



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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**PIONEER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 888-551-4140. After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

PEC Awards Youth Tour Scholarship



Each year, Pioneer Electric partners with Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) to sponsor the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. The application process begins in the fall, offering area sophomores and juniors the opportunity to apply for the program. Applications are then reviewed by a panel of judges from outside the cooperative. These judges select 20 finalist to be interviewed. Of the 20 finalist interviewed, four delegates are selected.

Summer would traditionally see Pioneer Electric's Youth Tour winners off on their respective trips to Washington, D.C. and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Cooperative employees and students alike look forward to these trips every year. After careful consideration and examining the risks associated with COVID-19, the KEC made the heavy decision to cancel the 2020 trips.

"This isn't a decision the KEC made lightly" said Drew Waechter, communications coordinator, "We're just as disappointed as the kids, but the health and safety of students is our top concern."

With trips canceled, Youth Tour recipients were left wondering "what's next?" "We decided the best way we could recognize this year's winners was with a \$1,000 scholarship," Waechter said. "We know it doesn't replace the trip, but our hope is that it will help them accomplish their education goals".

In addition to the scholarship, this year's winners entering their junior year of high school, will have the opportunity to apply for next year's trips. Winning this year's trips does not guarantee students a trip in 2021. 2020 winners entering their senior year of high school will unfortunately age out of the Youth Tour program and be ineligible to apply for the 2021 trips. Receiving the Youth Tour Scholarship does not disqualify them from applying for the Pioneer Electric general scholarship next fall.

Dates for the 2021 Youth Tour have been selected, with information available soon to students who wish to apply for the trips. Information regarding next year's trips will be available online at www.pioneerelectric.coop.

Meet Pioneer Electric's 2020 Youth Tour Winners



BECCA ROCK

**ULYSSES HIGH SCHOOL
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CAMP WINNER**

“ Great leaders collaborate to work toward a common goal. I am passionate about youth and youth programs, not only to build my skills but to help other youth as well. ”



DANIELA RODRIGUEZ

**STANTON CO. HIGH SCHOOL
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CAMP WINNER**

“ I've always felt like I've been a leader, I've stood up for people and been there for people when they were new to the school. ”



ASHLEY KENNEDY

**MOSCOW HIGH SCHOOL
WASHINGTON, D.C. WINNER**

“ Experiences like this help students like me gain invaluable knowledge and insight into their future careers. I pride myself on being a leader in my school, and in all that I do. ”



AUDRA LANGLEY

**ROLLA HIGH SCHOOL
WASHINGTON, D.C. WINNER**

“ My teachers pave the road with learning and skills that I believe are a very vital part when starting my next chapter after high school. ”

Ulysses Stampede Prepares to Thrill Crowds

“Our goal is to be the best amateur rodeo in the state” Wacey Munsell, vice president of the Ulysses Stampede board, said. In October of 2019, Grant County Commissioners, along with the Grant County Fair Board appointed several individuals to take on a major project in Grant County — the rodeo arena. Located just north of the Civic Center in Ulysses, the arena has been the stage for the Grant County Fair Free Rodeo and countless other events for many years. As loved as the space is, it is long over due for some upgrades.

The new arena will be nearly 8 feet wider, and 45 feet shorter. The bucking shoots and announcers booth will now face the grandstands, allowing the action and sound to be driven towards the audience. Many businesses donated time, pipe and welders to the project to help the board accomplish one of their main objectives, making the arena safe.

Changes were needed in order to make the facility more safe for livestock, handlers, contestants and rodeo-goers. “It worked for several years” said Munsell, “but, in order to have a safe environment, we needed to wipe the slate clean and start over.”

Along with a new arena, the event will now also have a new name, The Ulysses Stampede. “The first several meetings, we discussed names,” Munsell said. “We wanted something newer and fresher.” Taking into account the names of surrounding area rodeos, the board wanted something that would set their event apart from the others and stand on it’s own.

The board has big goals for this year’s event. The Ulysses Stampede is one of seven rodeos scheduled for the same weekend this summer. The Ulysses Stampede will be one of the top ones that boasts the most prize money, something the board hopes will help bring in contestants that may have overlooked the event in the past. Even with changes, those attending the rodeo can still expect the same events they always enjoy, just at a more professionally produced level.

Looking towards the future, the board hopes to be able to use the facility for more events. The board is currently looking into using the facility for events like a high school rodeo, free style bull fighting events, barrel races and a Grant County favorite - The Bull Bash. “I think 10 is a good number. We’d like to have 10 events through the warmer months of the year” Munsell said.

An event like this isn’t produced with out the help of many. Serving on the board is Chad McCormick (President), Wacey Munsell (Vice President and Production Director), Ryan Rice (Secretary), Bavane Phelps (Treasurer), Michael Tarbet and Larry Borthwick. Several Grant County businesses have pitched in to help, donating time and materials. Wacey’s father, Doug Munsell has also donated much of his time and skills to the project, working hard to help get the arena ready.



ULYSSES STAMPEDE FACEBOOK PAGE

Top: Poles have been set for timed event cattle return pens at the new Ulysses Stampede grounds. Bottom Left: Board Member, Michael Tarbet cuts a saddle into a pipe in preparation to weld it to the post. Bottom Right: Vice President, Wacey Munsell welds the top rail of the new timed event return pens to a post.

The board, along with many volunteers, is working diligently to finish the arena in time for the Grant County Fair, set to take place in July. Munsell says the project is moving along well and has moved into Phase Two. He’s confident that the arena will be ready in time for the fair. “We might be working at the arena until the day before, but we’ll be up and ready for everyone.” The dates for The Ulysses Stampede are July 24th and 25th, during the Grant County Fair in Ulysses.

Feeding The Great Plains

Sitting at the end of Main Street in Johnson, Kansas is a building with a bright blue awning. Upon seeing the blue, your eyes are immediately drawn to a picture on the window, the picture tells you exactly what you'll find inside. Entrepreneurs across the states are trying to figure out what it is that people want, what can they provide consumers with. Wholly Cow Market, doesn't have the problem.



Wholly Cow Market, located at 303 S. Main St., in Johnson, Kansas

Matt and Michelle Canny saw the need in their local community for beef, specifically grass-fed beef. The former real estate agents were already producing some grass-fed beef when they made the decision to make the switch three years ago. "We basically re-arranged our shop and cleaned it up" Matt Canny said.

Inside the building you can find freezers full of grass-fed, grass-finished, hormone and antibiotic free, truly natural beef. The shop also offers pastured eggs. "They're a little but different from farm fresh eggs," Canny explained. In order to help keep the cattle protected from flies and other pest, that would normally warrant the use of insecticides, the Cannys use nature's pest control — chickens.

"The chickens are out with the cattle, so they clean up a lot of the flies," Canny said. The chickens roam free with the cattle during the day and come into a trailer, through an automatic door, to stay safe at night.

Additionally, consumers can find fresh roasted coffee, all natural cured honey, cheese from a local dairy, Kansas grown spices and homemade jellies. The sandhill plum jelly, is a hot commodity that sells out quickly. "It's first come, first serve," Canny laughed. "You better get in there quick."

With more and more people suddenly staying home and shopping local, Wholly Cow Market saw an up-tick in sales. Especially in light of the current situation in the world, with people wanting low to no contact groceries. The Cannys are able to fill that niche as well. "We do delivery and pick-up locations. This time of year, it's mainly at farmer's markets" Canny stated. They've been able to extend their deliveries to include locations like Great Bend, Wichita and even Denver,

Colorado. Additionally, Wholly Cow Market offers the availability to order online and have your order one-day shipped to you, anywhere in Kansas. Some two-day shipping is also available.

Having a natural, grass-fed operation does present some unique challenges. "It's been a chore trying to get into the butchers," Canny said. "But you also have to cattle that are ready." It takes 2-3 years for an animal to be market ready. The biggest obstacle they face right now is meeting the demand for supply, "I never would have thought that would be," Canny remarked with a laugh.

Quality takes time, and providing a quality product to consumers is one of the most satisfying thing for Canny. He recounted an interaction he had at one of the first farmer's markets they took part in. A customer commented on how amazing the steaks they had purchased were. "We were the people who had all the influence on what that final product was going to be," Canny said. "It was so satisfying to be able to sell that to someone and have them tell you 'man, this is really good!'. It's not just something you had a part in; the entire effort was yours."



Matt & Michelle Canny, owners of Wholly Cow Market.

Moving into the future, the Cannys hope to expand the amount of product they can provide and continue to work on shipping. One of the best things consumers can do to help them continue to be successful is show up. "Just getting our name out there and buying our products," helps too, Canny says.

You can find a full list of products on their website at whollycowmarket.com. To get more information about their business, you can also visit their Facebook page for details on location and hours.