

Hi-Lites

14-Year Safety Milestone Reached!



Luke Johnson, General Manager

Along with Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors, I wish to congratulate and commend the cooperative employees on reaching another significant milestone in working safely. Your cooperative employees have worked 14 years without a lost-time accident by a full-time Tri-County Electric Cooperative employee. This is a major accomplishment and we thank the cooperative employees for their dedication to working safely.

Electrical safety is of utmost importance here at the Cooperative. That is why our employees are required to attend regular safety meetings and our linemen have extensive training

before they are allowed to work on electric lines. We know how dangerous electricity can be, so we stress safety for both our employees and the public.

All of the Cooperative employees have one goal - to provide safe, reliable electric service to our members.

Our employees must be ready to respond when our members need them. Employees that restore your power do so because they know that without their commitment, many of the conveniences that we have come to expect - heating, air conditioning, hot and cold food, lights, computers, television - wouldn't be possible.

In addition to internal safety, our employees are dedicated to sharing electrical safety messages throughout the community that we serve.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the employees and directors of Tri-County Electric Cooperative for their dedication to safety and for their commitment to 'keep the lights on.'

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.)

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

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Larry Manning - Belle Rive



Simple Thanksgiving Crowd-Pleasers

Cranberry Salad

- 1 - 16 oz. bag cranberries, rinsed
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 - 7 oz. cans mandarin oranges, drain & save juice.
- 3/4 cup mandarin orange juice
(add water if not enough)
- 3/4 cup chopped pecans

Place cranberries, sugar, and juice in microwave safe dish. Stir well. Microwave 5 minutes and stir - repeat twice. Cool. Add oranges and nuts. Stir again. Chill for 2 hours.

Slow Cooker Creamed Corn

- 3 (15.25 oz.) cans whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup milk
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 8 oz. cream cheese, cubed
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, cut into thin slices

Place corn into a 6 quart slow cooker. Stir in milk, sugar and pepper until well combined. Without stirring, top with butter and cream cheese. Cover and cook high heat for 2-3 hours. After 2-3 hours, uncover and stir until butter and cream cheese are well combined. Cover and cook on high for an additional 15 minutes. Serve immediately.

Thanksgiving Punch

- 1 Gallon Apple Cider
- 48 oz Ginger Ale
- 1 Red Apple sliced thin
- 1 Green Apple sliced thin
- 1 Navel Orange sliced thin
- 1 cup Frozen Cranberries
- 1 Tbsp. Pumpkin Pie Spice
- 5 Cinnamon Sticks for garnish and flavor

In a 2 gallon drink jar, add 2 cups apple cider. Whisk in pumpkin pie spice until any clumps are gone. Add the rest of the apple cider, ginger ale, apples, oranges, cranberries, and cinnamon sticks. Stir gently. Refrigerate for 2-3 hours before serving cold.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



2024 Scholarships Available!



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. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services at 618-244-5151 or lhutchison@tricitycoop.com. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at tricitycoop.com/scholarships.

Shelled Georgia Mascot Brand Pecans are in stock at Tri-County Electric Cooperative!



In stock:

16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves \$10.75
16 oz. Medium Pecan Pieces \$10.50

Other nuts to be shipped in November include:

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.

Salem Office

Tuesday - Thursday

Closed for lunch (12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

1631 E. Main St., Salem, IL

Mt. Vernon Office

Monday - Friday

3906 Broadway St., Mt. Vernon, IL

Mascot Pecans are great for baking, gift-giving, or snacking! The proceeds from the employee Mascot Pecan Fundraiser are donated to community organizations that serve the membership of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Tri-County Electric Line Personnel Compete in Lineworker's Safety Rodeo



From Left: Brent Livesay, Jackson Mays, Justin Cantrell, and Chad Wynn

Line personnel from Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) participated in the annual Lineworker's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Thursday, Sept. 21. Eighteen teams from 14 electric co-ops and two municipal electric utilities participated in the friendly competition, along with eight others competing individually. The rodeo highlights the skills lineworkers use to work safely and efficiently.

TCEC's Brent Livesay, Justin Cantrell and Jackson Mays competed as a team, and Chad Wynn competed individually at the rodeo, held at the LLCC Line School Yard in Springfield. They competed against teams from across Illinois in events using skills that focused on agility, speed and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in four team and individual events, a 40-foot climb, pole top rescue, H-structure obstacle course and a cutout change. The day concluded with a head-to-head climbing challenge.

Scores for each event are based on completion time, proper execution of the task and safety. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to mistakes such as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

Congratulations to our lineworkers on their team and individual efforts!

IL Rep. Dave Severin receives Public Service Award



From Left: Rep. Dave Severin and TCEC General Manager Luke Johnson

At the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting in August, State Representative Dave Severin, R-116th District, received the 2023 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award. The award was made in recognition of Rep. Severin's dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program. Severin's district includes TCEC's service territory. TCEC's General Manager Luke Johnson was on hand to present the award. Congratulations, Rep. Dave Severin!

Cooperative offices will be closed on:
November 10th - Veteran's Day

Thank you for your service, veterans!

November 23rd - 24th

Thanksgiving

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!