



**DSO ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

## Board

- |   |   |
|---|---|
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| <b>David Butler</b><br>Junction City, Director  |   |

## Staff

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Timothy J. Power</b><br>CEO              | <b>Marla Marshall</b><br>CFO                        |
| <b>Mike Olberding</b><br>Operations Manager | <b>Derrick Rutherford</b><br>Communications Manager |

## Office Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Open over the lunch hour



## Payment Locations

- CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN  
WALMART SUPERCENTER**  
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441
- FARMERS STATE BANK**  
447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

## Outage Information

**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL  
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

## Find Out More

-  [facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative](https://facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative)
-  [@DSOElectricCoop](https://twitter.com/DSOElectricCoop)

## ON THE LINE

# Outages

BY MIKE J. OLBERDING, OPERATIONS MANAGER

May was a stormy and wet month for most of us. Places in and around Salina and Bennington had over 9 inches of rain for the month. As we all know, when storms roll through, power outages are possible, and sometimes the outages last longer than anticipated.

Some of the outages that DSO members experienced during these recent storms were long ones. In late May, DSO was without power to its I-135 substation north and west of Salina, the Bennington metering point, and the Minneapolis metering point. These areas are all fed from the same Eversource 34.5 kV transmission line. The outages were caused by high wind that took out Eversource's poles in several stretches of the transmission line that feeds these substations; there was nothing DSO linemen could do to

help restore power. Eversource had a hard time getting its crews to the area to fix the downed lines, as the roads were extremely muddy and lightning storms were still active. In the end, it took Eversource longer than normal to bring the power back on.

As power was restored, we remained in constant communication with Eversource so we could pass along updates to our members. During outages, we communicate outage information through an outage map on our website, as well as postings on Facebook and Twitter. On the occasion when we need to turn power off for safety reasons, such as a house move where we need to raise power lines over a road, we attempt a phone call to notify our members ahead of time. For reasons like this, it is important we have a valid

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HAPPY  
★  
**4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**  
★★★  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Our office will be closed on  
Monday, July 5, for the holiday.**

# Avoid the RED ZONE to Save Energy



The **RED ZONE** is a period when electricity costs the most. This occurs from 3-6 p.m. Monday-Friday in July and August.

## WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY USAGE

Did you know that the highest hour of electric usage in the summer months is the basis for billing for the next eight months? Controlling your energy usage during peak hours helps reduce electricity demand and keeps costs down.



Avoid running the dishwasher during peak energy use hours.

Avoid doing laundry during peak energy use hours.



Raise your thermostat a few degrees to help conserve energy.

# Outages

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phone number so we can reach you. Soon, we are planning to add text messaging to our contact options, so watch your SmartHub online account for sign-up information.

If your meter sends out a signal that it is losing power, and it is between 6 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., then you will likely get a call from us to let you know we are seeing an outage and plan to investigate and restore power. If the outage occurs after-hours (before 10 p.m.), then the answering service will contact you to see if the outage is something you want us to address right away or if it is something that can wait until regular business hours. In many cases, these outages are sign lights, water wells, or vacant farmsteads, which usually can wait until normal business hours. If the outage comes in overnight (after 10 p.m.), then the answering service will not call or send a lineman out unless you call to inform us that

the power is out. In all cases, please do not assume we know your power is out; let us know.

If your power does go out, you should always check your breakers, and then call DSO. Often, when a member loses power, they let us know and then they jump in a vehicle and head to town to eat or run errands. While we try to get these types of outages back on before the member gets home, we prefer to have someone home if our employees are on-site. Occasionally, a lineman will find the problem to be on the member's side of the meter, and the member is not home. In such cases, the lineman may have to leave the power off until the member calls back in and we can explain the issue.

Finally, as mentioned earlier, we need to have your most current contact information (phone numbers and email addresses) on file. It will save both of us a lot of time and frustration down the road.

## AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



Scammers will threaten you with anything from shutting off your power to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.



- ▶ Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- ▶ Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- ▶ Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- ▶ If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.



# Once Rain Subsides, Raise Blade Before Mowing

BY K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

## K-State horticulture expert reminds homeowners to cut tall grass gradually

Following a stretch of rainy days in Kansas many homeowners rush to mow the lawn.

But they are likely to find that it's a bit taller than normal.

Kansas State University horticultural expert Ward Upham said it's important to remember that you should not take off more than one-third of the grass blade at one time. So as the grass grows taller, set the mower blade as high as possible and bring it down in steps.

"If more than one-third is taken off, the plant reacts by using stored energy reserves to quickly send up new growth," Upham said. "This reduces the amount of energy available for plants to deal with stress or damage done by insects or disease."

Upham acknowledged it is not always possible to obey the one-third rule.

"In such cases, cut as high as possible, even though you may be taking off more than one-third of the blade," he said. "Bring the height down gradually by cutting more often and at progressively lower heights until you reach the target height."

### Fertilizing Warm Season Grasses

Upham said June is the time to fertilize such warm-season grasses as bermudagrass, buffalograss and zoysiagrass.

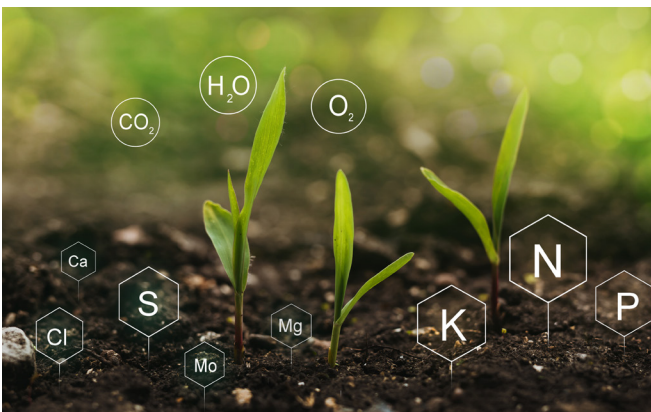
"These species all thrive in warmer summer weather," he said, "so this is the time they respond best to fertilization."



In the height of summer lawn care, experts suggest mowing with the one-third rule in mind, meaning you should not cut more than one-third of the grass blade at a time.

Upham added that nitrogen is the most important nutrient for each species:

- ▶ **BERMUDAGRASS** requires the most nitrogen, about 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet for the highest quality. "Either 3 or 2 pounds can be used for a lawn under lower maintenance," he said. "If using 3 pounds, apply in early May, June and July. If applying fertilizer twice, the first should go down in early June and the second in mid-July." Upham added that if homeowners are planning to apply four separate and equal applications, those should occur about four weeks apart beginning in early May, and the last application no later than Aug. 15. Any lawn fertilizer will work for bermudagrass. Don't forget to always read directions on your fertilizer bag before application.
- ▶ **ZOYSIAGRASS** grows more slowly and does not require as much nitrogen, only 1 ½ to 2 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Split the total into two applications, one in early June and again in mid-July. Lawn fertilizers with slow-release nitrogen are preferred over the quick-release variety.
- ▶ **BUFFALOGRASS** requires the least nitrogen of all warm-season lawn species, generally 1 pound per 1,000 square feet. It can be done in one application in early June. Slow-release nitrogen is preferred, but quick-release is okay to use. Upham and his colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a weekly Horticulture Newsletter with tips for gardening and maintaining home landscapes. The newsletter is available to view online at [hnr.k-state.edu](http://hnr.k-state.edu) or can be delivered by email each week.

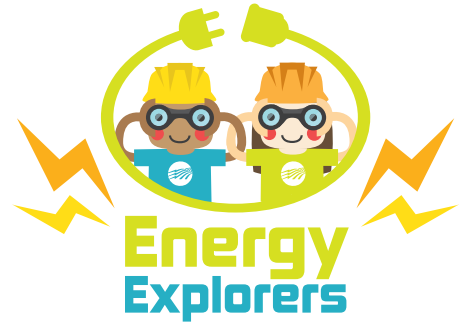


Several variations of warm-season grasses benefit from fertilization in early June. Grasses such as bermudagrass, zoysiagrass and buffalograss benefit the most from summer fertilization.

# COOPERATIVE WORD SEARCH

As a member of an electric cooperative, you're part of something special!

Read the facts below to learn how co-ops are unique, then find and circle the words in **BOLD** type.



I	S	V	S	L	N	V	Q	O	S	N	M	F	S	E
F	E	Q	G	I	T	H	W	K	E	X	B	G	L	Z
B	V	M	E	M	B	E	R	S	R	H	F	E	U	H
K	I	B	P	O	E	G	E	N	V	W	C	H	D	Q
S	T	W	U	R	M	W	X	X	E	T	N	L	W	S
U	A	S	T	L	I	P	F	F	R	P	A	Q	V	Q
X	R	H	U	E	M	N	O	I	L	K	Y	F	F	M
O	E	F	O	R	O	Y	C	E	O	T	O	H	G	Q
G	P	F	A	K	Y	N	O	I	I	B	A	E	A	J
A	O	H	W	X	P	E	N	N	P	K	G	Y	U	D
P	O	I	C	E	O	A	U	O	I	L	V	X	E	P
Y	C	P	W	N	W	M	I	C	G	Z	E	S	V	T
K	A	Q	V	T	M	Z	G	L	Z	I	U	S	G	T
Q	K	M	S	O	G	W	A	Q	O	B	H	C	I	A
A	P	T	C	M	D	X	J	W	L	Q	V	B	R	W

## WORD BANK

1. Electric **COOPERATIVES** are local organizations and businesses, so they understand the communities they serve.
2. Co-ops don't have customers; instead, they have consumer-**MEMBERS**.
3. All co-ops are guided by the same set of cooperative **PRINCIPLES**.
4. "Concern for **COMMUNITY**" is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. Co-ops are led by the consumer-members they **SERVE**.
6. You're a consumer-member of an **ELECTRIC** cooperative, but there are also housing, grocery and other types of co-ops.