

NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 03/16

REBUILDING IN CALHOUN

Two members of Croft Construction setting a new pole as part of the rebuild of our N Line in Calhoun County.

The co-op, along with contractor crews, recently began phase two of the rebuild of the N Line in Calhoun County. The N Line runs between Kampsville and Hardin, IL. Phase two consists of about six and a half miles of line.

The N Line is in our most challenging terrain, and it's extraordinarily expensive. Many of the poles and lines are from the late 1940's and are inaccessible by truck. Replacing the lines in these areas is critical to maintaining and improving reliability.

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A crew with Croft Construction working near Hardin, IL.

The location of the line becomes particularly important during times of outages when it can take much longer to repair lines that are not accessible by truck. When possible, the new poles are being set closer to the road in the right-of-way.

For the parts of the line that will still be inaccessible by truck, composite poles are being used. Composite poles don't rot and are resistant to woodpeckers.

As with all rebuilding and forestry projects done by contractors, this was competitively bid. The coop also competitively bids all materials and does joint purchasing. Joint purchasing for materials is done in coordination with three other co-ops: McDonough, Adams, and Western. This allows the co-op to get the best possible price.

Phase two of the N Line rebuild is projected to be complete in June.



A section of the N Line in Calhoun county.



(L-R) Illinois Electric Linemen Cole Hurrelbrink, Joe Alexander, and Ryan Little

Co-op Presented Plaque for Lineman's Safety Rodeo

Co-op linemen Cole Hurrelbrink, Joe Alexander, and Ryan Little were recently presented with a plaque from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives for the 18th Annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo.

The Lineman's Safety Rodeo was held on the Chuck West Lineman's Training Field at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield this past September. 14 teams participated in the competition. The co-op was second runner up.

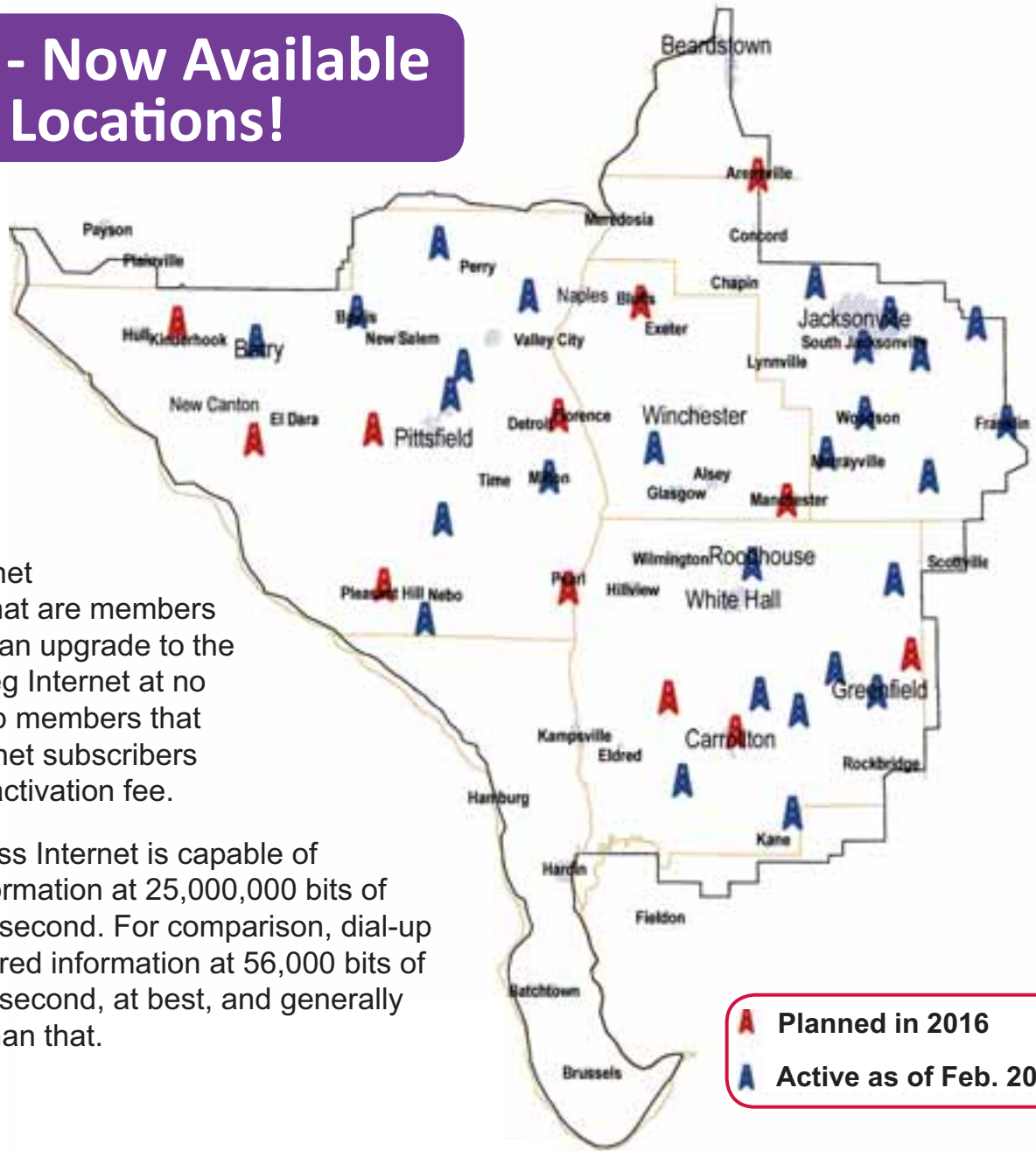
Teams of linemen from electric cooperatives throughout the state participate in competitive events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy.

While these skills are part of the competition judging, above all the linemen are judged on safe work practices.

Linemen competed in five team events and three individual events. Team events included the Hurt Man Rescue, Egg Climb (linemen climb a 30-foot pole with a raw egg in their mouth), H Structure Obstacle Course, and two Mystery Events. Individuals competed in the Egg Climb and H Structure Obstacle Course.

Scores for each event use a 100-point scale and are based upon completion time and proper execution of the task, including safe work practices. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to such things as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

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