

# HI-LITES

## Important Upgrades to Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Infrastructure: What You Should Know

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is undertaking critical improvements to its power grid, which will enhance the reliability and efficiency of the electrical service provided to members. While these updates may not be immediately visible, they are essential for maintaining and strengthening the cooperative's infrastructure. Below is an overview of two significant projects in 2025.

### Patoka-Kinmundy Transmission Line Upgrade

This project represents the second phase of a two-part effort to upgrade a 14-mile section of transmission lines. These upgrades will involve the installation of a "three-phase under-build" system. While this may sound technical, it essentially means that the power lines will be modernized to carry more electricity and operate more efficiently, ensuring better performance and reliability.

The three-phase system is designed to provide a more stable flow of elec-

tricity. By upgrading these lines, the cooperative can reduce the likelihood of power disruptions and ensure that if one line experiences an issue, the remaining lines can maintain service. This ultimately results in fewer and shorter outages, providing a more dependable power supply for members.

### Reserve Northeast Line Upgrade

The Reserve Northeast Line upgrade (Phase 1 of 2) was completed earlier this year, and involved replacing 2 miles of outdated three-phase conductor. Phase 2 of 2 will involve replacing an additional 2 miles of three-phase conductor. These older lines had reached the end of their

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*Luke Johnson*  
**General Manager**



### Mt. Vernon Office

3906 Broadway

Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Monday - Friday

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Salem Office

1631 E Main St.

Salem, IL 62881

Tuesday - Thursday

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Sam Phillips, Salem

### Vice President

Doug Knolhoff, Hoyleton

### Secretary/Treasurer

Kathy Withers, Mt. Vernon

Michelle Barbee, Salem

Tom Beyers, Odin

Jordan Brink, Richview

Phil Carson, Oakdale

Christopher Johnson, Belle Rive

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useful life and needed to be replaced with newer, more robust technology.

By making these updates, Tri-County Electric will not only improve the reliability of the electrical grid but also strengthen the connections between different areas of the system. Strengthening these connections will help maintain a stable power supply, even in the event of disruptions in other parts of the system.

These upgrades are designed to enhance the overall reliability of the power grid and minimize service interruptions. As part of the cooperative's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality service, these improvements will help ensure that power outages become less

*"These efforts are part of a larger strategy to enhance the community's power infrastructure and ensure that members can rely on a stable and efficient energy supply for years to come."*

frequent and shorter in duration, particularly during high-demand periods or severe weather conditions.

While these projects may cause some minor disruptions during construction, their long-term

benefits will be significant for the Tri-County Electric Cooperative's members. The improved infrastructure will provide a more reliable and efficient power delivery system for the entire service area.

For further information or if you have any questions about the projects, don't hesitate to

reach out to Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

These efforts are part of a larger strategy to enhance the community's power infrastructure and ensure that members can rely on a stable and efficient energy supply for years to come.

## Cooperative Calendar

**May 26, 2025**

Memorial Day - Office Closed

**June 27, 2025**

American Red Cross Blood Drive

**July 4, 2025**

Independence Day - Office Closed

**July 12, 2025**

Annual Meeting - Mt. Vernon



## There's an App for that!

Stay connected with your electric cooperative, anytime, anywhere, with the SmartHub app!



With SmartHub, you can:

- View & pay your bill with a few taps.
- Track your energy usage in real-time.
- Report outages and stay updated on restoration efforts.
- Manage your account securely and conveniently.

No more waiting on hold or searching through paperwork – SmartHub puts the power in your hands. Download the app today and take control of your energy experience!

**Download today!**

Android Users



Apple iOS Users



## Going the Extra Mile for Our Members

At Tri-County Electric Cooperative, we take pride in providing reliable and personalized service to our members. While electric cooperatives across the nation typically serve around 8 consumers per mile of line and investor-owned utilities serve about 32 customers per mile of line, Tri-County serves 4.84 consumers per mile. This means we have fewer consumers per mile, but we remain dedicated to maintaining the infrastructure that powers your homes and businesses with care and attention.

Our commitment to excellent service goes beyond just numbers. Unlike larger, investor-owned utilities

that serve many more consumers per mile of line, we focus on our members as individuals, ensuring that each one receives the attention and reliability they deserve. We understand that our members are our priority, and we are always ready to go the extra mile to keep the lights on and provide outstanding service.

This cooperative business model has a rich history. Electric cooperatives were born out of necessity when for-profit utilities couldn't make money serving rural areas. Rural communities came together, forming their own cooperative utilities to bring electricity to areas that were otherwise

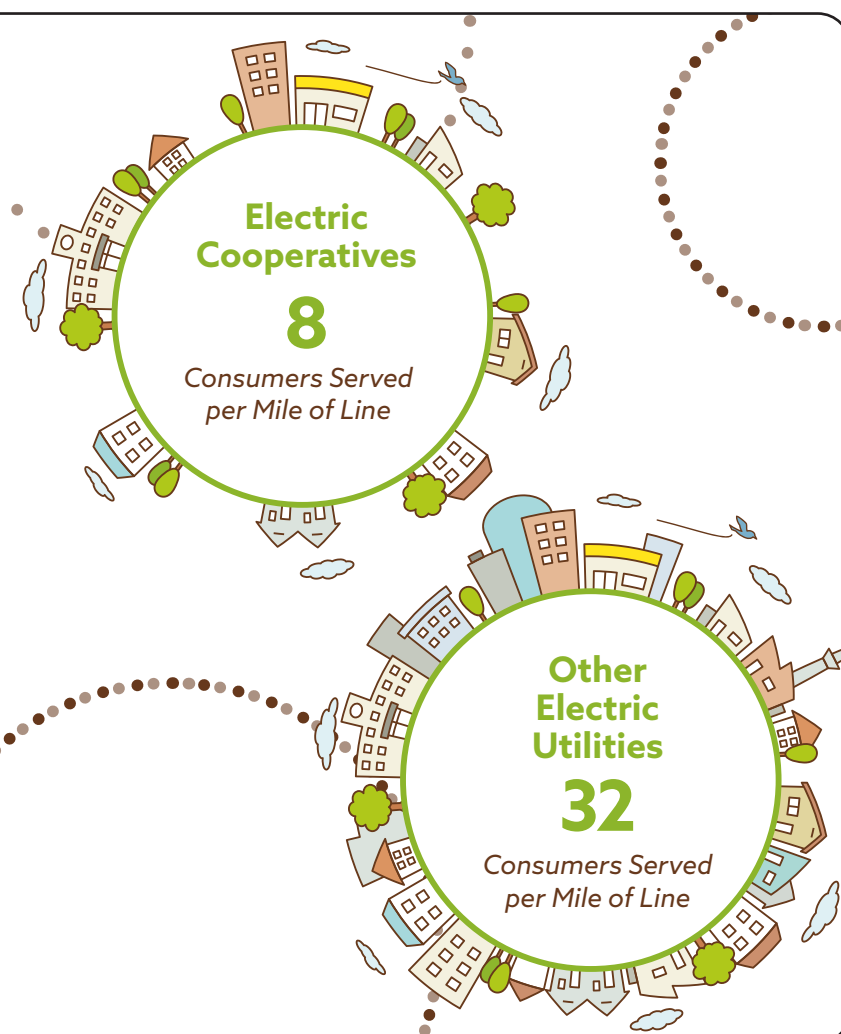
overlooked. This spirit of cooperation continues to guide us today, as we focus on meeting the needs of our members rather than profit margins.

At Tri-County Electric Cooperative, we're not just about electricity—we're about community. We're proud to serve you and will always go the extra mile to ensure your satisfaction. Thank you for being a valued part of our cooperative!

### ELECTRIC CO-OP SERVICE DENSITY compared to OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Electric cooperatives maintain more power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities.

*Even though we serve fewer consumers per mile of line, we will always go the extra mile for our members.*





## Southern Corn Fritters

### Ingredients

- 1 can of corn (drained)
- 1/2 c. self-rising cornmeal
- 1/3 cup of flour
- 1 egg
- 1/4 c. of milk
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- Oil for frying



### Directions

1. In a bowl, mix the cornmeal, flour, salt, and pepper.
2. Beat in the egg and milk to form a batter.
3. Stir in the corn.
4. Heat oil in a frying pan over medium heat.
5. Drop spoonfuls of the batter into the hot oil and fry until golden brown, about 3 minutes per side.
6. Serve with ranch dressing or hot sauce for dipping.

**TCEC Annual Meeting:  
Saturday, July 12th, 2025!**

# 5 Reasons you should attend the ANNUAL MEETING

**1**

### Participate in the cooperative business

Elect your TCEC Board of Directors, Receive reports on TCEC's accomplishments and year-end financial status, and learn about TCEC's plans to continue providing reliable and affordable electricity.



**2**

### \$15 Bill credit for attending!

If you are registered before 10 a.m., you will receive a \$15 bill credit on your August bill!

**3**

### Fun for our youngest members!

Visit our kid's area with facepainting, RoboRams demonstrations, "Meet a Lineman" station, a photo op area, CONNECT 4, Child ID Kits, and more!



**4**

### Coffee & Doughnuts in the Morning!

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Join us for Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee!

**5**

### Did someone say lunch?

Join us for a BBQ lunch after the meeting and stay for a chance to win prizes!



MAY 26, 2025  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
REMEMBER AND HONOR



Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.