

cve@caneyvalley.com
www.caneyvalley.com
For emergency outages please call 800-310-8911

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.



TheVoice

Caney Valley Electric Co-op, Inc.

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Contact Us

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for March is an additional \$.00011/kilowatt-hour. This amounts to \$.011 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours. The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/kwh) charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through on your electric bill.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Annual Meeting Postponed

The cooperative's annual meeting has been held in March for several years. However, due to the COVID-19 issues, the board of trustees has tentatively postponed this year's meeting until mid-summer. Hopefully, conditions will be improved enough to enable a traditional meeting including board of trustee elections, business reports, hamburgers and attendance prizes. The meeting date and details will be announced when arrangements are completed.

The board positions to be filled and the current members in these positions are: District 1, Position 3 – **DALE STEWARD**, Grenola; District 2, Position 3 – **CHRIS KELLY**, Grenola; District 3, Position 3 – **CHARLES MCMILLAN**, Chautauqua.

Not less than 30 days nor more than

90 days before the annual meeting, the board of trustees will select a nominating committee. The nominating committee will nominate at least two members as candidates for each trustee position to be elected at the annual meeting. Cooperative bylaws also provide that any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than 20 days prior to the meeting. Additionally, nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

Cooperative members are needed to serve on the nominating committee, and willing to be nominated for a trustee position! Contact a trustee or me to let us know you would like to be considered.

ALLEN A. ZADOROZNY
GENERAL MANAGER

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV



Remember to Use Caution When Burning

Each spring, all across Caney Valley Electric's service territory, members prepare to burn pasture for the upcoming spring grass season.

Every spring Caney Valley Electric's employees witness damage being done to Caney Valley's poles and equipment by "controlled" burns. Please be aware that burning or even scorching a pole will compromise the integrity of the structure.

Power poles are treated with a protective coating that prevents moisture from entering the core of the pole and causing deterioration. If a pole is scorched or blackened, the protective coating is damaged. Though it may appear as just a discoloration or slight burn, this is, in fact, damage to the pole. This will significantly shorten the life of a power pole. This pole may then become a hazard and could cause an outage.

Caney Valley once again reminds members to plan your burning before you begin. It is much cheaper to prevent a pole from catching fire than to pay for a new pole. Members will be held liable for the replacement cost of pole(s) and/or equipment due to fire damage. This cost may vary from \$1,000 to more than \$2,000 depending on the structure of the pole and equipment. It



Before burning, check the property for electrical equipment and power poles to avoid damage and potential outages.

only takes a little extra effort to prevent pole damage and help control costs for you and your cooperative.

Burning of pastures and ditches does not have to result in the burning/scorching of power poles. If there are power poles in the area to be burned, clear the vegetation/weeds at least 4 feet around the base of the pole and wet the base of the pole with water before beginning to burn.

If the fire does get away from you and a pole becomes engulfed in flames, immediately call the fire department and Caney Valley Electric. Do not spray water close to the conductors! Water and electricity do not mix! This may cause a short circuit. You and/or the firefighters could be in the path of that current and a serious injury or death may result.

Report any fire-damaged pole to Caney Valley Electric immediately. Not reporting the damage may cause a serious accident to happen later.

A pole that has been burned through is likely to fall over. This can leave the energized lines about a foot off the ground. If a person comes into contact with the line, they most likely will be seriously burned, or even killed. This carelessness could cost a life.



REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD
ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14.



2020 County Tax Distribution

Caney Valley Electric was assessed \$422,600.88 in property taxes for 2020. This amount is an increase of \$37,375.54 from taxes assessed in 2019. The details below show the amount of taxes paid to each county.

Although your cooperative signs the check that pays for the property taxes, we realize that you, our members, actually pay the bill. We want to report where some of your money goes when you make a payment each month. A fair portion of that goes to pay property taxes, and that in turn helps the communities in our area.

2020 Property Taxes				
County	2020	2019	% Change	
Butler	\$ 535.64	\$ 498.74	7.40%	
Chautauqua	\$ 260,613.24	\$ 240,221.88	8.49%	
Cowley	\$ 80,223.68	\$ 68,967.30	16.32%	
Elk	\$ 58,820.80	\$ 54,809.82	7.32%	
Montgomery	\$ 22,907.52	\$ 20,727.60	10.52%	
Totals	\$ 422,600.88	\$ 385,225.34	9.70%	

March 31 is the Deadline to Apply for LIEAP Assistance

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) helps low-income persons meet their home energy costs by paying a portion of their energy utility.

Applications for the 2021 year must be received by the Department for Children and Families (DCF) Service Center by 5 p.m. on March 31, 2021. If you need assistance locating your nearest office address, you can call 800-432-0043 or go to the website www.dcf.ks.gov/services/Pages/DCFOfficeLocatorMap.aspx. Applicants must meet the following criteria to qualify:

- ▶ The gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address may not exceed 130% of the federal poverty level as listed below.
- ▶ An adult household member must be personally responsible for purchasing home energy incurred at the current residence, payable either to the landlord or to the fuel vendor.
- ▶ The household must meet citizenship or lawful residency requirements.
- ▶ The household must meet application requirements.
- ▶ The household must demonstrate a recent history of payments toward the purchase of their energy. Payments may be a combination

of payments for natural gas, electricity, propane and firewood. The total of the payments must be at least \$80.

LIEAP payments are made only one-time per year. Benefit amounts are determined based on federal funding received, anticipated number of applicants, type of dwelling, type of primary heating fuel, number of household members and household income. All benefits are payable to the energy provider and will be mailed directly to the provider to be credited to your account.

To apply, you may fill out an application online at www.dcf.ks.gov. Applications can also be obtained from the DCF or your local Health Department. For further assistance contact 800-432-0043 or visit the website www.lieap.dcf.ks.gov.

2021 LIEAP Income Eligibility Guidelines

Maximum Gross Monthly Income for Persons Living at the Address

1	\$1,383	8	\$4,780
2	\$1,868	9	\$5,265
3	\$2,353	10	\$5,751
4	\$2,839	11	\$6,236
5	\$3,324	12	\$6,721
6	\$3,809	+1	\$486 for each additional person
7	\$4,295		

Outages for January 2021

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Following are the larger outages that occurred during January 2021.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
1/1	Woods Tap southeast of Grenola	46	2 hr	Broken pole due to ice
1/1	Grenola substation south circuit	150	5 hr 30 min	Evergy lost phase, burndown from ice
1/1	Grenola substation – north and west circuits	320	8 hr 30 min	Evergy lost phase, burndown from ice
1/15	East of Cedar Vale	35	1 hr	Reset OCR from high winds
1/18	Chautauqua substation – Fuller loop	24	1 hr 15 min	Scheduled to change out pole

Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2019
Meters Billed	5,249	5,309
kWh Purchased	5,742,673	5,665,625
Cost Per kWh	0.07465	0.05302
kWh Sold	4,240,002	4,763,499
Total Revenue	\$ 762,681	\$ 717,425
Purchased Power	\$ 429,811	\$ 301,179
Operating Expenses	\$ 284,175	\$ 220,881
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 69,534	\$ 68,221
Interest Expenses	\$ 32,112	\$ 49,025
Other Expenses	\$ 12,550	\$ 604
Operating Margins	\$ (65,499)	\$ 77,515
Non-operating Margins	\$ 2,182	\$ 90,525
Total Working Margins	\$ (63,317)	\$ 168,039
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 320,385	\$ 724,300

ELECTRICAL ACCIDENT IMPACTS COUPLE'S LIVES: 'Normal Before Will Not Be Normal After'

BAILEY EDENBURN was packing for an unknown destination. She also had to pack for her fiancé, Cody Conrady. Many times, throwing necessities in a suitcase is for something fun. Unfortunately, packing on this day in May was for anything but.

She didn't know how long she would be gone or even where she was going. All she knew was she had to pack. And she had to get to Cody.

After finding out where he was and driving faster than she cares to admit, she reached her destination: the Level 1 trauma center. She did not know how bad it was. She only knew Cody was alive.

At that point in time, Cody only knew the same — he was alive. After nearly dying in an electrical accident, the day was a blur; most of it unetched in his mind.

Earlier that day, Cody had started his next-to-last day as assistant manager for an agricultural fertilizer company. They were shorthanded that day, so it was all hands on deck. To get ahead of the sprayer, he hopped in his truck and got going.

"I had to take loads because we needed an extra truck to take fertilizer," Cody recalled. A sprayer had been broken down for 3½ hours, and when it finally showed up, he was ready.

What Happened Next

After the sprayer pulled in, Cody pulled up in his truck to unload fertilizer. "I hooked on like I normally would, and the sprayer was unfolding, which is pretty much standard procedure."

What transpired next changed everything. Those who were there think that when the sprayer boom unfolded, the sprayer tips extended at the same time, and one of them grazed the power line.

Cody said they believe the sprayer tip was electrified for only a moment, but that the stray electricity moved through the tip, boom, tractor and down to the ground where Cody was standing. When Cody touched the camlock, which connects the hoses together, 7,400 volts of electricity flowed through his body.

The force of the stray voltage threw him backward and onto the ground. The person in the cab jumped out and started CPR (luckily the ground was no longer electrified) and called 911.

One Journey, Two Experiences

As in any journey, two people experience it differently. Cody is matter of fact. He says he doesn't

mind talking about it, but that Bailey does. As an outward expression of his love for her, you can tell he worries about her reliving that day.

He says he doesn't remember a lot about the accident, but he does have a two vivid memories that have to do with the stretcher — one was him being rolled onto it; the other was the sound of the collective click as it was being loaded into the ambulance.

"My first memory after that was probably a week and a half later," Cody said, adding that there were many conversations with Bailey to help him piece the details together, including the progression of his care. He said the medical staff made several attempts to save his hand, but that the damage progressed too far to do so. He also questioned why they had to take his leg.

"What we learned is that tissue is actively still dying over the course of two weeks, so it (the internal damage) just kept moving up (the affected limbs)," he said.

Bailey's Recollections

When Bailey recalls what happened, her words come a bit faster than Cody's.

"Emotionally, I've probably been more of a mess (than Cody). He struggled very early on with just the circumstances (of it all) and just how badly hurt he was. But he's accepted the fact that this is his life now, and (that) he has to make this life as good as he can. I'm not quite there yet," she admitted.

As with most significant journeys in life, "there are days that are perfect, (when) the world is right." And there are the bad days, she added.

After watching Cody experience immense pain, lose two limbs, undergo numerous surgeries and learn to walk again, "we knew life wasn't going to be the same," Bailey reflected. "We knew that the 'normal' before was not going to be the 'normal' after.

In the beginning, Bailey said it was just all about survival. Today, their lives include more gray areas.

"I don't know what the future holds," Bailey said. "There are some days when his leg just bothers him ... (but) he's not the type to want to sit still for anything. He's had to sit still and learn more patience in the last year than he has his entire life. And it (sitting still) just drives him bonkers."



Cody and Bailey Conrady share their experiences to increase awareness about power line safety. Electricity can travel through anything in its path. Unintended contact can happen in an instant.

The Dangling Carrot

At one of the initial meetings with the medical team, Cody mentioned Sept. 7 — the day the couple were to be wed. "It was a giant dangling carrot, really," Bailey said. "I mean, he was bound and determined we were not going to put the wedding off."

On the Wednesday before their wedding, Bailey came home to a huge surprise. "I had gone to do chores, and when I came back, he was walking around the house, without a cane, and I bawled, absolutely bawled."

Bailey said that Cody had gotten his leg prosthetic 10 days before the wedding. "I didn't think he'd walk down the aisle. I'm not sure in that moment in time he thought he'd walk down the aisle."

But he did, and you can hear in Bailey's voice just how special their wedding day was. "It was just the most perfect of days," she said, smiling.

The Journey Continues

Bailey said that the goal was and still is for "Cody to do whatever Cody wants to do."

Cody and Bailey are still packing for a destination. Sometimes figuratively. They adapt to the twists and turns of their life together. Cody navigates the challenges he faces with a different dominant hand than before the accident. Some days he can't do everything he wants to because of his pain. Bailey still struggles at times with what happened that day in May. But sometimes they pack in a literal way. Lately, they have been busy completing baby registries for a new addition in their lives. Although a bit apprehensive like most first-time parents, bring on the next chapter, they said.

The journey continues.