

Owned by the  
Members We Serve

BROWN-ATCHISON  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS



## Brown-Atchison Electric Co-op, Inc.

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## FROM THE MANAGER

### Moving Ahead

We at Brown-Atchison 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 BA Electric? To start, the New Year means the annual meeting is coming. BA Electric is always the first electric cooperative in Kansas to have its annual meeting each year — which means we start the new year **RACING** ahead. This year, our annual meeting will be on **THURSDAY, FEB. 23** at the cooperative headquarters. This annual meeting will include a meal, fellowship with other members, new ideas and

savings recommendations, and a look back at 2022 (OK — gotta do that). We will share some exciting news regarding scholarship opportunities (three of them) for high school seniors. I'm not going to ruin all surprises but without a doubt the annual meeting will be fun and informative. Of course, there will be prize drawings and even a special extra prize drawing.

We will also have three trustees up for election. One trustee from each region: Atchison and Doniphan Counties; Jackson, Jefferson and Nemaha counties; and Brown County. Trustees are democratically elected to the BA board. Be sure to participate in the process and thereby support the formation



Michael Volker

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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](http://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.

## Moving Ahead Continued from page 12A

of the best board possible for the BA membership. Complete information regarding the election will be included in our annual meeting notice and booklet coming to you soon.

Another thing moving ahead at BA Electric will be the implementation of our new strategic plan. The board and staff members will complete a strategic planning retreat this month and develop key strategic goals to focus on going forward (err ... moving ahead). Our cooperative banking partner, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Finance Cooperative, moderated this process and provided their expertise to help the board utilize the strengths, recognize the weaknesses, take advantage of opportunities, and recognize the threats that BA Electric faces today and in the future. As Yogi Berra famously said: "If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up somewhere else." The point of the strategic plan is to know where we

want to go in the volatile environment of the energy world.

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 service charge rates by \$5 per month. For most residential members, that means the service charge is \$25 per month — still one of the lowest cooperative rates in Kansas. At the same time, we lowered the energy charge by \$0.00355 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 here at Brown-Atchison 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.

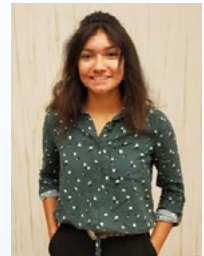
She entered her project in the Pawnee County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. In 2022, she took first place and advanced to state. At the Kansas Department of Agriculture's 2022 Ag Growth Summit, Kansas spoke about her project at the entrepreneurship breakout session.

"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.

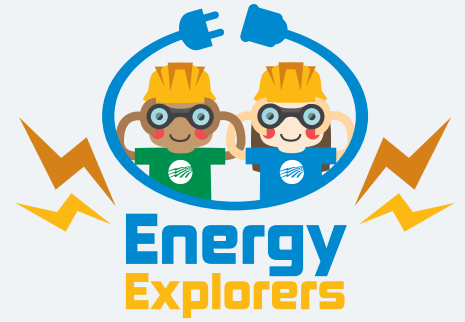


**Kansas Lange**

**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.