

Nemont BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

OF THE LAND

Standing on a grassy riverbank high above the water, with a light morning breeze whispering in the trees, the land on the Missouri River between Oswego and Frazer seems steeped in mystery and memories.

A shout in the distance is a quick reminder that the area is very much a part of the present, too. Encompassing 72,000+ acres of irrigated, range and conservation reserve program (CRP) land, this sweep of land is part of Fort Peck Tribal Ranch and Farm. It was purchased by Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in 1993 and is operated by Fort Peck, Inc. of Poplar, Montana. With many agricultural resources at their disposal including irrigated lands, croplands and grazing lands, Fort Peck Tribes prioritized the establishment of a tribal farm

and ranch operation as one of their long-term economic goals in the early



Workers on Fort Peck Tribal Ranch and Farm bale hay near the ranch house.

1990s. The Tribal Ranch and Farm is governed by its own board of directors.

"The ranch was purchased to create an agricultural arm for the Tribes," commented Carrie Schumacher, Fort Peck, Inc. Board of Directors. "A wholly owned tribal operation was seen as a way to increase profits on the land by using the land itself rather than generating income only by leasing."

Today, the ranch hosts a commercial cow and calf operation. It is also a small grain producer and produces forage including hay barley, grass hay and alfalfa. Much of the property's irrigated and

grazing land has been improved through conservation programs. The cattle herd is range-fed and non-hormone treated; it is certified for shipment to the European Union through source and age verification.

Each animal's life events are recorded on a microchip in its ear. Ranch personnel can download information from the microchip and retrieve everything about it, including when it was born, who its parents were, what it eats and more.

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The Tribal Ranch property overlooks the Missouri River. The tribal brand, above, is shown burned into a barn door.

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The ranch operation directly employs five to six employees and produces 700 head of cattle each year. Substantial growth allowed for the purchase of additional lands for the ranching operation.

To keep it all connected, Nemont's services play a key role. "Cell phones, high-speed Internet and landlines are all used for farm communications, market news, and information on agricultural products," noted Carrie Schumacher.



On the move: bulls on the Tribal Ranch move en masse in search of a cooler spot on a late August afternoon.

The farm and ranch operation also serves as a unique educational partner with Fort Peck Community College for Montana State University agricultural extension programs.

Fort Peck Community College Agriculture Division provides extension education to American Indian Producers on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. Fort Peck Tribal Farm and Ranch has engaged in their activities to optimize the operation. These training opportunities have educated reservation-based American Indian producers in methods designed to help them get the most out of their farming and ranching operations.

TRAINING AVAILABLE



Nemont offers 911 training to elementary schools within our service area. The program is designed for children in kindergarten and first grade. The short, interactive program instructs students on what to do and who to call in an emergency. Nemont employees also help children discern the difference between a 911 emergency and a problem that their parents or teacher could help them with.

In addition to 911 training, Nemont also offers several Internet safety presentations, geared for different ages. For younger grade school groups, the presentation offers age-appropriate explanations of online risks and easy-to-remember online safety rules.

Tweens and teens will see animated and documentary-style videos, participate in group discussion and receive practical advice and free resources.

DON'T GET PHISHED

Nemont customers may be seeing e-mails with the subject line: DEAR SUBSCRIBER or Dear nemontel.net user, asking for username and/or password information.

At no time will Nemont ever ask you for your username or password via e-mail. This is a phishing attempt to gain personal information. Please delete the e-mail immediately. If you need any help or have any questions please call Nemont at 1-800-636-6680.

There is also a presentation designed for parents. A 45-minute presentation includes short videos as well as facts about risks and tips for keeping children safer online. If you are interested in having a Nemont 911 or Internet safety presentation in your school this fall, or have questions about the programs, contact Nemont at 1-800-636-6680. There is no charge for the programs.

OUR COOPERATIVE



A cooperative is a business organization owned and operated by a group of individuals for their mutual benefit. The benefit of cooperatives is that they combine the resources of many individuals and harness them in a united way. For telephone cooperatives, profits are either reinvested for infrastructure maintenance and improvements and/or distributed to cooperative members in the form of “patronage” or “capital credits.” These are essentially dividends paid on a member’s investment in the cooperative.

Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Nemont) was organized in 1950 by people in rural areas in need of telephone service. The first members purchased several farmer-owned systems in the area (most of these ran along fence lines) and began building a new system. In 1954 there was much excitement in the air when the first dial telephones on eight-party lines were put into service. Montana’s U.S. Senator was on hand to speak at the dedication ceremony. Three years later, the original name of Northeastern Montana Telephone Cooperative Association was changed to Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Nemont started publishing its own directory in 1960.

The period 1978-2009 has brought many innovations and

changes, including new serving areas in south central Montana and northwest North Dakota, the merger of two rural cooperatives in 1992, new technologies in the 1990s (Internet and cellular service), and new office spaces to accommodate the growing company.

Nemont offers cooperative education, telephone etiquette sessions, 911 education, Internet safety education and job shadowing at no charge. Nemont participates in the federal e-rate program, which assists area schools, libraries, and hospitals. The e-rate program has brought over \$2.5 million in discounted services to Nemont’s service areas. Nemont supports area clubs and businesses as well as social and civic organizations through donations and sponsorships.

Nemont Telephone Cooperative’s employees and Board of Directors enjoy living in and doing business in the communities we serve. Thank you for your continued patronage.

Cooperative Principles

1. *Voluntary and Open Membership*
2. *Democratic Member Control*
3. *Member Economic Participation*
4. *Autonomy and Independence*
5. *Education, Training and Information*
6. *Cooperation Among Cooperatives*
7. *Concern for Community*

MEET THE MANAGER



Mike Kilgore started his service with Nemont as Plant Operations Manager in 2005 and was promoted to Assistant General Manager in 2008.

Ben Boreson, Chairman of the Nemont Telephone Cooperative Board of Directors, announced Mike’s promotion to the position of General Manager in April, 2009.

Mike replaced Shawn Hanson as General Manager on May 1. Mr. Hanson had accepted an offer to become the President and General Manager of American Broadband’s telecommunications holdings in Nebraska and Missouri.

Mike has over 20 years of telecommunication industry experience that includes operations, engineering and management assignments with MCI, Rockwell International and McLeodUSA.

“We have confidence that Mike has the skills and knowledge to manage a dynamic company such as Nemont,” stated President Boreson.

Mike and his wife Betsy reside in Scobey with their four children, Macki, Zac, Landen and Sage.

2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Nemont is pleased to invite all our members to the 59th Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, October 3, at Culbertson High School in Culbertson, Montana. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the meeting will commence at 10 a.m. Invitation postcards have been mailed out to all cooperative members. If you would like an annual meeting report mailed to you prior to the meeting, simply return the perforated postcard that was mailed to you. No postage needed! The report will also be available at the meeting.

As in years past, members can pick up their their annual meeting gift when they register. An informational booth will be set up at the meeting, where members can have their questions answered about any of the services Nemont offers. While votes are being counted, attendees will enjoy the comedic antics of Mylo Hatzenbuhler, and a complimentary roast beef dinner will be served at the end of the meeting. Capital credit checks will be mailed.

Bring the kids! Young guests will enjoy face painting, water tattoos, balloon animals from Uncle Curly and all the Kid Zone activities, as well as a lunch menu just for them!

A jumping castle, Uncle Curly the Clown and face painting will be features of this year's Kid Zone at Nemont's Annual Meeting of Members.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Area events are listed free of charge. Submit your events by the 15th of October so that they may appear in the November/December issue. Send to: P.O. Box 600, Scobey, MT 59263-0600, Attention: Community Calendar or e-mail to nemonttoday@nemont.coop.

September 26-27

Northeast Montana Threshing and Antique Show, Culbertson, MT. 406-963-2360.

September 27

St Philip's Harvest Turkey Dinner, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. St. Philip's Catholic Center, Scobey, MT. Restaurant style, tickets sold at the door.

October 3

Nemont Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting, Culbertson High School. 406-783-2200.

October 6

Breast Cancer Awareness event "Tickled Pink," 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mammograms available with Mobile Digital Imaging. Lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m. Roosevelt Medical Center, Culbertson. 406-787-6401.

October 9-10

Homecoming Festival Weekend, Glasgow. 406-228-2222.

October 10

Oktoberfest, Glasgow. 406-228-2222 or www.glasgowmt.net.

October 11

St. Joseph's Fall Dinner, Plentywood. 406-765-2250.

October 11

"Pheasant Phest" Hunters Feed and Pie Auction. Happy hour 5-6 p.m. followed by meal. Saddle Club, Culbertson, MT. 406-787-6455 or 406-787-6401.

November 21

AAUW Bazaar and Craft Show, Civic Center, Glasgow. 406-228-2747.

Zoe's TECH PULSE



THE LOST CALL

As people rely more heavily on cell phones, some may occasionally experience difficulty making a wireless call. This usually occurs during times of high call volume, including emergency situations, large regional sporting events, and other times when crowds gather and people make numerous calls. Subscribers may experience any of the following service issues, regardless of which carrier they choose.

The network transporting the call may be full or damaged, causing traffic on the network to be temporarily limited or stopped. Calls attempted during this time will be blocked by the wireless company's switch, and any subscriber attempting to make a call may hear a fast busy tone or a recording. This may occur throughout the entire network or in a particular geographic region.

The cell site itself may occasionally reach full capacity and become unable to support an additional call for a short period of time. This will result in call failures. The caller's handset may display "call failed" or a fast busy may be heard. If the call's intended recipient is located near a full cell site, the recipient's phone will not ring; incoming calls will be routed to voice mail or a recording.

In the event that a cell site is full, the site will redirect the excessive



Nemont's Cell on Wheels (COW) was first deployed at the Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede in July to help alleviate problems caused by higher-than-normal call volume.

calls to a neighbor site. This will cause call setup to take longer, resulting in access delays. If the neighbor site that the call is directed to has available capacity, the call will complete. If the neighbor site is also at full capacity, the call may fail.

There are a few of events in Nemont's service area that trigger high traffic volume. Nemont has purchased a cell on wheels (COW) in order to alleviate capacity limitations during these times.

The COW is a full mobile cell site on a trailer that can be moved and deployed temporarily as needed. The COW has a retractable tower, a power supply, antennas, and the

equipment for processing calls, and it is capable of supporting as many calls as a traditional cell site. When the COW is deployed, calls can be handled both on the existing cell sites and on the COW, thereby increasing overall capacity.

Nemont has deployed the COW at events where high call volumes were predicted. It is also available to be deployed if we experience emergency situations.

The COW is another example of Nemont's commitment to providing the most reliable local service, as well as nationwide coverage, to our communities.

PAYING THE BILL

Did you know you can pay your Nemont bill without ever opening the envelope it comes in? Check out our website and sign up for electronic billing (E-bill). This payment method is a great way to save a little green, by eliminating your paper bill and saving yourself the stamp to mail it back to us. You will also enjoy the convenience of real-time viewing for statements, payments and recent long distance usage. E-bill is "open" 24 hours a

day, 7 days a week and offers flexible payment options, including credit card payments and electronic check.

E-bill is fast and easy to use, it is completely secure, and best of all, it's free! Customers can sign up for it at www.nemont.net. When signing up, be prepared to enter your e-mail address, password, and account number. A computer generated password will be e-mailed to you; this password is easy to change if you wish to do so.

In addition to this tech savvy option, Nemont also offers auto-pay. Customers fill out a brief form in order to have their account paid automatically from the checking, savings or credit card account of their choosing. As always, Nemont customers can mail in their payment, visit one of our retail offices, or leave it at a number of drop sites we have established throughout our service area.

WIN A \$25 CREDIT!

Fill out this official entry form and drop it by one of our offices or mail it by October 15, 2009, to PO Box 600, Scobey, MT 59263-0600. Attn: Drawing. Faxed, duplicated, e-mailed or photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners will be contacted by phone and listed in the November/December issue.

\$25 CREDIT OFFICIAL ENTRY

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

July/August \$25.00 Winners

Ruth Wilson
Plentywood

Lila Kleppen
Plentywood

Earl Stebe
Huntley

John Witzel
Ballantine

Marceil Keingen
Williston

Bev Humenyik
Williston

NEW EMPLOYEES

Join us in welcoming a new Nemont team member!



Stacy Welchlin
Customer Service
Specialist, Scobey

Visit our website at www.nemont.net for current specials and local information.

Crow Agency, MT
Monument Center, Suite 1
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Glasgow, MT
702 2 Av S, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Scobey, MT
61 Hwy 13 S, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Williston, ND
421 Main, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST Mon-Fri

Wolf Point, MT
220 Benton St, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Worden, MT
2457 Main St
8 a.m. – noon, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

P.O. Box 600
Scobey, MT 59263-0600
1-800-636-6680 or 406-783-2200

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