

Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

April 2026

New Farm Stand Takes Off Without a Hitch

The career path of a rural O'Neill girl ended up taking a different direction. Katie Abbott actually graduated from West Holt Public School in Atkinson. Following high school she studied Veterinary Tech at Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington, Wyo. for two years. "My last year of college I also studied Phlebotomy after my found love of drawing blood on animals," said Abbott. While there her roommate set her up on a date with her future husband, Riley Abbott, a Hay Springs native. After graduating in 2020 she relocated to Hay Springs. "I was offered two jobs around the Hay Springs area but did not take either of them and instead stayed home and began ranching with Riley," explained Abbott.

Last year, she decided to try an idea she had been pondering for awhile, a Farm Stand. "My idea came from seeing a few other stands in different areas in my home town and a want to provide Hay Springs with something new and hopefully good!" she explained. So the first of August she announced "The Farm Stand", which was placed in front of Hay Springs Lumber & Hardware. "The lumber yard has been very generous in allowing my farm stand to call a small place of their's the Farm Stand home and they have consistently watched over it and cared for it as their own," she added.

The small metal storage shed is just perfect to offer her goods. It's a self-serve honor system Farm Stand open on Friday mornings. Katie comes to town early and stocks it with delicious baked goods, produce, coffee based drinks, even jelly and farm fresh eggs. You can also find a selection of colorful pumpkins during the fall.

Abbott confessed she wasn't a huge baker until after having kids. "Since having our second child I began spending more time baking from "scratch" and using what I had to make what I wanted. My recent joy has been in milling my own flour.... for all my recipes," noted Abbott. And recipes! She finds recipes all over. "I am always open to finding a



The Farm Stand draws quite the business when the doors open on Friday mornings in front of Hay Springs Lumber.

new recipe or one that works for me and enjoy trying new ones because sometimes the most odd recipe ingredients make the best products!"

Abbott does most all of the prep herself every Thursday before sale day. She has had a few friends make goodies. "It makes it feel like a small farmers market that way with multiple goods being available," she added. Homemade cookies, breads and sweet treats, fresh garden produce and farm eggs are always a hit. "The jalapeno poppers and spinach artichoke dip seem to be two of everyone's favorite items!" said Abbott.

The Farm Stand occasionally has beverages in stock. "I have an espresso machine at home and have offered



NRPPD FEATURE

The Farm Stand--

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iced lattes. I have also introduced a few flavored pops during the warmer seasons. I do want to expand and offer more drinks in the future such as flavored teas and lemonades.

Abbott noted it was a neighbor that grew the pumpkins that were very popular in the Farm Stand last fall. "It was another opportunity to support someone else."

She is pleased with the success of the Farm Stand. "I am finding that people enjoy just the down to earth homebaked goods as simple as a chocolate chip cookie! Although not everything that comes out of my kitchen looks store bought perfect or is fancy looking, my goal is that everything made from my kitchen is found to be delicious... and met with a little love from me baking it for them!"

The weather does affect open day and sometime the products do also.

When she is not busy baking or with the kids, she helps on the farm, she and her family love riding horses. She confessed she loves her milk cows and milking twice a day providing milk for her family. The Abbotts live on a



Katie Abbott with her family, husband Riley and children Barrett and Okalyn live about 10 miles south of Hay Springs.

cozy 300+ acres about ten miles south of Hay Springs.

They have an cattle together since 2020, in addition to goats, horses, chickens (lots and lots of chickens!). "We have about 150 different poultry animals that provide an assortment of eggs for us." "We easily gather about 18 to 2 dozen eggs a day if not more including a few duck eggs and occasionally guinea eggs," said Abbott, who also raise purebred blue heeler puppies. They also grow irrigated crops including alfalfa and other forage crops for their own livestock use and to sell.

Their children are Barrett, 4 and Okalyn who just turned two in March.



**Countryroad Shot:
Box Butte County - May 2018**

~ by Jim Manternach

If you are interested in a print, you can contact Jim at jmm@millcomps.com or at www.jimmphoto.com



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Recipe Corner

Strawberry Cheesecake Sliders

- 5 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup confectioners sugar, plus more for topping
- large egg
- 1 (12-count package) Hawaiian rolls
- 1 (21 ounce) can strawberry pie filling
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Combine cream cheese and powdered sugar in a large mixing bowl. Using a hand mixer on medium speed, mix until well combined. Add egg to mixture and beat until light and fluffy.



Slice rolls in half horizontally, without separating them. Place the bottom layer back into the cardboard packaging; set package onto a baking sheet.

Spoon cream cheese filling onto bottom layer. Top with strawberry pie filling. Place top half of rolls on and brush with melted butter. Cover with foil.

Bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes, then uncover and cook until toasted, 5 to 8 minutes more. Dust with powdered sugar.

French Toast Casserole

- 12 slices day-old bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 12 large eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup maple syrup

Blueberry Sauce:

- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 tablespoon butter

Prepare casserole: Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish. Arrange 1/2 of the bread cubes in the dish and top with cream cheese cubes.

Sprinkle blueberries over the cream cheese, then top with remaining bread cubes.

Whisk eggs, milk, vanilla extract, and syrup together in a large bowl until well-combined; pour over the bread cubes. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Remove casserole from the refrigerator about 30 minutes before baking. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Bake casserole in the preheated oven, covered, for 30 minutes. Uncover, and continue baking until center is firm and surface is lightly browned, about 25 to 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, prepare blueberry sauce: Mix sugar, water, and cornstarch together in a medium saucepan; bring to a boil and cook, stirring constantly, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in blueberries, reduce heat to low, and simmer until all the blueberries burst, about 10 minutes. Stir in butter.

Serve portions of casserole on plates and pour warm syrup over top.



Northwest Line Foreman Abe Young receives the Leadership Essentials Program certificate at their conference in Kearney the first of February.

NRPPD Foreman Young Attends Leadership Essentials Program

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) has partnered with LDR Leadership to deliver a leadership academy for the NREA membership tailored specifically for foreman/journeyman in public power for the next generation of leaders. This program will build a connected network of safety-conscious leaders across the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's member electric cooperatives and public power districts.

This safety-driven leadership experience is more than just leadership training – it is a mission driven investment in safety, resilience, and effectiveness of Nebraska's electric utility workforce. The focus of the program will be to develop leaders right here in Nebraska who can think clearly, act decisively, lead safely, and advance a culture of safety. This program will incorporate real-world case studies from utility incidents, tactical decision-making exercises, and high-fidelity simulations designed to improve decision-making, reduce errors, prevent accidents and operational failures, enhance hazard recognition, and grow team-based problem solving. NREA's Leader Essentials Program is an intense 60-hour face-to-face training taught in 15 separate blocks of instruction over two weeks.

The inaugural cohort convened at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, in Kearney, NE, for Week 1 on November 10-14, 2025, and returned for Week 2 on February 2-6, 2026. Northwest Rural Public Power District was proud to send Foreman Abe Young to this program to support our commitment to safety.

Funny Quotes...

- I'm sick of following my dreams, man. I'm just going to ask where they're going and hook up with 'em later. -- *Mitch Hedberg*
- A pessimist is a person who has had to listen to too many optimists. -- *Don Marquis*
- People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day - *A. A. Milne*
- Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt. - *Abraham Lincoln*
- The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time. - *Abraham Lincoln*
- An alcoholic is someone you don't like who drinks as much as you do. - *Dylan Thomas*
- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak. - *Alan Dundes*
- The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits. - *Albert Einstein*
- "Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive!" "Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive." - *Elbert Hubbard*
- War is God's way of teaching Americans geography. - *Ambrose Bierce*

- If you want your children to listen, try talking softly to someone else. - *Ann Landers*
- I don't believe in astrology; I'm a Sagittarius and we're skeptical. - *Arthur C. Clarke*
- A smile is a facelift that's in everyone's price range! - *Tom Wilson*
- A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it. - *Bob Hope*
- My favorite machine at the gym is the vending machine. - *Caroline Rhea*
- I always arrive late at the office, but I make up for it by leaving early. - *Charles Lamb*
- Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It is already tomorrow in Australia. - *Charles Schulz*

A tip from a lineman working storm outages:

"When your power comes back on, flip your porch light on. It helps us see that your power has been restored without having to stop and check every meter. A little time goes a long way."

April Special Days....

- April 1: April Fool's Day
- April 3: Good Friday
- April 5: Easter Sunday
- April 7: National Beer Day, No Housework Day!
- April 10: National Farm Animals Day
- April 15: Income Taxes Due.... oh yeah!
- April 16: Stress Awareness Day - the first workday after US taxes are due!
- April 22: Admin's - Secretary Day.
- April 24: Arbor Day

April Birth Month Symbols: April birth month symbols are all about freshness. Daisy, the April birth flower, represents innocence and purity, while the diamond birthstone symbolizes fearlessness and faithfulness. Aries and Taurus stand as the month's zodiac guardians, bringing ambition and persistence to those born during this month. The duck, April's bird of the month, symbolizes endurance ("water off a duck's back") and cheer. Additionally, rosemary, mint, and other healing herbs are associated with protection and lightness, respectively.

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