

## SWRE solar fields near completion

Construction of two new SWRE community solar fields is underway and scheduled for completion in coming weeks. The fields are being built by SWRE and its power provider, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative.

A 250 kW field is being built one mile south of Frederick at Highway 183 and Airport Road.

A 100 kW field is being constructed on Center Drive near Madison Crossing Apartments in the southwest part of Vernon.

Together, the two fields will contain 1,368 solar panels.



SWRE's Vernon solar field

### Community Solar

Any SWRE member may opt to purchase a "share" in the solar fields that is equal to the production of one solar panel. A total of 1,368 shares are available – 950 in the Frederick field and 418 in Vernon.



The community solar contract period is for 25 years.

The Community Solar concept allows members to utilize solar power without the significant expense or responsibility of installing, maintaining, or insuring solar panels on their own property.

Shares may be purchased in quantities ranging from 1 to 25. Any SWRE member, at any location in the co-op's service territory, may participate.

Shares in the solar fields cost \$350 each, payable at the time of purchase.

After the share purchase, members will be credited on their monthly SWRE bill based on their portion of the fields' production. Participants will not own any of the panels or infrastructure.

At current power rates, it is estimated that the payback period for members who choose to buy shares will be approximately 16 years. This is the amount of time that it will take to recoup the initial \$350 investment.

The share contract will be for 25 years.

More information about the Community Solar project is available at SWRE's website ([www.swre.com](http://www.swre.com)) or by calling SWRE at 1-800-256-7973.



Early construction of SWRE's Frederick solar field

Happy Thanksgiving  
from

Southwest Rural Electric Cooperative

SWRE Offices will be closed  
November 24 and 25.

Call **1-800-256-7973**  
for Outages or Emergencies



by Mike R. Hagy  
Chief Executive Officer

## Eleven Years of Growth and Change

I will retire from SWRE in early January. I've served as the co-op's CEO since early 2006, and I find myself thinking often these days about changes and challenges that the co-op has dealt with during those years, and programs that we have implemented to deal with them.

Looking back over the last 11 years, there are several things that we have accomplished.

Our billing system and member database were pretty much intact at SWRE when we began to expand technology. One of the first things we did to expand on that system was to try to manage our peak demand. Peak demand is the highest amount of electricity SWRE has used at any one 15 minute period of time for the last year. We knew that we needed to work with irrigators to control peak because irrigation normally set an artificially high demand and yet only ran a few months out of the year.

We worked with irrigators to voluntarily curtail usage during peak periods. Irrigators were notified by texts and emails to shut off during certain periods of peak demands. Those who participated were offered a better rate. Within a short time, SWRE was able to electronically turn off those irrigation wells for those who participated. The load control not only gave irrigators a better rate, but also decreased the overall demand for all members.

About 2007, we began to examine the different technologies available for "smart" electronic meters. Smart meant that the meter could communicate with a computer in our office and actually read itself. The system we choose communicates over the actual power line instead of radio waves that some felt were detrimental. We could now read meters and ping meters to see if they were on.

Shortly after new meters had been installed, we began an inventory of every pole and equipment within our cooperative. We actually did not have a firm count on the amount of poles and equipment we had in the field. Poles and equipment were numbered which enabled SWRE to start the next phase of technology – mapping of our system. We now had the ability to identify every pole or piece of equipment and actually view that location on a map.

Our next step was to expand the meter software from just being able to read the meter (AMR) to software which enabled us to provide information about usage, power quality, voltage, etc. to our members and engineers. Something called meter integration programs and meter data management software enabled our cooperative to create a customer application that merged with our billing system and allowed customers to view usage, bill history, payment of bills, and numerous alerts.

With that technology in place, we were able to begin our outage management system that uses all of the previous technology to predict and report outages across our system. Members can now report outages on their phone app and view outages across our service area. Linemen can view outages and get driving directions while the system predicts what fuses or transformers may be at fault. Added software will also allow better damage reports during storms and allow dispatchers to view the locations of trucks and response vehicles.

Our computer designed mainly for billing sitting on the shelf has evolved to a climate controlled computer room full of servers and virtual servers. Cyber-Security, Intrusion Software, Cloud based storage, and Apps were not things we were worried about ten years ago. There was no IT department – just a couple of us that may have done more damage than good when we had a computer problem!

Technology on the horizon will allow all work orders to be pushed out to the linemen on their iPads and will automatically assign hardware and equipment needed for a job and reduce the inventory lists at the same time. Workers in the field will also be able to "ping" a meter to see if the member came back on rather than having to be called from the office.

Members will also be able to prepay for their electric bill in the near future as well. Basically a member will prepay an amount each month and will be notified when accounts reach levels set by the member. Other coops have discovered that many members enjoy the option of managing their usage and budgeting at the beginning of each pay period.

Members are also able to purchase shares of the SWRE community solar fields, offset peak demand through the whole house generator program, and receive excellent rebates on Geo-thermal heating and cooling units. SWRE can also sell the member a DIY solar ground mounted array if that is what is desired. In the near future we are working to develop a partnership with a company to sell or lease whole house batteries that could be used to offset peak demands or provide backup power.

The industry has changed tremendously in the last eleven years, and SWRE is poised to serve all the energy needs of our members for the next decade as well. I have been blessed to serve as the CEO of SWRE. I am sure that the vision of Safety, Service and Satisfaction, one member at a time will continue to evolve and expand.

Thank you, and May God Bless Each of You!

*Mike R Hagy*

**ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW:  
HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY**

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.

**If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!**

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

**If you can safely drive away...**

**If you must exit the machinery...**

**40 ft. radius safe distance**

**If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:**

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

**24-Hour  
Dispatching**

**Emergency  
Service**

**1-800-256-7973**

Payments can be made at  
SWRE, 700 North Broadway,  
Tipton, OK 73570.

Online payments can be made  
at [www.swre.com](http://www.swre.com).

Payments may also be made  
at the following area banking  
institutions:

**Oklahoma**

- Altus – Frazer Bank,
- National Bank of Commerce
- Blair – Peoples State Bank
- Snyder – All America Bank
- Frederick – BancFirst,
- Frazer Bank

**Texas**

- Chillicothe – American National Bank
- Crowell – State Bank
- Electra – Waggoner National Bank
- Vernon – Herring Bank, Waggoner Bank, Bank of the West

**SWRE Youth Essay Materials Available**

Entry forms for SWRE's annual youth essay contests are currently available.

High school juniors who live or attend school in the SWRE service area are encouraged to enter the Government in Action Youth Tour Essay Contest. Top prize for one Oklahoma student and one Texas student will be all-expense paid trips to Washington, D.C. this summer.

Finalists will receive \$250 cash prizes.

Deadline for the 11th grade Youth Tour Contest essay is Friday, February 17, 2017.

Eighth grade students may enter the Youth Energy Essay Contest.

Eight winners will receive \$50 cash prizes.

Deadline for the 8th grade Youth Energy Contest essay is Friday, March 10.

Complete contest information and entry materials have been sent to schools throughout Texoma. Materials are also available online at [SWRE.com](http://SWRE.com) under "News and Events".

Entry forms may also be requested by calling 1-800-256-7973.

**What's Cookin' in the SWRE Kitchen**

*Easy Tuna Casserole*

**Ingredients**

- 3 cups cooked macaroni
- 1 (6 oz) can tuna, drained
- 1 (10.75 oz) can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1-1/2 cups French fried onions

**Directions**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. In a 9x13 inch baking dish, combine the macaroni, tuna, and soup. Mix well and then top with cheese.
3. Bake at 350 degrees F for about



25 minutes or until bubbly. Sprinkle with fried onions and bake for another five minutes.

**SWRE News**

Mike R. Hagy, Chief Exec. Officer  
Joe Wynn, **SWRE News** editor

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## SWRE Trading Post

Ads are online for 45 days & updated daily at [www.swre.com](http://www.swre.com)

**For Sale:** 24-ft gooseneck trailer w/ steel bed and side panels. Three axles, heavy duty tires. \$2,000. Call 580-563-2830

**For Sale:** 42-ft WW stock trailer w/ 1989 GMC Top Kick single axle truck. CAT engine, 3-speed Allison automatic transmission. Good rubber all the way around. Runs great! \$20,000. Call 580-563-2830

**For Sale:** 26.4 acres of grassland pasture, completely fenced w/ welded entry gate, 20' x 40' steel barn w/ 10' loafing shed and concrete floor and electricity. Jackson County water. Located on E. County Road 160, 1-1/2 miles east of Altus Municipal Airport. \$95,000 OBO. Call or text 580-471-9204

**For Sale:** Pipe horse fencing. Twelve sections, each approximately 25-ft in length. Make an offer. Call 940-552-0747 or 940-838-8608

**For Sale:** Registered ASDR Mini Aussie puppies born September 27. Taking deposits now. Two blue merle females, 1 red merle female, two black tri females, and 1 black tri male. Local breeder. Vet checked docked tail, dewclaw removed, vaccinated UTD. Call 580-917-0690. No text please or message on Facebook: The Good Shepherd, A to Z LLC

**For Sale:** 2010 Gulfstream Innsbruck Lite travel trailer. \$9,000 – 27-ft bumper pull, one slide-out, sleeps 8-9. Call 580-699-4380

**For Sale:** Four china dolls. \$15 each. Call 940-552-2010

**For Sale:** Upright freezer. 23" wide, 20" deep, 46.5" tall. Can be locked. Good working condition. Call 580-481-4408 or 580-682-1357

**For Sale:** Honda generator. 13 HP. Running watts 7000. Starting watts 8750. New. Never used. \$500. Call 580-481-4408 or 580-682-1357

**Free To Good Home:** Barn cats. Call 580-481-0751

**For Sale:** Angus bull. 16-18 mos old. Also, Angus x Gelbrieh bulls, same age, and 16 Angus and BLK Baldy heifers safe in calf for Jan-Feb calves. Chillicothe. Call 940-852-5181 or (cell) 940-839-5551

**For Sale:** Two 16.9X24 tractor tires w/ rims, 8 holes on 8-inch diameter w/ 6-inch center hole, nearly new w/ mold tabs showing. \$500; also, 2-HP electric motor, 115/230 v, 1740 rpm. \$100; 20-ft. 3/8-inch chain w/ hooks. \$25. Call 940-655-3438

**For Sale:** Two 14.9X24 tractor tires w/ rims, 8 holes on 8-inch diameter w/ 6-inch center hole, little tread left. \$140; 13A - 115 V electric shredder in good condition. \$50. Call 940-655-3438

**For Sale:** Goat/sheep grooming table, metal. \$50; also, 50-ft 2-inch fire hose w/ couplers, never been used. \$25. Call 940-655-3438

**NOTE: To be included in the print issue of SWRE News, ads should be received by the 10th of the previous month.**

FREE classified non-commercial ads available for SWRE members only  
MAIL ADS TO JOE WYNN AT P.O. BOX 310 TIPTON, OK 73570. E-MAIL THEM TO JOEW@SWRE.COM, OR CALL 1-800-256-7973.