

# CONNECTIONS

CORNHUSKER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT • SEPTEMBER 2023



MAKE A PLAN -  
FOR THEM.

## The power of preparation

**W**ith severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, Cornhusker Public Power District wants to remind customers about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Fill your car with gas.

- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

At Cornhusker Public Power District, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org)

## Energy camper Audrey Stoner wins Washington D.C. trip

Cornhusker Public Power District energy camper Audrey Stoner was voted one of three ambassadors to represent Nebraska next June at the National Rural Electric Cooperation Association Washington D.C. Youth Tour. She is the daughter of Scott and Susan Stoner of Columbus and is a sophomore at Scotus Central Catholic High School.



Audrey Stoner

The campers chose her at the Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Leadership Camp held this past July at Camp Comeca in Cozad, Nebraska.

At camp, campers compete to be an ambassador. The top 10 vote getters give a five-minute speech at a banquet.

# ENERGYWISE

Use less. Spend less. Do more.



Earn a  
**20% incentive**  
on a new 30" minimum width on qualifying built-in cooktop or free-standing ranges.

See program guidelines at [cornhusker-power.com](http://cornhusker-power.com)

Sponsored by Nebraska Public Power District in partnership with Cornhusker Public Power District.

## FARM SAFETY

## FOR A SAFE HARVEST

**September 17-23 is National Farm Health & Safety Week.** Take these steps to help keep you and everyone on your farm safe during a busy harvest.

### Meet Daily

Have morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day ahead and to discuss potential electrical hazards. Review power line locations, clearance requirements and the proper positioning of extensions for transporting.

### Train Others

Train anyone working on your farm, including seasonal workers and family members, on potential electrical hazards.

### Use a Spotter

Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines or poles. Always keep equipment and extensions at least 10 feet from power lines.

If your equipment makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, **stay in the cab, call 9-1-1 and warn others to stay away.**



Safe  
Electricity.org®

## Featured Customer

# REDSTAR

**R**EDSTAR, owned by Ryan and Kristin Mullenhoff, is a full-service ag dealership located east of Leigh, along Highway 91.

Their team of 40 employees offers various products and services such as seed, seed treatment, biologicals, liquid starters, micro's, foliar's, conventional and dry fertilizers, chemicals, adjuvants, amino acids, precision farming, and more to customers in ten states across the Midwest.

### Beginnings

In 2004, Ryan and Kristin were given the opportunity to take over a small seed corn business. "Ryan was busy with his own trucking company, and we weren't interested in the seed business," says Kristin.

After much thought and consideration, they decided to embark on a new adventure. "We initially thought it would be a short-term opportunity to provide for our family as I was pregnant with our son, Jackson," says Kristin. But the short-term business opportunity turned into a growing business.

"I was a very shy person," says Ryan. "I locked myself in the basement and went to the phone book and started calling people at night. That's how Ryan Mullenhoff Seeds got started."

"Kristin and I went to farm shows for years to help build our business," says Ryan. Things took off from there as the business shortly expanded.

### REDSTAR Fertilizer

Fertilizer was added to their product list in 2008. "In 2010 we added salespeople to help with the workload," says Ryan. "The seed business was going great, but we wanted to be able to offer more products to our customers." Their business expansion prompted the Mullenhoffs to change the business name to Ryan Mullenhoff Sales, LLC (RMS).

"We worked with an outside fertilizer company for many years," says Kristin. "Over the years, Ryan learned so much and he eventually gained the confidence to branch out to do our own fertilizer."

In 2018, RMS added REDSTAR Fertilizer, their own line of Branded low-salt starters to their line-up, and in 2020 officially took the REDSTAR name.

### Building a brand

"We had such a great experience with REDSTAR fertilizer we decided to take that name and brand our own products with REDSTAR," says Kristin. "At this point, we were expanding to other locations in Nebraska, and it didn't make sense to use the name Ryan Mullenhoff Sales in other places."

REDSTAR has three service locations in Nebraska and one in Minnesota: Leigh (main office), Osceola, Cedar Rapids and Fairmont, Minnesota. REDSTAR also has a Distribution Center located in Columbus, NE. "With the addition of other locations and by using the REDSTAR brand we



Owners Kristin and Ryan Mullenhoff

have been able to expand our services," says Ryan. "We do application, which is REDSTAR Apply, and most recently we entered into aerial spraying with drones." Ryan and Kristin also now offer a full catalog of branded products through their REDSTAR BRANDED line.

The business is entering its 20th season this fall. With the success of REDSTAR, the business has expanded further by building a manufacturing facility at the Leigh office. "We look forward to continuing to offer unique and custom products from start to finish," says Ryan.

"We are always building on our brand of REDSTAR," says Kristin. "We are Purpose Driven, Brand Proven. Everything we do is out of purpose, and we feel we have proven ourselves in this industry. If you buy a product from us and something goes wrong, that falls on us, Ryan and Kristin. We are going to fix it and make sure we help our customers. This is our livelihood so we cannot fail. But we are not perfect, and we are going to make mistakes, but we guarantee we will fix it and make it right. Our customers are everything to us."



Chemicals ready for transport sit at the main office in Leigh.

**PURPOSE DRIVEN.**  
**BRAND PROVEN.**

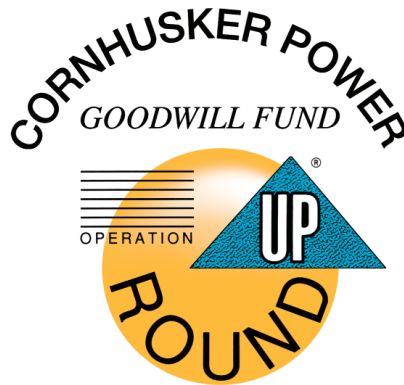
# 2023 Goodwill Fund

## 3rd Quarter Results

Through Operation Roundup, Cornhusker Public Power District automatically rounds up a participating customer's electric bill to the next highest dollar. The average annual giving is \$6 per customer with a max of \$11.98 per year. Contributions are tax deductible. If you want to make a difference in your community, consider rounding up your bill. Call 402 564 2821 to be a part of the program and make a **BIG** change in your community.

Funding from Cornhusker Power Goodwill Fund is available to organizations within the counties served by Cornhusker Public Power District—Platte, Boone, Nance, Colfax, Greeley and Wheeler. The recipient DOES NOT have to be a customer of Cornhusker Public Power District. Organizations may apply once a year. Funds shall not be used for religious or political purposes.

Applications can be found at [cornhusker-power.com](http://cornhusker-power.com). 4th quarter applications are due by October 20, 2023.



Amount	Organization/Agency	Purpose
\$200	Boone Central 3rd Grade	Desks
\$200	Boone County Toys for Tots	Gifts
\$200	Good Samaritan Society - Albion	Bingo prizes
\$200	Clarkson Public Library	Windows
\$200	Columbus Area Children's Museum	STEAM area
\$200	Columbus Arts Council	Wichita Children's Theatre performance
\$600	Columbus Rural Fire Protection Dist.	Radio equipment
\$100	The Arc of Platte County	Craft supplies for Pals N' Play program
\$200	Fullerton Public Library	Electric tankless hot water heater
\$250	Nance County Sheriff's Department	K-9 housing
\$200	TeamMates Mentoring of Fullerton	Background checks
\$200	Howells Community Catholic School	Projector
\$200	Leigh Public Library	Display case
\$100	St. Joseph Mission Group	Batting
\$200	Baby Shower in a Box	Baby essentials boxes
\$200	St. Michael's Historical Society	Display pad

## Featured Employee



**Derek Hanson**

**Engineering Technician**

**19 Years**



CEO/GM  
Clay Gibbs

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Glen Pfeifer, Lindsay  
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Robert Gray, Jr., Albion

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Board meetings held the third Monday of each month at 9 AM. Agenda available during business hours.

## EDITOR

Jessica Kurpgeweit

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Closed weekends and holidays

## SERVICE CENTERS

ALBION, NE AND FULLERTON, NE

[cornhusker-power.com](http://cornhusker-power.com)

CORNHUSKER  
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT  
PO BOX 9 COLUMBUS NE 68602

OUTAGE CALLS 24 HOURS  
(402) 564 2821

SERVING IN PLATTE, COLFAX,  
BOONE, NANCE, GREELEY AND  
WHEELER COUNTIES