

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2019



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Y-W Electric Association, Inc.

is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

THE COMMITMENT OF AN ELECTRIC LINEWORKER

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK, GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8, 2019. National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among those doing the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason.

Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Y-W Electric Association's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may

have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

Community commitment

In the Y-W Electric service territory and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards.

Monday, April 8 Y-W Electric is celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Y-W Electric's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in town, please offer them a thank you as well. [Ashton J. & Sharon E. Ferguson 4213005001]

PUMP IT UP

Spring weather in Colorado is unpredictable. Just when the ground thaws and the tulips sprout, a snowstorm emerges on the horizon. When large amounts of snow accumulate on your thawed soil, you run the risk of flooding in your home. If you don't already have one, think about installing a sump pump in your basement to avoid a potential flooding catastrophe.

New Hire



Y-W Electric Association wants to welcome **Elisha Rodwell** to the cooperative. She started her employment with Y-W on February 25 after previous employment with Farmers State Bank in Akron. Elisha was raised on a farm near Anton, Colorado. Elisha enjoys relaxing in her spare time, reading books and spending time with her family, her friends and her two dogs

Welcome to the family, Elisha! [Raymond & Linda Eskew, 121500604]

Billing Corner Irrigation Billing

This is the time of year when our irrigation consumers are getting ready for the growing season. As in the past, we have reviewed how the irrigation rate is billed.

Irrigation usage is based on the calendar year, with a declining rate. The peak kilowatt (demand) is the basis for calculating the kilowatt-hour costs. Each month a kW reading is recorded and stored for comparison throughout the year. Please remember that this kW (demand) will reflect usage of all equipment turned on at one time. Multiple equipment running at the same time could increase your annual costs. An example is grain bins connected to the same meter as the irrigation well.

Our contract meter readers will be busy obtaining monthly summer readings on all of our irrigation services. Easy access to the meters is necessary for accurate and efficient recordings of these readings. Also, please post any warnings of chemical applications for the safety of our personnel.

If you have any questions about how your irrigation account is billed, please call our office at 800-660-2291 or in the Akron area at 970-345-2291. Have a safe summer.

Can You Dig It?

An underground utility line is **damaged once every 9 minutes** because someone didn't call 811.

Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least **2 business days** prior to digging.

811 locators do not detect underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, **utilities can shift**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.

Once **all of your utilities** have been located, then you can start your digging project!

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

[Jacque Schlichenmayer, 1041209218]

Claim Your Credit

Each month, Y-W Electric offers members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you recognize your name and account number in this magazine, call 800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine and pick up the phone. That's all the energy you'll need to claim your energy bucks.

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

Consumer claiming a \$20 credit from the February 2019 issue:

- D. L. Campbell
- Ronald Serl
- Kevin & Rebecca S. Shively
- Sam Bryant

Reap What You Sow: Stay Safe During Planting Season

Long hours and fatigue are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head.

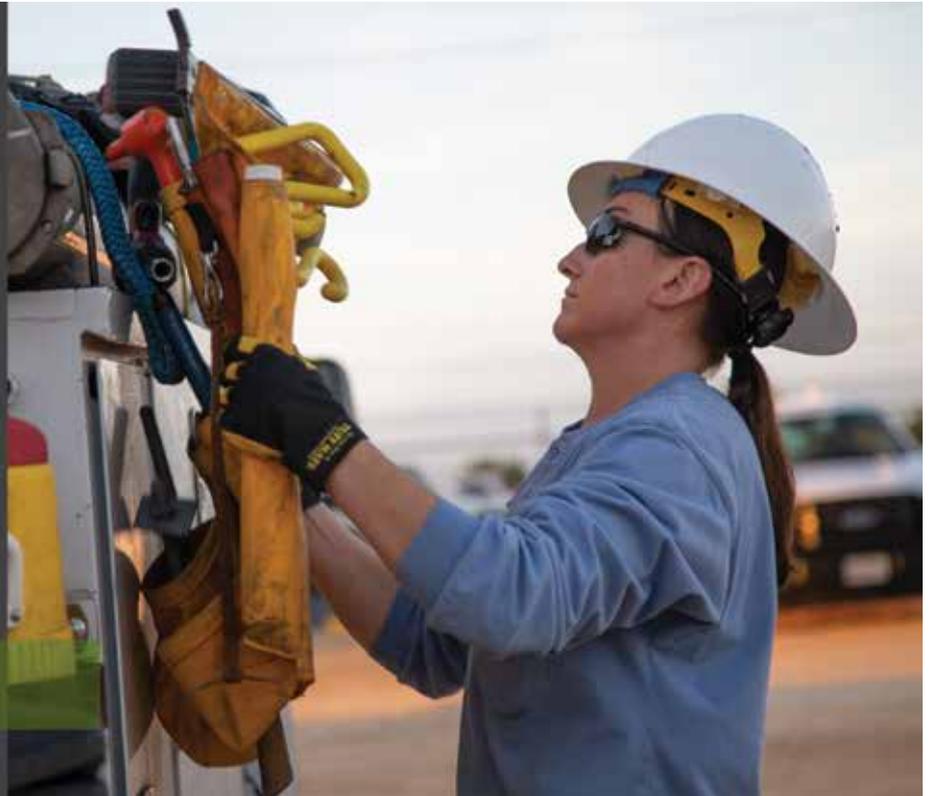
Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before acting around electricity. Y-W Electric Association offers farmers the following reminders:

- If your machinery or vehicle come in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact is made with a live line — even when your tractor or truck make contact — you are now a “pathway to ground” and you could get shocked or electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 911 for help.
- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, from a distance alert individuals to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene.
- When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- Even if there is no contact, an electrical current can jump or arc, so keep equipment at least 10 feet from surrounding power lines at all times.
- Remember, nonmetallic materials, such as tree limbs, ropes and hay, can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt accumulation.
- Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least 50 feet away. Call 911 to have the operator dispatch Y-W Electric.
- Every day, map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines.
- When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.
- Train anyone working with or for you to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Also design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.
- Think about the saying, “Know your PTO.” To stay safe when working with a power take-off, always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and the remove keys before getting off the tractor. Also, never step across a rotating power shaft. [Gary M. Vaughn, 790212600]

For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

We know
how to get
the job done.

#ThankALineworker



Riddle: What's Hot or Cold and Makes a Big Impact on Your Energy Bill?

What accounts for almost half the energy use in a typical U.S. home? It's not the refrigerator in the garage that predates texting and it's not your hot water heater that heats the water your teenagers like to hog, although they are both good guesses. It's your heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system, more commonly called an HVAC system.

Keeping your home cool in the summer and warm in the winter draws a mighty share of your energy budget. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48 percent of the energy pie just to heat and cool it.

Aside from replacing your furnace and central air unit with newer, higher-efficiency versions, there are some things you can do to increase HVAC efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

Y-W Electric Association offers the following tips:

OVERALL HVAC

1. Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help HVAC components run more efficiently.
2. Change all filters regularly for increased efficiency. Invest a little more in filters that trap smaller particles.
3. If you have an energy intensive, large system that gets a lot of use, consider retrofitting, which means adding or replacing certain parts. Homeowners can save up to 35 percent annually by retrofitting, according to the DOE.
4. Get a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent per year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours per day, according to Energy.gov.
5. Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

AIR CONDITIONING

1. Keep heat-producing appliances and lamps away from your thermostat, which can cause the system to run longer and work harder.
2. Keep curtains and blinds closed during the hottest part of the day.
3. Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
4. Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.

FURNACE

1. Instead of turning up the thermostat, use blankets and wear sweatshirts or sweaters to keep you warm.
2. Don't let warm air escape. Keep your windows and doors shut, and if you have a fireplace, make sure the flue is closed and glass doors are shut when not in use.
3. Reverse the direction of your ceiling fans to force the warm air that rises downward.
4. Make sure your vents and radiators aren't blocked by rugs or furniture. Air will circulate better and it's safer.
5. If there are rooms you're not using regularly, shut the vent and close the door.
6. Keep curtains and blinds closed at night to help insulate your house; conversely, open curtains and shades on south-facing windows during the day to let the sunlight in. [Mark & Kristi Dix, 621007400]

For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

**Committed to the job.
Committed to safety.
Committed to you,
our members.**

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 8, 2019

