



# Update



November 2010



## A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

*“... I love the way fall serves as the perfect segue to the holiday season.”*

Returning from South Brewster County last night, I got out of the vehicle in Sanderson. The refreshing and unmistakably cool air of fall was in the air. In fact, I could even smell fall in the air. It is my favorite time of the year. Those who know me very well know I prefer cool to cold temperatures. But more than the cool air and the scent of fall, I love the way fall serves as the perfect segue to the holiday season.

I love Thanksgiving. What a wonderful time of year. It has been more than 100 years since President Lincoln declared that first annual celebration and the tradition has continued ever since. I have mentioned this before, but that first call to thankfulness came in the midst of our country's worst time of civil unrest.

Interesting that one of our country's most beloved and revered presidents would call for a celebration of thanks when so much unrest plagued every segment of the nation. And yet, it is in times of great difficulty that our hearts are inclined to be thankful. Perhaps it's because with difficulties so immanent, we find it easy to think of all the things that could be wrong, but are not. When what we struggle with intersects all that is right in our lives, thankfulness is the perfect response. In fact, such a reaction is deeply rooted in scripture.

We have little or no control over most things in life. And, even with the things over which we do have control, our own poor judgment can cause them to go awry. There is One who does have control. We can depend on Him in every aspect of our lives, but most certainly with the most difficult things we face. How much happier we can be when we learn to embrace thankfulness and push out of our minds the temptation to focus on what is wrong, rather than all that is right.

Those of you who are faithful to read my musings on a monthly basis know that my wife, Darlene, was diagnosed with breast cancer in July, 2002. It was the worst news we had ever received. We were devastated, fearful, and felt totally let down. We reeled from the news and initially struggled. Soon, however, our faith began to take hold and we remembered all for which we had to be thankful. I am happy to tell you, as we traveled down the road of treatment, God was there and He carried us through.

Darlene had her checkup at MD Anderson a few months ago and was promoted to the ranks of Survivorship. Thankful? You better believe we are thankful. But, our trip from receiving that awful news to where we are today began with being thankful.

I sincerely hope this season of Thanksgiving is a truly blessed time for you and yours. This is our year to have our three sons, daughters-in-law and our five grandchildren at home for Thanksgiving. Rest assured, as we gather around the Thanksgiving table, we will offer thanks for God's manifold blessings in our lives. I hope you will take time to do the same. I also hope when you consider the things you are thankful for, Rio Grande Electric Co-op is one of them.

