



Tim Stewart,
CEO / General Manager

October is Cooperative Month

In the month of October, Americans celebrate National Cooperative Month to raise awareness about the many benefits that cooperatives bring to the marketplace. As you are probably aware, cooperatives exist in many forms and deliver a host of products and services such as financial services, grocery/food, dairy, grain, and of course energy. This month, I would like to highlight some of the benefits to being a member of cooperatives.

Cooperatives are locally owned and controlled by you, our members. As such, they are locally run to serve your needs. While many Wisconsin electricity consumers pay power bills to companies that answer to far-away stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local members govern the affairs at electric cooperatives like ours. Cooperatives aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big profits to satisfy shareholders. Instead, cooperatives try to keep your bill as low as possible while providing high-quality service. Cooperatives invest money in excess of operating costs back into the business locally or return the excess (known as margins) to you in the form of capital credits.

Unlike the boards of directors of investor-owned utilities who keep an eye on generating profits for people living far away, your cooperative's directors (fellow members like yourself) have only one thing in mind: keeping lights on safely, reliably, and keeping costs affordable.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how seven decades ago rural residents banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to the rural areas when investor-owned utilities would not extend service. The cooperatives and associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were back then. However, we're not just products of a proud past. Today, people from all walks of life have come to recognize the cooperative approach—members working together to achieve price and service benefits—can work

for other needs just as effectively as it delivered affordable power to rural areas.

The seven principles upon which electric co-ops were founded—voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community—are as meaningful today as they were when electric co-ops began in the 1930s.

The board of directors, management, and staff at Clark Electric Cooperative shares the same concerns as you, our members. We are accessible. You can give us a call or send us an e-mail and know someone here is listening. And at our annual meeting, in the spring of each year, visit with us in person and share insights on how you want your business operated.

In these days of economic turmoil, it is more important than ever to focus on our core business and membership. We approach the future with confidence and the knowledge that the commitment and dedication to service, membership owned, and not-for-profit operation will enable us to focus on you, our customer and owner.

That's the cooperative difference. ■

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Watch for Flashing Lights!

It's back-to-school time! One of the most dangerous situations children will face during their day is getting on and off their school bus. All drivers can help keep school children safe by heeding this basic rule: If you approach a school bus with flashing warning signals and an extended stop sign, STOP immediately and wait for the visual warning signals to cease and the bus to resume motion. ■

**COOPERATIVES:
STRONGER
TOGETHER**

*Celebrate Cooperative Month
with your local cooperatives*

**A FREE Pancake &
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Activities for kids of all ages



MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY


Saturday, October 2

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the CECO Building,
west of Greenwood on CTH G



Clark Electric Cooperative

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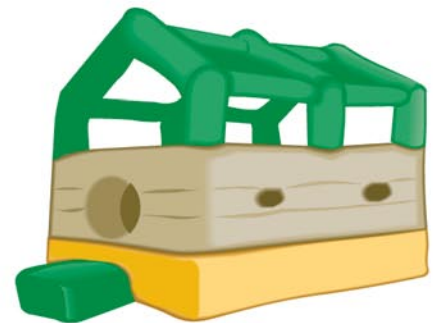
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Think Safety During Harvest Season

Harvest season can yield higher numbers of electrocution, shock, and burn injuries. Clark Electric Cooperative urges farm workers to avoid tragic accidents by using caution when completing farm activities that take place around power lines.

Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest. Many of these accidents occur near grain bins when augers make contact with power lines. Many types of farm equipment can come in contact with overhead power lines, creating a direct path for electricity. Tractors with front-end loaders, portable grain augers, fold-up cultivators, and equipment with antennas can easily become electrical hazards and must be operated with care. Know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them—below, to the side, and above.

Farm workers should remember these safety tips:

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level—under 14 feet—before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Always use a spotter or someone to help make sure that contact is not made with a line when moving large equipment or high loads.
- Be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles, or rods into power lines. Even non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay may conduct electricity under certain conditions.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

- Inspect farm equipment for transport height, and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- Review the possibility of underground utility supplies for new or replacement power lines.
- If you have a standby power system, review its location, operation, and importance with all workers.
- Train seasonal employees to be aware of risks for potential electrical shock on the farm, even if they only work temporarily.
- Never try to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line. It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire.

In that case, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never try to get back on or even touch it. Many electrocutions happen when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment. ■

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

If your home is more than 10 years old, it likely needs more insulation. How much depends on a variety of factors, most importantly where you live. For example, insulation for a home in the Northeast will have a higher R-value rating than a home in Southern California. Check out www.simplyinsulate.com to find out more. –Source: Alliance to Save Energy



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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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