



HI-LITES

Free Milkweed Seed Packets in April!

Throughout the month of April, while supplies last, you can pick up a free packet of milkweed seeds from our Mt. Vernon and Salem offices!

Why milkweed?

Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed. In fact, the monarch butterfly is also known as the “milkweed butterfly.” A monarch butterfly begins life as a tiny egg on the bottom of a milkweed leaf. Monarchs lay their eggs exclusively on milkweed because it will provide enough food for the caterpillars once they emerge. The caterpillars feed on the milkweed for approximately 2 weeks.

Monarch butterflies have a short lifespan of 4-5 weeks, but in that short amount of time, they are able to pollinate plants, crops, flowers, and trees. Their survival is important because 35% of the world’s food comes from pollinated plants that we depend on.

How do you grow milkweed?

Germination rates will be greatly reduced if not planted correctly. Milkweed seeds can be very slow to germinate and do take time and patience. For best results and to speed up the germination process, place the seeds in a wet paper towel in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for 30 days prior to planting. Then plant the seeds in a sunny place about 1/2” deep and water them for at least two weeks.

After about two months, your milkweed plant will be big enough for caterpillars to eat. Each monarch caterpillar will eat through about 20 leaves!

Milkweed plants are food for caterpillars but poisonous to humans. Do not get milkweed sap on your skin or in your eyes. Milkweed is also toxic if eaten, so keep plants away from young children and pets.



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.

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Phone: (618) 244-5151
Toll-Free: (800) 244-5151
Pay-by-Phone: (844) 968-1991

TCEC recognized for Outstanding Workplace Practices



Supervisor of Operations Shannon Davis accepted awards on behalf of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Safety leadership and training were the focus of the 2026 Safety and Energy Conference, held Jan. 28–29 in Springfield. The conference, which was held by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, covered a range of topics focused on leadership, safety and workplace culture, including personal influence and leadership, technical safety training, and the role of safety culture in the workplace.

Safety awards were also given, recognizing cooperatives for exemplary safety performance over the past year. Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) earned the 2025 Best Incident Rate for having the lowest overall number of recordable workplace incidents and the 2025 Rural Electric Safety Program Certificates of Achievement. By participating in the program, cooperatives commit to safety as an organizational value through training, educating and assessing its workforce.

As the electric industry continues to evolve, safety remains a top priority. TCEC will always be committed to a strong safety culture for both employees and cooperative members.

Cooperative Calendar

April 3, 2026

TCEC Offices Closed - Good Friday

April 13, 2026

Board Petitions Must be Filed

June 26, 2026

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Mt. Vernon

July 11, 2026

Annual Meeting - Mt. Vernon

Honey Glazed Carrots

PERFECT EASTER SIDE DISH

Ingredients

- 1 lb. carrots, sliced or baby carrots
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 1 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped (optional)



Directions

1. Bring a pot of water to a boil and cook carrots for 5–6 minutes until just tender. Drain
2. In a skillet over medium heat, melt butter
3. Add carrots and stir in honey, salt, and pepper
4. Cook 3–4 minutes, stirring until carrots are glazed and slightly caramelized.
5. Sprinkle with fresh parsley before serving.

Every “bunny” will love these sweet honey-glazed carrots—even the pickiest little nibblers at the table!



Enroll in **Peak Power Rewards** to earn **credits** on your bill by reducing your usage during peak power events!

SCAN ME



**PEAK POWER
REWARDS**



Your Southern Illinois Family
of Electric Cooperatives
CLAY • CLINTON COUNTY • HICKMAN • MONROE COUNTY
SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS • SOUTHERN ILLINOIS • THE COUNTY

Peak Power Rewards Program (PPR)

The **Peak Power Rewards Program** is a voluntary program that offers bill credits for reducing electricity use during short periods of high demand.

How It Works

Event Alerts: When high demand is expected, an event lasting 2–4 hours is called. Members usually receive about 24 hours' notice by text or email.

You Choose: Participation is completely voluntary. You decide if and how to reduce energy use—such as adjusting your thermostat or delaying appliance use. There is no penalty if you choose to not participate in a peak power event.

Earn Credits: Members earn \$1 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) saved compared to their normal usage. *Pilot participants averaged about \$5 per event.*

When Events Happen

Events most often occur during summer (June–August) and winter (December–February) but may happen any time high demand or grid stress is expected.

www.tricountycoop.com/PeakPowerRewards

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.

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ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

TCEC



TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC
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