

# **PKM** NEWS

Electric  
Cooperative

Warren, Minnesota

Volume 61 Number 8, September/October 2007

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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# Something New



Power supply is a major issue for the future and frankly part of the reason for the change to Minnkota.

**CHARLES RIESEN**  
Manager  
PKM Electric  
Cooperative

For more than 24 years I've been writing the inside article for the *PKM News* and I never once heard that my article is read first. Presupposing you are even reading it now, you have already noticed there is something different about the *News*.

For more years than many of us have been around, the *News* has been printed by the *Warren Sheaf*. This summer a decision was made to have Minnkota Power Cooperative (our power supplier) take over designing and printing the *News*, as they have done for many neighboring cooperatives. This was not without a certain amount of hand wringing and the folks at the *Sheaf*, being business professionals, understood this was a business decision.

We hope you like the new look and, as always, we welcome your suggestions. The *PKM News* will be printed on a bimonthly basis and an annual meeting issue for a total of seven issues per year. While we harbor no illusions about these becoming collector issues, we do hope to bring you up-to-date news about what's happening at PKM and in the power industry.

Power supply is a major issue for the future and frankly part of the reason for the change to Minnkota. As our power supplier, Minnkota is on top of industry and legislative issues that will impact the future cost of electricity. It just made sense to position our cooperative to bring you that information while it was still news.

I recently attended a statewide meeting of electric co-op managers and the presentations were a sign of the times (as well they should be): climate change; renewable energy and conservation improvements.

In reverse order, the 2007 Minnesota Legislature changed the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) from dollars spent to kill-o-watt

hours of energy saved. At a time when new generating capacity will soon have to be added, who can disagree that the least expensive kilowatt is the one you don't have to build. The new law calls for a 1.5 percent reduction in energy sales and such things as weatherization, compact fluorescent light bulbs, ENERGY STAR® appliances and heat pumps can help us achieve that. I should also add that many of the items that will help you save energy can be financed by your electric cooperative. The items mentioned will save energy during the life cycle of the particular product. Will the CIP give credit for the life cycle reduction in energy use or a one-time credit for our conservation efforts?

Requiring 25 percent renewable energy by 2025 has a nice ring to it. Minnkota has already contracted its near-term requirements with 99 MW of wind power near Langdon, N.D. The contract price for energy is reasonable, but the weight of mandates, prime locations for wind and transmission required to get the power into the system will make additional increments of the mandate more difficult and expensive to obtain.

Climate change is an issue that proponents say is already settled. It is happening, man is causing it now what are we gonna do about it? I know that millions of people have already made up their minds on this issue and one would think I'm at least smart enough not to bloody my nose on an issue with such a base of support. However, you see a lot of us at PKM have spent most of our lives trying to operate your electric cooperative in the most efficient manner possible. Eliminating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from coal-burning power plants or switching fuel for power generation would price electricity out of reach for many of our member-owners.

Before we see legislation that requires billions spent to trap and store CO<sub>2</sub> consider this: "The Federal government spends nearly \$4 billion each year in research grants to individuals and organizations to study climate change and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions." Even in the land of \$600 hammers, spending \$4 billion on settled science is really silly. Or considering that 96 percent of carbon dioxide emissions come from nature and the remaining 4 percent from coal-fired power plants, industry and transportation, can we really hope to stem climate change (admittedly I'm skeptical) by controlling a little more than 1 percent of the emissions?

We have given you some things to think about. New *PKM News*, new printing schedule and several energy-related issues. We could easily play it safe and stay far away from controversy, but then we wouldn't be doing our job.

## September/October 2007

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### Officers and Directors

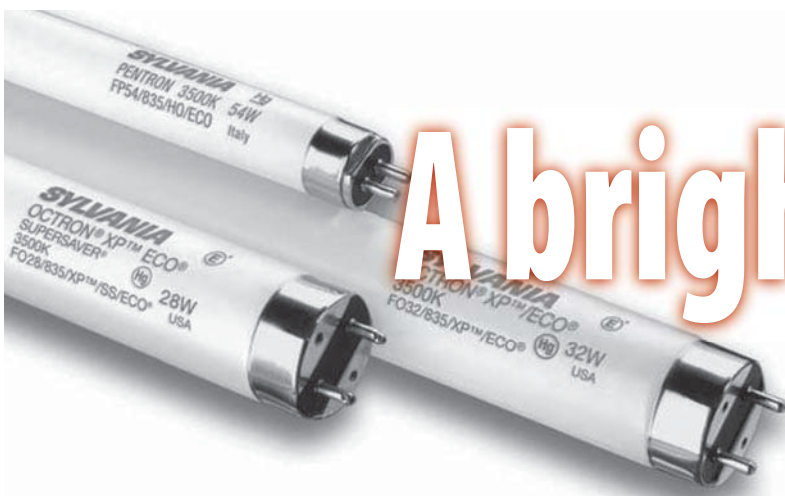
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Jeffrey Folland, Darrel Loeck,  
Wayne Malm, Blake Owens  
and Tom Woinarowicz

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Visit our Web site at [www.pkmcoop.com](http://www.pkmcoop.com)

**Next Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2007



# A bright idea!



Compact fluorescent bulbs are four times more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs and provide the same light levels

**M**aking improvements to your lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. An average household dedicates 11 percent of its energy budget to lighting. Using new lighting technologies can reduce lighting energy use in your home by 50 to 75 percent. Advances in lighting controls offer further energy savings by reducing the amount of time lights are on but not being used.

## Indoor lighting

Use tube fluorescent and energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in fixtures throughout your home to provide high-quality and high-efficiency lighting. Fluorescent lamps are much more efficient than incandescent (standard) bulbs and last about four to 10 times longer.

Today's CFLs offer brightness and color rendition that is comparable to incandescent lights. Although fluorescent and compact fluorescent lamps cost a bit more than incandescent bulbs, they pay for themselves by saving energy over their lifetime. CFL fixtures are now available that feature dimmers and operate much like incandescent fixtures. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when purchasing these products.

## Indoor lighting tips

- ✓ Turn off the lights in any room you're not using, or consider installing timers, photocells or occupancy sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.
- ✓ Use CFLs in all the portable table and floor lamps in your home. Consider carefully the size and fit of these systems when you select them. Some home fixtures may not accommodate some of the larger CFLs.
- ✓ Use task lighting. Instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it. For example, use fluorescent under-cabinet lighting for kitchen sinks and countertops under cabinets.
- ✓ Take advantage of daylight by using light-colored, loose-weave curtains on your windows to allow daylight to penetrate the room while preserving privacy. Also, decorate with lighter colors that reflect daylight.

- ✓ Consider three-way lamps; they make it easier to keep lighting levels low when brighter light is not necessary.
- ✓ Use four-foot fluorescent fixtures with reflective backing and electronic ballasts for workroom, garage and laundry areas.
- ✓ Recessed down lights (also called recessed cans) are now available that are rated for contact with insulation (IC-rated), are designed specifically for pin-based CFLs, and can be used in retrofits or new construction.
- ✓ If you have torchiere fixtures with halogen lamps, consider replacing them with compact fluorescent torchieres. Compact fluorescent torchieres use 60 to 80 percent less energy, can produce more light (lumens), and do not get as hot as the halogen torchieres. Halogen torchieres are a fire risk because of the high temperature of the halogen bulb.

## Outdoor lighting

Many homeowners use outdoor lighting for decoration and security. When shopping for outdoor lights, you will find a variety of products, from low-voltage pathway lighting to motion-detector floodlights. Some stores also carry lights powered by small photovoltaic (PV) modules that convert sunlight directly into electricity; consider PV-powered lights for areas that are not close to an existing power supply line.

## Outdoor lighting tips

- ✓ Exterior lighting is one of the best places to use CFLs because of their long life. If you live in a cold climate, be sure to buy a lamp with a cold weather ballast since standard CFLs may not work well below 40°F.
- ✓ Use outdoor lights with a photocell unit or a motion sensor so they will turn on only at night or when someone is present. A combined photocell and motion sensor will increase your energy savings even more.
- ✓ Turn off decorative outdoor natural gas lamps; just eight such lamps burning year-round use as much natural gas as it takes to heat an average-size home during an entire winter.

– Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# A brand new look



The PKM Electric Cooperative offices in Warren, Minn., recently emerged from an eight-week, \$100,000 face-lift. This winter, the cooperative plans on reaping a significant return on that investment.

“We estimate saving \$1,500 a month and maybe more on our heating bill due to the approximate R-20 insulation value in our outside walls,” explained Ron Abrahamson, PKM Electric manager of marketing and member services.

The current work included installation of 22 maintenance-free windows on both floors of the building, as well as the application of a four-inch foam insulation wrap covered by an attractive stucco finish.

The upper half of the building is now stark white and the lower half is storm

gray. A red awning was constructed over the main entrance.

“With the new windows, everything is sealed really well,” Abrahamson said. “The old walls were drafty, just concrete block with no insulation in them. In another project, we also added about eight inches of insulation to the roof when it was redone a few years ago.”

## Implement dealer heritage

PKM purchased the building in July 1959. After converting it from an International Harvester implement dealership and shop, the cooperative moved there in April 1962.

In the process of that first remodeling, an elevator was added to access the 4,900 square feet on the second floor, which at the time was occupied by the Agricultural

Stabilization & Conservation Service (ASCS) and other government offices.

The interior of the building was completely remodeled again in 2000 when some inside walls were removed, the ceiling was lowered and new lighting, carpet and office cubicles were installed. A new entrance was also created at that time.

Improvements to the exterior of an adjoining shop and a storage facility are planned for 2008 or 2009. The second floor of the building provides office space that is donated to the Marshall County Fair Board, plus storage and a physical fitness center for PKM employees.

The cooperative maintains a storage building across the street from the headquarters and shop facility in the downtown area. A pole yard is located on the northern edge of Warren.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## HOME STANDBY GENERATORS

SALES & INSTALLATION

For more information, contact the  
Member Services Department  
at PKM Electric Cooperative  
218-745-4711 or toll-free 1-800-552-7366



• Generators 7 to 75kW  
• Transfer Switches

• Liquid Propane  
or Natural Gas

• Reliable  
• Full Warranties

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• Quiet Operation

THE POWER NO HOME SHOULD BE WITHOUT.

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# Gold weather disconnect law

## Notice of Residential Customer Rights and Possible Assistance

The Cold Weather Law, Section 216B.097 of the Public Utilities Act, provides that, a cooperative electric association must not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit when the following conditions are met:

- (1) Disconnection would occur during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15.
- (2) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by the co-op or by the local energy assistance provider. A customer meets the income requirement if the customer receives energy assistance or other type of public assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.
- (3) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- (4) A customer receives from the co-op referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

### 2007-2008 Cold Weather Rule Income Guidelines

Household Size	Annual Gross Income	Monthly Gross Income
1	\$20,122.44	\$1,676.87
2	\$26,313.96	\$2,192.83
3	\$32,505.48	\$2,708.79
4	\$38,697.00	\$3,224.75
5	\$44,888.52	\$3,740.71
6	\$51,080.04	\$4,256.67
7	\$52,240.95	\$4,353.41
8	\$53,401.86	\$4,450.16
9	\$54,562.77	\$4,546.90
10	\$55,723.68	\$4,643.64

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of your rights and responsibilities under the Cold Weather Law. These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you meet winter utility bills. You must act promptly! If you choose not to assert your rights or choose not to enter into a mutually acceptable payment schedule, your service may be disconnected. Contact our office for provisions.

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualification and application information, contact your local county social service office or community/citizen's action council. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.



## Budget Billing

If you would like to pay the same amount each month (level payments), PKM Electric offers budget billing. The program is simple. You start paying a level amount each month and continue to report your meter readings. A credit is built during the summer and fall to be used up during the winter months. The bill would then be balanced throughout the year. The following year's payment would be adjusted if necessary. This is a great service for your budget. Give us a call if you would like to switch to this billing option.

### Vacation billing

If you plan to be gone during the winter months or any other time of the year, let PKM know and we will create a vacation bill. The usage will be estimated during your absence and then computed. This bill can be paid in advance or sent in monthly from your vacation spot.

## ATTENTION MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

A new law is in effect as of Aug. 1, 2007, concerning disconnection, payment arrangements and appeals for electric service of military personnel who are issued orders into active duty, deployment or have a permanent change in duty station. For more information, contact our office at 218-745-4711.

# Board meeting highlights

June and July

PKM Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Tuesday, June 26, 2007. All directors were present. The agenda, expenditures, subscriptions, transfers, refunds and retirements were approved.

- Director Woinarowicz reported on recent MREA activities, citing special reports to the MREA board on small-scale gasification, as well as other alternative energy projects.
- Director Folland reported on recent Minnkota Power Cooperative activities, indicating that a response has been received from Manitoba Hydro for future power supply and that the price at this time is out of the bandwidth of projections for a potential Young 3.
- Director Bernstrom reported on a meeting of the Square Butte Electric Cooperative board of directors, indicating that the cost of power is less than budget and the overhaul on Young 2 is scheduled for fall 2007.
- Director Bernstrom provided an update thus far on the proposed Young 3, indicating that there are still four partners involved in the potential project.
- The manager of operations presented the monthly safety report indicating no accidents and no lost time. He reported that a supplier manufacturer is presently inspecting aerial devices to see that they are in compliance and minor repairs are made at the same time. The manager of operations also outlined activities of the line department and reported that connected members through May 2007 stood at 3,611, representing a net gain of 16 from the same time period as last year.
- The assistant manager presented his monthly report, detailing activities with Northstar Bioenergy on preparations for power supply, temporary service and site

improvements. Discussions with area rural water systems on the potential to assist with metering, and a review of financial reports were also presented.

- The manager of marketing and service presented his monthly report, indicating that he was unable to attend the summer REMA meeting and sent utility representative Jeff Rustad in his place. He briefed the directors on the remodeling project that will resurface the outside of the PKM office and add new windows and more insulation, making the building more energy efficient.
- The management staff presented to the board of directors an update regarding the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Program, specifically technical and operational issues to date, as well as recent discussions with rural water districts about the potential for metering their individual accounts and pumping stations.
- The manager reported on discussions with Otter Tail Power Company concerning larger motors to be installed at the Enbridge Pipeline pumping load located near Crookston. The manager reminded the board that this load is shared equally with Otter Tail, is served off of the Otter Tail line, and that these arrangements are consistent with Minnkota and Otter Tail's working relationship as a means to save on duplication of transmission lines.

PKM Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Tuesday, July 31, 2007. All directors were present. The agenda, expenditures, subscriptions, transfers, refunds and retirements were approved.

- Director Woinarowicz reported on recent MREA activities.
- Director Folland reported on a recent meeting of the Minnkota board of directors, in-

cluding a tour of the northeastern part of the Minnkota service area with stops at Central Boiler and Marvin Windows. He said an RUS loan for \$155 million is in process.

- Director Folland told the board of the July 15 storm, which because of alternate feeds did not cause many outages, but damaged more than \$1 million of line.
- Director Bernstrom reported on a meeting of the Square Butte Electric Cooperative board of directors. Bernstrom reported that a final decision on whether or not to proceed with a Young 3 power plant will be made in November 2007. He mentioned that the summer load for 2007 is 50 megawatts more than 2006 and that a combination of load management and power purchases are necessary.
- Directors who attended the MREA district meeting in Mahanomen cited a comprehensive legislative report and a review of the reconfigured loss control program.
- Director Loeck reported on a meeting of the board of directors of Carr's Tree Service where operating and financial matters were discussed.
- The manager of operations presented the monthly safety report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. MREA Loss Control held a safety meeting on June 27 covering pole top rescue, bucket rescue and forklift training. The manager of operations also detailed activities of the line department and reported that connected services for June 2007 stood at 3,607, representing a net gain of four from the same time period as last year.
- Assistant manager presented his monthly report, detailing discussions with Northstar Bioenergy, collection procedures and his work with a cost of service program available from CFC.
- Assistant manager presented the non-bargaining wage recommendations and referenced the report from the salary committee, which met on July 18. Members of the committee and the assistant manager discussed the recommendations.
- The manager presented to the board the e-mail history of discussions with Otter Tail concerning the new Enbridge substation located near Crookston. The manager told the board of directors that the anticipated agreement calls for PKM's cost from Minnkota to be covered for Minnkota's share of this new substation.
- Voting delegates were selected for 2007-2008:  
**NRECA:** J.W. Anderson, Alternate: Jeff Folland  
**MREA:** Gordon Bernstrom, Alternate: Tom Woinarowicz  
**CFC:** Mike Beaudry, Alternate: Gordon Bernstrom  
**NRTC:** Blake Owens, Alternate: Mike Beaudry  
**Federated:** Blake Owens, Alternate: Tom Woinarowicz  
**Co-Bank:** Jeff Folland, Alternate: Gordon Bernstrom

## Swiss chicken & green bean bake

### Base:

1½ cups uncooked instant rice

¾ cup skim milk

1 – 14.5-oz. can French style green beans, undrained

1 – 10.7-oz. can cream of mushroom soup

### Chicken rolls:

4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese

### Topping:

½ can French fried onions

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 12x8-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. In large bowl, combine all base ingredients; blend well. Pour into spray-coated baking dish.

Place 1 chicken breast half between 2 pieces of plastic wrap. Working from center, lightly pound chicken with flat side of meat mallet or rolling pin until about ¼ inch thick; remove wrap. Repeat with remaining chicken. Place ¼ cup of Swiss cheese on each piece of chicken. Roll up and place over rice mixture in baking dish. Sprinkle chicken with paprika if desired. Cover with foil.

Bake at 350 degrees for 55 to 60 minutes or until chicken is tender and no longer pink. Top with onions. Bake uncovered for an additional 5 minutes.

# Trading Post

September/October 2007

## For Sale

6-yard Ashland scraper in good shape. 218-695-2691.

New Hi-Performance "AIR-HOG" air filter will fit 1996-2001 Chevy or GMC 5.7L engines. Sell for 1/2 price. 218-754-4241.

Yamaha trombone with case, \$250. 218-478-2228 after 6 p.m.

Two P155/80R13 W.W. Mohawk Montega A/S tires, excellent shape, \$20 for both. 218-754-4242.

1998 Northwood 18 ft. pontoon boat and 40 hp 2004 Mercury motor with low hours. Like new and great family of fishing set-up. Asking \$8,500. 218-695-2801.

Flax bales, \$1.25 picked up or \$1.75 delivered. 218-674-4481.

1-used 2-2 Bruno 2300 Power chair, in good condition, \$800. Used 2-stall horse trailer for smaller horses, fair condition, \$1,000.75 or more hay bales, stored in barn, \$1.75 ea. You pick up. 218-289-0915.

Four casement windows with storms and screens, 56"x 71". 218-745-5747.

2003 Arctic Cat 400 4x4 Limited Edition, mint condition. Asking \$3,300. 400 straw bales @ \$1.75 ea. 218-436-2791.

Four 900 truck tires and 3-825-20 truck tires, all tires are sound. Also a 260-gal. fuel tank with stand, good condition. 218-843-3384.

Flax bales, \$1/bale. 218-478-3603.

## Wanted

Small moveable storage shed. 218-762-1800 or e-mail [katrice@wiktel.com](mailto:katrice@wiktel.com).

## Reward

Being paid for old classic cars and pickups. Can be nice barn/Quonset kept or parts vehicles. Also wanted junk/parts, cars and scrap metal. Please leave message 218-745-7654 or after 4:30 p.m. at 218-686-9867.

## Rules

Ads for PKM members only. Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads. Submit ads by the 18<sup>th</sup> of Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept. and Nov.

# Statistical and financial report

## Year-to-date: August 2007

	Last Year	This Year	Budget
Total income	\$4,284,349	\$4,746,600	\$4,543,800
Total expense	\$3,910,406	\$4,180,572	\$4,137,000
Net margins	\$ 373,943	\$ 566,028	\$ 406,800
Total kWh sold	59,093,865	63,411,326	58,500,000
Avg. kWh sold per member	2,172	1,853	
Line loss	12.6%	3.7%	
Delivery cost per kWh purchased	3.83¢	3.98¢	
Avg. sale price per kWh	7.25¢	7.49¢	
Percent kWh sales increase	2.7%	7.3%	
Members billed	3,602	3,606	
Miles of line in service	2,242	2,241	
175 watt MV lights	1,562	1,574	
400 watt MV lights	98	97	
100 watt H.P.S.	762	760	
250 watt H.P.S.	77	77	

Outage charged to:	2007	2006	2005
Minnkota operations	734.65	1548.38	3,539.73
PKM operations	3,340.50	3,536.33	13,340.50
Total	4,075.15	5,084.71	16,880.23

Minutes per member PKM operations year-to-date: 55.51

Minutes per member Minnkota operations year-to-date: 12.21

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 Full Name: CoBank Complete Mailing Address: Denver, CO 80291  
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b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2,424	2,422
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	1	1
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	2,425	2,423
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	2	2
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	0	0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	76	76
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	78	78
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	2,503	2,469
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	17	31
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	2,520	2,500
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	97%	99%

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 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the October issue of this publication.  Publication not required.  
 17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  
 C.A. Riesen Manager Date: 9/17/07  
 I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).  
 PS Form 3526, September 2006 (Page 2 of 3)

# Cooperative Month Open House

Join us for  
pie, coffee and cider

PKM Office – Warren  
Wednesday, October 24  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PKM Warehouse – Hallock  
Thursday, October 25  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



*Cooperatives.*

Owned by Our Members  
Committed to Our Communities

