

# Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## New lineman hired

Casey Fulk was recently hired as a Journeyman Lineman for Norris Electric's southern area.

Casey grew up in Richland County and graduated from West Richland High School in 1998. He and his wife Sara have a 7 year old son, Dylan. In his spare time, Casey enjoys spending time with his family, hunting and fishing. He previously worked for the L.E. Myers Company and Ameren performing electric construction work.

Welcome to Norris Electric Cooperative, Casey!



## Homeowner's insurance policies cover losses from power outages

Norris Electric Cooperative works diligently to make sure your electricity is there when you need it, but like all things, nothing is 100 percent guaranteed.

Power outages or voltage issues – whether triggered by a storm, lightning, trees, equipment failure, animals or vehicles hitting power poles—can damage computer equipment, TVs and other appliances in your home. These events are out of our control and Norris Electric does not compensate for any damaged equipment.

However, most homeowner's insurance policies cover losses from power interruptions caused by lightning, storms, etc. Make sure you are familiar with your policy and what is covered. Call your agent if you're not sure about your specific coverage.

You can help protect your own equipment by unplugging it during a power outage and by installing surge protection.



### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Are you a spring cleaner? Add your dryer to your list to stay safe and increase efficiency—check for lint build up in the trap and inside the tube leading outdoors; also make sure the tube is straight and the flap outside closes correctly.

Source: Energy.gov



Like us on Facebook and Twitter to get the latest updates and happenings at Norris Electric

Norris Electric Cooperative • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 783-8765 • [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com)

# All-of-the-above strategy needed

**Y**ou may have heard how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to limit carbon dioxide at new power plants. This is concerning because these regulations, along with the ones the EPA has in store for existing plants, have the potential to drive up electric bills for our co-op members. Electric cooperatives across the nation are disappointed-but not surprised-that in September, the Administration officially abandoned an all-of-the-above energy strategy for a new, all-but-one approach that effectively removes coal from the nation's fuel mix in the future.

Electric co-ops have invested billions to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency and generate renewable electricity. For several years, cooperatives have tested carbon capture and storage as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology does not make financial sense. It has never been used on a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or costs. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimate it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75%.

The Administration's switch to an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans' access to coal, which is plentiful and affordable, with historical price stability. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports that the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves. Coal generates 58% of the electricity for America's electric cooperatives-our biggest energy source by far. We should not

gamble with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy.

Now is the time for co-op members to send a clear message to the EPA: please remember consumers

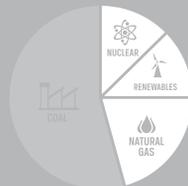
as you are writing these regulations.

Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop). Tell the EPA we need a realistic energy policy.



**Don't have internet access? Stop by our office or call us at 800-635-4145 and we will send you a postcard to mail in so your voice can be heard too!**

1.



### ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE

The Administration is reversing course: **ditching our All-of-the-Above energy strategy** for an **All-But-One** approach that bans new coal plants.

2.



### TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE

New regulations essentially require technology that's **not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive**—leading to higher bills down the line.

## TOP 4 FACTS

ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

3.



### LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY

By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a **236-year domestic source of energy** with a historically stable price.

4.



### HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK

A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—**before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.**

# Make your yard work for you

By B. Denise Hawkin

**L**ocation, location, location is the mantra in real estate, but it also applies to your yard this time of year when the search is on to lower energy bills and create curb appeal. Positioning the right combination of plants and trees can yield shade, beautify, and unearth energy savings. Such smart or energy-efficient landscaping, claims the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), can on average, provide enough energy savings to see a return on your initial investment in less than eight years.

Again, think location. Carefully positioned trees can reduce a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling by up to 25 percent. Using computer models, the DOE determined that proper placement of only three trees on your property can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in yearly energy costs. This spring, make your yard work for you. Just a few simple landscaping considerations can make a big difference in your home's comfort and in the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems:

- Use trees and plants to shade a window air conditioner. Having shade can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent. For good airflow and access, position plants more than three feet from the air conditioner.
- Shrubs and trees can form windbreaks or protective walls that keep wind chill away from a home. That's important because wind speed lowers outside air temperatures, and ultimately saves on higher heating costs. Common turf grass and other low-growing plants are ideal barriers. So are evergreens, especially when combined with a wall or fence to deflect or even lift wind over a home. For best protection, plan on leaving between two to five times the mature height of the trees or shrubs between the windbreak and the protected home.

## Made in the shade

Indoors, you may be protected from the sun's rays, but your energy bill can rise as your air conditioner works harder to keep your house cool and comfortable. Planting shade trees can add to your comfort at home by dropping the surrounding air temperature by as much as nine degrees Fahrenheit. But choosing just the right tree may require a compass and patience while they grow to work for you:

- When selecting shade trees, keep in mind the mature height of the tree and the shape of its shade canopy in relation to the height of your home. These factors are important because they should influence how far from the house you decide to plant a tree. Always avoid planting near underground utility lines.
- Shading takes time—a 6-foot to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near a house will begin shading windows in a year. Depending on the species and the home, the tree will shade the roof in five to 10 years.
- Make planting shade trees due west of west-facing windows your first priority.
- Select a tree that can be planted within 20 feet of the window and that will grow at least 10 feet taller than that window. If you have the space, use as many trees as needed to create a continuous row along all major west- and east-facing windows.
- Contrary to intuition, the least energy efficient place for a tree is to the south of a house.

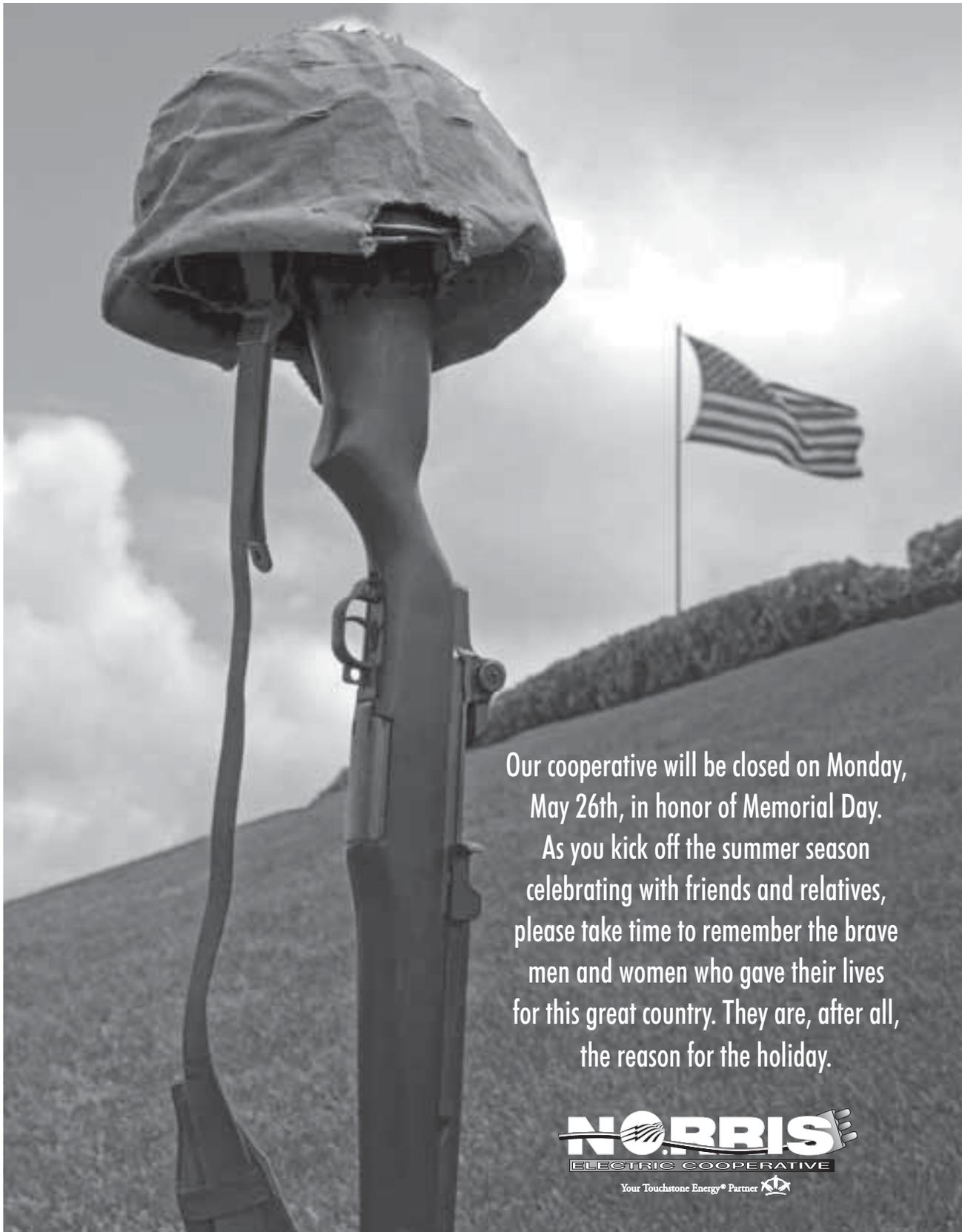
Different trees can serve a variety of purposes. To block summer heat while letting sun filter through in the winter months, use deciduous trees or those that lose their leaves seasonally. Evergreens and shrubs, on the other hand, are ideal for providing continuous shade and blocking heavy winds.

Also, keep in mind that not all shade plants are tall. Shrubs and sturdy groundcover plants also provide good shade by reducing heat radiation and cooling air before it reaches your home's walls and windows. Start planting savings and let your yard do all the work—a well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce your energy bills.

*B. Denise Hawkins 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.*

*Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Energy.gov*





Our cooperative will be closed on Monday, May 26th, in honor of Memorial Day. As you kick off the summer season celebrating with friends and relatives, please take time to remember the brave men and women who gave their lives for this great country. They are, after all, the reason for the holiday.



*Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765*

**Office hours: Monday — Thursday**

**7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m**