



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

HOMEPAGE

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New Paris High School Complex Served by EnerStar



School is back in session, and, for Paris High School students, there is much to celebrate. In mid-August, the first students crossed through the glass doors of a new \$40 million school complex, located just north of Paris.

You probably are well aware of the facility from television reports, newspaper articles and all sorts of social media. What you might not be aware of is EnerStar Electric Cooperative's involvement in the project. The state-of-the-art facility, in all its energy-efficient glory, is being served electricity by our electric cooperative. And to say the least, we are bit excited about it!

"A school is a nice electric load for our cooperative, because it has a good load factor," said Angela Griffin, EnerStar's Manager of Member Services. "It does not have a high spike of demand energy, like machines and motors all starting up at once in a factory, which is the most expensive energy to produce

and purchase. And generally, when the co-op's demand for power is up in the heat of the summer with all the air conditioners running, the school's demand is very manageable."

But besides being a good load for the cooperative, Griffin is excited with the possibilities the new school

creates for the community. "This is something that will impact our members' children for many years to come, and EnerStar is proud to be a part of it. It makes our community more attractive to economic and community development activities. It helps us sustain what we have but also helps us grow in the future."

Paris High School Complex

"We're ready to open up some learning environments for kids that are pretty incredible," said High School Director Dave Meister. He's excited the three year project is finally complete.

The new building features a large civics center that cost nearly eight-million dollars. Then there's the cafeteria that was built to resemble a restaurant, unlike traditional high school cafeterias. The space has been dubbed the "Tiger Den."

"It's a place that will be open in the mornings, at noon time, and after school for the kids to kind of hang out," said Meister.

The school also features state of the art classrooms complete with encouraging wall quotes. Certain hallways also have extended learning areas, "kind of like a classroom without walls," so students can study during down time.

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counties of Edgar,
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New Paris High School Complex (Continued from page 16a)



The Tiger Den at PHS is designed more like a food court than a typical school cafeteria. It's more of a hang out.

The school library and adjacent computer labs will house the media center.



The STEM lab features top-notch facilities for science and technology.

With the bleachers pushed back to the wall, the new gym sports three gym courts and can be partitioned off so multiple practices can be held simultaneously.



EnerStar Secures a \$75,000 Grant

EnerStar was very pleased to secure a Power Moves grant from Wabash Valley Power Association, the cooperative's wholesale power supplier, based out of Indianapolis. The grant was used to install a highly-efficient state of the art geothermal system. "It's the most efficient system they could have chosen," said Griffin. The grant also included LED lighting and motion sensors that automatically turn off the lights when the room is no longer being used.



EnerStar's Tim Haddix and Angela Griffin meet with Paris High School Director Dave Meister to announce the school's \$75,000 energy efficiency grant.



Sharing Success \$10,000 Grant

EnerStar, on behalf of the high school, also received CoBank's Sharing Success matching grant program. Back in 2014, the cooperative's \$5,000 donation was

matched dollar for dollar by one of the cooperative's financial lenders. The \$10,000 was used by the school to support a mathematics room and a co-credit room.



EnerStar's Angela Griffin and CEO Peter Kollinger present a \$10,000 check to Warren Sperry of the Edgar County Community Foundation on behalf of Paris High School.

Paris Center for Fine Arts

Also part of the high school complex is the Paris Center of Fine Arts. The \$8 million dollar building, which was funded by private donations, includes a 500-seat theatre. Dan Lynch, a Paris High School teacher who serves as the drama coach, is

"beyond thrilled with the opportunities the center will provide to the community." Lynch, along with the non-profit board of directors, are currently setting up future events that include classic movies, musicians, theatre productions and much more.



Here is a look out from center stage with the audio booth in the background.

The Paris Center for Fine Arts has a separate entrance for performing arts held outside of school hours.

EnerStar Upgrades Facilities to Better Serve School, Members

In preparation for serving the new school complex, EnerStar made several upgrades to its electric system. "Some of those improvements were already part of our long-term plan while others were specifically designed to serve the new load," said EnerStar's Operation Manager Mike Clark.

One project was to replace 2.5 miles of 3-phase tie-line between the Baldwin substation, located east of Paris, and the Paris substation, located on the west side of Paris. "It is important to understand that the co-op membership as a whole benefits as we continue to tie all our substations together and reinforce the backbone of our electric system." The school is served by the cooperative's Baldwin substation.

New switch gear was installed in front of the high school and will automatically transfer load – from either direction – between the Baldwin and Paris substations. If there is a power outage at one substation, the other one, which is fed by a different transmission line, will automatically pick up the load. "Should an outage occur, the transfer will only take a few seconds and will restore automatically. No linemen would need to be dispatched," said Clark.

The cooperative also updated underground facilities at the school, and installed a 1500 KVA transformer, which is one of the largest on the system.



EnerStar's IT Manager Jim Lewis and Operations Manager Mike Clark show the automatic switch gear located at Paris High School

Grain bins: harvesting safely

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 EnerStar Electric Cooperative, we understand that, and safety for all, for both our employees and our members, is our top priority.

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, especially around grain bins. So 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.

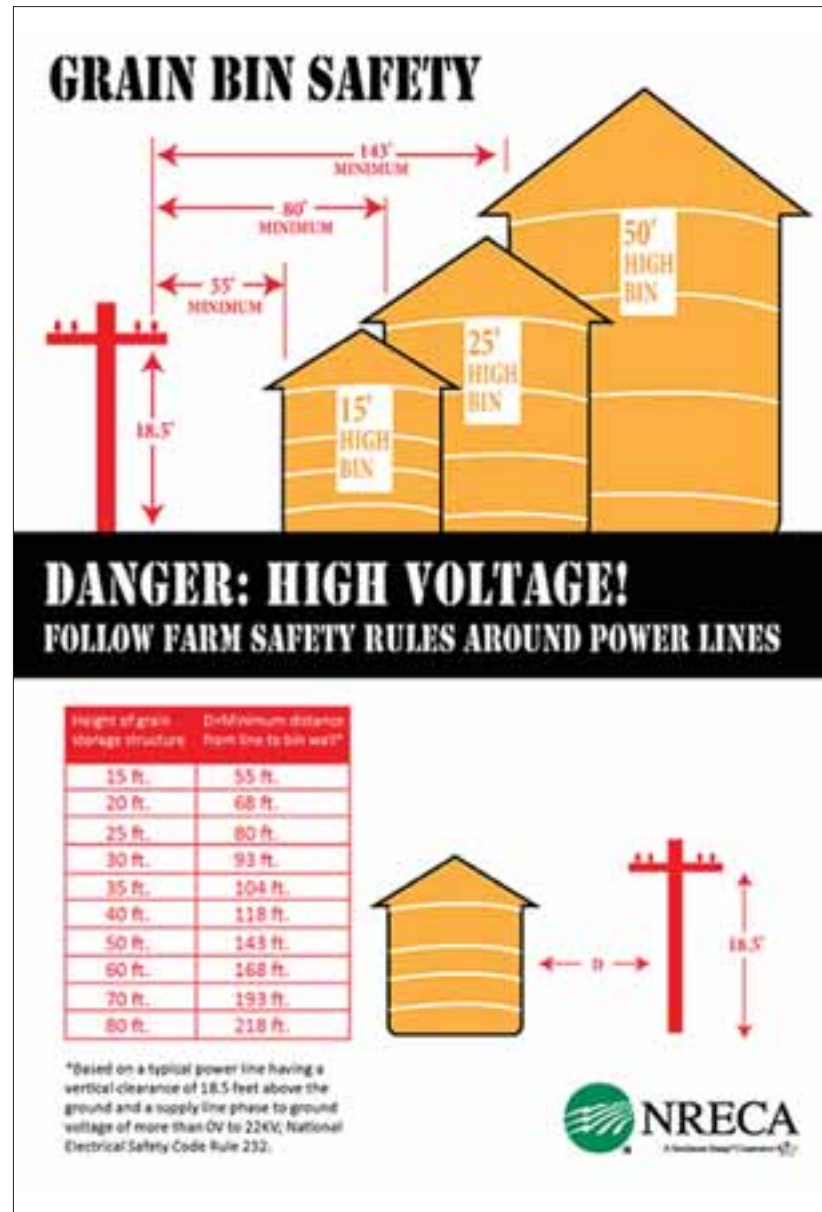
Filling grain bins. High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

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.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why EnerStar

reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact Tim Haddix, EnerStar's System Engineer

at 800-635-4145, extension 117 or via email thaddix@enerstar.com and he will assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.



**Cooperative offices
will be closed Monday,
September 7th for
Labor Day**

