Board OK's Capital Credit Retirement

OLUMBUS[•] URRENT_AS

Electric cooperatives aren't like other utilities—you, as a consumer and a member own a portion of the business. And one benefit of that membership involves the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits.

Operation at cost is part of the cooperative difference

Electric co-ops operate at cost— collecting enough revenue to run the business but without the need to raise rates to generate profits for distant shareholders. When Columbus Electric has money left over, it's allocated back to you and other members as capital credits. When the co-op's financial position permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits to members. This year the Cooperative will retire the capital credits for 1979 and a portion of 1980 totaling \$342,058. Allocating and retiring excess revenue to members helps distinguish cooperatives from other types of electric utilities.

Capital credits are so-called because members provide necessary capital to the cooperative for it to maintain and operate the electric distribution system. These monies decrease the need to raise rates or borrow all the money necessary to pay for infrastructure. After a number of years, as financial conditions permit, we retire a set amount of capital credits. These margins are the only real source of equity for electric cooperatives, so it is essential for a co-op to maintain the right balance between retiring capital credits to its members and retaining sufficient equity on our balance sheet. We do our best to strike that balance in an effort to provide you rate stability.

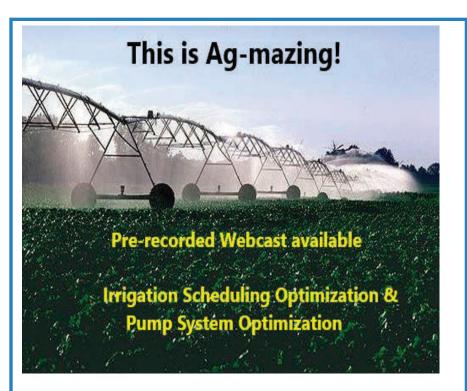
This is just one more way that we are looking out for you!







March 2019 www.columbusco-op.org 31 Vol. No.3. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Columbus Electric is providing a couple of pre-recorded webcast discussions on "Irrigation Scheduling Optimization" and "Pump System Optimization" with several key presenters from Tri-State, EPRI, Irrigation Innovation Consortium and Hydraulic Institute.

These webcasts provide information to assist irrigators with new technology and new practices in irrigation management.

For more information visit <u>www.columbusco-op.org</u> and click on the Energy Efficiency tab.

Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. is making this webcast available for informational purposes only.

ATTENTION

IRRIGATION MEMBERS

Irrigation Motor Rebates are Available

For more information please visit our website:

www.columbusco-op.org

or call our office

1-800-950-2667



The Annual Meeting of the Members of Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held on April 13, 2019, at the Animas School Auditorium.

CEC is chartering buses to provide transportation to and from Animas for our members in Columbus and Deming. Reserve your seat before Friday, March 29 by calling our office at 800-950-2667.

The official notice will be mailed at a later date.



Emergency Response Number 1-800-228-0579 Toll - free Office Number 1-800-950-COOP (2667)

www.columbusco-op.org