Nations declared 2025 the International Year of Cooperatives. As we gear up for our Annual Meeting and National Coop Month, it's a great time to reflect on and celebrate how cooperatives build a better world and strengthen our communities.

Our mission and principles

Cotton Electric's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable power while providing excellent member service and improving the quality of life in our local communities. We follow a set of Cooperative Principles that help keep us rooted in our mission and

able to share with members the benefits of Improving the quality of life being part of a cooperative: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Member Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

Your voice matters

Similar to how we're not just a utility company, you're not just a customer. As our member-owners, we work for you - not some far-off shareholders. We value our members' feedback and ideas that could help us meet changing local needs. Our Board of Trustees and many employees live on co-op lines, so every discussion is focused on what's best for our members and community because we live here too.

District Meetings, Annual Meeting and other events are great opportunities for members to engage with co-op employees, stay updated on co-op business and share your community. any thoughts with your co-op.

Whether you call our offices or visit with us at a local event, we are listening to how we can grow and serve you better.

Cotton Electric isn't just focused on providing electricity but also making an impact in the communities we serve. Your co-op supports the next generation of leaders through a variety of opportunities with youth programs, sponsorships and classroom presentations.

Our generous members who participate in Operation Round Up have helped contribute a total of more than \$1.5 million in grants since the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation was founded in 2004. Operation Round Up funds from members are pooled together and go right back into the community through local schools, organizations and nonprofits that receive these grants.

Cooperatives were formed in the heart of communities by their neighbors, friends and members. At your local electric cooperative, we will continue to stay true to our mission of providing your power and empowering

For more information about your cooperative or the International Year of Cooperatives, visit www.cottonelectric.com or www.2025.coop.



Members register at the District 3 Meeting near Central High in 2024. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Empire High School was a Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation grant recipient for camera equipment. Photo by Carli Eubank.





If you would like your community event listed in the October issue, please submit information by calling 580-875-3351 or sending an email to The-Current@CottonElectric.com by Oct.
3. Only events occurring after Oct. 17 will be published in the next issue.

Editor's Note: We recommend checking for cancellations with local sources before attending any event.

Duncan's Annual Coin Show

Come to Duncan's Annual Coin Show to buy, sell or trade gold, silver, coins, currency, tokens and more. The event is Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Stephens County Fairgrounds in Duncan. For questions, contact Ed at 580-475-4570.

United Way 8th Annual BBQ Showdown

Enjoy delicious barbecue for a good cause as the United Way 8th Annual BBQ Showdown comes to Duncan's Kiddieland Park starting at noon Sept. 13. Judging will begin at 10 a.m., and awards will be announced at noon. This event supports United Way of Stephens County's partnering agencies. Admission price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. For questions or more information, call 580-255-3648 or visit www.unitedwayofsc.org.

2025 International Festival

Lawton's annual International Festival is a free event to promote greater awareness and appreciation of Lawton's diverse heritage. This family-oriented extravaganza is full of fun, food, children's games and activities, demonstration artists, retailers, concerts and multicultural experiences that make the Lawton Fort Sill Com-

munity unique. This three-day event is Sept. 26-28 at Elmer Thomas Park, 3rd and NW. Ferris Avenues, Lawton. For questions or more information, call 580-581-3470.

Bark in the Park

The Stephens County Humane Society is pleased to announce the 20th anniversary of Bark in the Park. Festivities will be pet and family friendly, featuring a number of pet related contests, including Best Costume, Best Bark, Owner-Look-ALike, Best Trick and more. The event is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 4 at Fuqua Park in Duncan. For questions or more information, call 580-252-7387 or visit www. stephenscountyshelter.com.

Food pantry open once monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The pantry is in the old City Hall, 131 1/2 W. California Street. Pantry organizers try to provide a two-week supply of basic staples to anyone with identification and proof of Cotton County residency. Monetary donations may be sent to Food Pantry, c/o Paul Metcalfe, 211 E. Colorado St., Walters, OK 73572. For questions or more information, call Roger Noland at 580-591-6826.

Blessings Boutique open monthly

Marlow First United Methodist Church opens its Blessings Boutique from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every first and third Tuesday of the month. Clothing donation drop-off days are Tuesdays, or donors can call the church at 580-658-2765 to make other arrangements.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Cotton Electric member Darren Beaver snapped this photo one evening at Waurika Lake.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. The theme for October is Hometown Roots! Entries can be emailed to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Winners will receive a Cotton Electric prize.



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Be smart about health info on social medi



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food 2 THOUGHT

Social media is a fun way to stay connected, but when it comes to health advice, it's important to be careful. Platforms like TikTok, Instagram and Youdiets, exercise and medical tips. While some of this information is helpful, a lot of it can be misleading — or even dangerous.

looked at the top TikTok videos about trustworthy information online. It also CDC or American Heart Association. cholesterol and found that over 40% encourages people to check facts and be were inaccurate, and more than a third careful before believing or sharing health were potentially harmful. That's a big posts. problem, especially since many people questions about their health. These videos often get millions of views, but popularity doesn't mean accuracy.

Dr. Kharidia also found that videos made by doctors were usually more educational and accurate, but they didn't get as much attention as videos made by regular users. That means the most trustworthy information isn't always the most popular. And even some videos made by health professionals had mistakes, so it's important to double-check everything need to share more evidence-based conand have a conversation with your health care team before making changes.

A 2024 article in CA: A Cancer Jour-Tube are full of videos and posts about nal for Clinicians showed that false cancer information on social media is a big problem. Posts with fake cures or scary ing the info a licensed doctor, dietitian or stories often get more likes and shares than real medical advice. This can con-Recent data presented by Dr. Kush fuse people and lead them to make un-

A 2025 review published in Nutrición turn to social media first when they have Hospitalaria looked at how nutrition misinformation spreads on social media. The study found that over 60% of false nutrition content focused on "miracle diets" that promised fast results without scientific proof. These posts were often linked to orthorexia, an unhealthy obsession with eating "pure" foods. Instagram rely on just one video or post. Look up and YouTube were the most common platforms for spreading these claims. The Mayo Clinic or WebMD. researchers stressed that public health organizations and health care professionals tent and help people learn how to spot unreliable nutrition advice online.

> So how can you tell if a health post is trustworthy? Here are a few tips:

- 1. Check the source. Is the person sharother health expert? Look for credentials like MD, RD or PhD.
- 2. Look for evidence. Reliable posts Kharidia at the 2025 American Soci- safe choices. The article says doctors often mention studies, research or guide-

ety for Preventive Cardiology meeting and health experts should share more lines from trusted organizations like the

- 3. Watch out for big promises. If someone says their method will "cure" a disease or help you lose weight fast, be skeptical. Health changes take time and
- 4. Avoid fear tactics. Posts that try to scare you into buying a product or changing your habits quickly are often misleading.
- 5. Compare with other sources. Don't the same topic on trusted websites like

It's OK to learn about health on social media, but always double-check what you see. Talk to your health care team before making big changes to your diet or lifestyle. And remember, just because something is trending doesn't mean it's

Being smart about health information online can help you stay safe, make better choices and avoid falling for myths. Let's use social media wisely — and keep our hearts and minds healthy.





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Savor the Final Days of Summer with Strawberry Cheesecake

(Family Features) Stun your family and guests with a delicious dessert that's as easy to make as it is to eat. This no-bake French-Style Cheesecake with Strawberries from Cookin' Savvy is a perfect summer treat for sharing with your nearest and dearest, and you can swap out strawberries for any berry of choice to make it your own. Discover more dessert ideas and family meal inspiration by visiting Culinary.net.

French-Style Cheesecake with Strawberries

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

1 row vanilla cream cookies, plus additional for topping

1/2 stick butter, melted

2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened

1 cup, plus 1 tablespoon, powdered sugar, divided

2 cups heavy whipping cream

4 tablespoons sugar

2 teaspoons vanilla

2 cups chopped strawberries, plus additional for topping

1 tablespoon powdered sugar

Crush cookies and mix with melted butter. Place in bottom of 9-inch springform pan and pat down until smooth.

With hand mixer, mix cream cheese

In separate bowl, using hand mixer, beat heavy whipping cream, sugar and vanilla until formed into whipped

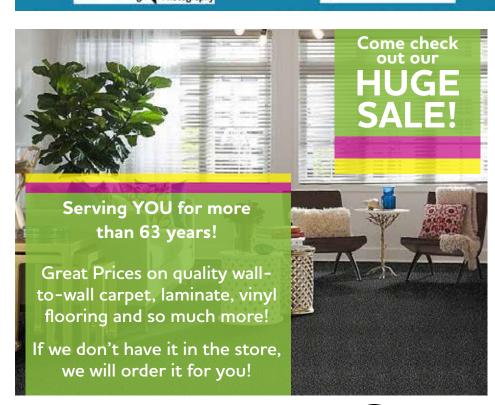
Mix cream cheese and whipped cream. Mix remaining powdered sugar with chopped strawberries.

Pour half cream cheese mixture on top of crust in prepared pan. Spread evenly with spoon. Pour strawberry mixture on top and spread evenly with spoon. Top with remaining cream cheese mixture and spread evenly with

Refrigerate at least 3 hours, or overnight, before serving. Garnish with additional crushed cookies and strawberries.

Tips: For thicker crush, double cookies and butter. Substitute desired berries for strawberries.







N. Hwy 81 & Camelback Rd, Duncan OK 580-255-0275 or 580-252-1331



Enjoy an Easy, Tasty Taco Salad

(Family Features) Hearty or light, spicy or mild, this Taco Salad is all imagination. Make it to your loved ones' content and top with favorites like chopped lettuce, sour cream and shredded cheese to keep weeknights simple yet flavorful, regardless of how crazy your calendar may get. To discover more recipes fit for your family, visit Culinary.net.

Taco Salad

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy" Total time: 30 minutes Servings: 4-6

1 pound ground beef

1 can (15 ounces) black beans

1 can (15 ounces) corn

2 cans (14 ounces each) diced tomatoes with chilies

1/2 cup half-and-half or milk

2 tablespoons onion powder

2 tablespoons garlic powder

2 tablespoons mesquite seasoning

1 tablespoon black pepper

salt, to taste

1 lime, juice only

1 cup chopped cilantro romaine lettuce

2-3 cups shredded cheese

1 tub (16 ounces) sour cream crushed tortilla chips

In pan over medium heat, brown beef until cooked through; drain. Add black beans and corn. Stir in tomatoes with juices and half-and-half. Add onion powder, garlic powder, mesquite seasoning and pepper. Season with salt, to taste. Bring to simmer.

Add lime juice; stir. Sprinkle with cilantro.

Wash and chop lettuce. Place cheese and sour cream in bowls for toppings.

On plates, top crushed tortilla chips with meat sauce, lettuce, cheese and sour cream, as desired.



Summer Veggies Meet Fall Flavor

(Family Features) When September arrives, it's finally time to dust off those fall recipes. This Zucchini Chicken Bake is a perfect blend of summer veggies and warm, fall flavor, ideal for those hot days that turn into chilly evenings. Visit Culinary.net to find more family recipe inspiration.

Zucchini Chicken Bake

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy" Servings: 4-6

2 medium zucchinis

2-3 tomatoes

2 chicken breasts

1 tablespoon minced onion

2 teaspoons Italian seasoning

2 teaspoons smoked paprika avocado oil

1-1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella

1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

Heat oven to 375 F.

Cut zucchinis, tomatoes and chicken into bite-sized pieces. Place in 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

Sprinkle with minced onion, Italian seasoning and paprika then drizzle with avocado oil. Mix well with spoon.

Cover with mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil and bake 40 minutes.

Simple changes make a big difference and add up to savings.

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www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency or www.touchstoneenergy.com.

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Property Details

Real Estate Taxes estimated: \$457.93. Presently leased, present crop Maize to be harvested in 2 weeks from list date 8/28/2025. Electricity available. Comanche County rural water district 3 to immediate North on N2600. Fences fair to average on West, South and East side, new barbed wire fence on North side. Soil types: FOA 0-1 slope 107 acres FtB: 1-3 slope 23 acres: FsB 1-3 slope 23 acres. Good productive farm land with all utilities close by.

COUNTRY LIVING

187677 N 2590 RD, Walters, OK 73572 2641 sf Stratford home on 160 acres with a beautiful panoramic view, one of the highest points in Cotton County PRICE REDUCED: \$590,000

SE S17 T3S R11W, Cotton County, OK

Property Details

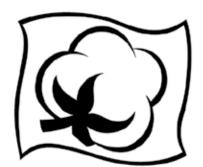
2641 SF home on 160 acres, 4 Bedroom 3 Full baths, Metal Roof, large Covered Porch and Patio, Safe room, built in 2008. Pipe corral, improved grasses, no mesquites, good barbed wire fencing. Excellent view: Rural Water District 2,Cotton Electric, Walters Schools, 2025 Estimated taxes: \$2298.33

Directions

From Walters, go 5 miles south to 5A then West 3 miles to NS2590, then North to property on West side of road. From Cookietown Highway 5A and 277, go East on 5A to 2590 Road then North 1.5 miles to property. Watch for Signs!!

Rick High 580-875-6500 210 N. BROADWAY, WALTERS OK 73572

rrhigh@sbcglobal.net www.highsauction.com



COTTON

ELECTRIC CO-OP

The Value of Electricity

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is about \$5? When you think about all the ways we use electricity every day, that's a great value!

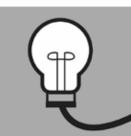


A day's worth of electricity powers: home heating/cooling, electronics, lighting, major appliances and more.

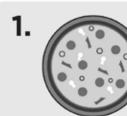








Look at the everyday items below, then add a plus (+) sign next to the items you think cost more than daily electricity. For items you think cost less than daily electricity, add a minus (-) sign.













Ice Cream Cone









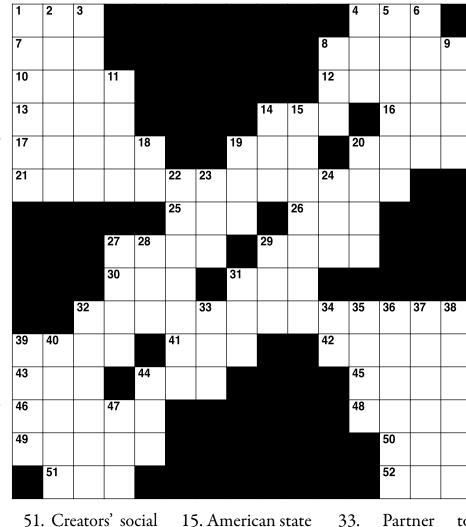




Answer Key: + '9 - 'S + 'τ - 'Σ + 'Z + 'L

ACROSS

- Utilitarian fash ion accessory
- 4. Engine additive
- 7. Macaws
- 8. Listens to
- 10. Self-righteously moralistic person
- 12. Made of wood
- 13. Chinese lute
- 14. Beginning military rank
- 16. Indicates near
- 17. Ties the score
- 19. Chum
- 20. Long ago
- 21. Localities
- 25. Midway between northeast and east
- 26. Make fun of
- 27. Tennis great Arthur
- 29. Construction location
- 30. Cow's noise
- 31. Blue
- 32. One of the Fab Four
- 39. Formula 1 team
- 41. Dash
- 42. Lifting device
- 43. Basics
- 44. Keyboard key
- 45. Old Irish alpha-
- 46. Shaking of the Earth's surface
- 48. Covered stadium
- 49. Sword handles
- 50. Longing
- yearning



- 51. Creators' social network
 - 52. Boxing's GOAT

DOWN

- 1. Occur
- 2. Show up
- 3. Capital of Tai-
- wan
- 4. Ocean
- 5. Givers and
- 6. Gets ready
- 8. Ad ___
- 9. Fit of irritation
- 11. Criminal orga- mal nization

that denotes disgust

- 18. Sensor hub
- 19. Before
- 20. The boundary of a surface
- 22. Witnesses
- 23. Singular
- 24. Type of meal
- 27. Music awards
- show 28. Former French
- coin of low value
- structure in an ani- shipÕs length
- 31. Schenectady ers Exclamation County Airport

32. Calm down

- cheese
- 34. Cola brand
- 35. Stepped on
- 36. Japanese city 37. Type of coating
- 38. A citizen of Ye-
- 39. Popular break-
- fast item corned beef
- 40. On a line at 29. A bag-like right angles to a
 - 44. First respond-
 - 47. Short-term memory



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