

The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”

VOLUME 65

October 12, 2021

NUMBER 2



Cotton Electric linemen use truck baskets to raise the American flag and welcome co-op members to the drive-through registration event.

2021 Annual Meeting in the books

Format modified to ensure member, employee safety

By Karen Kaley

There are asterisks in the co-op’s record books about the annual membership meetings of the past two years. Safety concerns related to the pandemic forced suspending the 2020 gathering and an adaptation of everything but the location and gift bags for the next.

Large and small victories seemed to define Cotton Electric’s 2021 Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation event. Board trustees, employees and members worked together to prevail over the challenges and hiccups of the previous 18 months.

Optimism prevailed as co-op employees began the usual months-long preparation for the early fall event. By mid-summer, it became evident that an in-person gathering of well over 1,500 people for a few hours was not ideal. Instead, we took advantage of modern technology to modify our annual check-in with co-op members with an emphasis on health and safety.

Opting for a drive-through registration, we expanded the time frame for members to come by the Stephens County fairgrounds. Some of our more eager members arrived before the start time of 3 p.m. on Sept. 23. A slow but steady stream of registrants came through over the next four hours and a friendly competition of speed and efficiency broke out among employees.

Familiar smiles and greetings were exchanged with members who drove into the shade at the south end of the fairgrounds arena. Employees found member accounts on iPads and recorded the registration while others handed gift bags through vehicle windows. Each registered member received a blue cap, an oven mitt, scraper and measuring spoons, all emblazoned with the Cotton Electric logo.

Members were then sent on their way with reminders to watch the live stream later that evening and the hope that we would return to a more traditional format in 2022.



Cotton Electric member Don Simmons was one of the first in line for registration at Annual Meeting. Employee Cody Pennington uses an iPad to make the registration while co-worker Rex Hiebert prepares to hand a gift bag to Simmons. Altogether, 409 members drove through the registration lines on Sept. 23.

When Board President Ken Layn began the live stream promptly at 7 p.m., it was from behind the familiar orange transformer-turned-podium. A smaller-than-usual area inside the fairgrounds’ indoor arena had been set up for this portion of the event. Those present included Cotton Electric’s Board of Trustees, CEO Jennifer Meason, board counsel Bill Doolin and supporting staff.

Layn and Doolin confirmed that 409 Cotton Electric members registered during the afternoon. This fell short of the 5% of the membership required for a quorum, so no business meeting was held.

Layn offered comments about continuing pandemic-related struggles and how the co-op has responded. He said Cotton Electric leadership and staff have “done a masterful job in spite of difficulties.” To the members, he said, “We hope we have taken good care of our members and have been of good service to you. Thank you for being patient

with us.”

Meason took the podium next and expressed gratitude for those who participated in the registration. “We appreciate the time and effort it took to participate in the Annual Meeting this year.”

She also spoke of recent difficulties for members and employees and recalled that addressing challenges is in the history of the cooperative. “Like the founders of the co-op 83 years ago, we have had some struggles and things to overcome. We have risen to that challenge. We have learned to be flexible and to adapt to conditions we face. We found new ways to conduct business,” and cited the live stream format as an example.

“We continue to strive to make sure the lines of communication are open and to continue to provide electricity that is safe, reliable and affordable from a variety of resources.”

See CEO reports, Page 2

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after Oct. 1, 2021, is \$0.00708 per kWh.

On a member’s average bill of 1,300 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a charge of \$9.20 on the October bill.

September 2021 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	99	71	85	16	95	64	80
2	98	74	86	17	95	65	80
3	98	76	87	18	95	65	80
4	100	71	86	19	96	63	80
5	91	69	80	20	101	67	84
6	94	64	79	21	83	55	69
7	96	67	82	22	83	49	66
8	92	62	77	23	86	46	66
9	93	56	75	24	89	48	69
10	94	61	78	25	92	53	73
11	96	60	78	26	93	55	74
12	94	57	76	27	94	53	74
13	94	59	77	28	96	61	79
14	92	64	78	29	89	64	77
15	92	62	77	30	84	66	75

Source: srh.noaa.gov/oun/

Average Daily High: 93 Average Daily Low: 62

Did You Know?

The easiest way to pay a power bill is by bank draft. To set up draft payments, call Cotton Electric’s Billing Department at 580-875-3351 or 1-800-522-3520.

The November issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on Nov. 15, 2021.

Contact Us

Do you have a story idea for The Current or do you need to place an ad? If so, let us know. We can be reached at 580-875-3351 or by email at TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com.

You can also drop us a line at Cotton Electric Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

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More news at cottonelectric.com

From the CEO

Co-ops share passion for serving members

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Cotton Electric Co-operative all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, and service to the greater community good.

October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Cotton Electric was created out of necessity – to meet a need that would have been



Jennifer Meason, CEO

otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1938, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to the family farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain –



the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Cotton Electric's leadership team and employees live right

here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and

democratically control, the capital of Cotton Electric. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars -- it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Cotton Electric is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.

And by the way, that sums up the seventh cooperative principle, "concern for community," which I'll elaborate on in the October issue of *The Current*.

2021 Energy Voucher

You do not need to return this voucher with your next month's bill. The credit will be applied to your membership account.

\$500 Energy Voucher

Donald B Patterson

\$250 Energy Voucher

Sondra McCuiston Dale Biffle
Brenda Lipscomb Susan Powers
Roy Knapp

\$100 Energy Voucher

Lynn Cobb Glen Cordell
Pilgrim Nazarene Robin Dresser
Richard Byerly Travis Ober
Gerald Kierbow Billy Dewbre
Austin Martin
Cache Creek Cowboy Church

CEO reports on co-op progress during message to members

Continued from Page 1

Meason went on to highlight progress in ongoing projects at the co-op, all designed to fulfill our mission of providing affordable, reliable electricity. First, she described the pole inspection and replacement process, noting this made the system more resilient. "The (cooperative) grid has been hardened to better withstand storms and we can restore power more quickly when outages occur."

She also credited the vegetation management program, now in its 17th year, as "the most economical approach to making sure the quality of your service stays good."

Meason then mentioned a meter project, three years in the works and nearly finished. She said it would improve service to members and aid in efficient outage restoration.

She spoke of Cotton's representation on the board of directors of Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, the generation and transmission cooperative that is our power supplier. Meason pointed out that WFEC's generation portfolio includes a variety of sources and that as a member of that co-op, "Cotton Electric will continue to advocate for a just and reasonable approach and that your energy supplier pri-

oritizes affordable, reliable and responsible delivery of electricity to every community we serve."

Picking up on a theme, Meason said, "Community is truly what Cotton Electric is all about. It's more than the poles and the wires, and the kilowatt-hours."

She went on to praise the membership for their support of the Operation Round Up program. More than \$1.3 million has gone to organizations such as volunteer fire departments, senior citizens centers, schools and other service organizations. "All because we banded together, like the founders of the co-op did in 1938. We can see the power of what a little from many can do."

Meason concluded her address with an appreciation for the membership and a reminder to watch the next day for the prize drawing. The list of winners is on this page, to the left.

The Current

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By Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: Energy.gov

Editor's note: Operating Stats are temporarily unavailable. Look for a recap of August and other months in future issues.



Mission Statement

Our mission is to be the leader in providing the most reliable and innovative electric system, with affordable rates, through the positive, enthusiastic and professional use of its resources and people.

Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the November issue, please submit information by Nov. 3 by calling 580-875-3351 or send an email to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com. Events that occur before Oct. 12 will not be published in the next issue.

Editor's Note: We recommend checking for cancellations with local sources before attending any event.

Prairie Circuit Finals Oct. 14-16

Top cowboys and cowgirls from Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska will ride into Duncan Oct. 14-16 to compete in the Prairie Circuit Finals Rodeo. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. each night at the Stephens County Fair and Expo Center.

Prairie Circuit winners in bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling, team roping, tie-down roping and bull riding will compete for cash prizes and a spot in the Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo. A new event for 2021 is the WPRA women's breakaway roping.

Friday night is themed "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" and Saturday will be "Back the Blue." A portion of the event proceeds benefit the Taylor Le Norman/McCasland Cancer Center.

Advance adult tickets are \$12 or \$15 at the door, kids' admission is \$10 and children 3-years-old and younger get in free. Advance tickets for all performances are available at Crutcher's Western Wear in Lawton and Duncan.

CTHC hosts Blackhorse exhibit

Blackhorse: A Retrospective is a special exhibit by Apache/Kiowa artist Jackie "Blackhorse" Tointigh. The exhibit will run through Dec. 31 at Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan.

This award-winning artist has works in museums, galleries, and private collections throughout the United States and in several other countries. His work blends modern style and traditional ideas to provide a visual history of his people. His paintings are a mix of contrasting colors and techniques reminiscent of modern, contemporary, abstract-expressionism, with a traditionalist idea.

The Heritage Center is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Cotton Electric members presenting a Co-op Connections Card can get \$1 off admission.

Street fair kicks off fall in Fletcher

Fletcher Fall Festival is set for 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 16 on Main Street. Activities include the Miss Fall Fest 2021 pageant at 1 p.m., a backyard cookout contest, dessert contest, an evening glow run and live music and performances. Vendors and concessions will also be available for guests to enjoy. For information, visit [Facebook.com/FallStreetFestival](https://www.facebook.com/FallStreetFestival).

MORE COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 4

Alzheimer's Walk set for Oct. 16

Come join us at the Walk to End Alzheimer's of Southwest Oklahoma and smash our fundraising goal of \$65,300. The party starts at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 16 in Elmer Thomas Park in Lawton. The 1.5-mile Walk begins after a short ceremony at 10 a.m.

Registration is open for teams and people who wish to join a team or walk as an individual. To sign up online, go to www.lawtonwalk.org.

For information, contact Sandi Pellow at lawtonwalk@alz.org.

Diabetes workshop in Waurika

Diabetes Undone is an interactive workshop designed to help people with diabetes or prediabetes. A series of eight sessions will run from 6-8 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, Oct. 18 through Nov. 11 in the City of Waurika Depot, 203 S. Meridian Street in Waurika.

Participants can purchase a kit that includes expert advice, group support, cooking demos, a workbook and a cookbook, and access to the video course.

For information, contact Karin Smith at diabetes.undone.waurika@gmail.com or 580-342-5123.

CTAC Live season begins Oct. 21

CTAC Live concert series opens the 2021-22 season with Rastrelli Cello Quartet, four gentlemen committed to tradition, but completely uncoupled from the conventional approach, which only serves as a solid foundation. The ensemble has built a unique and broad repertoire.

The Rastrelli cellists only perform music that they themselves love – that's a matter of absolute conviction when it comes to putting together their programs. The quartet usually treats its audience to a mixture of arrangements of chamber music works, orchestral classics, and standards of cello literature, as well as popular music, jazz, klezmer or tango.

Performance is set for 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Simmons Center in Duncan. Tickets are available at the door or ChisholmTrailArts.com.

Family fun in store at Boo Review.

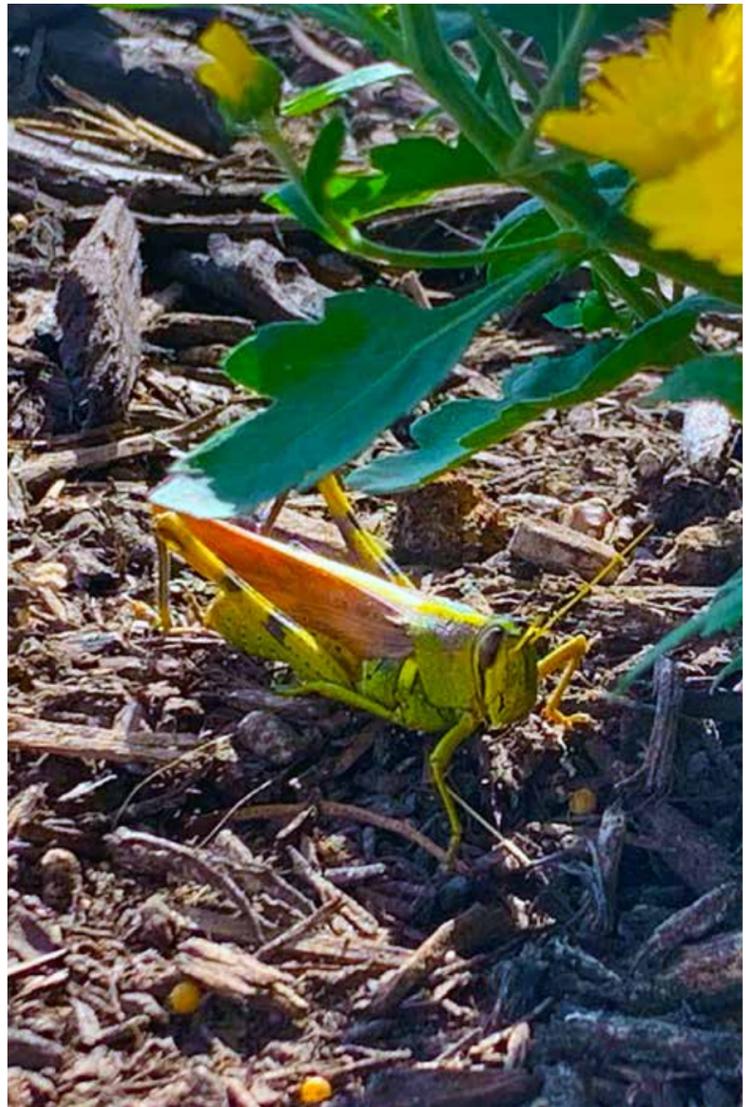
Main Street Duncan merchants welcome trick-or-treaters during the annual Boo Review from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 23. Activities include a costume contest and bounce houses.

First- through third-place awards will be given for cutest, scariest, most creative and best group costumes in each category. Categories include infant-3 years, 4-7 years, 8-11 years, 12 years and up, and group.

DST ends Nov. 7

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. Nov. 7. Remember to "fall back" – turn clocks back one hour – or you'll get to church an hour early!

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Cotton Electric member Lindsay O'Donnell snapped this shot of a grasshopper lingering beneath the mum in her flower garden.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for November is HOME. Entries can be emailed to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Winners will receive a Cotton Electric prize package of CEC goodies.

Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

November		December	
Ad Sales	Oct. 29	Ad Sales	Nov. 29
Classified	Nov. 3	Classified	Dec. 4
Publish Date	Nov. 15	Publish Date	Dec. 13

The Current's
Holiday Guide

Holiday Guide Rates
 Full Page: 10"x 10" = \$360
 Half Page: 10"x 5" or 5"x 10" = \$180
 Quarter Page: 5"x 5" = \$90
 1/8 Page: 2.5"x 5" or 5" x 2.5" = \$50

Deadline
 The deadline to reserve ad space in the Holiday Guide is October 15, 2021.

If you have any questions or would like to reserve ad space please call 580-875-4277 or email kwilliams@cottonelectric.com.

Is rooftop solar a good option for your home?

Variables to consider:
 Overall energy efficiency of the home
 Age and pitch of the roof
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We can help.
 As your trusted energy advisor, we can provide information so you can make a well-informed decision.

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Community Spotlight

Bark in the Park set for Oct. 23

Four-legged fur-bearing critters will take over Duncan's Fuqua Park during Bark in the Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 23. This tail-waggin' celebration is open to all pets, their owners and spectators.

The Stephens County Humane Society and Friends of the Humane Society plan fun, food, contests, a Bark Boutique/Meow Mart, cat photo to contest, vendors, demonstrations, a Strut Your Mutt pledge walk and onsite adoptions. There will be competitions for best costume, best bark, owner look-alike, best trick and longest tail.

The Humane Society will have several dogs on site available for adoption. Not only does this event raise awareness, but all proceeds go toward paying for daily operations at the shelter.

For details, call Patti Whitaker at 580-641-0667.

Magic Lantern screens 'Little Shop of Horrors'

Magic Lantern Film Society of Cameron University screens DVD presentations of classic films each month in the CETES Conference Center, Room A. Most screenings begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Oct. 29 offering will be "Little Shop of Horrors," a 1986 musical comedy horror film directed by Frank Oz.

Meek flower shop assistant Seymour (Rick Moranis) pines for co-worker Audrey (Ellen Greene). During a total eclipse, he discovers an unusual plant he names Audrey II, which feeds only on human flesh and blood. The growing plant attracts a great deal of business for the previously struggling store. After Seymour feeds Audrey's boyfriend, Orin (Steve Martin), to the plant after Orin's accidental death, he must come up with more bodies for the increasingly bloodthirsty plant.

There is no admission charge, but donations are accepted. For information about the society, or to see a schedule and synopsis of films, visit Cameron.edu/magiclantern.

DALC offering classes

Can you read this? One in five adults in America can't. Duncan Area Literacy Council (DALC) has started free classes for Adult Basic Education (ABE), Citizenship, and English Language Learners (ELL) to help those who want to read.

Tutoring is free. It is confidential, and attendees can walk away with confidence to fill out a job application, pay bills, understand prescriptions, follow a



A team of Cotton Electric employees participated in Shoot for the Nations, a fundraiser for the Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation. The event raised more than \$44,000 to support international electrification projects, bringing electricity to parts of the world for the first time. Cotton's team consisted of, from left, Chad Cowan, operations superintendent east; Mike Ottinger, Operations VP; Clint Ingram, operations superintendent west; and Larry Williams, staking technician.

recipe or help their children with homework.

Tutors are available in the morning, afternoon or evening and most tutoring takes place at The Duncan Public Library.

If you or someone you know are in need of these services, please contact Mary or Joy at 580-736-1170 or email DALC73533@gmail.com to be placed on a list for free classes.

DALC is a non-profit organization providing free services for those living in Stephens County and surrounding areas.

Blessings Boutique open monthly

Marlow First United Methodist Church opens its Blessings Boutique from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every first and third Tuesday. Clothing donation drop-off days are Tuesdays, or donors can call the church at 580-658-2765 to make other arrangements.

Farmers Market resumes summer hours

Lawton Farmers Market, an initiative of the Southwest Oklahoma Growers Association, is open weekly in the Cameron University Stadium parking lot at 227 SW 38th Street. Summer hours are from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday, running through October.

Shoppers will find a variety of choices, including winter produce, sprouts, micro greens, meat, eggs, honey, nuts, and both handmade and artisan items.

For more information about the market or be-

coming a vendor at the market, visit LawtonFarmersMarket.com or send an email to lawtonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com.

Food pantry open once monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The pantry is in the old City Hall, 131 1/2 W. California Street.

Pantry organizers try to provide a two-week supply of basic staples to anyone with identification and proof of Cotton County residency.

Monetary donations may be sent to Food Pantry, c/o Paul Metcalfe, 211 E. Colorado St., Walters, OK 73572.

For details, call Roger Noland at 580-591-6826.

Free Sunday occurs each month

A HOUSE FULL Resale hosts Free Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., the first Sunday of each month, at 1821 W. Gore Blvd. in Lawton.

A variety of items will be available outside on racks and tables for free. Items include recyclables, clothing, kitchenware, books and other donations that would be great for projects or reuse.

Visitors are encouraged to bring at least one item to add. Items can also be donated for Hungry Hearts and LoveSick Ministries between 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Information can be found on A HOUSE FULL Resale's Facebook page.

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KELLY SIMMS



RED RIVER
RED ANGUS SALE
2021 Fall



3SCC Domain A 163

Oct. 30 at Vernon Livestock Auction
Vernon, TX Approx. 1 mile E of Vernon, on
business hwy 287.

SELLING
Bulls & Females

Selling 60 Bulls 18-24 months
50 Beckton Bred 3 year-old cows
50 Bred Red Angus Females-coming 3
year-old, to calve March, April, May 2022

Reference Sire (picture above) 3SCC
Domain A 163 has several bulls in this
sale.

Live Streaming Sale Day with Online
Bidding. To view sale and bid online, you
need to register in advance so we have
time to approve the bidding. To register
call 580-481-0339.

For more information:
Cody Cribbs 580-481-9449
Colby Crawford 580-318-3211
cribbsredangus.com

LIVING ESTATE AUCTION
of Ronnie and Linda Smith
5 ACRES, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT
Saturday, October 16th @ 10am



Don't miss the opportunity to purchase this Excellent Building Site located 2 miles South of Goodyear on Coombs Rd. Fenced with Pond, 2 Shop Buildings and Grainery Storage. Water Well & Water Meter, Good Paved Roads & Possible Artisan Water

Property Terms: Down payment is 10% of contract price day of auction, balance at close.
Possession: At time of closing.
Conditions: Auction is open to public, property sells "As is" with marketable title, warranty deed and up-to-date abstract. Real property will be subject to owner confirmation.



Case 480B Backhoe • 2008 Dodge Ram Pickup (needs minor work) Single Cab • Gasoline Airless Paint Sprayer • Graco 395 Airless Paint Sprayer • Graco Ultra Max II 795 Sprayer on Wheels & Cart • Graco 495 Pro Sprayer • SW 419 Spraytech • Titan 740 IX Sprayer on Wheels & Cart • Acoustic Sprayer • Big Port-a-Cool Fan • 500 gallon propane tank with wet line • Table saws • Acetaline Set • Welding Cart • Air Compressor • Lincoln AC Welder • Vice • Two Axle Utility Trailers • Triple Axle Implement Trailer • Radial Arm Saw • Water Pump • A-Frame • Utility Pole Truck with Winch • Water Pressure Hole Digger • Heat & AC units • Electric Boxes & Wire • New Interior & Exterior Doors • Aluminum Storm Windows • Lots of New Double Pane Windows • Gas & Electric Hot Water Tanks • Whirlpool Tub • Sinks • Toilets • Electric Heaters • Exhaust Fan • Squirrel Cage Fans • Lumber • Temco Gas Heater • Procom Gas Heater • Breaker & Disconnect Boxes • Galvanized Plumbing Pipe • Misc Pipe & Tubing • Storm Doors • Barn Metal • Whirly Bird / Attic Vents • Poly Pipe • Red Bricks • Pex • Cabinets • New Ceiling Fans • New Light Fixtures • New Glass Block Windows • New Steel Pre-Hung Entry Doors • New Hide-Away Ironing Board • New Doors, Windows & Trim • Lot of Sheetmetal • Roto Tiller • 50 gallon sprayer • Riding Lawn Mowers • Electric Fence Chargers • Towable Round Hay Dolly • 3 point Post Hole Auger • Hay Spear • Axel • Hurricane Woven Fence Wire • Small Chisel Plow • 6ft Angle Blade • Pickup Bed Trailer • 6 ft Chain Link Fence Lots • Allis- Chalmers Tractor • Small 3 pt Disc • Round Bale Feeders • Brush Hog • 3 pt hay spear • 3 pt double shovel plow • Garden Seeder • Tin Horn Pipe • Square & Rectangular Tubing • Antique2 wheel Trailer • Used T-Posts • Step Ladders • Aluminum Ladders • Lots of Chains & Boomers • Grease Pump • Propane Turkey Cooker • Tool Boxes • Jack Stands • Bottle Jacks • High Lift Jacks • Hand Tools • Dolly's • Lots of Tires • Appliance Dolly's • Jumper Cables • Kirby Vacuum & other Vacuums • Misc Electric Heaters • Pressure Washer • Curio Cabinet • Folding Chairs • Folding Tables • Canopy • Antique Kettles • Snatch Block • Pick Ax • Extension Cords • Gas Cans • Refrigerator • Come-a-long • Dining Room Chairs • Antique Washing Machine • Window AC Unit • Homemade Smoker • Telephone poles • Boat Trailer • V-Bottom Aluminum Boat • Medical Office Scale • Misc Nuts, Bolts, Castors • Rug • Gasoline Motor • Insulated Walk-In Cooler Panels • Dog Boxes • Hunting Lights & Charger 27 Volt • Propane Tanks Large & Small Propane Tank on Trailer

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(580)252-3880
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NAA Auctioneer



Door prize winners at the District 1 meeting were, from left, Rosemary Nichols, Karen Woods and George Cardin.



Door prize winners at the District 5 meeting were, from left, Tim McCary, Arvella Cochran and Darlinda Dreith.

Six districts hold meetings

All incumbents held over for additional terms

By Paula Huckabaa

Under normal circumstances, Cotton Electric holds three district meetings per year. Due to the pandemic, the 2020 meetings for Districts 2, 6 and 8 were postponed until 2021. Districts 1, 3 and 5 held 2021 meetings as normally scheduled, for a total of six meetings this year. The district meetings are held to deliver reports about business matters and to elect a representative member to the Board of Trustees. The Board establishes the overall policies of the cooperative.

At each recent meeting, the incumbent Trustee welcomed the members, then handed the meeting over to the District Meeting Committee who called the meeting to order. To elect a new trustee or vote on co-op business, a quorum must be present. Since no quorum was met at any of the meetings, all of the incumbent Trustees were held over for another term.

District 2 Trustee Ken Layn, District 6 Trustee Todd Clark and District 8 Trustee Tony High will serve terms through 2023. District 1 Trustee Shan

Files, District 3 Trustee Nichole Scott and District 5 Trustee Clifford Dunham will serve a three-year term.

At each meeting, Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason addressed the members to update them on co-op business, including meter change-out progress, pole inspections and Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation grant impacts in the service area.

"Each month, members have an option to round up their bills to the nearest dollar through the Operation Round Up program. Since its inception in 2004, the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation, through Operation Round Up, has distributed more than \$1.3 million to grantees in the eight counties Cotton Electric serves in southwest Oklahoma. All of that money stays here and makes such a huge difference," Meason said.

Each meeting ended with a prize drawing for members in attendance. Prizes were energy vouchers, two \$50 and one \$100.

Meetings for districts 4, 7 and 9 will be held in 2022.



Door prize winners at the District 3 meeting were, from left, Doyle Jones, Edward Sims and Charles Wickwire.

USDA
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TDD 711
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(580) 215-4762
2 or 3 Bedroom Apartments
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October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month Become familiar with cyber basics

Does it seem like cyber criminals have a magic wand for getting into your email or bank accounts and there's nothing you can do to stop them? Wouldn't it be great if there was one single step you could take that would help protect you from cyber criminals and let you securely make the most of technology? While no sole step will stop all cyber criminals, one of the most important steps you can take is to enable something called two-factor authentication (sometimes called 2FA, two-step verification, or multi-factor authentication) on your most important accounts.

The problem with passwords

When it comes to protecting your accounts, you are most likely already using some type of password. There are several ways to authenticate yourself into an account: something you have, something you know, something you are, somewhere you are. When you employ more than one method of authentication, you are adding an additional layer of protection from cyber criminals – even if they crack one method, they'd still need to bypass the additional factor(s) to access your account. Passwords prove who you are based on something you know. The danger with passwords is that they are a single point of failure. If a cybercriminal can compromise your password, they can gain access to your most important accounts. In addition, cyber criminals are developing faster and better techniques at guessing, compromising, or bypassing passwords. Fortunately, you can fight back with two-factor authentication.

Two-factor authentication

Adding two-factor authentication is a far more secure solution than relying on just passwords alone. It works by requiring not one but two different methods to authenticate yourself. This way if your password is compromised, your account is still protected. One example is your ATM card; when you withdraw money from an ATM machine, you are actually using a form of two-factor authentication. To access your money, you'll need two things: your ATM card (something you have) and your PIN number (something you know). If you lose your ATM card, anyone who finds your card cannot withdraw your money as they do not know your PIN. The same is true if they only have your PIN and not the card. An attacker must have both to compromise your ATM account. The concept is similar for two-factor authentication; you have two layers of security.

Using two-factor authentication online

Two-factor authentication is something you set up individually for each of your accounts. It is actually quite simple: you usually need to do nothing more than syncing your mobile phone with your account. That way when you need to log into your account,



PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

not only do you log in with your account username and password, but you also use a unique one-time code you get from your phone. The idea is the combination of both your password and unique code are required to log in. Usually, this unique code will be sent via a text message to your mobile device or email. Your phone may also have a mobile app (such as Google or Microsoft Authenticator app) that will generate the unique code for you. When possible, mobile apps are considered the most secure option for obtaining your unique code.

What makes this so simple is that you usually only have to do this once from whatever computer or device you are using to log in. Once the website or your account recognizes your device, moving for-

ward you often only need your password to login. Any time you try (or someone else tries) to log in with your account but from a different computer or device, they will have to use two-factor authentication again. This means if a cybercriminal gains your password, they still can't access your account as they can't access the unique code.

Remember, two-factor authentication is usually not enabled by default, so you'll have to enable it yourself for each of your most important accounts, such as banking, investments, retirement, or personal email. While this may seem like more work at first, once it's set up it's very easy to use.

Source: SANS.org

How long should your password be?

The length and complexity of a password has a direct impact on how difficult it would be to crack.

NUMBER OF CHARACTERS

TIME TO CRACK PASSWORD

7

.29 milliseconds

9

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12

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Financial Moves for Women Business Owners

Refresh your network. Are you involved in networking with other women business owners? Many of them may have insights into the issues women face in the business world, as well as suggestions about lending programs and business-friendly banks. You may also enjoy passing along your lessons learned to others.

Review your business structure. If you go into business as a sole proprietor, you'll have to report your business income on your personal income tax return. If you incorporate or form a limited liability company (LLC), you can protect your personal assets – such as your house and your investments – from creditors because these assets will be separated from your business assets and debts. You might also consider other, more complex entities, known as C-

and S corporations. There's no single "correct" business structure and the most appropriate one for you may change over time, so, in choosing one that's right for your needs, you'll want to consult with your tax and legal advisors.

Invest for growth. Ideally, hard work produces results, and one of the main results you want from your investments is growth – that is, you want your investments to appreciate in value so they can eventually help you meet your goals. But if you are overconcentrated in vehicles such as certificates of deposit (CDs) and government securities, you may end up lowering your growth potential. That's not to say that CDs and Treasury bills are in some sense "lazy." They can provide you with income and help you reduce

the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. But to achieve most of your goals, you'll need a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments working for you, with the exact percentage based on your needs and life stages.

Do an insurance checkup. To protect yourself and your business, you may want to review your insurance to make sure you have the right kinds and amount of coverage. General liability insurance can be appropriate for sole proprietors, if you've established an LLC or you've incorporated your business. If you provide some type of professional service (i.e., legal, accounting, engineering and so on), you might need professional liability insurance. And no matter what business you own, you might want

to add disability insurance to replace some of the income you'd lose if you were injured or became ill.

Consider all your retirement options. If you've got your own business, you're solely responsible for funding your retirement. Fortunately, as a business owner, you've got several attractive options, including an "owner-only" 401(k), a SEP-IRA and a SIMPLE IRA. In deciding which plan is right for you, you'll need to consider several factors, including the number of employees, if any, and the nature of your business. However, all these plans are relatively easy to set up and administer and offer potential tax benefits. And even though you've got plenty to do already, you should make the time to establish

or review your own retirement plan – because eventually you'll need all the resources you can accumulate to enjoy life as a former business owner.

You can also find valuable information on programs for women business owners by visiting the Small Business Administration's website at www.sba.gov and searching for "women-owned businesses."

Running your own business can be challenging – but by making some positive financial moves and getting the support you need, you can also find business ownership to be highly rewarding, personally and professionally.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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Beware of vampire loads lurking in your home

Perhaps you are familiar with an undesirable aspect of the electronic and IOT (Internet of Things) revolution: vampire loads. Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions and gaming systems. There are others, but these four represent the major offenders.

Let's look at how these vampire loads occur and why they are approaching 10 percent of average household electric use according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chargers take the 120 VAC (volts alternating current) power at the outlet and reduce it down to the voltage required by the connected device, usually 5 to 12 VDC (volts direct current). Obviously, when your device is charging, the charger is using electricity, but you might be surprised to learn that chargers are still using small amounts of energy even when they're not connected to a device.

Television set-top boxes also consume energy when they appear to be inactive. Anytime the set-top box's lights are on, it is using power. Like chargers, they use more when the television is on, but they are always working – even when the TV is off. This is especially true for those devices with a DVR function that records your favorite TV shows.

The instant-on television is another culprit. The intention of the "instant-on" feature is instant gratification for the viewer, meaning no waiting for the TV to turn on and warm up. Unfortunately, for that convenience, the TV must be on at nearly full power. So, in this mode, it can be a real energy drain.

The typical gaming console can use as much energy as a regular refrigerator even when it's not being used. Make sure to check the console settings and disable automatic updates, which is where the energy drain comes from. Games on the console are frequently updated, which requires a lot of electricity.

So how does the average family combat these dreaded vampire loads? Garlic garlands? Silver bullets?

Fortunately, none of the remedies of fable are necessary. You just need to change how you handle energy-sucking electronics. Here are a few suggestions.

- Unplug chargers when not in use.
- Invest in smart power strips. These look like normal power strips but have a twist; one of the outlets is the "master" that receives power all the time. The others are off. When the device connected to the master outlet turns on, the rest of the outlets receive power too. Ingenious and perfect for entertainment

set ups. Have the television in the master outlet and when you turn it on, the set-top box, speakers, streaming devices, etc. will turn on too. They are also ideal for PCs and their peripherals.

- Turn off the instant-on function on your TV. Turn off set-top boxes that do not contain the DVR functionality or use a smart power strip.
- Disable the automatic updates in gaming consoles and turn the console completely off when you

are finished using it.

- When replacing any device or appliance, look for an EnergyStar rated product.

Vampire loads are a real problem that will only continue to grow as the digital age advances. But you can fight the vampires with vigilance and application of the recommendations above. Check with Cotton Electric for additional suggestions and energy-saving advice.

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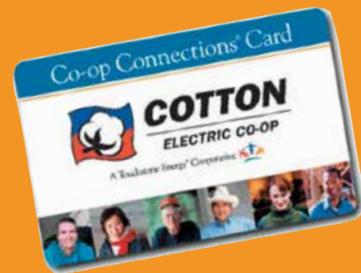
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The Salt Cellar



In the second quarter of 2021, Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation issued a \$2,500 grant to Duncan High School for soft skills curriculum to be used in the Pathways to Future Careers (PFC) Internship Program. Presenting the check is Shane Bowers, far left, Cotton Electric's manager of Human Resources and IT. On hand for the presentation are, from left, Channa Byerly, assistant superintendent of Duncan Public Schools; Tom Deighan, superintendent; students Ruth Avila, Asia Fleetwood, Emily Garrett and Gavin Lindsey; PFC sponsor Lesa Hefner; and DHS assistant principals Kevin Kelly and Lisha Elroy.

CECF announces 3Q grants



Even during tough economic times, it's important that we continue to support our local communities. That's the philosophy behind Operation Round Up (ORU), a charitable program governed, funded and supported by Cotton Electric members like you.

Most Cotton Electric members participate in ORU, in which power bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar. The amount rounded up each month can be as little as 1 cent and is never more than 99 cents. On average, each participating member contributes about \$6 each year.

The funds are pooled and administered by the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF), a board of directors that meets quarterly to consider grant applications. The board consists of Jennifer Meason, the co-op's CEO; Ken Layn, president of the co-op's board of trustees; and three representatives from the Cotton Electric service area: Danny Marlett, Carter Waid and Cindy Zelbst.

The board met in September to review several grant applications. Grants totaling \$15,774.50 will be distributed to six of the applicants. Third-quarter grants

include:

- Chattanooga Public Schools: A \$4,000 CECF grant will purchase a 3D printer and robotics kit for a STEM program.
- Town of Chattanooga: A \$2,500 CECF grant will outfit a police car with a dash camera and software.
- Cotton County Sheriff's Office: A \$1,928 CECF grant will purchase trauma kits.
- Duncan Police Department: A \$3,497.50 CECF grant will purchase trauma kits.
- Gabriel's House: A \$1,649 CECF grant will outfit the Empire location with an AED (automated external defibrillator).
- One True Light: A \$2,200 CECF grant will purchase laptop computers.

CECF has awarded or pledged more than 550 grants totaling \$1,349,582.53 since the foundation was established in 2004.

Applications for 2021 fourth-quarter grants are due no later than Nov. 9, 2021. Downloadable applications are available at CottonElectric.com/grant-applications.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program and members may opt out at any time by calling or sending a letter or email stating the account holder's name, account number and the request to be removed.

FOR SALE

Rural Property Neal-Farm Land#4

**Sellers are Relocating Their Farming Operations to the Duncan Area
Duncan - Stephens County
275606 East 1730 Road-Duncan, OK**

This Property Consists of: A Total of 160 Acres. Real Property currently being used as Pasture for Cattle with a majority of the Grass being Native Grass and Good for Grazing. There are about 20 Acres of Bermuda and Various Grasses in the Bottom Land. There are about 15 Acres in Trees (with a Few Pecan Trees). There are 3 Nice Ponds on the Property and One of the Ponds is Stocked with Catfish and Bass. There is a Sheet Metal Barn on the Real Property in need of repairs.

Directions to Property: In Duncan, Oklahoma-From the Intersection of Hwy 81 and Beech Avenue go 7 Miles West on Beech Avenue (2 Miles West of Territory Golf Course). Real Property Entrance is located on the North side with a Double Locked Gate at the Top of the Hill.

Broker's Note: This is a Good Quarter Section of Real Property situated in a Great Location with 1/2 Mile Street Frontage on Beech Avenue on the South and 1/2 Mile Street Frontage on 124th Street on the West. Great Pasture Land. Ideal for Building Sites and Development. Please See to Appreciate!

**Owner Says Sell!
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\$2,500 Per Acre.**

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Create Nutritious Fall Meals

With a return to busy fall routines, it can be challenging for many families to find the time to sit down at the table for nutritious meals.

Adding an option like Florida Orange Juice to your family's routine can help fuel them throughout the day. Whether drinking it on its own or by adding it to recipes like Grilled Turkey Club with Orange Juice-Infused Aioli or Orange Cream Smoothies, you can feel good about incorporating a beverage with essential vitamins and minerals, nutrients for immune system support and no added sugars.

Diet and nutritional benefits: Both nutritious and delicious, drinking 100% orange juice can increase fruit intake and provide key nutrients including vitamin C, potassium, folate, thiamin and magnesium, as well as vitamin D and calcium in fortified juice. Research has found children whose diets include orange juice tend to have healthier diets and higher levels of physical activity compared to those whose do not. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends limiting 100% fruit juice to no more than 4-6 ounces daily for children ages 2-6 and no more than 8 ounces for children ages 7 and up.

Immune support: 100% orange juice can help support the immune system by providing a variety of vitamins and minerals. For example, an 8-ounce glass of 100% orange juice is an excellent source of vitamin C, which helps protect cells and promote the production and function of immune cells. An 8-ounce serving of fortified 100% orange juice is a good source of vitamin D, which plays an important role in regulating immune response to help fight off bacteria and viruses that get into the body. Additionally, 100% orange juice has many beneficial plant compounds, flavonoids and colorful carotenoids, which work to support the immune system by fighting inflammation and helping cells communicate with each other.

No added sugar: Unlike many foods and beverages that contain added sugars, the natural sugar in 100% orange juice comes with vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. In fact, a study published in "Frontiers in Nutrition" found children and adults who consumed 100% orange juice had lower intakes of added sugar compared to those who did not.

"Today, children are consuming fewer fruits and vegetables and missing out on key vitamins and minerals," said Dr. Rosa Walsh, scientific research director at the Florida Department of Citrus. "Many children have inadequate intake of folate, riboflavin, thiamin, vitamin C, vitamin D, potassium, iron and zinc. This doesn't have to be the case. A glass of 100% orange juice is a convenient option, according to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, that counts toward fruit intake. Parents should make sure to look for 100% orange juice on the container. This ensures you are serving a nutrient-dense beverage with no added sugar."

Visit floridajuce.com to find more nutritious recipes.

Source: Family Features



Grilled Turkey Club with Orange Juice-Infused Aioli

- Orange Juice-Infused Aioli:**
- 1 cup mayonnaise
 - 1/2 cup Florida Orange Juice
 - 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
 - 2 cloves garlic, grated
 - 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

- Turkey Club:**
- 8 slices multi-grain bread
 - 1 cup watercress
 - 8 ounces thinly sliced smoked turkey
 - 4 slices provolone cheese
 - nonstick cooking spray

To make aioli: In small bowl, whisk mayonnaise, orange juice, parsley, garlic and Dijon mustard.

To make turkey club: Spread 2-3 teaspoons aioli on four bread slices. Spread watercress on top of aioli. Top watercress with turkey, cheese and remaining bread slices.

Spray grill pan, electric skillet or cast-iron skillet with nonstick cooking spray and warm over medium heat. When pan is hot, add sandwiches, cheese side down, and cook until bread is golden brown and cheese has melted, about 4 minutes. Gently flip and cook 2-3 minutes, or until bread is golden brown.

Serve with remaining aioli as dipping sauce.



Orange Cream Smoothies

- 1 1/2 cups Florida Orange Juice
- 2 cups ice
- 6 ounces non-fat vanilla Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup vanilla almond or soy milk

In blender on medium speed, blend orange juice, ice, Greek yogurt and vanilla almond or soy milk until smooth and creamy.

Pour into two tall glasses.

Bowie's Second Monday has evolved into one of the largest flea markets on five acres!

SECOND MONDAY TRADE DAYS takes place the weekend prior to the second Monday of every month.

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Weeknights need easy meal solutions

During the hustle and bustle of the school year, it can be difficult to find time to sit down for dinner together as a family. However, on weeknights filled with extracurricular activities, homework, meetings and more, it's still important to put delicious and nutritious meals on the table that can be served whenever your family members can find a few minutes to grab a plate.

Dairy foods like milk, yogurt and cheese are on hand in many kitchens and provide nutrients people of all ages need to grow and maintain strong bodies and minds. These Slow Cooker Chicken Burrito Bowls combine dairy with chicken, beans, corn and rice plus colorful garnishes for a meal you can set in the slow cooker at the beginning of the day and serve whenever hunger strikes that evening.

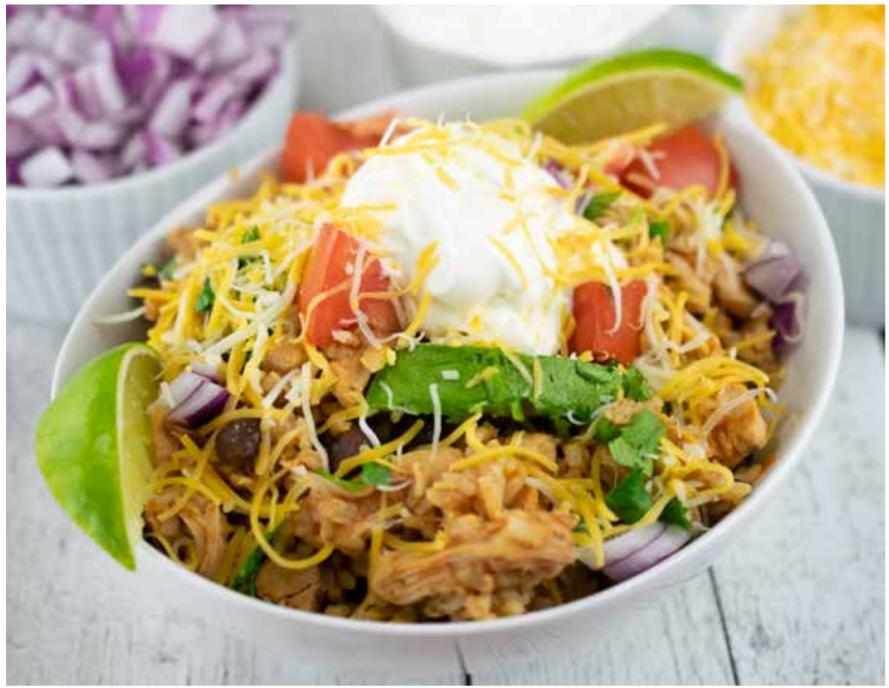
Find more weeknight meal ideas at milkmeansmore.org.

Source: Family Features

Slow Cooker Chicken Burrito Bowls

Recipe courtesy of Lori Yates of Foxes Love Lemons on behalf of Milk Means More
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 4-8 hours
Servings: 6

- 1 jar (16 ounces) chunky salsa
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 2 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 can (15 1/2 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cups instant brown rice
- 1 cup corn kernels, fresh or frozen
- chopped avocado, for garnish
- chopped cilantro, for garnish
- chopped red onion, for garnish
- chopped tomatoes, for garnish
- lime wedges, for garnish
- sour cream or Greek yogurt, for garnish
- shredded colby jack cheese, for garnish



In slow cooker, stir together salsa, chicken, broth and chili powder. Cook 3 1/2 hours on high or 7 1/2 hours on low. Transfer chicken to cutting board and coarsely shred; return to slow cooker. Stir in

beans, rice and corn. Cook 30 minutes on high, or until rice is cooked through. Serve garnished with avocado, cilantro, onion, tomatoes, limes, sour cream and cheese.

Healthy diet, healthy weight can aid breast cancer prevention

The color pink will dominate October; it's the color of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Approximately 13% of women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime. Early detection and improved treatment are slowing deaths. Lifestyle factors, such as diet, and their association with breast cancer continue to be examined in hopes of continuing to decrease the impact of the disease.

If you have not worked with your healthcare provider to assess your breast cancer risk, now is the time. You can actually start the process yourself using the National Cancer Institute's Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool which looks at 5-year risk of developing breast cancer. This tool is intended for healthcare providers, so print out the results and bring it to your annual physical for a discussion with your doctor.

As far as dietary intake, a general healthy diet that promotes a healthy weight is recommended for breast cancer prevention. A general healthy diet includes fruits and vegetables,



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

lean protein, whole grains, and low-fat dairy or other sources of calcium.

There is no specific food group that is considered a "magic bullet" for cancer prevention. However, there is one thing we consume that is linked with increased risk: alcohol. There continues to be evidence of an association between alcohol intake and the risk of

developing breast cancer. The increase in risk is related to the amount of ethanol consumed.

A study by Qiuyu Sun and colleagues published in Alcohol and Alcoholism in 2020 found that 10g of ethanol per day was associated with a statistically significant increased risk of breast cancer. That equates to an average of one standard alcoholic drink per day. The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines one standard alcohol drink as 12 ounces of regular beer (5% alcohol), 5 ounces of wine (12% alcohol), 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits (40% alcohol).

Given that alcohol is not essential to a healthy diet, it is important to fully assess your basic risk and then decide how alcohol does or does not fit into your lifestyle.

Being overweight or obese is associated with risk of breast cancer development, recurrence, and in post-menopausal women with breast cancer, poorer overall survival. Dietary intake and physical activity play a part in weight management. It is important to work with a registered dietitian to design a successful weight management plan that incorporates your likes, dislikes, lifestyle factors like access to food and time to prepare meals, and any chronic diseases you may have like diabetes.

A general healthy diet, maintaining a normal weight, being physically active, and knowing your breast cancer risk are basic things you can do to lower your risk of getting breast cancer.

Take the first step and have a conversation with your healthcare provider.

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