



Lewis County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

573-215-4000 • Toll Free: 1-888-454-4485 • www.lewiscountyrec.org
Lewistown, Missouri 63452 • October 2026

From the desk of Travis Mathes Manager of Member Services



November has always felt like a month that asks us to slow down for a moment.

The year is beginning to wind down, the days are getting shorter, harvest is wrapping up, and before long families will gather around tables to celebrate Thanksgiving. It is a season that naturally causes us to reflect on the people, opportunities and blessings that have shaped our lives.

For me, November brings an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

Before we celebrate Thanksgiving, however, we pause on November 11 to recognize Veterans Day. It is a day set aside to honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of our country and served to protect the freedoms we enjoy every day.

Here in northeast Missouri, veterans aren't simply names we hear about or people we see in history books. They are our family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers and members of our communities. They sit beside us at ballgames and church services, shop at the same stores, attend the same community events and travel the same country roads.

To every veteran who has served our country, thank you. Your service and sacrifice deserve our respect not only on Veterans Day, but every day of the year.

As Veterans Day passes and our attention turns toward Thanksgiving, I find myself thinking about the many things for which I am personally thankful.

At the top of that list is my family. I am incredibly thankful for my wife and my sons and for the life we have built together. Like every family, we have experienced challenges and the loss of loved ones along the way. Life doesn't always follow the path we expect, and each of us will encounter obstacles, disappointments and difficult seasons. But those experiences can also give us a greater appreciation for the people who stand beside us through them.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to take a moment and really look around your table.

Look at the faces gathered there. Think about the people who have helped you along the way. Remember the laughter, the memories and even the difficult times you have overcome together. Despite the obstacles we may have faced in the past—or those we may be facing today—there is still so much for which each of us can be thankful.

Sometimes our greatest blessings are the ones sitting right in front of us.

I am also extremely thankful for another family in my life—my cooperative family.

Lewis County REC is much more than poles, wires, meters and electricity. Our cooperative family is made up of our members, employees, directors, co-workers, associates and the many people and organizations we work alongside throughout the year. Together, we share something that has been at the heart of the cooperative since its beginning: a genuine commitment to the people and communities we serve.

I am grateful to have a career with an organization where putting members first isn't simply a phrase printed in a mission statement. It is something I see demonstrated every day.

Our employees know our members because they live in these communities too. We see each other at school activities, community events, ballgames, restaurants, grocery stores and countless other places. The communities we serve aren't dots on a map—they are home.

That connection is especially evident when the lights go out.

While most of us will hopefully spend Thanksgiving gathered around a table enjoying turkey, dressing and all the trimmings, our employees remain ready to respond. Electricity doesn't recognize holidays, and neither do storms, accidents or equipment failures.

If the call comes during Thanksgiving dinner that members are without power, our linemen will leave their own tables, their own families and their own holiday celebrations and head out the door.

They will climb into their trucks and go wherever they are needed, often in cold, darkness, wind or rain, to find the problem and restore service as safely and quickly as possible. Behind them are other employees who may also be called upon to answer phones, communicate information, coordinate resources or provide whatever support is necessary.

They do it because serving our members is what we do.

There is something incredibly meaningful about knowing that while families across our service territory are gathered around their Thanksgiving tables, there are people willing to leave their own table to make sure someone else's holiday isn't interrupted any longer than necessary.

To our linemen and all of our employees who remain ready to answer that call, thank you. Your families sacrifice as well, and their understanding and support are an important part of the

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service we provide.

That spirit of service is one of the reasons I am so thankful to be part of Lewis County REC.

Electric cooperatives were built on neighbors helping neighbors and communities working together to accomplish something that once seemed impossible. Although technology has changed tremendously over the years, that basic principle hasn't changed. We are still here to serve our members, strengthen our communities and improve the quality of life for the people who call this area home.

It is a responsibility we don't take lightly.

So, as another Thanksgiving approaches, I hope each of us can find a few moments amid the cooking, traveling, football games and busy schedules to simply be thankful.

Be thankful for the people around your table.

Be thankful for those who are no longer able to sit there but left us with memories that remain.

Be thankful for the veterans whose service helped preserve

the freedoms that allow us to gather together.

Be thankful for neighbors who lend a hand, communities that rally around one another and people who quietly go to work every day serving others.

And even if this year hasn't gone exactly as planned, take a moment to look at how far you have come. The obstacles behind us often remind us just how strong our families, friendships and communities can be.

For me, I will be giving thanks for my wife and sons, for the people I am fortunate enough to work alongside, for our directors and associates, and especially for you—our members.

Thank you for allowing Lewis County REC to serve you. Thank you for supporting your cooperative, and thank you for making the communities we serve such special places to call home.

From my family and my cooperative family to yours, I wish you a safe, blessed and very Happy Thanksgiving.

WEATHER PROVERBS

- A bad winter betide, if hair grows thick on the bear's hide.
- When you take up the teapot and find sparks on the bottom, it is a sign of cold weather.
- A heavy November snow will last until April.
- Thunder in November, a fertile year to come.
- If snow begins at mid of day, expect a foot of it to lay.
- Anvil-shaped clouds bring on a gale.
- Turnips like a dry bed but a wet head.
- A severe autumn denotes a windy summer; a windy winter, a rainy spring.



**MORE WAYS
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PAYMENTS NOW
ACCEPTED AT
DOLLAR GENERAL**

Members now have the option to pay
their bill with cash at any participating
Dollar General! No office trip required.



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- Bring your bill with the printed barcode, or display the barcode in the SmartHub app.
- Have the Dollar General cashier scan the barcode and tell them how much you'd like to pay in cash.
- Dollar General will add a \$1.50 processing fee, and your payment will post to your account in near real time.

DOWNLOAD THE
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Visit lewiscountyrec.org/smarthub for more information.



Thank You

to everyone who participates in the REC CARES program by allowing us to round your bill up to the nearest whole dollar each month.

The CARES Foundation donates all moneys raised back into our community to assist other non-profits.

**Would you like to make a difference?
It's easy to sign up!**

The most it would ever cost is **.99 cents per month.**
Just give us a call and we'll get you signed up.

During this month of Thanksgiving, please consider signing up.

Together, we can continue to strengthen the communities we call home.




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TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

**CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-888-454-4485
(LOCAL) 215-4000 24 HOURS A DAY**

Before calling, check your breakers or fuses and 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 (if known)
Cell Phone or Telephone Number affiliated with the account**

**CALL DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS (7:30-4:00)
FOR ALL OTHER SERVICES**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. A lower temperature setting can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Lewis County REC

★ CYCLE Conference ★

(Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience)

CONTEST RULES

1. Eligibility:

- A. A high school student enrolled as a sophomore in a high school or home school equivalent.
- B. Students may participate in only one CYCLE Contest.
- C. The student may not be an immediate family member of a Director or Employee of Lewis County REC.

1. Sequence of events leading to final determination of the winner:

- A. The student must provide a list of personal accomplishments and write an essay of 500 words or less on why they feel they should be chosen to attend this conference.
- B. The students must turn these items in to their Guidance Counselor, or to Lewis County REC to arrive no later than **December 18, 2026**.
- C. Students will be judged both on the essay and items listed on the personal accomplishment forms. A total of 50 points are possible on the essay and a total of 50 points are possible from rating items on the personal accomplishment form.
- D. Decisions of the judges are final and individual scoring will not be disclosed.
- E. Students email address must be included with the essay.

2. Contest Awards:

COOPERATIVE YOUTH CONFERENCE & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

July 20-23, 2027, in Jefferson City, Missouri. Five delegates, one from Lewis County C-1, one from Canton R-V, one from Clark County R-1, one from Knox County R-1, and one from Heartland Christian Academy will be attending this conference all expenses paid. Home schoolers will be entered within the district where they reside.



Questions or correspondence
may be directed to:

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