



**Clark Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Tim Stewart,
CEO/Manager

TAKE TIME TO REAP A SAFE HARVEST

It's just about that time of year again when it gets a bit colder out, the trees start to turn brilliant colors, and summer turns to fall. It's also that time of year when harvest season begins in earnest. The following is an article I came across from Safe Electricity that talks about electrical and farm safety, specifically around harvest time. Please take a few minutes to read these life-saving tips.

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Harvest can be an exciting and exhausting time—the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest can also yield tragic outcomes. Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed and hundreds are injured in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment.

“Things people see every day can fade from view and in the busyness of harvest time; it's easy for farm workers to forget about the power lines overhead,” said Richard McCracken of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. “But failure to notice them can be a deadly oversight.”

Review with all workers the farm activities that take place around power lines. Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance. Keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines—above, below, and to the side.

“Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet,” said Bob Aherin, PhD, CSP & University of Illinois professor and agricultural safety & health program leader. “Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight, or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result. Also use extreme caution when raising the bed of a grain truck.”

Farm workers should take these steps to ensure a safer harvest season:

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
- As with any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles, or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins. Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency.



- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- Operators of farm equipment or vehicles must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line: Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so.

“If the power line is energized and you step outside, touching the vehicle and ground, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result,” Aherin said. “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.”

If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to

safety as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Some electrocutions have occurred after the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

It is very important that all farm workers and seasonal employees are informed of electrical hazards and trained in proper procedures to avoid injury. For more information on farm electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org



Member Photo of the Month:

The winning photo for September in Clark Electric's 2018 Member Photo Contest is from Pat Krause of Greenwood. You can still enter the 2018 Member Photo Contest—see our website for information.



MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY & Kick-off to Cooperative Month

A FREE Pancake, Egg & Sausage Breakfast

Activities for kids of all ages

Saturday, September 22

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the
Clark Electric headquarters,
just west of Greenwood on CTH G



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“Take Back” Initiative 7–11 a.m.

Bring your unused, controlled, non-controlled, and over-the counter medications in their original containers to be dropped off—free, with no questions asked.

Questions? Contact the Greenwood Police Department at 715-267-6215.



Food Drive for Local Food Pantries

Help us demonstrate the 7th Cooperative Principle, Commitment to Community, by bringing a non-perishable, non-expired food item to be donated to your local food pantry.



Pumpkins • Crafts for Kids Giant Inflatables



Greenwood Fire & EMS will provide free blood pressure testing.

Memorial Medical Center

will be here to provide community health information.
— free of charge.





(l-r) Amber VonLuven, Abbotsford High School; Kayla Oldham, Neillsville High School; and Bobbie Lee, Abbotsford High School.

STUDENTS EXPLORE THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Clark Electric Cooperative sponsored two students to this year's 55th Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), held at UW-River Falls July 25–27. They joined more than 100 students from cooperatives throughout the state to learn about the cooperative business model and improve their leadership skills. Kayla Oldham of Neillsville, Bobbie Lee and Amber VanLuven from Abbotsford represented Clark Electric at this year's conference. John Slipek, FFA advisor at Abbotsford High School, accompanied the students as a chaperone.

The YLC is designed to provide today's youth with stronger leadership and team-building skills, as well as a broader understanding of electric cooperatives. Through a mix of challenging team-building activities, participants were exposed to real-life

issues and given the opportunity to identify and explore their leadership potential. They also took part in sessions focusing on the importance of setting goals and showing how determination, hard work, and persistence pay off, and how to step up to be a leader whether you are in a leadership position or not. The students also connected with other students from across Wisconsin throughout the event.

"The conference was so much fun! I didn't know much about co-ops, so it was interesting to learn how they work. It was great to meet so many new people. I also feel I can be a much better leader because of this conference."

"The conference was a very fun and educational experience."

"I learned a lot about cooperatives and to how get out of my comfort zone and participate in group activities. This will help me to achieve my goals in the future."

These are a few of the comments received from the students who represented CEC.

Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and UW-River Falls have co-sponsored this event for 55 years to demonstrate to high school students the basics of cooperatives and how they can apply the ideals and philosophies of cooperation directly to their lives. Students who attend the congress improve their ability to interact with their peers and demonstrate their desire to be leaders.

The delegates left the conference with valuable leadership skills they can use both in school and in their community activities. Each spring Clark Electric Cooperative contacts schools in our service area asking for students to represent the cooperative at the Youth Leadership Congress. This is a great opportunity for students entering 10th or 11th grade.

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SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS...

Safety First Always is the motto linemen live by. Linemen work in a very hazardous profession. They work around large equipment, high in the air, on and around high-voltage equipment, in all kinds of weather conditions, both day and night. In fact, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, utility line work is among the nation's top 10 most hazardous professions.

Clark Electric Cooperative participates in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Achievement Program (RESAP) to help stress the importance of electrical safety. One of the components of the program is monthly safety meetings. These Safety meetings consist of classroom training as well as hands-on training and equipment testing. At least one meeting a year is dedicated to pole-top rescue procedures.

The meetings consist of inspections of the trucks, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), proper traffic control, proper operating procedures, and an overall inspection of tools and equipment to ensure they are in good working condition. Safety First Always is a good motto for all of us to live by.

Pictured below are the linemen performing pole-top rescue using a weighted life-sized training prop.



Clark Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Monday, September 3, for Labor Day. Have a safe and happy weekend!

CONGRATULATIONS, CATHY

Cathy began her career with Clark Electric Co-op as a customer service representative in June of 1998, assisting members with their electric billing questions and other programs offered by the cooperative.



Over the years there have been many changes in processes due to changes in technology. One of the biggest changes was when the cooperative went from self-read meters to the AMR system, where the readings were transmitted to the cooperative daily. Another big change was the auto-payment options we were able to offer.

"One of the greatest changes during my time at Clark Electric was the move to the new headquarters facility," Cathy said.

She added, "I don't know where the last 20 years have gone. The days in the office are always busy and the weeks just flew by. I will miss speaking with and assisting the members I have come to know throughout the years."

Cathy plans to relax, do some traveling, and spend more time with her grandson in her retirement.

GEOTHERMAL

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