

Northwestern Electric News

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



June 2014

Inside

OAEC awards.....2
 Peak Shaver3
 Recipe.....3
 Youth Winners4

Grain bins: harvesting safely

By Abby Berry

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job—and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At Northwestern Electric, safety is top priority for all—our employees and our members.

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it’s easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in the efficiency and profitability of farm and ranch operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

Whether you’re purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

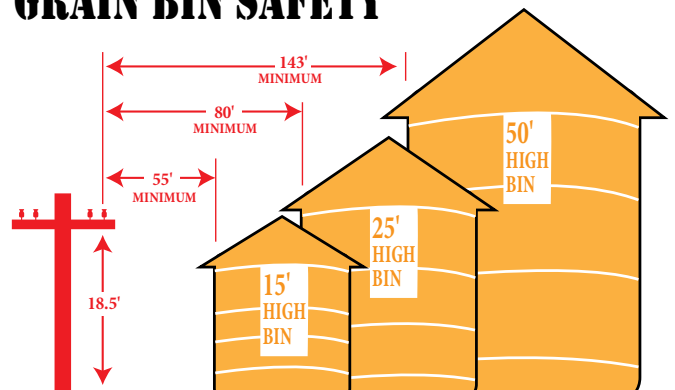
Safe clearance. The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. See the chart at right for further guidelines. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

Filling grain bins. High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it’s important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your bin.

Moving equipment near grain bins. When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. (5419003)

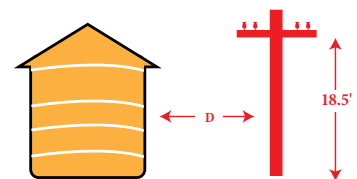
Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why Northwestern Electric reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you

GRAIN BIN SAFETY



DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.



*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin’s site, please contact us at 580.256.7425 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

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ELECTRIC
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Operating In
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Major, Woods and Woodward
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NOTICE

A copy of NWEC Bylaws will be made available for any member upon request.

**Web page: www.nwecok.coop
E-mail: nwec@nwecok.coop**

NWEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866.632.9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202.690.7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) presented awards to two NWEC employees during its annual meeting held on April 7 in Oklahoma City. Kendall Beck, safety and loss control committee chair, presented Trevor Howard with his Journeyman Lineman certificate. Anna Politano, editor of *Oklahoma Living Magazine*, presented Jonna Hensley with an Award of Excellence for best overall content (small cooperative) and an Award of Merit for best website.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When shopping for a new appliance, consider lifetime operation costs as well as the up-front purchase price. Refrigerators last an average of 12 years, clothes washers about 11, and dishwashers about 10. Check the Energy Guide label for the appliance's estimated yearly operating cost, and look for ENERGY STAR units, which usually exceed minimum federal standards for efficiency and quality. To learn more, visit EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

March 2014 Operating Report

	2013	2014
Revenue - Billing	2,539,019	2,936,731
Cost of Power.....	1,567,480	2,109,314
Miles of Lines	4,929	4,954
Members Connected	11,625	11,759
Density per Mile	2.36	2.37
Average Member KWH	2,461	2,433
Average Bill	218	250
KWH Purchased.....	29,003,381	31,093,723
KWH Sold.....	28,604,780	28,609,400
Income per Mile.....	518	597
Expense per Mile	505	612

Help manage your energy costs

In today's technology-driven world, everything relies on electricity—computers, plasma televisions, DVD systems, cell phone chargers, laptops, video games. Consumers' demand for electricity continues to increase while the supply of electricity is becoming more and more scarce.

Energy efficiency can help head off the need for new generation and curb greenhouse gas emissions.

That's why we're asking our members to join the Peak Shaver program. The Peak Shaver program is an effort to help members become energy aware and lower their power bills by using energy more efficiently and by reducing the energy consumed during peak periods when prices are higher. The demand for electricity is greater in the hot summer months from June 20 to September 20 between 2:30-7:30 p.m.

To meet the demand for power needed at peak times, electric suppliers

must produce the power themselves or purchase it on the market. Consequently, the costs are greater during peak time when demand is high. These higher costs are reflected in the power cost adjustment applied to the monthly bill for NWECC and its members.

PEAK SHAVEN

Here's how the program works. When NWECC determines a peak situation exists, participating members will be notified by phone message,

e-mail or text message. Members will be asked to help conserve energy by turning off lights or appliances that are not needed. (14579001)

Participating members will also be asked to adjust their thermostats a few degrees, delay the use of major appliances such as ovens, dishwashers, washing machines, clothes dryers and postpone hot water usage during these peak hours.

Stop by our Woodward office at 2925 Williams Avenue and sign up to

be a Peak Shaver. You can also visit our Website at www.nwecok.coop or call the member services department at 580.256.7425 to sign up today.

Using electricity wisely and controlling use during peak times will save money, maintain reliability and help the environment.

Four simple ways to be a Peak Shaver

- ▶ Turn your air conditioner thermostat up by three degrees between 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Wait until after 7:30 p.m. to start the dishwasher, clothes washer or dryer.
- ▶ Use the outdoor grill for cooking instead of the broiler or oven in your stove.
- ▶ Minimize the use of hot water between the hours of 2:30-7:30 p.m.

Hidden account number contest

Congratulations to Dale Hawbaker for recognizing his number in last month's newsletter. The other number belonged to Shannon Lavery.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the contest, this is how it works. We have hidden two account numbers somewhere in the articles in this newsletter. The numbers will always be enclosed in parentheses and will look similar to this example (XXXXXX).

If you recognize your account number, all you have to do is give us a call on or before the 8th of the current month and we'll give you a credit on your bill for the amount stated.

This month's numbers are worth \$25 each. Happy hunting!

Country Cooking

No Bake Energy Bites

- 1 cup dry oatmeal (old-fashioned oats)**
- 2/3 cup shredded coconut**
- 1/2 cup peanut butter**
- 1/2 cup ground flaxseed or wheat germ**
- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips**
- 1/3 cup honey or maple syrup**
- 1 Tbsp. chia seeds (optional)**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**



Stir all ingredients together in a medium bowl until thoroughly mixed. Cover and let chill in the refrigerator for half an hour.

Once chilled, roll into balls about 1" in diameter. Store in an airtight container and keep refrigerated for up to 1 week.

Makes about 20-25 balls.

Summer fun on tap for Youth Tour winners

Thanks to Northwestern Electric and its proud tradition of supporting the youth in its service territory, Lindsey Brown and Katelyn Cutsinger won't have to worry about finding something exciting to do this summer.

Lindsey and Katelyn won an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., along with a \$500 scholarship. They will spend six fun-filled days in June touring the nation's Capital.

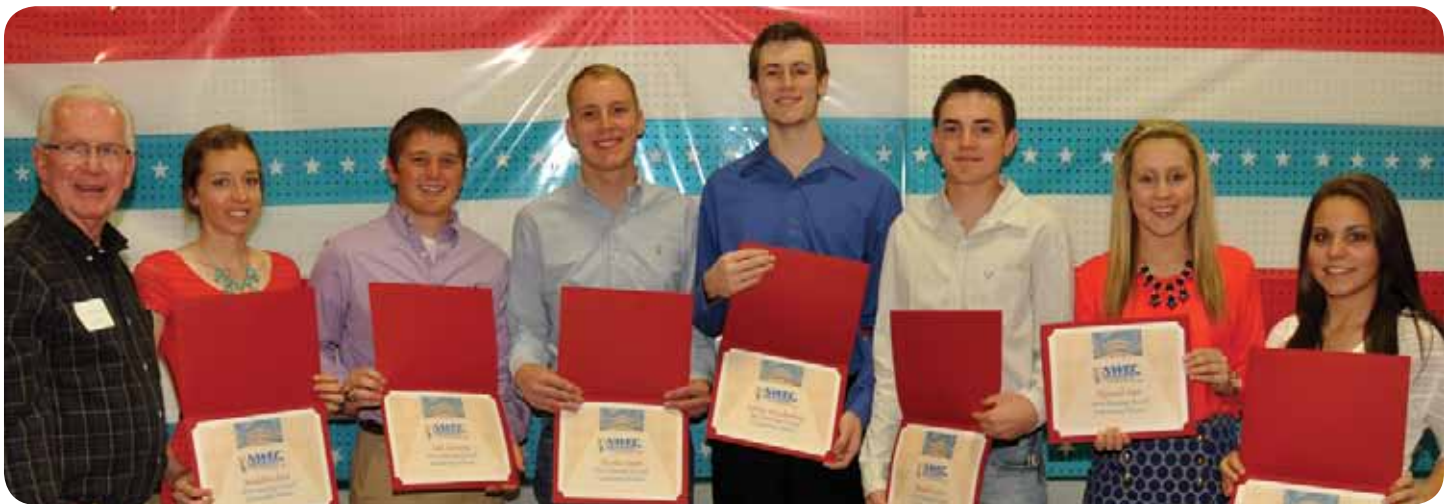
Paden Salisbury and Karly Gillispie captured a spot at the 2015 Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit along with a \$500 college scholarship.

Lindsey is the daughter of James and Lyn Brown of Laverne and Katelyn is the daughter of Orval and Rosetta Cutsinger from Vici. Paden is also from Vici and her parents are



Lindsey Brown, Paden Salisbury, Karly Gillispie and Katelyn Cutsinger competed in NWECE's 2014 Youth Tour contest. Lindsey and Katelyn will represent NWECE during this year's Washington Youth Tour. Paden and Karly earned a spot at the 2015 Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit. All four students will receive a \$500 college scholarship for being one of the finalists.

Kelly and Trisha Salisbury. Karly's Shattuck. Congratulations students for parents are Levi and Amy Gillispie of a job well done!



NWECE announced the 2014 scholarship winners during its annual meeting held on April 10. Thurman Fussell presented the awards to this year's recipients—Madeline Atha, Jake Fanning, Nicolas Smith, Kenny Kruckenberg, Randall Castor, Hannah Darr and Micah Morehart. Sarah Meinders was unable to attend the meeting.

NWECE announces 2014 scholarship recipients

Northwestern Electric is pleased to announce the winners of the 2014 Fanning-Fussell Scholarship. Madeline Atha, Jake Fanning, Nicolas Smith, Kenny Kruckenberg, Randall Castor, Hannah Darr, Micah Morehart and Sarah Meinders will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship for one year.

NWECE's scholarship committee members based their selection of the

students on their knowledge of electric cooperatives, citizenship, leadership, and scholastic achievement.

Madeline is the daughter of Todd and Ada Atha, Arnett. Jake's parents are Tom and Michele Fanning, May. Nicolas is the son of Brian and Lezli Smith, Arnett. Kenny is the son of Jay and Suzy Kruckenberg, Mooreland. Randall's parents are Randy and Becky Castor, Vici. Hannah is the

daughter of Travis and Sonya Darr, Fairview. Micah's parents are Kevin and Ellen Morehart, Fargo and Sarah is the daughter of John and Ingrid Meinders, Woodward.

NWECE established the scholarship in 2001 in memory of Max Fanning and in honor of Thurman Fussell.

Congratulations to all eight recipients and we wish you the best of luck as you further your education!