



P.O. Box 699, 530 W. Jones, Troy, KS 66087
785-985-3523
www.donrec.org

**DONIPHAN ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSN., INC.**

Co-op Connect

Doniphan Electric Co-op Assn., Inc.

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Contact Us

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Troy, KS 66087
785-985-3523
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Office Hours

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

FROM THE MANAGER

Moving Ahead

We at Doniphan Electric Cooperative wish our members and friends a happy, healthy and safe 2023.

Sounds like a lot of looking ahead, right? Well, it is! It's not that we don't feel some sentiment for "Auld Lang Syne," but once the bells ring in a New Year it is time to move ahead. As Pumba famously mis-stated — "ya gotta leave your behind in the past." Move ahead!

What's ahead at Doniphan Electric? To start, the New Year means the annual meeting is coming. This year our annual meeting will be on **THURSDAY, MARCH 30 AT 5:30 P.M.** The annual meeting will again include a meal, fellowship with other members, new ideas and savings recommendations, and a look back at 2022 (OK — gotta do that). Of course, there will be prize drawings.

We will also have two trustees up for election. Trustees are democratically

elected to the Doniphan Electric board. Be sure to participate in the process and thereby support the formation of the best board possible for the Doniphan Electric membership. Complete information regarding the election will be included in our annual meeting notice and booklet coming to you soon.



Michael Volker

Another thing we will discuss at the annual meeting will be the strategic plan. The board went through a strategic planning process in January 2022 with the help of our cooperative banking partner, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Finance Cooperative(CFC). CFC moderated this process and has provided their expertise to help the board understand the strengths, recognize the weaknesses,

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Department of Energy rates this project level as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own.

Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations. **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**



Common Causes of Home Electrical Fires



An average of **346,800** home fires occur every year, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Electrical issues (either failure or malfunction) account for 46,700 of those fires.

Common Causes

Incorrectly installed wiring; overloaded circuits or extension cords; defective or improper plugs, switches or outlets; and misuse or poor maintenance of lighting are common causes.

Warning Signs

Signs that indicate possible wiring or electrical problems include flickering or dimming lights; discolored cords, outlets or switch plates; switches or outlets that are hot to the touch or emit an odor; and recurring blown fuses and tripped circuit breakers.

Prevention

Hire a qualified electrician to examine and repair electrical issues in your home. Do not take on do-it-yourself electrical projects if you are not qualified.

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take advantage of opportunities, and manage the threats that Doniphan Electric faces today and in the future. We will review our progress and look at what lies ahead in areas of governance, financial strength, safety, technology and operations. The point of the strategic plan is to know where we want to go in the volatile environment of the energy world. As Yogi Berra famously said: “If you don’t know where you are going, you’ll end up somewhere else.” The strategic plan is our map.

Moving ahead sometimes means saying goodbye. It is with mixed emotions that we say “farewell” to one of our own — **LAURA JESCHKE**. Laura has been with Doniphan Electric for 31 years! She as much as anybody has seen the changes (good and bad) and knows so much about the history of this place. With her goes so much of the institutional knowledge of Doniphan Electric. Given that none of the rest of us in the front office have been here even two years, to say her knowledge will be missed is an understatement. It is her

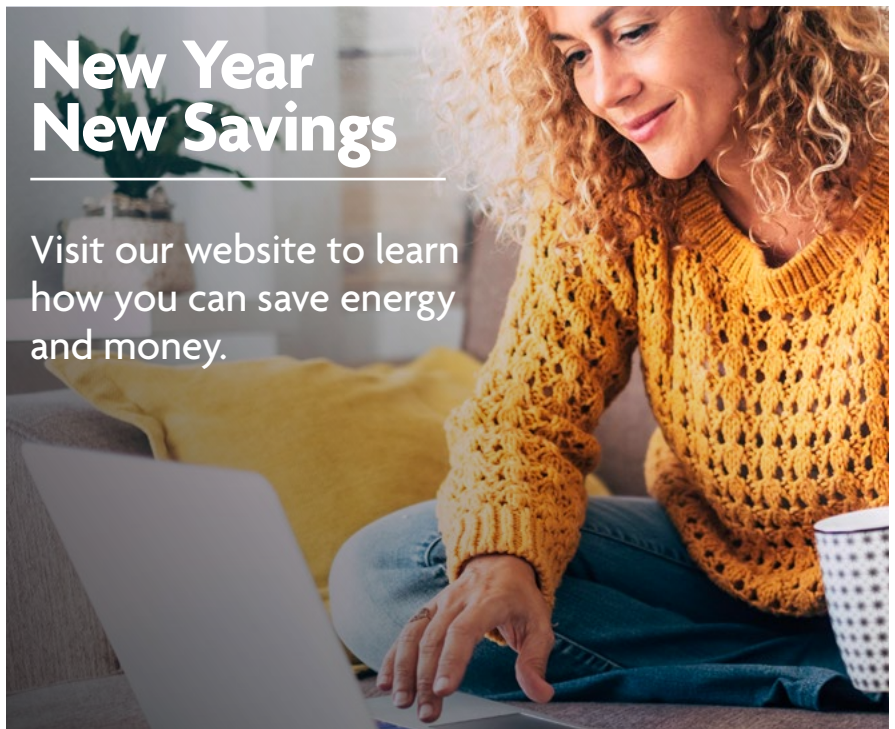
character that will be missed even more. I know I speak for everyone else here at Doniphan Electric when we wish her the best in her retirement. She’s earned it!

Finally, we have moved ahead with our changed rate design which you should see on your bills in January. If you recall from my previous discussions, we have made a relatively minor change to our rates which on average results in no change to bills. We raised almost all monthly “Customer Charge” rates by \$5 per month. For most residential members, that means the Customer Charge is \$30 per month — still one of the lower cooperative rates in Kansas. This is our first change to the customer charge since 2011. At the same time, we lowered the energy charge by \$0.00475 per kWh. These changes offset each other in total for the cooperative. If you need additional explanation of these changes, please call us.

We hope 2023 is a “move ahead” in every way possible for all our members at Doniphan Electric Cooperative. From all of us here — Happy New Year.

New Year New Savings

Visit our website to learn how you can save energy and money.



Kansas Profile — Now That's Rural: Kansas Lange, Two Little Goats

BY RON WILSON

Two little goats. That doesn't sound like a lot, but perhaps it could be the beginning of an entrepreneurial career.

Today we'll meet a young rural-preneur who is using her two little goats to learn the principles of entrepreneurship for the future.

KANSAS LANGE is a teenager who won her county's Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in spring 2022. Kansas and her family live in Garfield, in Pawnee County.

Her father is Charles Lange, a K-State grad and public health veterinarian in Dodge City. While inspecting the packing plant in Dodge, Dr. Lange met one of the workers, Sabrina, who is originally from New Mexico. They married, moved to Garfield, and now have two daughters and a son.

Kansas is the younger daughter. "My grandfather suggested they name me Kansas because that is where they met," Kansas said.

Kansas became very active in 4-H. "I'm homeschooled, so this is my creative outlet and my opportunity to meet people in the community," Kansas said.

In addition to showing multiple species of livestock, she enrolled in such projects as shooting sports, woodworking, clothing and textiles, and foods and nutrition.

Kyle Grant is the K-State Research and Extension 4-H agent in Pawnee County. "Kansas has excelled in our Pawnee County shooting sports program," Grant said. "She also excels at livestock judging, meats judging and skillathon, where she earned the opportunity to go to the national contest in Louisville, Kentucky. She is a good role model for Pawnee County 4-H'ers."

Kansas learned about the Pawnee County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, sponsored by NetWork Kansas. YEC is a sequence of community-based entrepreneurship competitions for students in grades 6-12, culminating in a state championship. Students present their conceptual or business ideas to judges and compete against others in their age division locally. The top contestants advance to the state finals, held in April at K-State in partnership with the College of Business' Center for Entrepreneurship and the Kansas Masons.

Erik Pedersen is president and COO of NetWork Kansas. "When you walk into one of these events at a middle school or high school, you see a

student standing there with a tabletop display that they've created," he said. "They're dressed up and talking to a group of adult judges; they're shaking hands, they're making eye contact, they're answering questions about their project or business idea. The life skills that they're gaining will put them miles ahead of their peers."

Kansas thought about what project she might enter in this competition. As a teenager, she was experiencing acne on her skin and looking for better skin treatments. "I found a lot of articles that said that goat milk soap could help," she said. No big city stores carried such products nearby, but she could raise dairy goats and make soap of her own.

Kansas got two Nigerian Dwarf dairy goats that she milked twice daily, did the research and developed a process for producing scented goat milk soap. It worked so well that she wanted to share the products with others and started selling the product locally. She named her business Two Little Goats.

"My mom has a degree in business, so she could help with the business side, and my dad helped with the science and biology," Kansas said.

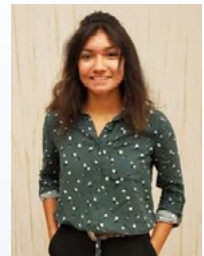
She entered her project in the Pawnee County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. In 2022, she took first place and advanced to state. At the Kansas Department of Agriculture's 2022 Ag Growth Summit, Kansas spoke about her project at the entrepreneurship breakout session.

"I especially enjoyed doing the research and thinking on my feet when the judges ask questions," she said.

She's a remarkable young woman from the rural community of Garfield, population 151 people. Now, that's rural.

How do we as a state develop and encourage the next generation of entrepreneurs? The Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge is a great step in the right direction. We commend Kansas Lange and all those involved with YEC for making a difference with their ideas and business development.

A big career in business just might begin with two little goats.

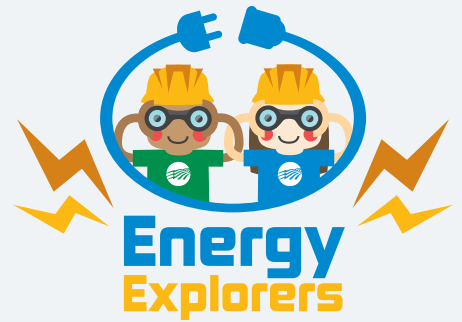


Kansas Lange

RON WILSON is the director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

PLEDGE TO SAVE ENERGY

It's a new year, and that means it's time to think about how you'll make a positive impact in 2023! You can help the planet by saving energy at home and at school. Take the pledge to save energy this year by completing the form below. Post it on your refrigerator or at school to remind others about easy ways to save energy and costs while helping our environment.



I Pledge to Save Energy



Name: _____

I pledge to do my part to save energy and help our planet.
Every day, I'll do the following to save energy at home
and/or at school.

My Daily Energy-Saving Plan:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Need some ideas to help you get started?

Here are a few easy ways you can save energy every day.

- ▶ Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
- ▶ Unplug phone and other device chargers when they're not being used.
- ▶ Turn off running water while brushing your teeth.
- ▶ Remind family members to wash clothes in cold water.
- ▶ Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room.