

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL
GENERAL MANAGER

“We’re here to serve you.” We’ve all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us — your local electric cooperative — they mean everything.

K.C. Electric Association was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, K.C. Electric helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today’s energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That’s why we’re adapting — to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs, and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you’re looking for ways to save energy, check our website for energy-saving tips and ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Consider scheduling an energy audit to identify ways you can save energy at home. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.



DAVID CHURCHWELL

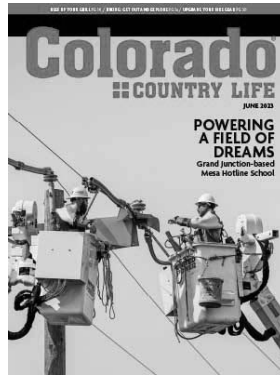
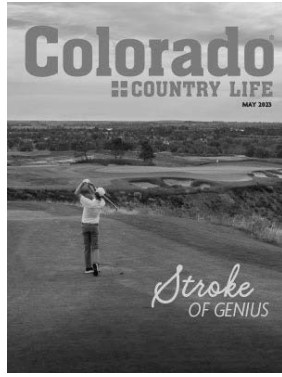
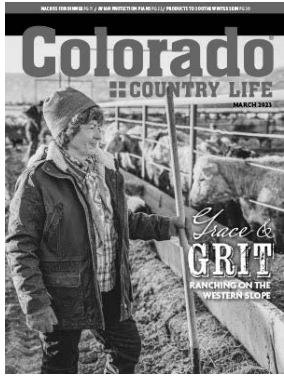
If you’re considering a rooftop solar installation, we would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it’s important to fully understand the costs and responsibilities. Unlike a solar company that has one objective — to sell their products and services — we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must undertake their due diligence, and we’re here to help you through that process.

In a similar vein, we recognize that some members may be considering electric vehicle options. K.C. Electric provides EV information on our website so you can make informed decisions prior to purchasing an EV. We can also provide a candid assessment of residential and business charging requirements for all types of EVs.

So, the next time you hear us use the phrase “We’re here to serve you,” we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained into who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we’ve found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We’re here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, or through the SmartHub app. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

Why Do I Receive Colorado Country Life?



Colorado Country Life is an award-winning monthly magazine published for Colorado's electric cooperatives. This publication is a unique and cost-effective way for K.C. Electric Association to communicate and engage with you. Each month you'll find K.C. Electric updates, including board election processes, annual meeting information, safety news, and the opportunity to find your name and receive a bill credit. You also get exciting human-interest stories, gardening advice, outdoors-themed articles, delicious recipes, energy-efficiency information in every issue.

We love your feedback. Please call us at K.C. Electric Association at 719-743-2431 if you have any questions.



Claim Your Savings

Each month, K.C. Electric Association members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431, and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

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

Mark Hogan, Kit Carson — 1187409700

Marcia Harlan, Stratton — 922550004

Mike Vanmaarth, Burlington — 1104920002

Jim Dobler, Burlington — 1102190001

In July, three members called to claim their savings: Jess Solz, Hugo; Michelle Nestor, Hugo; and Laura Stone, Flagler.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK: SEPTEMBER 19-23

We don't have to remind those who work the land and raise livestock that they have a potentially dangerous occupation. However, due to the nature of the job, and because of long days and tiring work, keep yourself (and others) safe by following these reminders about electrical dangers on the farm or ranch.

Overhead power lines

If you make contact with a power line, guy wire, power pole, electrical box, or any other electrical equipment, do not get out of your cab or truck. Stay put and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the local utility to de-energize the power. If you must get out due to smoke or fire, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop. Another option (after you make a clean exit) is to shuffle or waddle away while keeping your feet together and on the ground.

Once you are out, never try to re-enter the cab or truck.

Remember: If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line or other utility equipment, do not get out of the cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground. Call 911 and wait for us to arrive and cut the power so that you can safely exit your tractor or vehicle.

Determine proper clearance

Contact us to measure power line heights; do NOT do this yourself. Once you know the heights, you can determine appropriate equipment, implementation, and extension clearances. Always maintain at least 10 feet between the power line and the tallest height of the equipment that will be transported. Keep in mind that due to wear, age and even weather conditions, power lines can change height. Please contact us with any concerns. It's good to know power line clearance, but always have a spotter.

Always dig safely

Whether you are installing new fence posts or using large tillage tools, call 811 before you dig to have underground utilities marked. Even if you think you know where buried gas, power, and other lines are, don't rely on your memory. Get all utilities marked so that you know for sure. Utility locators dispatched by 811 do not mark private lines.

General safety

- Check and maintain equipment, especially electric cables and hydraulic hoses that have cracks or show other signs of wear.
- Always have someone nearby when entering grain bins or other high-risk areas.
- Check all buildings and grounds for fire hazards and hazardous materials.
- Assess how any chemicals are stored and make sure children and animals can't access them.
- Make a list of chemicals for firefighters in case a fire breaks out on your farm or ranch.
- Establish a safety boundary around gas and fuel tanks.
- Don't skimp on safety: Wear eye and ear protection, gloves, and face masks (and respirators when appropriate).
- Shield all Power Take-Off-powered machinery and keep others away.
- Outfit tractors and trucks with fire extinguishers.
- Never exit a tractor or truck without placing it in park or engaging the emergency brakes.
- Discuss safety concerns with children and explain safe operating procedures. You can never start too young, and they watch what you do.

General safety tips source: Hobby Farms

