



Hi-Lites

The Board of Directors and Employees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative wish you a safe and Merry Christmas!



2024 Plan of Work

Luke Johnson
General Manager

Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors recently approved the annual plan of work for 2024. Each year, a number of line projects which should improve the reliability of the electric distribution system are selected and prioritized. Some lines are replaced due to age and condition. Other lines will be replaced with a larger conductor due to load growth.

The following are items included in our 2024 plan of work:

- Pole Replacements - Approximately 400 poles will be replaced in 2024. Poles are inspected on an eight-year rotation cycle and poles that fail inspection are replaced. This year, the poles will be inspected and replaced as needed in the entire Ashley, Woodlawn, and Waltonville Substation areas.
- Kinmundy East (Phase 1 of 3) - Upgrade 2.5 miles of aged

three-phase with larger conductor needed to increase reliability and upgrade the line during switching.

- Reserve Northeast - Upgrade 2 miles of aged three-phase conductor to enhance reliability and strengthen the tie line.
- Sectionalizing - Upgrade regulators, capacitors, and OCR's (oil circuit reclosers).
- Substation Improvements - Maintenance to help improve reliability will be conducted on various substations. This work should also prolong equipment life and increase efficiency.

The goal of all of the above mentioned system upgrades is to improve service reliability for the membership.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative distributes energy to 16,428 meters across 3,409 miles of energized line over 62,000 poles, averaging 4.82 members per mile of line.

MISSION STATEMENT

To safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service, and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.

3906 Broadway
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618-244-5151
Toll-Free: 800-244-5151
Fax: 618-244-1496
Pay by phone:
855-385-9902

**Mt. Vernon
Office Hours**
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Salem
Office Hours**
Tuesday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)
www.tricountycoop.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Sam Phillips - Salem

Vice-President

Doug Knolhoff - Hoyleton

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- Jordan Brink - Richview
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- Donnie Laird - Waltonville
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Cooperative Caring

Annual Employee Fundraiser Donations

Tri-County Electric Cooperative employees recently donated funds from the sale of Mascot Pecans and Specialty Nuts. Our appreciation is extended to the community for supporting this annual fundraiser which allows employees to give back to the communities the cooperative serves.

This year, your electric cooperative's employee fundraiser was able to support five different agencies throughout the community!

- **SSM Good Samaritan Foundation Cancer Care Initiative** - Cancer has touched all of our lives, and we want to do our part to improve cancer care for our neighbors, family, and friends.
- **Irvington U.C.C. Food Pantry** - The U.C.C. food pantry serves the greater Washington County area for emergency food needs. Putting food on the tables of families in our community is a cause that is important to us.
- **Angels on Assignment** - Angels on Assignment provides assistance for basic family needs — including rent, food, & utilities — for Jefferson County residents.
- **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** - The Imagination Library provides a book each month to children birth to five. This donation was able to sponsor 120 children!
- **Salem Ministerial Alliance** - The Salem Ministerial Alliance provides rental, utility, and nutritional needs to the residents of Marion County.



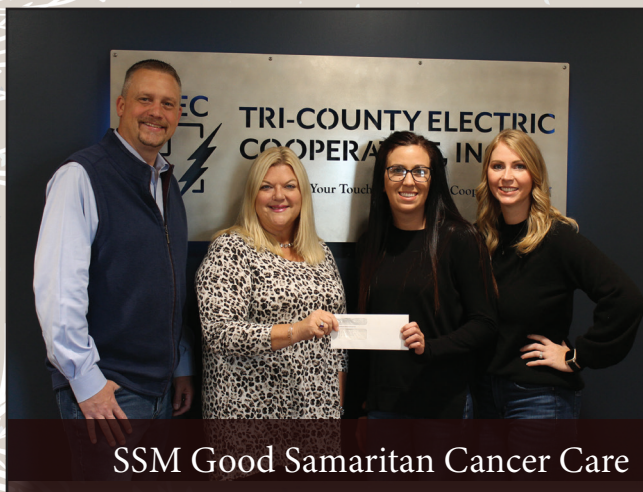
Irvington U.C.C. Food Pantry



Angels on Assignment



Salem Ministerial Alliance



SSM Good Samaritan Cancer Care



Dolly Parton Imagination Library



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

In October, Cooperative employees partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build thirty beds for children in our community who do not have one. Thank you to the members and employees who gave monetary and bedding donations to benefit Sleep in Heavenly Peace during Cooperative Month. Collectively, we were able to donate 78 pieces of bedding and \$6,385 in monetary donations!



Mascot Pecans and Candies Make the Perfect Christmas Gift!

16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves	\$10.75
16 oz. Medium Pecan Pieces	\$10.50
12 oz. Roasted & Salted Jumbo Cashews	\$8.25
4 oz. Pecan Log	\$4.25
8 oz. Pecan Caramel Clusters	\$6.75
12 oz. Chocolate Covered Pecans	\$8.25

Nuts are available, while supplies last, during regular business hours at both office locations of the cooperative.

Mascot Pecans are great for baking, gift-giving, or snacking! All specialty nuts come in a decorative foil bag. The proceeds from the employee Mascot Pecan Fundraiser are donated to community organizations that serve the membership of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Mascot Pecans are the gift that gives back!

2024 Illinois Electric Cooperative Scholarships

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 16 scholarships in 2024 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 16 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Ten scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric co-op member. In addition, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Five additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college

whose parent(s) are an Illinois electric cooperative member, employee or director.

The 16th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL. Children of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2023. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2024.

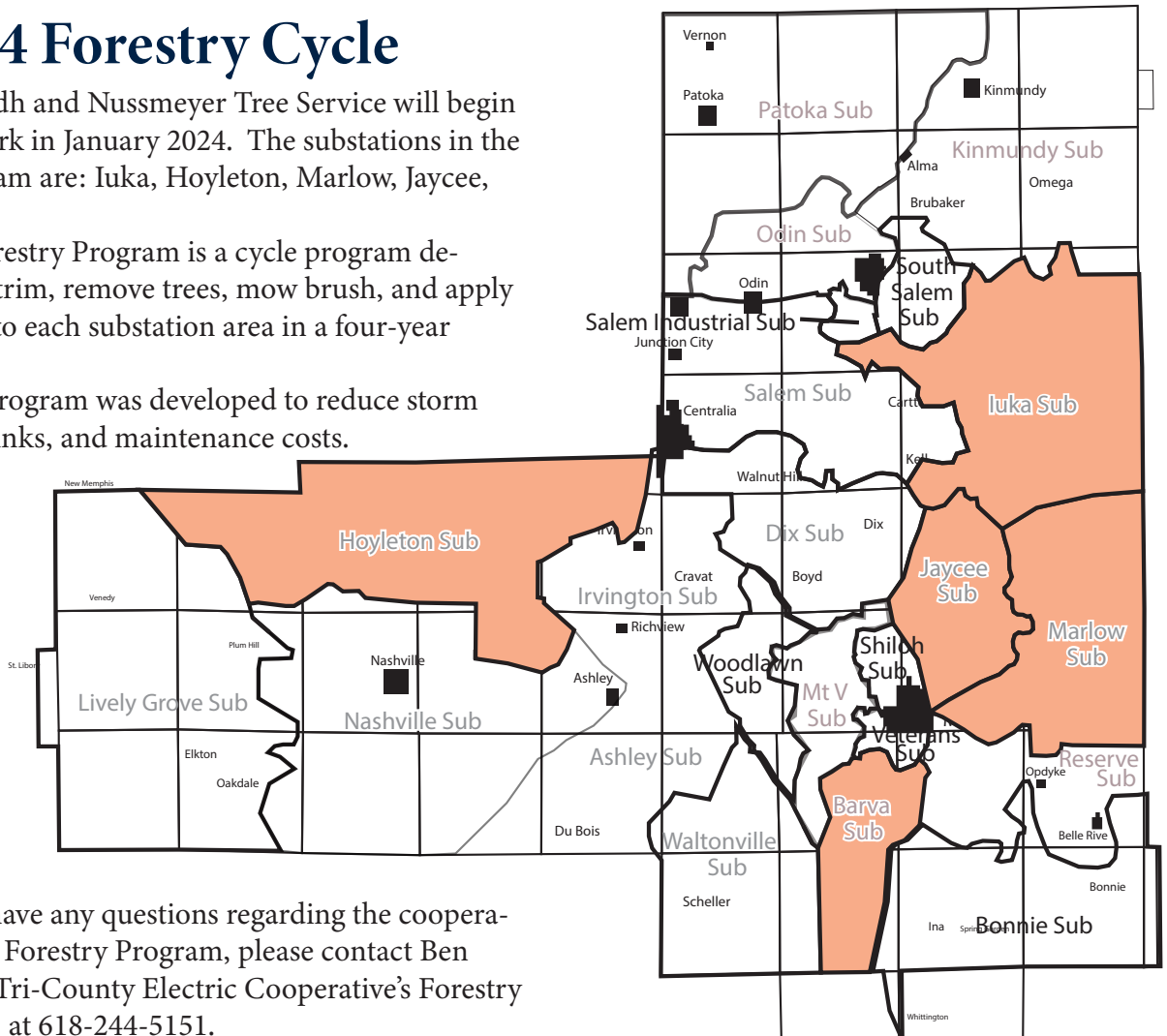
More info: tricountycoop.com/scholarships

2024 Forestry Cycle

Asplundh and Nussmeyer Tree Service will begin forestry work in January 2024. The substations in the 2024 program are: Iuka, Hoyleton, Marlow, Jaycee, and Barva.

The Forestry Program is a cycle program developed to trim, remove trees, mow brush, and apply herbicides to each substation area in a four-year cycle.

This program was developed to reduce storm damage, blinks, and maintenance costs.



If you have any questions regarding the cooperative's Cycle Forestry Program, please contact Ben Ceglinski, Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Forestry Supervisor, at 618-244-5151.

**Tri-County Electric Cooperative offices will be closed for:
Christmas Day - Monday, December 25th and New Year's Day - Monday, January 1st**