

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Harvesting Energy



It's that time of year when area farmers begin harvesting grain. One area farmer is already in harvest season but he is harvesting something other than grain. He is harvesting energy from the sun.

A short drive west of Greenup is a typical grain farm with grain bins including a grain leg and machine sheds full of equipment. But what you will also see are arrays of solar panels and many of them. Stanley Holsapple with Holsapple Farms installed two separate solar panel arrays, one connected to his three phase grain system electrical service and the other connected to his single phase farm service.

Holsapple Farms worked closely with the installer and Norris Electric Cooperative to work out the details of his 65,000 watt total solar system.



The solar arrays are connected to solar inverters which convert the direct current (DC) power from the solar arrays to alternating current (AC) that can be fed back onto Norris power lines.

Norris Electric promotes such renewable energy systems and as a result has policies in place including a net metering agreement and intercon-

nect agreement to allow power from these systems to feed back onto our power lines.

(See photo: ground mount system in background to left and roof mount system on shed roof.)

Continued on 16b ►

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

Keep your Harvest Season Safe

One of the biggest hazards for farmers is posed by power lines. Typically, power lines over streets and rural areas have a minimal clearance of 18 feet and 12.5 feet over residential private property.

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Norris Electric urges farm operators and workers to:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.

Always remember to periodically look up and be aware of your sur-



roundings. If you can't safely pass under a power line, choose a different path.

If contact is made with a power line, remember, it is almost always safest to stay on the equipment. Do not step down from the cab. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call Norris Electric immediately. The

only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, "bunny hop" away.

For more farm and electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Harvesting Energy *Continued from 16a* ►

Quick facts – Holsapple ground mount system connected to grain system:

- System capacity – 21,000 watts
- Panels – 84 panels, 250 watts each

Quick facts – Holsapple roof flush mount system connected to farm:

- System capacity – 44,000 watts
- Panels – 176 panels, 250 Watts each

With the prices of solar systems continuing to drop and the 30% federal tax credit for renewable energy available through the end of 2016, it is becoming more economically feasible to install renewable systems such as solar. Additional grant money may be available through the federal Rural Energy for America Program administered by USDA Rural Development.

Please contact our office at 877-783-8765 to find out more information on alternative energy options.

Did you know...

...you can receive your bill through your email? This eliminates lost bills and late payments. Call the office to make sure we have your current email on file.

Area Banks Accepting Norris Electric Payments

Please remember when you take your payment to the bank it is mailed to us and not directly posted to your account until Norris Electric receives it. This could take several days due to the mail service. Please note these banks are not allowed to take payments if your payment is past due.



Bridgeport	Peoples State Bank The Bank of Lawrence County
Casey	Casey State Bank Regions Bank
Dieterich	First National Bank
Effingham	Crossroads Bank First National Bank of Dieterich: Effingham Branch First National Bank of Dieterich: Lake Sara Branch
Flat Rock	Casey State Bank
Greenup	First Neighborhood Bancshares Inc.
Hutsonville	Farmers & Merchants Bank
Lawrenceville	Casey State Bank First Financial Bank, NA Heritage State Bank Peoples State Bank
Martinsville	Casey State Bank
Newton	First Financial Bank, NA First National Bank of Dieterich: IGA Branch Peoples State Bank

Oblong	First Financial Bank, NA
Olney	First Financial Bank, NA
Robinson	First Financial Bank, NA
St. Francisville	Peoples State Bank
Ste. Marie	Ste. Marie State Bank
Sigel	Sigel Community Bank
Sumner	First Financial Bank, NA Peoples State Bank
Teutopolis	Teutopolis State Bank First National Bank of Dieterich: National Trail Banking Center
Toledo	Casey State Bank
West Union	Casey State Bank
Westfield	Casey State Bank



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When it's hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our homes more than we think. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The new regulations proposed by the EPA to regulate carbon emissions at existing power plants could threaten reliable,

affordable power. Please join Norris Electric in taking a stand to keep electric bills affordable. Please visit www.action.coop or fill out

the form below to add you name in support and voice your concern about the impact these new regulations will have on Americans.

cut here-----



**STOP YOUR ELECTRIC BILL FROM GOING UP...
TELL THE GOVERNMENT YOU CAN'T AFFORD COSTLY REGULATIONS!**

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Mail to: **Norris Electric Cooperative**, 8543 N St Hwy 130, Newton, IL 62448

For more information, please visit

ACTION.COOP