



**Ryan Schilreff**  
General Manager



# CO-OP NEWS

MARCH 2019

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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May through September

Office hrs: 6:30–5:00, Mon.-Fri.

October through April

Office hrs: 7:30–4:00, Mon.-Fri.

**Winter  
hours in  
effect**

**Board of Directors**

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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



## March 27th: Plan to Attend the Wyrulec Annual Meeting

We hope you plan to attend the annual meeting to be held the evening of Wednesday, March 27th. This will be the cooperative's 83rd annual meeting, and it will be held at the Rendezvous Center in Torrington. Registration starts at 4:30 pm and dinner will be served at 6:00 pm.

Our scheduled guest speaker will be presenting during dinner. The business meeting will start promptly after his presentation.

This year our guest speaker will be Ty Stockton, host of The Great Outdoors radio program, which airs statewide on the Cowboy State News Network. Ty will keep us entertained by speaking about the joys of rural living.

In addition to the financial and annual reports, we will be announcing the 2019 scholarship recipients of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship, Tri-State G&T Scholarships, and the Wyrulec Company Scholastic and Trade Scholarships. We hope to see you there!

### Annual meeting guest speaker

Ty Stockton grew up a stone's throw from the Wind River near Riverton, where he spent his formative years exploring and experiencing nature. His adventures along the Wind with his dog and the regular trips into the backcountry with his dad instilled an appreciation for the natural world that has never dimmed.

He began his working life as a sports copy editor at the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, but soon had the opportunity to serve as the Outdoors Editor at that newspaper. He spent four years getting paid to hunt, fish, kayak, windsurf, ski and do anything else related to the outdoors — provided he could string together a compelling story about each of those outings.

He and his wife Amy have two sons, and when the second was on the way, Ty needed to find a more lucrative career. He moved over to the Wyoming Game

Continued next page

# Youth Energy Leadership Camp July 8-12, 2019

Each year Wyrulec accepts applications from area high school students to attend the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp in Halsey, Neb. There is no cost to the participants for camp expenses or transportation. Applicants are required to live in the household of a member or employee of Wyrulec Company, and by the date of the camp, they must have completed 9th, 10th, or 11th grade. The State 4-H camp is located in the Halsey National Forest, near Halsey, Neb. Recreational activities at the camp include basketball, volleyball, and canoeing. Students from Nebraska and Wyoming will be joined by adult counselors, who are employees of rural



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electric systems donating their time and talents to the camp. Junior counselors, who are past attendees of the camp are also present. This popular 5-day camp is set up to give young people a better understanding of the legislative process, electric power generation, and the rural electric program. The program's goal is to challenge participants educationally, recreationally, and socially. A highlight of the camp involves a tour of the Kingsley Hydro Station at Lake McConaughy and Gerald Gentleman Station, a coal-fired power plant at Sutherland, Neb. Applications can be picked up at Wyrulec, or downloaded from our website at [Wyrulec.com](http://Wyrulec.com), under the Youth Programs tab. Applications are due at Wyrulec by May 17th.

## Guest speaker

*Continued from prev. page* and Fish Department, where he was the Associate Editor of Wyoming Wildlife.

His adventures continued, and he worked to hone his storytelling ability. He had been forced to learn to use a camera at the newspaper, and at the Game and Fish, he improved his photography skills under the tutelage of some of Wyoming's best nature photographers.

He began producing a daily radio show for the Cowboy State News Network as a "side hustle," and he insists the radio show is the best outlet for his photography. "They look better on the radio than they do in any other medium," he says.

Others were more appreciative of Ty's photography, though. After he had left the Wyoming Game and Fish to work at Laramie County Community College for nearly a decade, he became the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's staff photographer. He wintered in Bismarck — from November 2017 through May 2018 — and enjoyed every moment of lugging his camera gear through snow and across ice, and struggling to keep his camera from freezing up in 40-degrees-below-zero temperatures. The call of Wyoming was strong though — and real estate prices in Bismarck were too high — so he returned to Cheyenne and now works at the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.

He and Amy help their oldest son, Colby, with Colby's dream of building a cattle breeding program, and their youngest son, Logan, with his burgeoning chicken ranching operation. In their spare time, they enjoy getting out to Wyoming's wilder places, where Ty annoys the entire family by trying to capture every photographic opportunity he (usually mistakenly) thinks he sees.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



If you see your name in these pages, contact Wyrulec Company at 307-837-2225 for your **\$25** bill credit!

## Irrigation Services and Upgrades

If you are planning to install a new pivot or upgrade an existing motor associated with your irrigation service, please remember to contact us.

We offer several rebates on new motors that could lower the cost of your installation.

We also want to make sure if you are upgrading a service and adding additional load that we have the right infrastructure in place to service that load.

Please see the chart below that outlines the rebates available to our members. In addition to the \$8/hp from Tri-State, Wyrulec will add an additional \$1/hp on top of that.

If you bring your receipts in to us, we will do all the work for you associated with applying for your rebate.



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**Irrigation Motor Program:** Rebate of \$8/ hp, plus an additional \$1.50/hp wiring assistance if the motor is a new installation or replaces a fossil-fueled engine.

- ✦ Motor sizes 10 to 500 hp
- ✦ Operating at minimum of 15% load factor or 3 months per year
- ✦ Rebate applies to the installation of new units (not re-wound or moved from another location) that are purchased or leased
- ✦ There are minimum efficiency standards required

**Variable Speed Drive Retrofit:** \* Jane Fritzier \* Incentives are on a sliding scale from \$1,600 to \$6800, based on the motor horsepower.

- ✦ Motors from 25hp and up
- ✦ Program includes irrigation, farm, commercial and industrial uses
- ✦ Only for retrofits to existing installations, no new or maintenance replacements
- ✦ Cap of 50% of the VSD equipment costs
- ✦ Per project cap of \$20,000 in rebates



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## New Staff

This year we added two new staff members to our Wyrulec team.

Darlene Brunkhardt was hired as our Staff Accountant; she has been training with Karl Unverzagt, and will take over the accounting duties when Karl retires in June.

Hayden Fleming joined our operations crew as a groundsman, and will move into the apprenticeship program this spring to begin training to be a journeyman lineman.

We're happy to welcome them both to our team!



**Darlene Brunkhardt**  
Staff Accountant



**Hayden Fleming**  
Groundsman

# Spring planting

## Sow Seeds of Safety This Season

Farmers returning to the fields should stay particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Remember:

- Electricity can arc or “jump” from the line to equipment that’s too close. Keep equipment at least 10 feet from overhead lines. \* Debra Hambrick \*
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds.
- Designate preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.
- Lower extensions like planter arms or cultivators to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Even if using an auto-guidance system, stay focused on equipment location while in the field. Do not simply rely on the GPS system and be ready to take action if needed.
- Consider using a spotter to alert you if you come close to making contact. A spotter can see sagging wires that would not be visible on a GPS and provide additional verification that you can pass safely. \* Casandra Hoehn \*
- Before getting out of the cab, look up and double check the area around your machinery to make sure it is not in contact with overhead lines.
- Know how to stay safe if equipment does make contact with power lines!

Managers should make sure full-time and seasonal workers are educated on these and other electric safety precautions. Learn more about farm safety at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

