

CURRENT CONNECTION

Barrett Petfood Innovations >>>

Barrett Petfood Innovations (BPI), north of Pierz on Hwy 25, is a fascinating manufacturing company and member of Crow Wing Power. The business is growing at a rapid pace and has become a highly respected full-service premium pet food manufacturing company since its founding by Mike Barrett in the early 2000's.

Mike and his wife "Bunny" are long time Cooperative members. In recent years Mike's children, Sarah and Tom, have taken over the organization but Mike is still involved through a different role. His farm is one of the main ingredient sources for the company.

BPI produces over 150 different types of high-end pet foods and treats from dog, cat and bird food to more exotic items such as turtle, fish, iguana, crickets, koi, rat and even primate food. The final products are distributed locally as well as exported around the world.

BPI doesn't label under their name, but instead food is manufactured and packaged under customers' trade names. And all are labeled Made in the USA.

The Barretts have one of very few twin screw extruders in the U.S. that's capable of making a variety of sizes and shaped pet food. In most of their products they use fresh meat and vegetables prepared onsite. Meats are purchased from various farms around the world, many of which are selected specifically from their customers, like Certified Humane Chicken, New Zealand raised Lamb, French Guinea Fowl, and Australian Kangaroo.



In the warehouse, forklifts are abuzz with continuous beeping, loading and unloading pallets of bags of pet food to and from their six loading docks.

Some of their food is warehoused at Brainerd Industrial Center on Mill Ave.

Tom and Sarah have had to learn the intricacies of exporting and tariffs. They also heed the FDA just as any food processing plant would.

This summer they hope to expand and add another 150,000 square

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foot building in Little Falls to enable them to keep up with manufacturing demands. They currently employ around 100 people and operate three shifts at the Brainerd plant. When the new site is at capacity, they are anticipating another 100 or more people.

Co-op Calendar Contest

Once again we are doing a calendar contest. To enter the contest, please submit your scenic photos of Minnesota to us. If your photo is chosen for the 2020 calendar, you will receive a \$25 electric bill credit. We will have a spiral bound calendar produced and available in early December.

Guidelines for the contest:

- Only Crow Wing Power members may enter the contest. (CWP employees and their immediate families are not eligible to enter the contest.)
- Send your photos electronically. Photos must be scenic capturing the beauty of Minnesota's four seasons. Photos must not include people.
- One membership (household) may submit up to 5 photos.
- Only landscape orientation photos will be accepted. Need to be sized for printing 12 inches wide by 9 inches high. 300 dpi minimum quality.
- To submit photos, go to www.cwpower.com, go to News/Events, click on Photo Contest and fill out the entire form including the photo. Deadline for submission(s) is October 1, 2019. To see last year's samples, go to our website.





A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

How Did Utilities Weather the Polar Vortex 2019? >>>

A polar vortex slammed the U.S. from January 30 to February 1, starting in the Midwest and moving toward the Northeast. During the vortex, schools closed, the Post office stopped delivery and businesses were closed so it was an historic event.

Utilities were seemingly prepared for the most part and we experienced very few issues. There were other parts of the Midwest that experienced power outages and gas heat issues, however.

The term "vortex" refers to the counter-clockwise flow of air that helps keep the colder air near the Earth's Poles. Many times during winter in the northern hemisphere, the polar vortex will expand, sending cold air southward with the jet stream. The one that occurred during January 2014 was notable like this year but according to the National Weather Service colder outbreaks were similar in 1977, 1982, 1985 and 1989.

Crow Wing Power's electricity is managed through the Midcontinent Independent System Operators (MISO). By most indications, MISO did a pretty good job of preparing for the extreme cold, although coal plants, gas capacity, renewable energy and the infrastructure were all challenged they said. Primarily, we were saved by the quick-response of gas plants that fired up to meet the additional needs of strong demand. According to reports, however, the timeframe revealed some truths about relying on renewable energy during extreme conditions.

Solar has had its challenges this year with endless snowfalls, which was evident with our two Community Solar projects. We've learned a few things about maintaining solar panels, but look forward to sunshine and summer to make up for winter gray days.

The blanketed ground did help to prevent frost heaves and broken underground wire, though.

Expectations for the region included bountiful wind generation during the cold snap, but that quickly escalated into a major ramp up of high-cost gas units as wind turbines could not function in the cold temperatures. Consequently energy costs throughout the Midwest reportedly rocketed from \$34/MWh to \$578/MWh on January 31.



>>> Coal Creek Station Power plant during the Polar Vortex – Full Steam Ahead

So, while we may have been selling more kilowatt hours, the high wholesale demand prices really hit us hard. However, luckily we have 12,000 members on some sort of control, so we can utilize our load management system to balance our demand for electricity and offer those members discounted electricity. MISO said there was wide-spread use of load-modifying resources that helped and wide closure of schools and businesses reduced demand. We are thankful, we have been a cooperative that's had a strong load management system since the early 1980's.

MISO operators reported they were more prepared because there was a record set in 2014 when the peak demand for power hit 109.3 gigawatts, the January 30, 2019 peak was 100.9 gigawatts. That event, five years ago, forced the grid watchdog to make serious recommendations to prepare. On January 30, coal supplied about 41% of MISO's load and natural gas supplied about 30%. Nuclear supplied about 12%, wind averaged 7% but it should be noted that MISO serves 15 states.

I'll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO



Directors View: Mark Your Calendars for the June 8 Annual Meeting >>>

By Doris Mezzenga

Your Board of Directors has scheduled this year's Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting for Saturday, June 8.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, our bylaws require us to conduct an annual meeting each year and over the years the day has evolved into much more. We've found that members appreciate it when they can attend a day in their honor and learn more about the benefits of belonging to an electric cooperative.

You're welcome to come anytime from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

We've selected a great door prize, one per family as you arrive at the gates. Breakfast will be served until 11:00 a.m. Again this year, Virg and the Eldorados will provide live entertainment. Kids enjoy the day playing games and information booths will be set up and the ever popular blood pressure room will be manned by nurses so you can get yours checked.

The annual meeting also culminates director elections. Ballots will be mailed to you in mid-May and I encourage you to exercise your right to vote. I look forward to seeing you on June 8. I appreciate serving as one of your directors.

Statement of Nondiscrimination >>>

“Crow Wing Cooperative Power & Light Company (Crow Wing Power)” is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language,

etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Crow Wing Power is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

2019 Rebates

Energy Star Air Conditioners:

.....\$30 - \$75

Off-Peak Water Heating:

.....up to \$400.00

Off-Peak Heating:

(underfloor cable, brick storage room units and furnaces)

.....\$50 per KW

Dual Fuel:

(Plenum Heater/Boiler)

.....\$400.00

Ductless ASHP\$100.00-\$300.00

Energy Star Refrigerator\$65.00

or Freezer\$75.00

Geothermal Heat Pumps

.....\$100.00/ton

Air Source Heat Pumps

.....\$300 - \$750

Energy Star Clothes Washers

.....\$40

Air Conditioning tune up

.....\$25 residential

.....\$50 commercial

Energy Star LED Light Adapters

.....\$1.00

Smart Thermostats

.....\$20.00

We'll Give You \$25 to Tune Up Your Air Conditioning System >>>



Clogged coils, low refrigerant levels, plugged drain lines and a host of minor problems can greatly affect the efficiency of your central air conditioner. To help you save energy, we're offering a limited number of \$25 rebates to residential members that get a tune-up. Rebates are limited, therefore it's best to contact us first to make sure we still have them available.

There are other restrictions such as you need to have a certified HVAC contractor do the work. AC must be placed into service prior to Dec. 31, 2016 with no utility reimbursed tune ups within the last two years.

You can go to www.cwpower.com and click on Membership, then Residential Rebates, Air Conditioning Tune-up for details and the contractor list or call us at 218-829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401.

Notice of Cogeneration & Small Power Production >>>

In compliance with Minnesota adopted Rules Regulating Cogeneration and Small Power Production Chapter 7835, Crow Wing Cooperative Power & Light Company is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers which satisfy the conditions of a Qualifying Facility.

Crow Wing Cooperative Power & Light Company has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a Qualifying Facility to

interconnect and operate in parallel with the Cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the Cooperative.

Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Cooperative. Members interested in further information should contact the office of Jeff Wohlert, Key Account Representative/Generation Interconnection Coordinator, Crow Wing Cooperative Power & Light Company, P.O. Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401; or call 218-829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401.

Three High School Juniors Win Trip to Washington D.C. >>>

Earlier this year, Crow Wing Power hosted a Washington Youth Tour contest for area high school juniors. Students were asked to write a fictitious letter to any political leader focusing on a topic important to them.

Winners of this year's contest are Keenan Hodge, son of Dalen and Lori from Baxter; Anna Streed, daughter of Scott and Shelly from Pillager; and Stella Canales, daughter of Stella Canales from Backus.

The three will join approximately 1,800 high school students in June for the annual Youth Tour to Washington D.C., which is co-hosted by electric cooperatives throughout the nation.



Keenan Hodge



Anna Streed



Stella Canales



Brace Yourself for Big Savings >>>

Home Equity Loan Special

Crow Wing Power Credit Union (CWPCU) is offering Home Equity Loans with rates as low as 3.45%*. If your current home equity loan has a higher rate, now is the time to give the credit union a call to see how easy it is to move your loan, lower your rate, and save money.

No closing costs if your loan is under \$100,000.

Home Equity Rates
as low as
3.45%

This program is perfect for those that plan to pay their small balance loans off within three to five years. Avoid huge closing costs associated with fixed rate mortgages AND you are keeping it local.

- Loans \$50,000 or less will can amortized for up to 15 years and balloon in five years.
- Loans \$100,000 or less will be amortized for 20 years and balloon in three years.
- Loans over \$100,000 will be amortized for 30 years, balloon in three years.

Fixed Rate Mortgage Loans

CWPCU is partnered with AmeriCU Mortgage and MarketPlace Home Mortgage to provide members a full array of home loan options. Whether buying your first home, moving up or down-sizing, purchasing a vacation or investment property, they have the mortgage solution for you.

Come to the people you know and trust. Save money on the closing costs and work with Crow Wing Power Credit Union for your loan solution. CWPCU NMLS #408088, AmeriCU NMLS #3028 and MarketPlace Home Mortgage NMLS #1082.

Consumer Loans as Low as 2.99%

CWPCU has Consumer Loan rates as low as 2.99%* on 2015 and newer vehicles, boats, ATV's and motorcycles. If you have been waiting for the right time to buy, the time is now!

*Rates based on credit scores, so your rate may be higher. Current CWPCU loans are not eligible for these special rates. NMLS #408088



NMLS #408088

5 Benefits of Security Camera Systems >>>

There are several benefits to having a security camera system in your home or business. Let's take a look at the top five reasons you might want a security camera system in your home.

1. Monitor Your Children, Elderly Parents and Pets. You cannot be everywhere all the time. Indoor and outdoor cameras allow you to keep an eye on your children and pets, whether you are home or away.

2. Monitor Your Property. Security cameras give you the ability to keep an eye on your home and vacation properties when you are away.

3. Prevention of Home Invasions. A major function of security cameras is you are able to see who is at the front door or on your property. When cameras are strategically placed, you are able to see whoever is standing at the door and what their intentions are.



4. Prevention of Crime. Crimes continue as we hear and see in the news. Security cameras can help deter crime from your home. Many times vandals and criminals will survey a property before the actual crime happens. Security cameras can be a major deterrent.

5. Reduction in Homeowners Insurance. Having a security system can help you decrease and in some cases, dramatically decrease your insurance premiums. Check with your insurance company to see what kinds of discounts they offer for homes with a security system.

Call 218-828-4828 or 1-800-735-1440 for more information.



Capital Credit Checks Will Be Sent in May >>>

Capital credit checks totaling \$1,344,362 will be mailed to 16,668 cooperative members in May. The checks will be distributed for Crow Wing Power's portion of allocations that were made to members for the electricity they used for all of 1992 and 60% of 1993. Nearly \$21 million has been returned in the past 23 years.

Let's Start Cookin' >>>

Send your favorite **GRILLING** recipe to Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401 by May 15 or submit online at cwpower.com, News/Events. If your entry is drawn and printed in the July Current Connection, you'll receive a \$25 credit on

Mexican Hotdish

Barb Frascione, Longville, MN

2 lbs Ground Beef
1 medium Onion, chopped
1 15 oz Tomato Sauce
2 pkgs Taco Seasoning
2 pkgs Crescent Rolls
1 cup shredded Cheddar Cheese
1 cup shredded Mozzarella Cheese
1 Egg

Brown ground beef and onion, add tomato sauce and taco seasoning, let cool. Spread 1 pkg crescent rolls in 9 x 13 pan. Spread on meat mixture, then cheese. Top with 2nd pkg crescent rolls. Brush with egg white whipped with a small amount of water. Bake at 350 approximately 30 minutes. Serve with lettuce, tomatoes, black olives and sour cream on top of each piece. Serves 6 generously.

Crow Wing Power was formed as a not-for-profit cooperative in 1937 to bring affordable electricity to the members that belong to it. Capital credits are a benefit of the cooperative form of ownership, giving back margins over and above operating costs. Annually, the board must evaluate the financial ability to return capital credit checks.

your electric bill. If you want to receive a recipe card each month in the mail, fill in the form below and mail to Crow Wing Power.



Yes, I'd like to join the Co-op Cookin' Club and receive a new recipe card each month in the mail. I understand there is no charge.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Board meetings are normally held the
third Thursday of each month
beginning at 9:30, except for April 18
will be 10:30

Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their
telephone numbers:

Bob Kangas218-587-4453
Paul Koering.....218-851-9954
Ric Larson218-546-5781
Gordon Martin218-746-3971
Bryan McCulloch.....218-820-9708
Doris Mezzenga218-692-1004
LuAnn Nelson612-400-4627
Gert Roggenkamp218-562-4566
Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

Win \$25 off your electric bill >>>

Complete the word find puzzle below, clip and send entire coupon back to us by May 20, 2019. We've sized it to fit in your billing payment, so you can save a stamp. If you'd rather, you can send it separately to Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401. Attn: Puzzle or scan and email to info@cwpower.com. The winning entry will be drawn on May 20. We apologize for an error in the puzzle last time. ("Fictitious" question omitted)

Our winner for the last puzzle: David Anderson, Lake Shore

Y L Z G W A C V B G S E S L R	Name _____
H C A Y R A E X F U A Q T A P	_____
D P I I P I L N O P A S A R F	_____
S M J I T H L I E F E T I D	Address _____
F L T T O N T L K U Y C S P Q	_____
L A C S I I E I I O G U O S N	_____
L R F V T B M D H N A R M A Y	City _____
M Q M C Y T A Z I Q G I R A L	_____
G N I S O L C E S S F T E X X	State _____ Zip _____
W F O R K L I F T S E Y H G N	_____
E V I T A R E P O O C R T Z U	Acct number _____
E Y I E X I Z G X Y P H K Z F	
O P N C L L V C W D W X Z N A	
Y W F C E V J S L V G S U Z N	
Y F O M H R A S X F O V T M P	

- _____ members can get \$25 rebate
- Next year we will have a _____ bound calendar
- We apologize, _____ was accidentally omitted from puzzle.
- What kind of recipe do we want in May? _____
- _____ cameras can deter crimes
- In the past 23 years, almost \$21 million returned _____ credits
- What beeps, loads and unloads? _____
- High-cost _____ units saved us.
- \$20 rebate on Smart _____
- Crow Wing Power is an electric _____
- Meats from around the world include French _____ fowl
- If your loan is under \$100,000, you pay no _____ costs
- Tom and Sarah Barrett's father is _____
- Calendar photo resolutions must be at least 300 _____

Last Issue's Puzzle Answers:

N H U B C O M M I T M E N T Y
Q R X P A U H L T F P Q A A K
V Z F R D X G Y I A V Z N V F
W Z S U V V T C G I D N U D K
U Z J O F F T E D E I W K C E
R Z E W H I C E R V C O G G F
O W V M T C O R E C U D F V F
Z G G I N Q B R E D F E Z F I
Z W O N S C S Y Y D B K M I C
A U E B I A Z S Y S I A E O I
S V L Y R L S W S S S T X E E
F H C Y V C I N W O C X I A N
I G Q F A S Q F P O L S C H C
C V E N B O I L E R V V A O Y
B E C I L O P A K E H N N Q Q

Takedown, Fictitious, Credit, Scan, Anniversary,
Efficiency, Mexican, Boiler, Commitment, Baxter, Video,
Filing, Police