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Chokio, MN 56221

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Issue April 2011



Grow With Us

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Local Commitment. Global Solutions.

## Directory additions

### Chokio

M. Kolden ..... 324-7186  
Andrew Ritter..... 324-7316

### Cerro Gordo

Ray & Derek Cornelisen..... 752-4253

### Danvers

Brad Showalter..... 567-2295

### Hancock

Dennis Bye..... 392-5823  
Anthony Hoberg..... 392-6282  
Rebecca Kannegiesser ..... 392-5544  
Asael Garcia Mayorga ..... 392-5452

### Milan

Gary Kleven ..... 734-4723

### Morris

Advanced Cleaning Service..... 589-2240  
Andrea Bergstrom..... 585-6485  
Dick Bluth..... 589-1879  
Peter & Siobhan Bremer ..... 589-2982  
Nicole Koser ..... 585-4010  
Dale Peterson Insurance & Real Estate  
..... 589-4060  
Morris Dental Clinic ..... 589-2161  
Helen Staples ..... 589-1499  
L.M. Stock ..... 585-6467  
Paul & Patty Watzke ..... 589-2626

**Farmers Mutual**  
PO Box 368  
301 2nd Street South  
Bellingham, MN 56212  
320-568-2105  
[farmers@farmerstel.net](mailto:farmers@farmerstel.net)  
[www.farmerstel.net](http://www.farmerstel.net)

**Federated Telephone**  
**Main Office:**  
PO Box 156  
405 2nd Street East  
Chokio, MN 56221  
320-324-7111  
[emailftc@fedtel.net](mailto:emailftc@fedtel.net)  
[www.fedtel.net](http://www.fedtel.net)

**Satellite Office:**  
PO Box 107  
508 Atlantic Ave.  
Morris, MN 56267  
320-585-4875  
[morrisftc@fedtel.net](mailto:morrisftc@fedtel.net)  
[www.fedtel.net](http://www.fedtel.net)

**Office Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Current Topics

Thank You for  
Visiting Us at the  
2011 Spring Expo at  
the Lee Community  
Center in Morris

### Spring Expo Winners

2 Months High-Speed Data  
*John Stock (Correll)*

2 Months Cable TV  
*Ken Van Horn (Morris)*

### Calendar

April 12: Farmers Mutual  
Annual Meeting  
  
April 22: Good Friday  
Offices Closed  
  
April 24: Easter  
  
April 27: Administrative  
Professional's Day  
  
June 2011: Federated Annual  
Meeting

### MTA's 2011 "Day on the Hill" a Success

On January 25 & 26, 2011, representatives from Farmers Mutual and Federated Telephone, joined more than 70 MTA members in St. Paul to educate lawmakers on issues affecting rural telcos. "This is a very important year at the legislature for the MTA," commented MTA President/CEO Brent Christensen, "with the overwhelming number of new legislators in both the House and Senate we needed this opportunity to develop new relationships and begin the education process."



Pictured: (Back L-R) Lynn Swenson, Kevin Beyer, Gerald Stensrud, Senator Gary Kubly. (Front L-R) Karin Jahnke, Richard Bjornjeld, Dave Falness.

The main message to legislators was about access. This issue is being teed up once again by the long distance industry and is carefully tucked away within a proposal to reduce telecom regulation. "While we don't have any problem with the deregulation portions of the AT&T proposal," stated MTA Chief Lobbyist Mike Ahern, "we have to make sure legislators are aware that the access piece of their proposal would seriously affect MTA members' ability to continue the great work they are doing to deploy broadband in rural Minnesota."

Other MTA legislative initiatives were discussed with legislators. They include MTA bills that address issues with consumer rights dealing with retransmission agreements between over-the-air television broadcasters and multi-video distribution providers, education tax credits for broadband, tax credits for businesses that develop and implement telework programs and for business expenses relating to teleworkers, and a legislative resolution to Congress on the National Broadband Plan.

### Legislators Hold Town Hall Meeting

Torrey Westrom, District 11A Representative, and Bill Ingebretson, District 11 Senator, met with local residents at a town hall meeting on February 25, 2011.

The town hall meeting was held in the Federated Telephone boardroom in Chokio, Minnesota. Community members were able to join in discussions regarding legislative issues with Westrom and Ingebretson.

# Phone Discount for Low Income

**Lifeline**

**Link-Up**

There are several programs that provide assistance with paying your phone bill. The Lifeline program is federally funded and will provide a credit of up to \$9.13 each month on your phone bill. To be eligible, you must be enrolled in one of the following public assistance programs or have an income at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines to be eligible:

- Medicaid/Medical Assistance
- Food Support (Food Stamps)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

If you qualify for a Lifeline credit, you will also qualify for the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP). This program offers a monthly discount on your phone bill, as well.

For more information or an application, please contact our office by dialing 611 from your home phone or you can find the office numbers on the back page of this newsletter.

## 135% of the 2011 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

Household Size	Income
1	\$14,702
2	\$19,859
3	\$25,016
4	\$30,173
5	\$35,330
Each Additional Person	\$ 5,157

## FEDERAL SURCHARGES TO DECREASE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2011

Effective April 1, 2011, the amount of the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) appearing on your bill each month will change as a result of a decrease in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) universal service contribution factor from 15.5% to 14.9%. The new FUSC amount is calculated by multiplying the FCC's universal service contribution factor against your interstate access service charges. The federal universal service fund program is designed to help keep local telephone service rates affordable for all customers, in all areas of the United States.

## Call Before You Dig "It's the Law"



**Simply Dial 811**

Simply Dial 811 from your telephone.  
Remember to call 48 hours before you dig.  
**South Dakota: 1-800-781-7474**

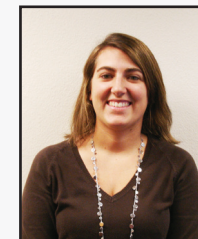
## Important Phone Numbers:

<b>Farmers Mutual Telephone</b> ..... 320-568-2105	Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.....1-800-657-3782
<b>Federated Telephone</b>	Minnesota Department of Commerce
Chokio Office ..... 320-324-7111	Telecommunications Division.....1-651-296-7107
Morris Office ..... 320-585-4875	Better Business Bureau..... 1-800-646-6222
Minnesota Attorney General's Office..... 1-800-657-3787	Federal Communications Commission.....1-888-225-5322

## Administrative Professional's Day April 27, 2011



**Thank You  
for all your hard work  
& dedication throughout  
the year!**



Top: (L-R) Tammy, Karin, Kris, Shelley.  
Bottom: (L-R) Jeri, Rusty, Jackie, Tammy.

## FOR SALE

**1965 3020 John Deere Tractor**  
with Cab, Loader and Snow Blower  
For Sale by Sealed Bids

**6846.8 Hours  
Gasoline  
3020 Basic Row Crop Tractor  
Power Shift Transmission  
7' New Idea 2 Stage Snow Blower**

\* Mail sealed bids by April 17, 2011 to Federated Telephone, PO Box 156, Chokio, MN 56221  
*The Board reserves the right to refuse any and/or all bids.*

## Tired of Writing Checks?

Just complete the information below and return it to our office to have your payment deducted from an account automatically each month. You will still receive a statement in the mail each month for your records.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Automatic Bank Payment - Please Attach Voided Check

Checking: \_\_\_\_ Savings: \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Financial Institution

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Financial Institution

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bank Routing #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bank Account #

### Automatic Credit Card Payment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Visa: \_\_\_\_ Mastercard: \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code (Where statements are mailed)

I authorize Farmers/Federated and the bank/credit card named below to initiate variable electronic payments from my bank or credit card to Farmers/Federated for my monthly bills. This authority will remain in effect until I notify Farmers/Federated in writing to cancel and/or of any bank account changes. I understand this notification will need to be made 30 days prior to the date of the cancellation or to change the account information to afford all parties involved reasonable opportunity to handle the cancellation or change.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_