

# NEWS



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## **RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES HELP JOBLESS IN SOUTHWEST KANSAS**

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, along with Sunflower Electric and its five other member systems, today announced contributions totaling \$35,000 to five Finney County charitable organizations. The purpose of the contributions is to provide direct aid to those losing jobs as a result of the recent fire at the Con Agra meat processing plant in Garden City.

"We realize that the employees of Con Agra and those laid off from other companies as a result of this tragic fire need help," said Neil Norman, Wheatland's general manager. "We want to give them our support and remember them in our prayers," Norman continued. "As cooperatives, we are especially committed to the communities we serve and hope this gift, coupled with those gifts already received, will ease the hardships endured by those who've lost their jobs."

The organizations receiving the funding are the Finney County United Way, Salvation Army, Mexican-American Ministries, Emmaus House and Harvest America. The funds will be used by these organizations to assist not only Con Agra employees, but also others who've lost their jobs as a result of the recent fire.

Charles Ayers, Wheatland's representative on the Sunflower Board of Directors, took note of the tradition rural Kansans have of helping their neighbors when times are tough. He said, "In my lifetime, I've seen many people endure tragic circumstances but, in our rural part of the state, I always know that when those times happen, we can all count on our neighbors to help us."

Wheatland Electric Cooperative is headquartered in Scott City, Kansas that provides retail electric service in seven southwest Kansas counties.

Sunflower is a nonprofit Kansas utility that operates as a cooperative to provide wholesale electricity to six Member systems that serve 150,000 people in 34 counties of western Kansas. In addition to Wheatland, those member systems include: Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Dighton; Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Ulysses; Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Norton; Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Dodge City; and Western Cooperative Electric Association, WaKeeney.