

# “Hotlines”

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for the Members of  
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*A good father is measured by available time rather than available money.*

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Area News Briefs

June 14th -Flag Day



**Father's Day is Sunday, June 15, 2014. (Dad deserves more than the bill from Mother's Day...)**

**JUNE 21ST STARTS THE SUMMER SEASON! (PANT, PANT...)**

**TIME FOR AN A/C CHECK-UP!**

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To place brief announcements in “Hotlines” please call (580) 596-3333 EARLY

## Prairie chickens “threatened” throughout AEC territory

### *From The Manager's Desk*

At our 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in April, we had the opportunity to share with you our concerns regarding the impact on the cost of the Environment Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations associated with current and future electric generation facilities.

I hope you have taken the time to let the EPA know where you stand on this issue through the National Rural Electric Association's web-based Action. coop.

Another regulatory decision has now come from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USF&W) that directly impacts Alfalfa Electric Cooperative in our northern and western service territory.

In late March, USF&W listed the lesser prairie chicken (LPC) as threatened and requires electric suppliers such as AEC to



*The lesser prairie chicken can be found in many areas in both Kansas and Oklahoma.*

comply with a wildlife conservation plan developed by the Western Area Fish and Wildlife Association (WAFWA).

The WAFWA plan was developed by the five states now impacted by this listing of the LPC (including Oklahoma and Kansas).

The map on page three depicts areas in Oklahoma and Kansas impacted by the WAFWA plan.

The AEC Board of Directors approved our participation in the WAFWA

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## ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

### Mutually Beneficial

By Ron Shafer

As I write this article, much is being said on the local television stations about the one year anniversary of the Moore, OK tornado that was so devastating last year. It is so sad to remember the loss suffered by the people of that community, but so refreshing to see how many of them have bounced back so well. Much of the reason those people are recovering so well is due to the help of many agencies and organizations that are always so quick to respond in times of great need.

Alfalfa Electric, along with several other cooperatives in the state, joined in with our friends from Oklahoma Electric Cooperative to help restore the power in the affected areas. Downed poles and electric wires were removed and replaced as needed as quickly as possible while being careful to give worker and public safety the top priority. We call this our Mutual Aid program and it works very well. AEC has been the recipient of the help of other cooperatives many times over the years and we have also been the respondent in these devastating storms.

Individually, every electric utility company will at times be overcome with damage to their systems that is just too much to repair in a short time. When we combine our resources, manpower, equipment and even material, we are able to solve these difficult problems in a safe and timely manner. That is why we call ourselves cooperatives.

# What is better than an attic fan?

June 21 is the beginning of summer! As your home becomes warmer it may be time to invest in some attic insulation.

By exhausting hot attic air, you can reduce the amount of heat that is transmitted down through the ceiling



into your home. If you use air conditioning, this will tend to reduce the length of time that your air conditioner runs, and so reduce its operating cost. In many houses, two other simple measures--insulation and ventilation--are more effective and cheaper in the long run than attic fans.

Attic insulation is still one of the best ways to keep your home comfortable in both summer and winter. A thick blanket of attic insulation--12 to 16 inches--will effectively stop attic heat from moving down into your home. In winter, attic insu-

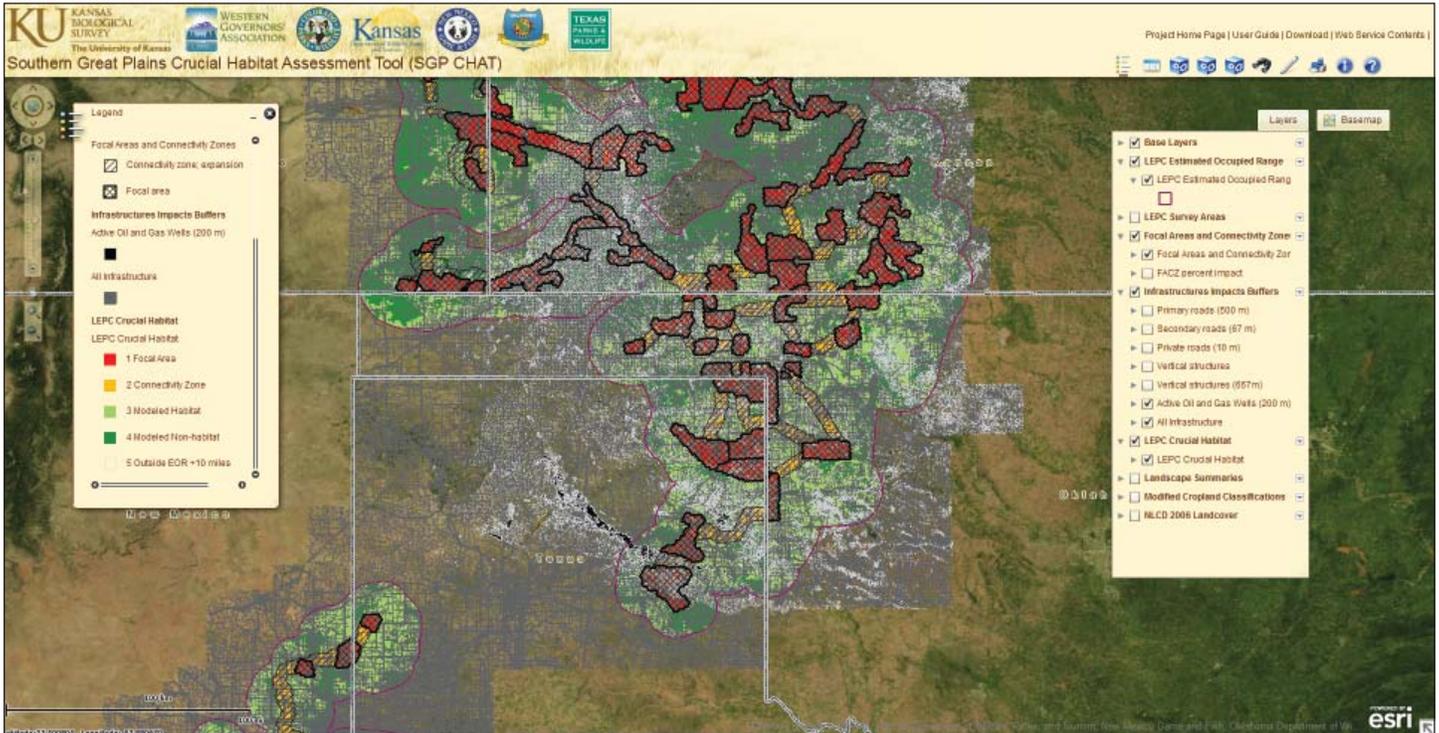
lation works by slowing heat flow out of your home and up into your attic.

Attic ventilation takes advantage of simple passive attic vents to remove heat from your attic in summer, as well as removing moisture in winter. Attic vents should be distributed around your attic so heat or moisture don't accumulate in the corners, and they should be split with some high and some low in the attic to encourage natural circulation. If installed properly, they will remove almost as much heat from your attic as a powered fan.

Check your attic insulation and ventilation, (or have a contractor do so) and add more if needed. These simple measures will last as long as your home and will improve your comfort year round. They'll also reduce the cost of running an air conditioner or attic fan. Best of all, these two energy-savers don't use a bit of electricity and they are perfectly quiet.

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# Threatened prairie chickens



*This map shows areas where the lesser prairie chicken can be found. AEC is directly involved in both Kansas and Oklahoma.*

program in February hoping that voluntary participation would prevent USF&W from listing the species as threatened. However, voluntary participation did not avoid the listing.

Voluntary participation does provide protection to AEC in the case of an accidental taking of an LPC by AEC as well as by grandfathering our existing electric facilities into the plan.

This is an important issue to AEC as this now mandatory plan limits where power lines can be constructed, when construction and normal operations on our electric system can occur as well as increasing the cost to build new facilities in this region.

If you have questions regarding how this listing of the LPC as threatened impacts

your plans for the areas shown on the map, please let us know.



*The lesser prairie chicken is able to fly very short distances.*

# Don't get caught in a wildfire unprepared...



National Geographic.com suggests the following advice, timely for our dry conditions.

1. Contact 911 or your local fire department if you notice an unattended or out-of-control fire.
2. Never leave a trash fire or campfire unattended. Completely extinguish it by dousing with water until completely cold.
3. When working, watch heating and lighting devices. Make sure they are cool before refueling. Avoid spilling flammable liquids and store fuel away from appliances.
4. Do not discard cigarettes, matches, and smoking materials from moving vehicles. Be sure to completely extinguish cigarettes before disposing of them.
5. Follow local ordinances when burning yard waste. Avoid backyard burning in windy conditions and keep a shovel, water and fire retardant nearby to keep fires in check. Remove all flammables from yard when burning. (A lone shovel is of little value once the fire has spread.)

The Midwest is very dry this year! Avoid any "control burning" without informing the local fire department.



*Cedar trees are especially dangerous when ignited.*



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