



A group of eighth graders from Moorhead, Minn., stopped by Doubting Thomas Farms on May 22 to help Noreen Thomas prepare her garden for a summer of organic community growing. (Photo courtesy JLG Productions)

Food for the heart

Local farm family gives roots to nutrients and good will

hen Noreen Thomas gives directions to her tough-to-find family farm near Kragnes, Minn., she uses a tough-to-miss landmark as a guide.

The Minnkota Power Cooperative transmission line that crosses over her driveway brings energy to the acreage, so Thomas and her family can energize the community in body and spirit.

"I just volunteer – there's no budget, nothing. We just have the land," the local producer said, walking between the basil and dill waiting to be planted in her garden. "But people are so generous and just rally around it."

Thomas is the matriarch of Doubting Thomas Farms, a five-generation organic farmstead north of Moorhead, Minn. The business is known for its large-scale corn, wheat, soybean and Organic Valley Co-op hay production led by Noreen's husband, Lee. But Noreen has been growing something else – a local food enterprise that fosters the personal growth of area youth.

Every summer, Thomas invites local chil-

dren's groups out to the farm to learn from nature, tend a garden and work on activities that support the Gifted Learning Project. The grassroots, nonprofit organization shares and executes inexpensive ideas to help those with disabilities become more involved in the world around them.

"A group of Boy Scouts came out and made a structure out of cinder blocks and iron. A wheelchair could get in and reach everything in the garden, every which way," Thomas said. "People were amazed."

Fresh experience

Thomas has worked with 4-H, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, school classrooms, clubs and more. But she recently started

a partnership with Churches United for the Homeless (CUFH) that brings displaced and atrisk children and teens

to the farm for a fresh, new experience.

"We start, literally, at the ground," Thomas explained. "These kids are under stress, and food is a difficult situation for them. So we talk about, instead of chips, what other options are there? Let's try something from the garden."

Beyond the lesson in nutrition from working in the soil, shelter visitors adopt and care for a farm animal, learning how to groom and feed the dog, cats and chickens.

Brady McClaflin, CUFH community center outreach coordinator, says many of the children have never been to a farm, and some are hesitant to dig in.

"But after the first visit, they're excited to go run around and learn about gardening and the nature around Noreen's farm," Mc-Claflin said. "I do hope this project continues for years to come."

Lessons on the farm

The themes are the same with all of the groups Thomas welcomes – personal care for your crops will breed bold flavors, high nutrient density and a better sense of self.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) horticultural science student Jason Gilbraith just started a summer internship at Doubting Thomas Farms. He noted that, although



the Red River Valley is known for its sprawling fields, many children are stuck in urban areas.

"They don't have the access or ability to use plants or learn about farming," he said. "Having them come out here opens their minds and gets their brain juices flowing in new ways."

Thomas' background in nutrition research makes her a perfect tutor. She has worked with the University of Minnesota, NDSU and others to examine how locally grown crops like oats, heirloom veggies and wheat can help combat the region's high levels of heart disease and diabetes.

If nutrition is lesson one, professional development is lesson two. As the kids watch their crops grow into delicious tomatoes, squash, corn and herbs, they learn why local and heritage varieties pack more flavor, and why local restaurants and farmers' market visitors should buy them.

"What's cool is they will sell these to local



chefs," Thomas said, pointing to some garlic sprouts peeping out of the dirt. "They take that money and keep it for school supplies or new clothes. If they can't afford a

new shirt, wouldn't it be fun to buy one?"

BernBaum's bagel shop in downtown Fargo, N.D., is one of Doubting Thomas Farms' happy clients. Owner Andrea Baumgardner will incorporate the youth-grown tomatoes, garlic and spinach into her daily menu.

"It is incredibly important for all of us, and especially children, to learn practical life skills such as growing food, feeding ourselves and others, and knowing how much labor and love goes into growing fresh, high-quality products," Baumgardner said. "I'm grateful to Noreen for her generosity and efforts to give all children an opportunity to learn these foundational skills."

Community boost

Thomas embodies one of the seven guiding principles of cooperatives – concern for community. Cooperative members and neighbors are there to help.

'We've had so many people donate, and we couldn't do this without them," Thomas



Local Boy Scouts start filling in the first blocks of the Garden-Able, a structure crafted to help those in wheelchairs reach the plant life of the garden.

said. "A lot of our donations aren't money - they're what we need, like the seeds, the plants, tools for the kids and those things. It's just been incredible."

Thomas will continue to leverage com-

munity support to expand her offerings. She's working with the University of Minnesota Clay County Extension Office to develop county fair-style activities for those who can't attend 4-H club meetings.

Although her volunteerism has garnered several community service awards, Noreen is most proud of the next crop of community growers.

"When you give kids the space to express themselves, they'll say, yes, I'm a part of this community – I'm a part of this 4-H group, I'm a part of growing for a restaurant," she said. "What that gives to a kid is, you're not just a kid from a homeless shelter - you're a kid with amazing potential." □



Thomas explains how visitors helped construct an arch out of recycled materials that will allow children in wheelchairs to tend to the produce growing above and around them. The idea is a part of the Gifted Learning Project, with which Thomas plays a large supporting role.



Milton R. Young Station finds innovative new workflow to keep the plant buzzing

lint Evenson is fueled by variety. That's why his job as a plant technician at Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station is one he's returned to for a decade now every day presents a new challenge.

"It keeps things from getting stagnant," he said over the hum of the power plant near Center, N.D. "There's a lot of equipment out there. If it breaks down once, it can be one problem, and if it breaks down again, it could be another problem. It just keeps changing."

But some uncertainties Evenson can do without, like making a trip to the warehouse to find the necessary maintenance parts aren't there or the warehouse crew is wrapped up in other duties.

"I would sometimes have to wait for up to an hour to get what I needed," he recalled. "So I would go do something else and check back in now and then. It was a lot of back and forth."

That back and forth is no longer an issue, thanks to a new materials management initiative called "kitting." Instead of relying on hope and timing for warehouse requests, projects can be planned, materials gathered and kits delivered through an online coordination system.

It's a part of a larger strategy to make the management of materials more time efficient, more cost effective, and, ultimately, safer.

Necessary change

Materials Management Supervisor Sarah Kraft's office is a visible symbol of this process change. The warehouse window that used to receive on-the-spot requests for parts is now a solid wall, with Kraft housed inside.

"When I began in this role in 2016, they were just talking about closing the warehouse window," she said with a nod to the now nonexistent opening. At the start of 2017, the window officially closed and kitting was fully implemented.

The new process is a simple one.

A work order is placed on Minnkota's online management system for a maintenance project, where the project is prioritized. If it's not an emergency, the order is sent to a coordinator to plan out a kit. The materials for those kits - around 70-80 a day - are then collected by warehouse personnel. When the kit is fully assembled, the coordinator notifies the requesting unit's maintenance supervisor that it is ready to be delivered to one of 14 drop zones around the plant.

The project can now be planned and executed, without a single step inside the warehouse. Daily warehouse visits have dropped from hundreds down to fewer than five, meaning less travel and wait time for technicians.

"Productivity in terms of how many work orders they can complete has increased since we shut the window," Kraft explained. "It also benefits the warehouse, because we assemble kits on our time and have fewer disruptions. We're able to get to trucks sooner and can efficiently unload."

Bundles of benefits

Maintenance Coordinator Rocky Schlosser knows both sides of the transition. He was a longtime plant mechanic before becoming a coordinator six years ago. As a mechanic, he remembers tearing apart a pump for a repair, heading to the warehouse for parts and finding them out of inventory.

"In the meantime, we had torn the pump apart already, so there the pump would sit,"



Sarah Kraft, materials management supervisor, examines one of the dozens of kits ready to be delivered from the warehouse to one of the plant's drop zones.

Schlosser said, adding that long lead times worsen the wait. "Now, with us coordinating kits ahead of time, the mechanics don't take that equipment down until all of the pieces

have been ordered, allocated and verified."

The benefits go beyond day-to-day productivity and better project planning. Material lists are now digitally documented so repair teams can reference them when a problem re-emerges.

"You don't have to go research it and find it again. I can quickly go to a past job plan and, boom, there are all the pieces that I ordered," Schlosser said.

Delivering kits by forklift to drop zones, closer to actual job sites, also injects an element

of safety - one of Minnkota's highest priorities. Planned distribution eliminates the need for a worker to bend down, pick up heavy items and carry them long distances.

Kits are managing time, reducing frustrations and protecting spines. But they're also saving money.

The system keeps units from ordering too much or incorrect inventory, and unused inventory is properly returned.

"We're not wasting materials, so we're saving thousands a year in material costs," said Andrew Freidt, plant operations and maintenance manager. "People don't go to the warehouse and get two or three of what they might need, and then maybe not bring it back."

Assistant warehouse worker Scott Schultz makes his 10 a.m. kit delivery to Drop Zone 7. Another round of drop-offs happens daily at 2 p.m.

Prescription for success

Kitting was born from a process improvement initiative called Reliability Excellence (Rx), started in 2013 and supported through a partnership with Life Cycle Engineering. With big investments in emission control equipment and a wave of retirements around the corner, Minnkota wanted to make sure industry best practices were fully established.

"We wanted to figure out how we could be better," Freidt said. "We also knew we needed to document and capture institutional knowledge so that the next generation of our workforce could carry on those practices."

Five years later, Minnkota has seen the power of that planning. Freidt says 2017 was one of its best years on record in terms of availability - a beacon of how much operations have improved.

"Reliability is in the name of the initiative," he said, "and we had one of the most reliable years in the plant's history." \Box



Textron invests in Thief River Falls

Company has big plans for Arctic Cat facility

hen Textron bought Arctic Cat in early 2017, many were concerned about the company's future and how much the new owner would invest in the Thief River Falls manufacturing facility.

Any tensions were eased when just a few months later, Textron announced that it would move production of the Textron Off Road Stampede side-by-side machines from Textron's Augusta, Ga., facility to Thief River Falls and begin production of the new Havoc side-by-side line in Thief River Falls as well.

Textron is hiring workers in Thief River Falls, and company executives expect growth and additional production volume to give employees a more consistent, yearround work schedule, rather than more seasonal work.

"Textron has been great," said Dennis Buckley, operations manager at the Thief River Falls facility. "They were very aggressive and quick to evaluate the plant and Arctic Cat as a whole. They decided very quickly to support and invest in the facility, both in equipment and other areas.

"It's been a very good transition for both the plant and the community."

Powering Arctic Cat is Thief River Falls Municipal Utilities. Thief River Falls is one of 12 municipals in the Northern Municipal Power Agency. Minnkota is the operating agent for NMPA. The Textron Specialized Vehicles facility in Thief River Falls is the city's second-largest electric load behind Digi-Key, an electronic component distributor.

Rhode Island-based Textron Inc. purchased Arctic Cat for \$247 million in cash. A multiindustry company that manufactures products ranging from E-Z-GO golf cars to Bell helicopters to Cessna and

Beechcraft aircraft, Textron placed Arctic Cat under its "specialized vehicles" business. That division, based in Augusta, manufactures a range of vehicles and equipment to serve a variety of industries, including golf cars, Cushman utility vehicles, Jacobsen professional turf equipment, Dixie Chopper zero-turn lawn mowers and TUG, Douglas and Safeaero aviation ground support equipment.

While snowmobiles remain under the Arctic Cat brand, Textron Specialized Vehicles changed the brand behind the company's side-bysides and ATVs to Textron Off Road.

"I don't see us ever moving away from the Arctic Cat brand for snowmobiles," said Brandon Haddock, director of communications for Textron Specialized Vehicles. "It's an iconic brand in the snowmobile industry and powersports.

"When you move out of the snowmobile market, down to places like Texas and California, the brand didn't carry quite as well in the sideby-side and ATV markets."

Arctic Cat made several improvements in the last couple of years to improve production and quality. Shortly before Textron bought the business, a multimillion dollar state-of-the-art paint line was added.

The paint line improves efficiencies and capabilities and increases the company's throughput. It features 3,000 feet of power and free conveyor. The seven conveyors mesh together, with one conveyor handing off to another.

Parts can be sent directly to the paint powder booth without entering the e-coat area, or they can enter both of them. One powder booth is for black and the other is for all other colors.

Paint guns go in and out as the part goes through the booth. In addition, two employees with Tyvek suits occupy the booth for touch-up work.

"It's a major improvement," said John Hassert, paint line manager. "It's allowed us to increase our quality substantially, put out a much better-looking part and a much longer-lasting part. One of the main contributors is our new e-coat system. We used to have to lay our large parts sideways. We had to use counterweights to keep them upright to go through the system.

"The old system was designed for snowmobile tunnels. As our parts got bigger, we outgrew it."

The company also added an automated guided vehicle production line.

As opposed to a conventional assembly line with an overhead conveyor, the automated guided vehicle system allows production of sideby-sides such as the new Textron Off Road Wildcat XX to travel the line via a magnetic track on the floor.

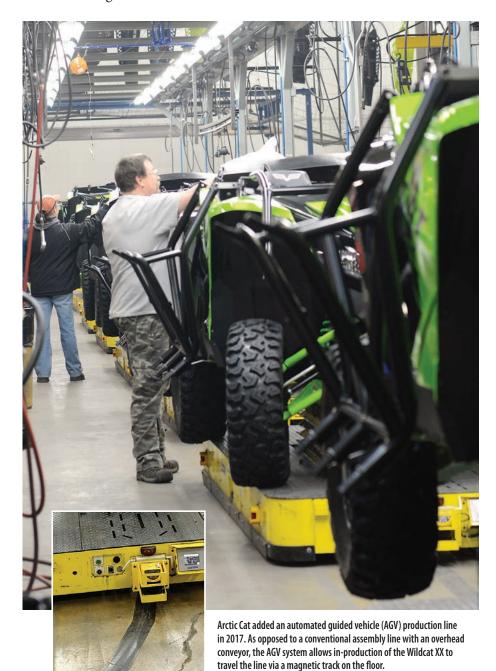
At each station, operators can adjust the height position of the vehicle to more easily work on the components. The first vehicle produced on the automated guided vehicle system came off the line at the beginning of 2017.

More projects are ahead. Textron Specialized Vehicles is considering a large LED lighting project and other conservation improvement upgrades in 2018-2019. The company has taken advantage of rebates from

the Minnkota/NMPA Joint System PowerSavers program while doing upgrades to air handling equipment, air compressors and lighting in recent years.

Haddock said Textron Specialized Vehicles will continue to invest in the community.

"Thief River Falls is a big part of who we are, and it's going to continue to be a big part of who we are," he said. \square





hen Roger Johanneck was close to graduating with a business administration degree from the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities, his father planted a seed of Roger possibly living close to home in Red Lake Falls, Minn., some day.

Roger's lifetime friend germinated the seed by informing him of a job opening back home with a 2 a.m. phone call in 1980. After Roger asked the friend about the lateness of the call, the friend said he wanted to tell him about a job opening at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. He wanted Johanneck to apply.

At that point Johanneck started thinking about what Dad said earlier about moving home, especially since all of Roger's eight siblings had moved away from the area. So

Roger applied for the position and Ron Kennedy hired him as office manager in 1980.

Thirty-eight years later, Johanneck retired as general manager of Red Lake Electric, one of the 11 cooperatives that own Minnkota. His final day was May 31.

Johanneck said his move from working at a big-city accounting firm in the Twin Cities to a small cooperative in a small town couldn't have worked out better. He found a good, stable job and he was able to spend quality time with his parents, Clem and Marietta.

Clem was stricken with cancer and died less than two years after Roger and his wife, Micki, moved to Red Lake Falls.

"My wife is a nurse and she was really a blessing for Mom and Dad to help him

through that transition and to know what to expect and what to do and to support them," Johanneck said. "Those are some of the things this job allowed us to do.

"I feel good that we could do that. Mom was a widow for a lot of years. She'd watch the kids and go places with us, like fishing. She loved to fish; she took me fishing as a kid, so it was good to return the favor."

Johanneck has spent many days hunting and fishing, from flushing out pheasants in South Dakota to calling out moose in Alaska. He's also known for his community service over the years, from leadership positions in the church to spearheading a drive to get a trail system developed in the city.

The three-plus mile biking and walking trail crosses over the Clearwater and Red Lake rivers on old railroad bridges.

"I didn't want to see the bridges torn down when the railroad was abandoned," said Johanneck, who put many screws in the original bridge decking and has either ridden his bike or walked to work for the majority of the year.

At the cooperative Johanneck was known for being an efficient manager who played fair and listened well.

After 28 years as office manager, Johanneck became general manager in 2008. Technology advanced tremendously over the 38 years. There were no individual computers in 1980. Meters were self-reported by consumers.

"I was here for a lot of the growth of the off-peak program," he said. "We were one of the first co-ops around here to put in automated meter reading. That was a big change. It improved a lot of things; we used to spend so much time and energy calling up people and correcting bills because they sent us the wrong meter reading."

Despite being a small cooperative with few consumers, Johanneck is proud of how the cooperative and its employees continue to offer competitive rates. Red Lake Electric has just 4,375 members and only an average two members per mile of line.

Information from both the Rural Utilities

"I was here for a lot of the growth of the off-peak program. We were one of the first co-ops around here to put in automated meter reading. That was a big change. It improved a lot of things ..."

Service (RUS) and the Cooperative Finance Cooperation supports the fact that Red Lake is competitive with rural electric cooperatives in Minnesota.

"That we have maintained favorable comparisons in many areas of our operations is a testament to all of our employees," Johanneck said.

Shirley Bregier, Red Lake Electric manager of finance and administration, worked alongside Johanneck since he started.

"He's very fair and very easy to communicate with," she said. "You go talk to him and he's a good listener. He's very efficient. The one thing members can be very glad of, he always watched the dollar and made sure they weren't paying any more than they had to for the kilowatt-

hour. But he knows how important it is to have good equipment. When it comes to something like that, he doesn't hold back."

Bregier said office workers would often pull pranks on Johanneck, including a few on April Fools' Day. One year the five women who worked for Johanneck all called in to say they couldn't make it to work one April Fools' Day. They parked their cars out of sight and took turns calling Johanneck from the warehouse, telling him why they couldn't make it.

Then they walked down the office hallway to a relieved Johanneck.

Clem Johanneck was a mechanic and Roger considered doing the same. Dad wanted him to do something different.

Just another planted seed that stuck with Roger. \Box



ne might say Stephanie Johnson had the right background. She becomes the fourth straight general manager at Red Lake Electric Cooperative who took the job after working as an office manager at a cooperative.

Johnson also had experience in helping a cooperative transition to National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) billing and accounting software. Johnson helped Roseau Electric Cooperative move to the system in 2012 while she was working there.

"That was a lot of work," Johnson said.

It should be easier the second time around. Johnson will get to work on another conversion to NISC software next spring when Red Lake moves to the system. Tracey Stoll, her former manager at Roseau Electric, said Johnson is coming on board at Red Lake at the right time.

"She was instrumental in our transition from homegrown software to NISC software," Stoll said. "I think that's going to be her biggest strength at Red Lake."

Knowledge of the area and the cooperative world are strengths, too.

Johnson grew up in the Gatzke-Skime area south of Roseau, Minn., graduating from Roseau High School in 1991. She then matriculated at St. Olaf College in Northfield, initially enrolling as a music student. She changed

her major to economics with an accounting emphasis, however.

That she was a music major at one time isn't a surprise. She has sung the national anthem at the annual meetings of both Roseau Electric and Minnkota. Johnson

has also played the piano since childhood, sometimes providing entertainment at weddings.

She and her husband, Michael, have four daughters ranging in age from 11 to 16. Rather than pull her children out of the Roseau school and away from friends, Johnson will make the daily commute from the family's rural home south of Roseau to Red Lake Falls.



"I live on the same homestead I did when I was growing up," she said. "We moved a house on the property."

Johnson said her first few weeks at Red Lake are being spent learning and asking questions. She plans to have an open door for employees who have questions.

"Communication is huge," she said. "The board, members, employees." □

Minnkota honors innovation with Freeman awards

team of young inventors was celebrated May 9 at the University of North Dakota for its creative work in fostering communication - miles above the Earth's surface.

Four electrical engineering students received top honors, and a \$2,000 prize, in the annual Andrew L. Freeman Design Innovation Competition, sponsored by Minnkota Power Cooperative as a way to recognize UND's next generation of idea generators.

Engineering faculty joined Minnkota representatives to judge senior design presentations by six teams from different engineering departments. The winning team's project is the Amateur Radio Satellite Communication Network, which uses an online system to connect existing ground station infrastructure from the amateur radio community to communicate with satellites. Through extensive circuit design, server development and hardware revisions, a single idea grew into a fully functional prototype.

Team captain Karl Schmaltz said it was all an effort to make space more accessible.

"In the Midwest, we're more of a community. We're all connected, and anything we can do to help each other just makes everything better," Schmaltz said. "We're hoping to commercialize this as a finished product and get it on some satellites."

The competition's second-place team of mechanical engineering students presented a unique design for an easily installed and removed truck bed cover for Retrax, a retractable bed cover company. They received \$1,000 to share for their proposal.

The Freeman legacy

The Freeman awards were established through a 1996 endowment honoring Andrew "Andy" Freeman, a UND engineering alumnus and former 42-year Minnkota general manager (1940-1982). Although many may not know Freeman by name, Midwest drivers depend on the North Dakota native's most commercially celebrated invention the electric block heater.

Freeman's namesake competition identifies students who embody the visionary's core values of teamwork, innovation and communication.

"He used those principles to make a good project, and I feel like we did that to the best of our abilities," Schmaltz said.

"What we learn from Freeman's legacy is what being an engineer is all about; you see a problem and you come up with a solution," UND College of Engineering & Mines Dean Hesham El-Rewini told the winning teams. "Innovation is turning an idea into a solution that creates value for someone." \square



Minnkota representatives joined UND engineering faculty at UND's Collaborative Energy Complex on May 9 to award the top two student teams of the Andrew L. Freeman Design Innovation Competition. Top row, left to right: Kouhyar Tavakolian, electrical engineering assistant professor; Karl Schmaltz and Stefan Tomović, electrical engineering team; William Semke, mechanical engineering chair; and Christian Peterson and Drew Ross, electrical engineering team. Bottom row, left to right: Evan Edwards, Minnkota electrical engineer; Brendan Kennelly, Minnkota senior manager of power delivery operations; Hunter Eslinger, Jesse Johnson and Matthew Schuster, mechanical engineering team; Hesham El-Rewini, UND College of Engineering & Mines dean; and Saleh Farugue, electrical engineering professor. (Not pictured: Michael Pare, mechanical engineering team)

5301 32nd Ave S • Grand Forks, ND 58201-3312

NMPA holds annual meeting

ooperation and partnership for the benefit of many was one of the themes of the Northern Municipal Power Agency annual meeting in Thief River Falls, Minn., on May 16.

By working together, NMPA was able to facilitate services for its participants in 2017 that would have been cost prohibitive without the use of the economy of scale and being part of a municipal Joint Action Agency. For instance, NMPA was able to share in the cost for all 12 of

its municipals to do a cost of service and rate design study.

"That was one of the most important activities with our members," said Darryl Tveitbakk, NMPA general manager. "Buying this service as a group allowed a savings of up to 85 percent for smaller distribution utilities in our group. They get something

they need badly, and they get it done well and at a cost they can afford."

The Minnkota and NMPA Joint System arrangement has been in place since 1981. NMPA owns a 30 percent share of the Coyote Station located near Beulah, N.D., along with a load-ratio share of the Minnkota transmission system. Minnkota also serves as operating agent for NMPA.

NMPA is encouraged by the growth it is seeing in several of its participant cities. New homes are being built and businesses are growing and expanding. In Thief River Falls, a large corporation has announced an expansion of more than 1,000,000 square feet that will add 1,000 new jobs in the next 10 years. Housing construction is evident and construction on the new expansion

has begun and should be completed in late 2019. This kind of economic expansion bodes well for the future of NMPA and its participants, Tveitbakk said.

Tveitbakk was pleased with 2017 overall.

"We are proud of our public power heritage and the fact that we answer to our

customer-owners, providing them with cost-effective, reliable power supply and services," Tveitbakk said. "We are also proud of what can be accomplished through joint action and our partnership with Minnkota Power Cooperative and the other owners at the Coyote Station." □



Minnkota President & CEO Mac McLennan answers a question from the crowd after his cooperative update at the Northern Municipal Power Agency annual meeting.

Minnkota Messenger

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. 5301 32nd Avenue South Grand Forks, ND 58201-3312 (701) 795-4000

May-June 2018

Minnkota Messenger is published bimonthly to communicate Minnkota Power Cooperative's perspectives and concerns to its members, elected officials, employees and other business audiences.

For subscription or editorial inquiries, call (701) 795-4282 or email <u>bfladhammer@minnkota.com</u>.

Minnkota is a generation and transmission cooperative supplying wholesale electricity to 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives, three in eastern North Dakota and eight in northwestern Minnesota. Minnkota also serves as operating agent for the Northern Municipal Power Agency, an association of 12

municipal utilities in the same service region. Together, the Joint System serves more than 150.000 customers.

Visit Minnkota's website at www.minnkota.com.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	
Steve Arnesen, Sid Berg, Rick Coe, Jeffrey Folland, Roger Krostue, Leroy Riewer, Donald Skjervheim and Les Windjue.	
President & CEO Mac McLennan	
Contributing Writers Kaylee Cusack, Kevin Fee Ben Fladhammer	
Graphic Artist Mary Merrill	
Photography Kevin Jeffrey	
Printing and Mailing Minnkota Print	
Services Department	

On the cover: Noreen Thomas holds one of the several chickens to be cared for by young visitors to her rural Minnesota farm. Her organic garden supplies area businesses, restaurants and markets with local food choices. Groups interested in a farm visit can contact Thomas through the Doubting Thomas Farms Facebook page. Story on pages 2-3.