



FREESTATE ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.

# TheOutlet

## FREESTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Maple Hill

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Valley Falls

**Mark Wulfschle**  
Lawrence

### STAFF

**Christopher Parr**  
CEO

## DISTRICT OFFICES

### MCLOUTH OFFICE

P.O. Box 70  
McClouth, KS 66054-0070

### TOPEKA OFFICE

1100 S.W. Auburn Road  
Topeka, KS 66615

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

## NOTICE

FreeState has contracted with GMS to do a GIS Audit. For more information, visit <https://freestate.pub/GIS>.

## FreeState Family FunDay is Back

FreeState is powering up the farm again this year with the return of our popular Family FunDay!

Your cooperative is excited to host a big event that will provide a fun-filled day for all our members to enjoy, no matter what generation.

Come out to a fall "must-do" in these parts and join FreeState for Family FunDay at Gary's Farm Fest near Grantville to learn about how FreeState powers you every day.

To get a wristband, members can stop by one of our cooperative offices from Monday, Sept. 22, to Thursday, Sept. 25, or fill out the form below and bring it with you to the farm.

FreeState members with wristbands will get free entry to Gary's on Sunday, **SEPT. 28** from open to close. Cooperative staff will register members from **10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.** and hand out wristbands. If you plan to arrive

after 2 p.m., you will need to pick up your wristband in advance. Everyone with a wristband will get a free cider donut until 2 p.m.! We will also have a new activity where members will get the chance to name one of our bucket trucks. Of course there is also the popular corn maze, corn pit, hay ride and multiple opportunities for family photos.

Don't forget to bring the pop tabs you've been collecting during the Sippin' All Summer Challenge to help our friends at the Ronald McDonald House in Topeka!

We are planning big fun this fall, and you won't want to miss it. We are excited to meet with our members and maybe even meet some of them for the first time!

For more information about Gary's and the event visit <https://www.freestate.coop/farm>.

## FreeState Member Appreciation Event

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
[www.freestate.coop/farm](http://www.freestate.coop/farm)

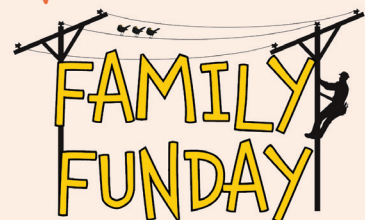
Fill out the form below to get your wristbands at either FreeState office Sept. 22-25 or at the gate Sept. 28.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_

How many wristbands? \_\_\_\_\_



Don't forget to bring your pop tabs for the RMHC. Wristbands valid only on Sept. 28, 2025.



Charlesey Coffin, FreeState's delegate for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, is the daughter of Abby Coffin and Michael Coffin.

## A NOTE FROM CHARLESEY

As I reflect on my week at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, one phrase comes to mind: try new things. This camp pulled me straight out of my shell on day one. I stepped onto the bus on Friday, and immediately was greeted with the kindest smiles by the counselors and other campers. That's when I knew this would be the best week of my life.

I sat by a new person about every 2-3 hours, which forced me to learn to socialize on my feet and use cooperation as well as pushed me to make new friends. This might have been the start of my favorite parts of the trip: getting to know everyone around me.

I am usually not someone who wants to introduce myself and become friends with all of my peers, but the idea that was planted into my brain early in the week was the idea of trying new things. So, throughout the week, that is exactly what I did. I introduced myself to all of the other students who attended CYLC, and made friends with each and every one of them.

I was closer to some rather than others, such as my camp best friend, Lucy. Lucy pushed me so hard to try new things. We both ran to be on the board together, and she pushed me to run for an officer position, which led me to holding the board vice president position. She also pushed me to run for next year's ambassador team, which also led me to getting a spot. Now, because of her and the support of all of the counselors and other campers, I get to return next year to push next year's campers to try new things.

Overall, I am so very grateful for this experience and how it has changed me since I have been home. I've been a kinder human, a more responsible leader and overall someone who puts herself out there more often, unafraid of the opinions of those around me. I made the best friends in the world, as well as I gained a deeper understanding of the community aspect of cooperatives and how it truly takes a strong team and community to keep one much like FreeState in good standing. I am forever thankful for FreeState's support in allowing me to attend.

Thank you so much!

**CHARLESEY COFFIN**

# BUILDING YOUNG *Leaders*



The 48th Annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) was held July 11-17 near scenic Steamboat Springs, Colorado.



The camp brought together 77 high school student leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming sponsored by 45 electric and agriculture cooperatives.

"I made the best friends in the world, as well as I gained a deeper understanding over the community aspect of cooperatives and how it truly takes a strong team and community to keep one much like FreeState in good standing," Charlesey said.





Throughout the weeklong camp, students gained hands-on experience in cooperative business operations by forming and managing a mock candy cooperative. They elected a board of directors, appointed a general manager, created committees, and held daily membership meetings, mirroring the real-world structure of member-owned cooperatives. The board is pictured above, with our delegate, Charlesey, (front, second from left) as vice president.



Educational sessions covered leadership development, conflict resolution and co-op career opportunities. Highlights included electric safety demonstrations by cooperative linemen, a live raptor presentation from HawkQuest, and a tour of the Craig Power Station.



Charlesey was one of six campers that were elected as camp ambassadors by their peers and will return to the 2026 camp as student counselors.



CYLC offered more than just professional growth opportunities; it built a sense of camaraderie and adventure. Students explored the natural beauty of Mount Werner, experienced the charm of downtown Steamboat Springs, and braved the rapids of the Colorado River on a rafting trip. Recreational highlights included a volleyball tournament, swimming, a talent show and a dance.

# Your FreeState Electric Bill has a Fresh New Look

FreeState will soon introduce an updated look to the monthly bill. The new two-sided bill will have all the information included in your previous bill, just displayed differently. In addition, the new bill now includes messages on both sides about programs we offer and important information about the cooperative.

"We are looking forward to the ability to add more dynamic messaging right on the bill," said Chris Parr, CEO. "In the past we would have used a bill insert and those have become more

costly. This new bill will allow everyone to see the messaging, even those on postage-free options like paperless billing or prepaid accounts."

"Members that monitor their bills closely will notice additional details on the back of the bill," said Corey Ealy, director of member services. "We have elected to add a comparison of the current bill to the previous month and year in the graph and circles. Temperature information is also included since it is a major factor in energy usage."

The new look is only in the presentation. Nothing has changed with your programs or what type of rate you are on. You will just be able to see more information about your account.

The co-op hopes that this update will make the bill clearer and easier to understand.

We encourage you to look over your new bill when you get it, and if you do have questions about it you can give us a call at 800-794-1989 and we would be happy to help you understand the updated format.

**FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
Your Sustainable Energy Partner

**Business Hours: Monday-Thursday 7:00 am to 5:30 pm**  
Phone: 800-794-1989  
www.freestate.coop

Account #: 123456789  
Name: JOHN DOE  
Billing Date: 07/11/2025

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE ON RECEIPT**  
**\$91.00**  
7% late penalty + tax added if not paid by 08/05/2025

**Message Center**

- Welcome to FreeState's new bill design. Page 1 will give you at-a-glance bill and payment information, plus important co-op news. Page 2 provides usage and billing details.
- Ready to try paperless billing? It's easy to sign up through SmartHub. You'll be notified when billing statements are ready; you can even choose to get a text message. Plus, you'll still be able to see copies of current and past billing statements.
- A new school year will be starting soon! Stay extra aware of buses and bicycles out on the roads and in neighborhoods taking our kids to class.

**Back!**  
Join us on Sunday Sept. 28 at Gary's from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Free entry and a donut! Fun activities like a chance to name a bucket truck.  
Pick up wristbands in advance at either office Sept. 22 - 25 during regular business hours.

**Options:** There are so many ways to pay your bill. freestate.pub/01ways

**Savings:** Looking for ways to save on your electric bill? freestate.pub/02ways

**Giving:** Round up your bill to support your community. freestate.pub/03ways

**Outages:** Be prepared and stay informed during a power outage. freestate.pub/04

**FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 70  
McLouth, KS 66054  
www.freestate.coop

Account Number: 123456789  
Charges Due ON RECEIPT \$91.00  
7% Late Penalty + Tax Added If Not Paid By 08/05/2025

**Mail Payment to:**  
FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
PO Box 70  
McLouth KS 66054-0070

0 0 AV 0.0  
JOHN DOE  
123 ANY STREET  
TOPEKA KS 66610-0000

**FreeState Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
Your Sustainable Energy Partner

**Member Services & Outages: 800-794-1989**  
www.freestate.coop

Meter #	Reading Dates	From	To	Previous	Present	Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	kW Demand
123456789	06/01/2025	07/01/2025		4927	6878	1	2,051	9.162

**Account Information**  
Account Number: 123456789  
Member Name: JOHN DOE  
Billing Period: 06/01/2025 - 07/01/2025 for 30 days  
Billing Date: 07/11/2025  
Phone Number: (800) 200-0000  
Service Address: 123 ANY STREET  
Substation: CROOKED POST Single  
Rate: Phase Residential

**Previous Account Activity**  
Previous Bill on 06/10/2025 \$161.00  
Payments Received -\$181.00  
Balance Forward \$0.00

**Current Activity**  
Electric Usage Charge 2,051 kWh @ 0.13128 \$269.26  
Demand Charge 9.162 kW @ 1.0000 \$9.16  
Electric Service Charge \$40.10  
PCA 2,051 kWh @ 0.00701 \$14.38  
Capital Credit Retirement -\$246.50  
County Tax \$4.49  
Operation Round-Up \$0.11

**Current Charges**  
**\$91.00**

**Energy Usage Comparison**

This Month Last Year	Last Month	This Month	Avg Daily Use	Daily Cost Last Year	Avg Daily Cost This Month	Avg Daily High	Avg Daily Low
1,754 kWh 30 days	800 kWh 31 days	2,051 kWh 30 days	68 kWh	\$7.43	\$11.25	85° F	66° F

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE ON RECEIPT**  
**\$91.00**  
7% Late Fee + Tax Added If Not Paid By 08/05/2025

Now offering cash bill-pay service at participating retail stores. The barcode below can be scanned at the register, allowing you to make your monthly payment. There is a \$1.50 convenience fee to use this service. To find a location near you, visit [pay.vanilladirect.com/paypage/retailers](http://pay.vanilladirect.com/paypage/retailers)

**Manage your account with SmartHub!**

- Make or Schedule Payments
- Track Electric Usage
- Report Outages
- View Bills
- Manage AutoPay

Sign Up today at [freestate.smarthub.coop](http://freestate.smarthub.coop)

successful payment using this barcode, you may retrieve your full detailed e-receipt at [vanilladirect.com/payments](http://vanilladirect.com/payments). The majority of participating locations will accept cash payments up to a maximum amount of \$500.00.

Do you want all the features of SmartHub optimized for use on your mobile device? Download the SmartHub app!

**A.** Front and center on the new bill is what you most need to know: the amount you owe and the due date.

**B.** The message center provides important updates about your account and the cooperative.

**C.** These icons highlight payment options, ways to save, featured programs and outage information.

**D.** The bottom is the payment stub to return with your payment. Make sure FreeState's address shows through the window on the return envelope if you are paying by mail.

**E.** Meter information including your usage for the billing period can be found at the top.

**F.** Billing details are itemized in this area.

**G.** These bubbles compare your usage to the same month last year and the prior month, along with daily averages. You can see the full year in the graph on the left above.

**H.** Need to make a quick cash payment? Use the barcode at left at a Vanilla Direct merchant. On the right is a reminder to download and use SmartHub, which we enthusiastically recommend.