



**FREESTATE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

The Outlet

FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Larry Butel
Overbrook

Ralph Phillips
Mayetta

Bill Conley
Delia

Rob Sage
Maple Hill

Karol Lohman
Leavenworth

Matthew Turecek
Valley Falls

Don Montgomery
Burlingame

Mark Wulfkuhle
Lawrence

Jeanine Murphy
Leavenworth

Staff

Christopher Parr
Chief Executive Officer

District Offices

McLouth Office
P.O. Box 70
McLouth, KS 66054-0070

Topeka Office
1100 SW Auburn Rd.
Topeka, KS 66615

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

NOTICE

REMINDER:

FreeState offices will be closed
MONDAY, MAY 29 in observance
of Memorial Day.

FROM THE CEO

Staying Safe Following a Storm

We are amid spring storm season in northeast Kansas and across the Midwest. Something employees at FreeState have noticed over the past few years is the increasing amount of people taking interest in storms, weather coverage, and the aftermath.

It's hard to be in this business and not think of safety when you see some of the activities associated with the "thrill" of spring storms. But most importantly how dangerous conditions can become for not only first responders but lineworkers like FreeState crews (and others).

Did you know that line work is among the most dangerous jobs in the United States? That is why FreeState makes safety a priority. It's part of the culture here at the cooperative, from the outside in.

We all want to go home safely at the end of the day. After storm damage, we've seen neighbors helping neighbors and communities coming together, but we want you to stay safe because distractions can be deadly. Downed poles and wires are the most common risk to people following a storm. If you see wires on the ground or broken poles, or other infrastructure not where it should be — never approach it.

Never try to work around downed poles and wires, and never, under any circumstance, move them yourself. We

understand the desire to help and the rush of adrenaline that comes with being in an emergency, but do not make yourself part of the emergency. If you encounter infrastructure damage, stay back and immediately call 911.

When it comes to storm recovery, stay back to allow crews to focus on the job at hand. If you come up on a crew, please stay back and let them focus on doing their job. If they ask you to relocate, they are doing so for your safety and theirs. Please give our crews room to work. Slow down if you see them on the roadside.

Often during storm recovery, there are poles, wires, trees, and other debris in the area. Staying inside is the best course of action, but if you must be out, take your time and pay attention to your surroundings.



Chris Parr

“Did you know that line work is among the most dangerous jobs in the United States? That is why FreeState makes safety a priority.”



2023 YOUTH

Virginia Parsons to Head to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp



Virginia Parsons

Since the late 1970s, students have been selected to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. More than 100 students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming attend the youth conference each summer.

VIRGINIA PARSONS, a junior at Pleasant Ridge High School and Valley Christian Academy, will represent FreeState this summer at

CYLC. She is the daughter of Rodney and Amy Parsons. She is active in her community and participates in organizations such

as Livewires 4-H Club, Pleasant Ridge FFA, High Prairie Church, Leavenworth County 4-H Council, National Honor Society, and the Dog Club Project. She was the 2022 FFA member of the year.

Family has always played an important role in Parson's life, as well as the goats, cows, pets and livestock on the Parsons' family farm. She enjoys spending time with her Jersey cows and her two miniature Australian Shepherds, who are her teammates in the 4-H Dog Project. Parsons also spends her free time playing piano, reading and staying involved in various 4-H activities like meats judging and the dog project. She takes a leadership role in the 4-H Dog Project as a junior leader and is the president of the Leavenworth Dog Club.

In the future, she hopes to expand her entrepreneurial spirit and passion for farm life and start her own business selling milk and cheeses. She is looking forward to networking with other students in a cooperative setting and learning more about the cooperative world through interactive activities.

An Excerpt from a Submitted Essay

My passion began as a young girl who helped with chores on the family farm like the daily milking of our dairy goats and cows. I pestered Mom and Dad about "needing" a Jersey heifer. They finally gave in and let me buy my first Jersey that I named Toffee.

My dairy herd has grown since then to include an additional Jersey cow, two heifer calves, and two Jersey/Holstein cross yearlings that I bought as bottle calves.

My passion for dairy cattle and raw milk distribution is making the world a better place one family at a time. Families are always thankful for a place they can come and buy farm fresh whole milk. It is neat to be able to meet new people and show them what a farm is and where their food comes from. Especially when they have young kids that enjoy playing with calves. Most kids have never had a calf suck on their fingers and hearing them squeal with delight is always fun. I love to share my enjoyment of those small details with children and parents alike.

I would like to do an internship at a dairy farm, maybe

Hildebrand Dairy, or here in Leavenworth County. I have been thinking about making cheese, yogurt, butter and Kiefer to sell. I would like to have a delightful small dairy with a welcoming store to get milk or milk products. I would also like to try some other dairy cattle breeds in addition to my Jerseys.

That young girl who pestered her parents for a Jersey cow has found a passion that touches lives every day. My opportunity to make the world a better place is through a direct relationship between our farm and the local families in our producer/consumer network. I hope to continue doing this for years to come as I grow and expand my dairy herd and milk distribution business.

“My opportunity to make the world a better place is through a direct relationship between our farm and the local families in our producer/consumer network.”

PROGRAMS



Emma Murphy Selected for the 2023 Youth Tour in D.C.

For over 50 years, teens from rural America have been attending the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., touring the nation's capitol. 2023 is the first year for FreeState to send a delegate back to D.C. since the COVID-19 pandemic.

EMMA MURPHY, a junior at Pleasant Ridge High School in Easton, was selected to represent FreeState at the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in D.C. She is the daughter of Sam and Rebecca Murphy. Murphy is engaged in her community and participates in organizations including 4-H, FFA, FBLA and county livestock judging. She has served as FFA president since her freshman year and has received academic honors including National Honors Society, Principal's Honor Roll, Kansas Volleyball All-Team, FFA Chapter Award and FFA Greenhand Award. Murphy also takes a state leadership role as a member of the State FBLA Advisory Council, a Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) facilitator, and is involved with the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLFF).

She joined the powerlifting team at Pleasant Ridge her freshman year — the same year her love for working out and sports began. Murphy is active in an array of school sports like volleyball, basketball, track and powerlifting. Sports serve as an outlet for her but also build lifelong skills like confidence and how to work through adversity. Murphy's active lifestyle has helped shape her into a strong leader and dependable teammate for any organization she participates in.



Emma Murphy

An Excerpt from a Submitted Essay

Passions drive people every single day. People excel in their work and day-to-day activities to pursue their passion. Sports have taught me a lot of different skills that I use every day. Commitment, teamwork, perseverance, a strong work ethic, leadership, organization, time management and confidence have all developed and grown throughout my high school sports career. Sometimes while exploring our passion, without even knowing, little side roads will start to appear. These are the skills we have learned along the way that we can use as a gift to help ourselves and our community.

I want to pursue becoming an athletic trainer. This would be the next step in following my passion. The five areas of focus for athletic trainers are injury prevention, assessment, nutrition, sports medicine and kinesiology.

As an athletic trainer, I want to be the person who supports kids and serves as a guide for them. I hope to support youth programs in communities. These are programs where children from first grade through fifth grade can play sports at a low cost or even for free. These programs teach kids about staying

healthy and help build character. I have benefited from these programs because my parents made it possible for me to participate in softball, basketball and volleyball.

In my community, we have Easton Youth Athletics (EYA).

Groups like EYA depend on volunteers. I have volunteered to help with volleyball coaching clinics. I want to continue helping organizations that support youth athletics.

My business teacher said, "working hard for something you don't care about is called stress but working hard for something you truly care about is passion."

My passion for volleyball has created a road map that I travel on every day. I learned about leadership and commitment. Every day I learn something new that I will use in the future. I want to help others find out what their road map looks like!

“As an athletic trainer, I want to be the person who supports kids and serves as a guide for them.”

REGISTER your RIDE



If you are the owner of an electric vehicle (EV), we have an exciting initiative to share!

The initiative, "Register your Ride" provides a \$100 bill credit for eligible members. To claim your credit, drive on over to WWW.FREESTATE.COOP/REGISTEREV and complete the registration form. We do require proof of EV ownership, so we are asking you to upload your vehicle registration.

Once you register your ride(s) you will see the bill credit on your next month's bill. We will reach out to you if we have questions and to confirm your bill credit. This credit is available for each electric vehicle you own.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR ELECTRIC VEHICLE

REPORTING POWER OUTAGES



Call our office to report outages! Call 800-794-1989 and press option #2 to report and outage through our automated system.

Do not leave messages - just press zero to speak directly to a representative.



If you have a smartphone or other mobile devices, report your outage using the Smarthub app!



Our Facebook page is updated first. If you know someone that does not have social media - you can find our feeds on our website at www.freestate.coop/socialfeeds

ABOVE ALL, PLEASE BE PATIENT. FREESTATE DOES HAVE AN AFTER-HOURS CALL SERVICE THAT WILL DISPATCH CREWS FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 7:00 A.M.

NEVER APPROACH ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE THAT HAS BEEN DAMAGED!

**BE AWARE.
BE PREPARED.**



FreeState Employees Receive Key Accounts Certification



FreeState congratulates Energy Use Coordinator Matt Lambert (left) and Member Relations Manager Jennifer Ping on obtaining their Key Accounts Certifications.

FreeState congratulates Energy Use Coordinator **MATT LAMBERT** and Member Relations Manager **JENNIFER PING** on obtaining their Key Accounts Certifications.

The Key Accounts Program is designed to help employees nurture strategic relationships and build trust and loyalty within their team and the members they serve. To obtain their certificates, Lambert and Ping completed the required curriculum, passed an online exam and submitted a customer action plan.

Congratulations on your achievement!