



# Northfork Sparks & Flashes

Supplement to Oklahoma Living

Sept.  
15

## Ownership has its Privileges

### *Trustees Vote to Return Over \$240,000 in Capital Credits*

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NFEC offices will  
be closed Mon-  
day, Sept. 7 in  
recognition of  
Labor Day.

Please call  
1-800-668-6587  
to report an  
outage or a  
safety hazard.

One benefit of being a member and owner of your cooperative is receiving capital credit refunds. These capital credits are your portion of the margins - or profits - made by your cooperative.

Capital credits are unique to the cooperative form of business. Unlike profits paid only to share-holders of for-profits businesses, capital credits are paid to each co-op member who purchases electricity in a specific year.

Earlier this year, your board of trustees voted to return \$240,306 in capital credit refunds. This is 100 percent of the margins for years 1963 and 1964, and 4 percent of the 2013 margin.

Refund amounts are based on the amount each member paid for electricity during those years.

“Because Northfork has been in a long period of significant growth requiring use of these amounts to be invested back into the system, there

have been no retirements of capital credits in recent years,” says NFEC General Manager Scott Copeland. “Last year, however, the board of trustees directed our management team to develop a plan to resume retirement of capital credits in future years. The plan presented by staff and approved by the board, calls for budgeting an amount annually to begin a systematic retirement of these credits,” says Copeland.

“While the approval to retire capital credits must still be made by the board each year to assure the financial condition of the cooperative will not be impaired, it is hoped the retirement of capital credits can be reduced to a 30-year rotation cycle over a reasonable amount of time,” he says.

Capital credit checks were distributed to members who attended our Annual Meeting Aug. 15. Anyone who earned a capital credit refund, but did not attend the meeting, should receive a check in the mail dur-

ing the first week of September.

Members with multiple accounts will receive one check that reflects the total accumulated capital credits from all their accounts. Former NFEC members will be sent a check for their refund.

That is why it is so important for us to have your mailing address if you should move off of NFEC lines.

Anyone who is an heir to a deceased member’s estate needs to complete and submit a Certification of Entitlement form, as well as present a copy of the death certificate, and will or letters of testimony. The form can be found on our website - [www.nfecoop.com](http://www.nfecoop.com) - on the Patronage Capital Credits page found under the About Us tab. Those checks will be begin being mailed in October.

If you have questions about your capital credits, please call our office at 580-928-3366 and speak with Jose Hernandez or Lisa Dailey.



Touchstone Energy®  
The power of human connections

# Safety for ALL

By Heath Martin  
NFEC Safety Director

## Northfork Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Operating in  
Beckham, Roger Mills, Washita,  
Greer, Custer, Harmon, and Dewey

SCOTT COPELAND  
GENERAL MANAGER

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jimmy Taylor-Pres .....Elk City  
Charles Hickey-V. Pres.....Reydon  
Ransom Snowden-Sec-Treas.....Erick  
Chris Mackey..... Sayre  
Larry Smith .....Cheyenne  
Lloyd Joe Patton .....Sayre  
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Kenny Waugh..... Mgr. of Marketing  
Lisa Dailey.....Mgr. of Office Services  
Jeff Mohr .....Mgr. of Acct. & Finance  
Kay Brown .....Adm. Assistant  
Richard Bowdre..... Operations Mgr.  
Heath Martin.....Safety Director

### REYDON OFFICE

Barbara Swope ..... 655-4557

FOR OUTAGES  
AFTER 5 P.M. CALL  
1-800-NO-VOLTS  
(1-800-668-6587)  
or  
(580) 928-3366

OFFICE HOURS  
8 AM TO 5 PM  
MONDAY-FRIDAY

DATES TO REMEMBER  
READINGS MUST BE IN NORTHFORK  
OFFICE BY THE 10<sup>th</sup> OF EACH MONTH  
TO BE USED FOR BILLING

ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 400  
SAYRE, OK 73662  
301 E. MAIN



Touchstone Energy®  
*The power of human connections*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Northfork Electric has always been dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable utility service. The lengths we go to keep you, your family and our linemen safe are points of pride for us and are never taken lightly.

From acquiring new equipment and implementing new procedures – including installation of new breaker systems that react more quickly in case of a disruption – to increasing awareness of back-up generator systems within the cooperative community and supporting the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), NFEC strives to promote the highest standards of safety.

A lot has changed for the electric utility industry in the U.S. over the last 130 years. In the 1880s, power came to New York City through the direct current (DC) supply method. Direct current supply required generation stations to be within a mile of a consumer's home, which was great for city residents – but not so great for those living in the suburbs or rural areas.

Because of its inability to travel long distances – and the higher cost – the DC system eventually lost out to the more economical alternating current (AC) system. The AC system allowed power to travel across greater distances through the use of transformers located at power stations. These transformers required higher voltage to pass through stations in order to bring power to homes at the end of the wire. This increase in voltage spurred the need for increased electrical safety procedures.

High voltage is considered in the U.S. to be a voltage of 1,000 volts or more. Designations of high voltage also include the possibility of causing a spark in the air or causing electric shock by proximity or contact.

High voltage wires and equipment are a constant danger for co-op line-workers, but they can also pose a danger to cooperative members. That is why electric cooperatives are proud to be at the forefront of electrical safety equipment development, as well as electrical safety education.

“Our line crews participate in monthly safety meetings,” said NFEC Safety Director Heath Martin. “These courses ensure our employees are constantly reminded of the safety aspect of the job and the importance of using equipment in the safest manner possible.” Linemen also attend training schools and safety conferences provided by Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

In addition to safety training for employees, NFEC is continuously raising awareness of electrical safety in our communities by performing demonstrations at local schools and community events. We show members just how easy it is for an accident to occur when working with electricity and how to prevent these dangerous, and sometimes deadly, mishaps. We also increase awareness of electrical safety by 12561-001 engaging with volunteer fire departments, emergency medical teams and sheriff's departments on a regular basis, offering education courses and demonstrations. These programs keep service men and women, as well members of the community, safe.

At NFEC we know the more people we have in our communities who are knowledgeable about electrical safety, the safer we all will be. That's why we strive, every day, to raise awareness of, and encourage development in, electrical safety.

# after school snack



## Maple Nut Granola

- 3 1/2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats**
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans**
- 1/4 cup chopped almonds**
- 1/4 tsp. coarse salt**
- 5 tsp. vegetable oil**
- 5 Tbsp. pure maple syrup**
- 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract**

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a large bowl, toss together oats, pecans, almonds, salt, vegetable oil, maple syrup, and vanilla extract.

Spread oat mixture on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake until golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes, rotating sheet halfway through. Let cool completely.

## Cranberry Oat Cereal Bars

- Nonstick cooking spray**
- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter**
- 1 bag (10 ounces) marshmallows**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 6 cups toasted oat cereal (such as Cheerios)**
- 1 cup dried cranberries, or raisins**

Spray a 10-by-15-inch rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray. Line with waxed paper; spray paper with cooking spray, and set aside.

In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add marshmallows and salt; cook, stirring occasionally, until marshmallows have melted, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat, and stir in cereal and dried cranberries.

Immediately transfer mixture to prepared baking sheet. Using a spatula (or your fingers) coated with cooking spray, press in quickly and firmly. Let cool, about 1 hour; cut into 24 bars (3 rows lengthwise by 8 rows crosswise).

## Crunchy Carmel Corn

- 4 Tbsp. butter, plus more for baking sheet**
- 10 cups plain unsalted popped (from 1/2 cup kernels or a 3.3-ounce bag microwave popcorn)**
- 1 cup cashews, coarsely chopped (optional)**
- 1/2 cup packed light-brown sugar**
- Coarse salt**

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Butter a large rimmed baking sheet; set aside. Place popcorn

in a large bowl; if using cashews, add to bowl and toss to combine. Set aside.

In a small saucepan, bring butter, sugar, 1/8 teaspoon salt, and 2 tablespoons water to a boil, stirring constantly. Working quickly, drizzle popcorn with sugar syrup, and toss.

Spread popcorn evenly on prepared baking sheet. Bake, tossing occasionally, until golden and shiny, about 40 minutes. Transfer hot popcorn to parchment-paper-lined baking sheet; let cool.

## Ants on a Log

- 3 Tbsp. reduced-fat cream cheese**
- 2 celery stalks, trimmed**
- 1/4 cup assorted small dried fruit (such as cherries, cranberries, raisins, or currants)**

Spread cream cheese inside the hollow of each celery stalk. Arrange dried fruit on top, and cut celery in half.

# NFEC Supports Area Schools through Gross Receipts Tax

Everyone agrees a good education is important. And everyone agrees there is a lot involved in giving students that good education.

That is why NFEC provides financial support to school systems in our service territory through the payment of gross receipts taxes.

The 2% gross receipts tax is collected from members' monthly electric bills at the instruction of the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

Each year NFEC pays those taxes to the Commission based on miles of electric line the co-op has in each school district.

In 2014, NFEC paid more than \$454,000.

This money is used by schools to purchase needed equipment, supplies and study aids.

Most people believe that because electric cooperatives are non-profit businesses we don't pay taxes. But that's not true.

Cooperatives don't pay income tax, but we still pay several taxes businesses are required to pay. We feel contributing to the education of our youth is an important benefit of our tax dollars. We view it as an

investment in our service territory and in our future.

The accompanying chart shows

the approximate amounts NFEC paid each school district in our service territory in 2014.

<b>School System</b>	<b>Taxes Paid</b>
<b>Sayre</b>	<b>\$75,515.75</b>
<b>Merritt</b>	<b>65,118.13</b>
<b>Cheyenne</b>	<b>64,505.65</b>
<b>Sweetwater</b>	<b>50,067.77</b>
<b>Reydon</b>	<b>49,564.66</b>
<b>Erick</b>	<b>44,117.21</b>
<b>Leedey</b>	<b>30,573.31</b>
<b>Hammon</b>	<b>26,666.25</b>
<b>Canute</b>	<b>18,564.59</b>
<b>Elk City</b>	<b>14,941.09</b>
<b>Sentinel</b>	<b>13,151.20</b>
<b>Granite</b>	<b>1,282.46</b>
<b>Hollis</b>	<b><u>104.23</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$454,172.30</u></b>

## Hidden Account Number

*Find Your Account Number and Win \$25*

If you see your account number in this newsletter, call our office, identify yourself and the number. We will credit your electric bill \$25. The number may be located anywhere in the newsletter and is chosen at random.

If you don't know your account number, call our office or look on your bill. To get the credit, you must call before the next month's newsletter is mailed.