

## THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# electronews



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## FROM THE MANAGER Doing Our Part

Last month, I wrote about the importance of supporting our communities and the different roles we play in the community. A great example of this is our support and involvement in Dodge City Days. This is one of our favorite times of the year.

Dodge City Days is a portrayal of the community's pride and dedication to remembering and honoring Dodge City's rich history and culture. Every year Victory Electric participates in the various activities over the 10 day celebration.

Our favorite has to be the parade float. The theme of Dodge City Days this year was "Raise A Ruckus" and our theme was a spin off that to become " 'Raising A Ruckus' at the 'Ole Swimmin' Hole". Our float depicted an old swimming hole, complete with a slide. Employees handed out candy along the parade route and cooled off the crowd with streams of water. Victory had approximately 100 people, employees and their families, attend the parade.

Several employees participated in the McDonalds KidsFest event at Wright Park by helping with various games. Victory also took its train down to give kids a ride (pictured below).

Our generation and transmission cooperative, Sunflower Electric, brought their grill, and several employees helped cook the hamburgers for the Family Hamburger/Media Night.

Victory supported the rodeo and was also represented at other events such as the barbeque.

We had a great time during Dodge City Days 2009 and we look forward to next years' festivities.

*'Til next time, TJ*

[More photos on page 20-D](#) ▶



Terry Janson

This  
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Victory participated with our train at the McDonald's KidsFest during Dodge City Days.

## Local Youth Travel to Leadership Camp

### Savannah Dwyre, Ingalls



I wasn't sure what to expect when I won the trip to Steamboat Springs, Colo.; but after spending the week learning about cooperatives and leadership, I was thankful I'd received the honor of being picked.

It was an amazing experience to be able to meet different types of people from the surrounding areas. When we finally arrived after our long, but fun, drive, we were flung into a busy schedule involving everything from a speaker on being a good leader, politics and even bird handling. We also listened to presentations on the importance of cooperatives and how they work.

Thank you, Victory Electric, for allowing me this great opportunity.

### Britnie Jenkins, Cimarron



I would like to start off by saying "thank you" to Victory Electric for sponsoring me to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado.

I had a blast! It was such a great experience and I learned so much more about cooperatives than I ever thought I would. I met so many wonderful friends that I hope to keep in contact with for a very long time. The Colorado scenery is beautiful, and being able to spend the week there was awesome.

I feel fortunate to have been in the Kansas/Oklahoma group because the bus rides were so much fun! We sang and laughed the whole trip. Thank you so much!

Britnie Jenkins, Cimarron, and Savannah Dwyre, Ingalls, joined 27 Kansas youth at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 11-17 in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Jenkins and Dwyre were selected from a group of high school students by Victory Electric. To win this trip, they were asked to create a resume, take a short quiz over cooperatives and be interviewed by a panel of judges.

During their week-long stay in Colorado, the students created a candy cooperative. They established a board of trustees and a general manager that held daily membership meetings. When students arrived at camp, they elected the board and manager, and paid membership dues. In the evenings, they marketed their candy at the canteen. At the end of the week, the group decided how to distribute the camp's profit margins.

The campers also participated in legislative presentations, a light and high voltage display, and a competition to build a transmission line from craft supplies. They explored the Old Town Steamboat Springs and toured Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

"Victory Electric is proud to support the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp," said Jerry King, director of marketing and communications. "Our hope is that local students will gain some awareness of how our cooperative system works and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community."

Victory sponsors the trip of two students to camp each year, in addition, two students are awarded a trip to Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Jerry King or Jerri Imgarten at 620-227-2139 or 800-279-7915.



Britnie Jenkins, left, and Savannah Dwyre, right, pose on Mt. Werner.

# Helping Win the Irrigation Costs Battle

Finding ways to serve southwest Kansas farmers and their families has been the goal of The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., since 1947. Today, although our service area is no longer just agricultural—we serve industrial and urban customers, as well—we remain committed to Kansas farmers.

As fuel costs continued to climb throughout our country, and as an energy supplier for the farming industry, we realized the impact these prices would have on items like fertilizer, crop protection chemicals, and the cost of operating irrigation pumps.

## Irrigation Takes a Lot of Energy

According to the Kansas Farm Bureau, an average 500-acre farm saw an increase in production costs of nearly \$19,000 in 2008. Irrigated farms in particular saw costs increase over 28 percent since 2003.

Increases in energy-related expenses were a major factor, according to Professor Michael Langemeier of KSU's Department of Agricultural Economics, accounting for almost half the increase.

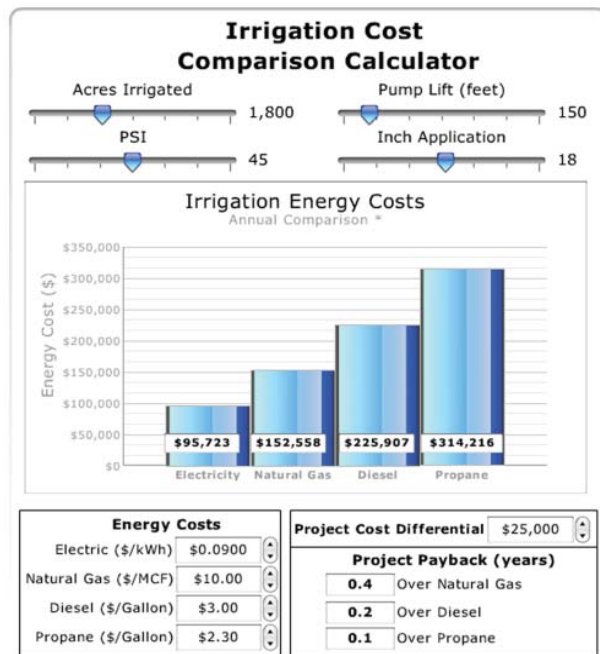
## Victory Electric Looks for a Solution

We realized that although many farmers

The icon above is on the front page of the Web site and will guide you directly to the irrigation calculator.

have relied on diesel or propane to power their pumps in the past, rising costs now make electricity very cost-competitive. Just how competitive? And how could we demonstrate the savings to farmers?

Victory worked with the energy software company, APOGEE Interactive, to develop an easy-to-use, interactive solution to allow farmers to see the savings for themselves – an online calculator that compares electricity to other power sources for irrigation pumps.



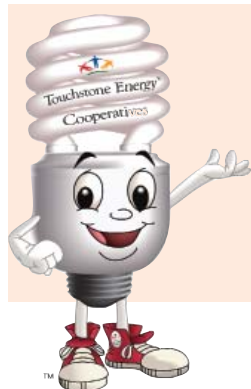
The calculator allows you to input data from your irrigation systems and it generates a comparison specific to you and your irrigation system.

## Introducing Victory Electric's New Irrigation Calculator

It's so simple: a slider bar tool indicates the number of acres to be watered, the pounds per square inch to pump, pump lift size, and the inches to be applied. Farmers and operators can use the results to plan budgets and operating strategies. You can find this new Irrigation Calculator on the home page of our Web site, [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net).

## A New Weapon in the Irrigation Costs Battle

More than 55 million acres of farmland are irrigated nationwide and proper management of resources is crucial to the industry. Victory's new Irrigation Calculator can be a useful tool in this management. Working together we can help keep energy costs down, protect our livelihoods, and help our Kansas farms thrive.



## CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL Bulb!"

And the lucky winners are... Louis Wetzel, Chris Harms, Bryan Habiger, Jorge Estrella, Raul Flores and Donald Dupree. Come by Victory Electric and get your free compact florescent light bulb (CFL).

Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations!

# Dodge City Days 2009

*"Raising a Ruckus" at the 'Ole Swimmin' Hole*



Above: Victory employees from left, Brad Ackerman, Jerri Imgarten and Josh Schmidt help grill burgers for family/media night during Dodge City Days.

Left and below: Victory Electric employees and their families participated in the Dodge City Days Parade on July 25, 2009.

## Victory Participates in Annual Touch-A-Truck Event for Kids

The Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., recently participated in the annual Touch-A-Truck event sponsored by Dodge City Parks and Recreation during Dodge City Days. The parking lot of the Civic Center was alive with kids, excitement and truck horns blaring.

Kids had the opportunity to climb up, on and around various trucks including Victory's bucket and digger trucks, tractors, a police car, and a dump truck.

This event gave the youth of Dodge City the chance to learn about different heavy equipment in a fun environment. Victory Electric was happy to be a part of the youth's learning experience.



Lineman Steven Hornung helps kids into the Victory truck at the Touch-A-Truck event.

