



LEWIS COUNTY REC

Visit our web site @
www.lewiscountyrec.coop

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services

Every year during April, we take the time to thank our extraordinary linemen and administrative professionals who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in Northeast Missouri. Lewis County REC's linemen and administrative professionals help make sure maintenance is done on 2487 miles of line and keep track 7231 meters usage in Lewis County REC's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark. We depend on our entire staff to keep Lewis County REC running smoothly, but this month, we honor all linemen and administrative professionals.

Our linemen often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they. Many times being pulled from family birthday celebrations, holiday dinners, or family outings. Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in the Lewis County REC service territory.

In addition, we salute our administrative professionals who work hand in hand with the linemen to keep the power on. Most times if there is a major power outage these individuals are also in the office keeping track of outages, answering phones, and dispatching crews. These dedicated individuals, like linemen, answer the call to action whenever needed. They make sure we have the inventory of line material needed to deal with not only the day to day operation, but the unexpected storms that may call for the quick repairs of line. They work daily with members to answer questions, do billing, dispatch crews, and make sure that everything runs smoothly behind the scenes.

Our employees are committed and critical to our success. Every employee at Lewis County REC goes above and beyond the call of duty to take care of our members and make sure that the lights shine bright in Northeast Missouri! If you see any of the employees this month let them know how much you appreciate what they do. I feel like our employees are a true “cut above” all of the rest in the nation. They are where the rubber meets the road and we appreciate them very much. So this month when those April showers and storms hit remember those men and women are out there working to keep the power flowing.



SAFETY FIRST!

Spring planting is getting started this month, and it's possible that farm equipment you used last year or the new ones you just bought might not clear power lines near your fields. Be sure to check to avoid accidental contacts that could prove deadly.



Be sure to follow us on Facebook for up to date information, as well as, energy efficiency and safety tips.

**Mark your calendars for
Lewis County REC's
82nd Annual Meeting
Thursday, August 1, 2019
at Knox County High School,
Edina, MO.**



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

As you search for ways to make your home more energy efficient this spring, turn on a light — one that is more energy efficient, that is. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, changing just 5 light bulbs to LEDs could cut your electric bill by \$75 a year.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-888-454-4485
(LOCAL) 215-4000

24 HOURS A DAY

CALL THE TOLL FREE NUMBER
DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS (7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
FOR ALL OTHER SERVICES

Before calling:

Check your breakers or fuses

Check with your neighbors to see if they have power

When calling please give the following information:

Your name • Meter Number • and/or location number

April 18th is National Lineworker Appreciation Day

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Lewis County REC strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heaving equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. Line crews use their ipads and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, Lewis County REC lineworkers are responsible for keeping 2487 miles of line and 7231 meters energized, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any times of the day or night. During blizzards, ice storms or thunder storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Farm safe!

Farm machinery is getting larger. That’s good news to the farmer trying to get the most from their spring planting. But it can be a problem where overhead power lines cross the farm or roads heading into the fields.

Your electric cooperative encourages you to consider line clearances whenever you head into the field or do other farm operations. Your equipment may have fit under overhead lines last year, but things can change. Differences in tire pressure, ground upheaval from winter’s freeze/thaw cycles, flooding and a host of other issues can change the clearance between farm equipment and power lines.

New equipment is of special concern. Larger equipment, along with changes in equipment design, can pose problems for farmers. If you discover line clearance is an issue, do not attempt to remedy the problem yourself. Instead, contact your electric cooperative and discuss having the line moved or raised.

Cotton pickers, hydraulic hoists, hay and grain elevators, sprayers and front end loaders are all potential candidates for an accidental contact. Planters with the row marker in the vertical position also are potential problems for line clearance.

As you grease and oil your machinery to prepare for the coming planting season, make sure you inspect any areas where power lines cross your property. Take note of any changes underneath caused by the wet winter. Do it again before spraying or when harvest time comes.

Before you move any machinery make sure it will clear power lines. Stay safe!



Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday

Missouri is one of the few states in the three-tiered system to offer a tax break on certain appliances. If you need to purchase any of the following items, buy during the tax holiday April 19-25 if your county, district or city participates.

Here’s what ENERGY STAR-certified appliances or equipment qualify for a tax break:

- Clothes washers and dryers
- Water heaters
- Trash compactors
- Dishwashers
- Conventional ovens
- Ranges
- Stoves
- Air conditioners
- Furnaces
- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Heat pumps

For more information, go to <https://dor.mo.gov/business/sales/taxholiday/green/faq.php>.

