

BURT COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER

PO Box 209
Tekamah, NE 68061

It's Your Power!



Load Management What is it?

To a public power district, load management means controlling the use of electricity during peak usage periods to help control the costs of purchased power. The peak demand for electricity usually occurs because of common usage patterns.

By reducing demand during the hours of highest use (peak periods of demand) peaking units or other expensive sources of power will not have to be utilized to provide the needed power.

By spreading power usage over longer periods during the day, maximum use of present power during the day, maximum use of present power capacity can be used, reducing the need for peaking power or power bought at higher rates from other utilities.

How does load management affect the cost of electricity?

The highest peak demand during the peak month (usually July or August) sets the rate at which your power supplier buys power for the next twelve months, or when a new peak is set. This is known as "Ratchet". Simply stated, your power supplier pays for power at the rate set by the highest peak demand each month regardless of the amount of power sold. It is very much like minimum bills, only it can add up to thousands of dollars each month and several hundred thousand dollars in a year. These ratchet costs are in turn, billed back to you, the customer.

The important role of load management comes in when the amount of the peak demand can be reduced. By lowering the peak, the lower the ratchet amount will be. The lower the ratchet amount, the lower the cost of wholesale power. This helps keep your rates low. It will not reduce your rates, but it can keep them from climbing higher.

Burt's Briefs

Irrigation Changes. All irrigation meters have been changed to the new RF read meters, along with the new load control switches. Changes will allow us to read the meters better and change load control groups for irrigators from our office. We can tell if the irrigation system is being controlled and can shut them off from the office if needed.

Nebraska Youth Energy Leadership Camp. Burt County PPD will again sponsor two or three students to attend a week long youth energy leadership camp at Halsey State Park. The camp is usually held the third week of July, starting on a Monday and ending on a Friday. To be eligible to attend this year's camp a student must be in the 9th, 10th or 11th grade and live in a home served by Burt County PPD. If interested, please contact our office for an entry form and more details.

Report Clearance Problems. This is the time of year when a line clearance problem can become a fatality. If you know of a situation anywhere on our lines where clearance is not adequate, let us know. We would rather fix it now, than after it is too late.

Remote Service Disconnects and Meter Data. All meters can be disconnected from our office, hoping to cut down on trips to customers' services and overtime. By having automatic meter reading, we can integrate your meter for outages, blinks, peak kw, voltage, and kilowatt usage. Call our office for more details.

Changing Address. If you are on the move be sure to let our office know! Simply call us or drop us a note! You will be responsible for the power bill until we are notified.

\$500 Prescriptive Irrigation Incentive

As an EnergyWise partner, Burt County Public Power wants to help producers make the most of the energy needed for irrigating with all-electric systems. Participating utilities will provide a \$500 incentive

when producers replace all of a system's existing outlet components such as sprinkler heads, sprayers, rotators, plates, pads and nozzles, and regulators on qualified systems.



Qualifications:

- To qualify, the system must be a minimum of four (4) sections in length with water supplied by an all-electric pumping system.
- The majority of the system's existing nozzles, sprayers or sprinkler heads must be at least five (5) years old. For verification, a copy of the pivot's most-recent sprinkler/nozzle report (usually kept inside the pivot control panel) must be provided with a complete application and qualifying proof-of-purchase documentation.
- Qualifying systems are only eligible for the EnergyWise Prescriptive Irrigation Program once every five (5) years.
- All applicable components identified on the sprinkler/nozzle report or chart (including sprinkler heads, sprayers, distribution plates, pads, rotators, nozzles, and regulators, if identified on the report/chart) must be replaced with new, permanently installed operational components before submitting application.
- Qualifying proof-of-purchase documentation includes sales receipt(s), invoice(s), and professional irrigation equipment dealer/consultant statement (must itemize the new components indicating the quantity, make, model and purchase date).
- Requests for deviation from the components identified on the sprinkler/nozzle report require an explanation on the application signed by a professional irrigation equipment dealer/consultant and are subject to approval by the local participating utility.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Any Irrigation Load Control changes need to be made by April 1st. Changes after April 1st can only be made from moving from a higher control hour group to a lower control hour group, with added fees applied. Example: I-22 (Full Control) to I-9 (No Control).

Irrigation Notification Warning...

To continue receiving email or text notification, check all changes that have been made to your cell phone or computer account.

If you answer "yes" to any of the below questions, you need to contact our office.

1. Did I purchase a new phone?
2. Did my cell phone account provider change names?
3. Did I change cell phones with family members?
4. Did I change Internet providers?
5. Did my cell phone number change?
6. Did the landowner change?
7. Did you acquire some additional irrigated land?
8. **Is there any reason you don't want an email or text message notification? Is so, you need to notify our office. We must have your approval before sending an email or text message.**

If the answer to all of these questions is "no", there is no need to contact our office and you will continue to receive messages like last year.

2021 Irrigation Season.
 Disconnected wells or load control group changes due before April 1st.

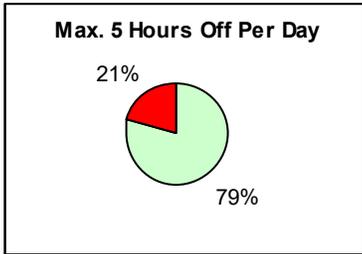
Disconnected Wells Charged Feb. 1st:
 Three phase \$16.80 per horsepower.
 Single phase \$12.75 per horsepower.

After April 1st changes:
 Consumer pays minimum \$50 administrative cost.

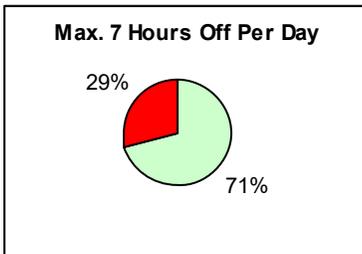
Summer Rate July through October
 Winter Rate Nov. through June



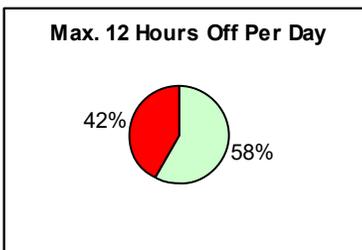
5 Hour Any Day
(Between 6 & 11 PM)



7 Hour Any Day
(Between 4 & 11 PM)



12 Hour Any Day
(Between 9 AM & 11 PM)



Irrigation Load Management Rate Schedules—In Effect for Year 2021

Rate Schedule (I-9) -No Control

Minimum Monthly Customer Charge

Three Phase Service \$4.50 per h.p. or \$30.00 whichever is higher
 Single Phase Service \$4.50 per h.p. or \$19.17 whichever is higher

	Rate	Plus PCA = -.0 kw/hr
Summer Rate	All kilowatts billed monthly	@ 14.05 cents per kwh
Winter Rate	All kilowatts billed monthly	@ 10.72 cents per kwh

Rate Schedule (I-10) -Maximum of 5 hours off per day, any day, Mon.-Sun.
 Note: The 5 hours would fall between 6 & 11 PM

Minimum Monthly Customer Charge

Three Phase Service \$3.94 per h.p. or \$30.00 whichever is higher
 Single Phase Service \$3.94 per h.p. or \$19.17 whichever is higher

	Rate	Plus PCA = -.0 kw/hr
Summer Rate	All kilowatts billed monthly	@ 11.44 cents per kwh
Winter Rate	All kilowatts billed monthly	@ 10.55 cents per kwh

Rate Schedule (I-21) -Maximum of 7 hours off per day, any day, Mon.-Sun.
 Note: The 7 hours would fall between 4 & 11 PM

Minimum Monthly Customer Charge

Three Phase Service \$3.63 per h.p. or \$30.00 whichever is higher
 Single Phase Service \$3.63 per h.p. or \$19.17 whichever is higher

	Rate	Plus PCA = -.0 kw/hr
Summer Rate	All kilowatts billed monthly	@ 10.18 cents per kwh
Winter Rate	All kilowatts billed monthly	@ 9.38 cents per kwh

Rate Schedule (I-22) -Maximum of 12 hours off per day, any day, Mon.-Sun.
 Note: The 12 hours would fall between 9 AM & 11 PM
 Load Group Numbers - 1, 2, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 21, 33, 34

Minimum Monthly Customer Charge

Three Phase Service \$2.65 per h.p. or \$30.00 whichever is higher
 Single Phase Service \$2.65 per h.p. or \$19.17 whichever is higher

	Rate	Plus PCA = -.0 kw/hr
Summer Rate	First 200 kwh per year per h.p.	@ 9.92 cents per kwh
Summer Rate	Over 200 kwh per year per h.p.	@ 7.6 cents per kwh
Winter Rate	First 200 kwh per year per h.p.	@ 9.15 cents per kwh
Winter Rate	Over 200 kwh per year per h.p.	@ 7.6 cents per kwh

UNL Extension News

By Kathleen Cue , Extension Educator

Starting Seeds Indoors

If you've never started seeds indoors before, the idea can seem daunting, but it's a rewarding challenge once you know what seeds and plants need to thrive.

Seed Selection

Among catalogs, websites, box stores, seed exchanges, your own saved seed, and garden centers, the range of seed varieties and packet sizes is broad. The wonderful thing about the variety is the option to try something new and not being tied to the limited number of varieties offered as started plants. The seed packet itself is the best source of information for seed depth, seed spacing, and when seeds should be started.

Seeds do not have to be started in large containers, which initially can take up a lot of space. Instead, opt to start seeds in a small container, then carefully divide crowded seedlings, parceling them individually into slightly larger containers. This can be repeated, putting seedlings into larger pots as they grow. Tomato seedlings can be planted at the bottom of large containers, adding potting soil as the plants get taller. This allows roots to develop along the stem, creating an awesome root system.

If seeds have been stored for three or more years, a seed germination test will give you an idea of seed viability. Dampen a paper towel, lay out ten seeds across the towel surface, roll up the towel, and put it in a plastic bag. Secure the bag opening to ensure the humidity stays high and place the bag in a warm location. After a week has passed, check the seeds for germination. How low a viability rate is too low to support efforts to store and use the seeds? Generally, seeds with germination rates of less than 50% means the number of seeds must be doubled (or more!) to get the planned number of seedlings.

Materials

Whether you have professional seed flats or recycled paper cups, the most important feature of any seed-growing container is drainage. If drainage holes are missing, a drill with a small bit will take care of that in no time. Three to four holes per container will do. A light source, a small watering can, a fan, fresh potting soil, a clear plastic cover and a heat mat for bottom heat are helpful to have on hand.

Seed and Seedling Care

Watering, such an easy concept, can be fraught with problems when water quality and temperature aren't factored in. Regular tap water, well water, snow-melt water and rainwater are all good sources for plant health. Water-softened water is the worst, adding salts that cause plant tissues to collapse. Water that is room temperature to lukewarm is perfect for root uptake of water and soil nutrients. Even snow-melt water should be brought to room temperature before being used. Placing a finger across the watering can spigot ensures water doesn't come out in a rush, dislodging seeds.

If you have a great window for seed starting, supplemental lighting isn't necessary, but bear in mind that winter's shortened days may mean plants aren't getting all the light they need for growth. Plant grow lights are an excellent option and can be set on a timer to 12 hours of light daily. A clear plastic cover over the flat allows in light and helps to increase humidity for good seed germination. The cover is removed once most of the seeds have germinated.

Some seeds required bottom heat for good germination. Heat mats are made for just this purpose, encased in heavy plastic to ensure spilled water poses no problem. In the absence of a heat mat, flats and containers can be placed on a hot water heater or in older homes, radiators. Heat mats cause soils to dry out more quickly, so be vigilant about moisture levels.

Burt County Public Power District News Tekamah, Nebraska 68061 Phone 374-2631 or 1-888-835-1620 Board of Directors

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Meetings

In accordance with Nebraska Statute, notice is hereby given that the regular meetings of the Board of Directors of the Burt County Public Power District are held on the 1st Thursday of each month, commencing at 9:30 A.M. at the district office located in Tekamah, Nebraska. In the event that a holiday falls on the said 1st Thursday, the meeting date shall be as set by the Board of Directors and published in the Legal Notice.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours at least three (3) days prior to each meeting; provided however, that the Board of Directors shall have the right to modify the said agenda to include items of an emergency nature.

Office Hours
7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

All seedlings are prone to damping off, a fungal disease that causes stems to collapse at the soil line. A fan set on low speed for air circulation will not only decrease disease incidence, but plant movement helps to strengthen plant stems.

Some potting soils contain a slow-release fertilizer, which wouldn't require any additional fertilizing on your part. Seedlings in potting soils without fertilizer, however, should be fertilized every time seedlings are watered, using a water-soluble balanced (such as a 12-12-12) fertilizer at quarter strength.

Once seedlings become crowded in their starter pots, division is necessary to maintain plant vigor. Use a popsicle stick to gently loosen the soil and pick up seedlings by their leaf, not by a stem. Collapsed and broken stems lead to dead plants. Firm the soil around the roots and give them a bit of water.

Hardening Off

Hardening off is the process where seedlings are acclimated to the outdoors. This is a crucial step to transplant survival. There are two techniques for hardening plants off before planting outdoors in their permanent location. The first involves placing plants outside during a sunny warm day for 1 hour, then returning them to the indoors. The second day, plants are set outside for 3 hours before bringing them inside. Each day, the number of hours is increased until plants are left outside all day (and night if temperatures aren't freezing). The second technique involves putting plants outside in a very protected spot (shady and no wind) on the first day. The second day, plants are moved to a spot where they receive a bit more wind and sunlight. Gradually, plants are placed in an area that receives the full brunt of wind and sunlight. Whichever technique is used, once plants lose their bedraggled appearance, they are ready to be planted in the garden.

The rewards of planting your own flowers and vegetables from seed is found in the abundance and variety of possibilities. Your eyes and taste buds will thank you!