



Tim Stewart
CEO / General Manager

Know the Dangers

Watch Large Equipment As Harvest Begins

As farmers begin this season's harvest, it's important to remember some important safety steps. The rush to harvest can reap grim results if steps to ensure safety are bypassed. Each year

across the U.S., hundreds of farm workers are injured and many are killed when their farming equipment makes contact with power lines. Power lines must be thoughtfully avoided, and taking that extra step can ensure you continue to have a safe and productive harvest.

Today's farming operations often involve large and complex machinery. Large combines, raised dump beds, oversized wagons, grain augers, planters, spraying

equipment, and metal irrigation pipes are all excellent conductors of electricity. Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest. Everyone working on a farm should be aware of power lines and keep farm equipment away from the lines. It's also important to thoroughly evaluate new or used equipment that is being used for the first time on your property. Take special note of larger, modern equipment, such as tractors and combines with higher antennas, that may create a clearance threat.

Moving portable grain augers continues to pose one of the greatest threats to workers. Those who are moving the equipment on the ground can provide a direct path for electricity if there is contact with overhead wires. Grain augers should **always** be lowered before they're moved. Things like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight, or

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CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ANNUAL



COOPERATIVE APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

GREENWOOD AMERICAN LEGION HALL, 108 S. MAIN ST.



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**BRATS, HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS,
BEANS, CHEESE,
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SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Constantly Upgrading and Improving the Electric System

Having a reliable electric system is important—we would all agree to that. The cooperative has what it calls the system work plan. This plan looks at what the system will need in the next three years to handle the growth and future electric requirements of the members. It looks at what circuits need to be updated or rebuilt, or if an entirely new electric line is needed. The work plan is a very important working document that serves your cooperative.



Clark Electric linemen worked on upgrading a three-phase line this past summer.

A tie-line (a circuit that connects two or more substations together) is something the cooperative has been working on a lot to help improve reliability of the system. When major outages occur, our linemen can perform switching of certain circuits that allow the electricity back on to affected areas. This brings more members back into service while the restoration is being accomplished. The cooperative has been working on a tie line between the Loyal and the Longwood Substations. This line is almost

complete and is being built with new steel poles, which are more cost-effective to use than wooden poles.

Pole testing is another part of keeping your electric system at its best. Each year a random sampling of poles throughout the system is tested to determine their condition. If poles do not meet the specs the cooperative has set, they are changed out. Clark Electric Cooperative also has its underground facilities inspected on a rotating basis to make sure they are working properly.

All of the work that is performed or put on paper is done for your benefit, to help make your electric system as reliable as possible. ■

RITA'S BEEN COOKING

GE Appliance Sale

Stop in for treats this month, and while you are at the Appliance & Satellite Store check out our great deals on GE appliances. Save money when you purchase a GE appliance this month.

Clark Appliance can install your new appliance and remove the old one for you. Service is the key, and our staff has all the keys to make your purchase the best. ■



**FIRE SAFETY
WEEK
October 5-9**

Make sure you have smoke detectors that work and at least one fire extinguisher in your house.

Moving Farm Equipment

(Continued from page 4)

other conditions can create an unexpected result. When moving large equipment, use a spotter or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line. Areas near grain bins pose a dangerous threat if equipment is too large or is used improperly.

If the equipment you are in comes into contact with power lines, make sure you:

- Stay in the cab and call for help.
- If there is imminent risk of fire, jump clear of the vehicle and land with both feet on the ground at the same time—do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and ground at the same time.



Overhead power lines aren't the only risk during this season. Pole guy wires are grounded and a supporting part of the pole or structure. If a guy wire is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption and electric hazard, or it can even cause the pole to break. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call Clark Electric Cooperative immediately. Do not fix it yourself.

If you question the height of power lines near your working areas, don't attempt to measure the line heights yourself. Contact Clark Electric Cooperative to help determine line height in each area of the farm.

The best way to handle a farm-related accident is prevention. Respect electricity and avoid contact with overhead lines. Look up, look down, and be safe this harvest season! ■

YOUR SATISFACTION COUNTS

Membership Survey Gives Positive Results

Clark Electric Cooperative routinely conducts a membership survey. The survey asks questions that are important to maintaining the cooperative.

The questionnaire had some interesting results. This year we participated in the America Customer Satisfaction Index—ACSI. These survey questions are used to rate customer satisfaction and compare like businesses, or in our case, other

utilities. Clark Electric Cooperative was rated very exceptionally with a score of 82 out of 100 points. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives as a whole across the United States were rated at 81.

Results of the survey are very useful in determining what we need to do to improve as your electric service provider.

We strive to bring

value to your membership. You are more than a customer—you're a member of Clark Electric Cooperative. It's your electric cooperative. ■

Attributes that Members See in Clark Electric

- Having friendly, courteous employees
- Showing dedication and support of the local community
- Having convenient payment options
- Providing accurate and understandable bills
- Providing effective and efficient customer service
- Being good stewards of the environment

The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI)

| | ACSI |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Clark Electric Cooperative | 82 |
| Touchstone Energy | 81 |
| PPL Corporation | 81 |
| Southern Company | 80 |
| Sempra Energy | 78 |
| Duke Energy Corp. | 78 |
| Allegheny Energy, Inc. | 77 |
| Florida Power & Light | 76 |
| American Electric Power Company, Inc. | 76 |
| Progress Energy, Inc. | 76 |
| Cinergy Corp. | 74 |
| TXU Corp. | 73 |
| Ameren | 73 |
| Industry | 72 |

Clark Electric ranks well above the industry average and above Touchstone Energy and the utility industry leaders.



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Your Long Distance
to Someone You
Know and Trust.*



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- No codes to dial, or term plans
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Clark Electric

Appliance & Satellite, Inc.

Greenwood, WI Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



METER READINGS

The Importance of Providing a Reading



Once a month without fail, your cooperative performs the monthly billing of your electric account. As a member, it is your responsibility to provide the cooperative a current reading of your electric meter.

Having a current reading is very important for you and for the billing department. Providing the reading allows you to have a consistent usage history, and if problems arise it is easier to figure out what could be using the extra electricity. Having a reading at the proper time also allows

for a more precise billing, which enables the cooperative to account for the electric usage it is charged for by Dairyland Power Cooperative. Current readings also save time, usage errors due to estimation, and money by keeping the billing department from having to go back and estimate or re-calculate your bill due to a reading problem.

Sometimes members forget, or because they are not able to send in their payment at the time the reading is due, they put it on the bill and send it in after the due date. You can always call the reading into the office or just send us the reading. Please make sure to record the date you read the meter along with the reading. You can send the reading anytime before the end of the month. ■



\$1,000

REWARD FOR

VANDALISM • THEFT • FRAUD

PLEASE CALL THE COOPERATIVE'S OFFICE
800-272-6188 • 715-267-6188

OR YOUR LOCAL SHERIFF DEPARTMENT WITH INFORMATION. THIS IS YOUR COOPERATIVE.
BY INFORMING US, YOU'RE PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT— YOUR COOPERATIVE.

FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CONVICTION OF ANYONE FOR DAMAGING THE PROPERTY OF CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND/OR RESULTING IN INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE. FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DEFAULDING OR UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE COOPERATIVE'S ELECTRICITY (STEALING OF POWER, WHERE NO METERING IS OCCURRING).



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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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