

# Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



## Look up for hazards during harvest

After working in a field on a neighbor's farm, Jim Flach parked his equipment and stepped out of the vehicle. Sadly, Jim did not realize his equipment was touching an overhead power line, and he became a path for the electrical current as he placed his foot onto the ground. Jim received a severe electric shock that ultimately resulted in his death a few months later. Safe Electricity urges farmers to take the proper precautions when working around power lines.

"The rush to harvest can lead to farmers working long days with little sleep," cautions Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Energy Education Council and its Safe Electricity program. "It is important to take time for safety. Before starting work, make sure to note the location of overhead power lines."

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Safe Electricity urges farm operators and workers to:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of 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 Norris Electric Cooperative (877-783-8765).

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. 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, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet

together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Some additional safety tips from Safe Electricity include:

- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around grain bins.
- Always hire qualified electricians for any electrical issues.
- Do not use equipment with frayed cables.

"You need to double check, even triple check, to see what is above you," says Marilyn Flach, Jim's widow. His son Brett adds, "Be conscious of your surroundings. You need to keep your eyes open and beware of overhead lines."

For more electrical safety information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

*Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.*

# Utility pole inspection

Norris Electric has contracted pole inspections in the Birds, Lawrenceville, Bridgeport, Flat Rock, Robinson Correctional, Kedron and West Liberty areas. This work will be performed by contractors, not by Norris Electric Cooperative employees. The contracting company is Lee Inspection & Consulting Services. They will have Lee Inspection signs and Contractor for Norris Electric signs on their vehicles. This inspection started in August and will finish in December.

You, as a member can help with this process. Please make sure all poles on your property do not have anything attached to them. Satellite dishes, bird houses, rain gauges,

posting signs, hanging banners or tying ribbons and balloons onto utility poles can endanger our linemen and is a violation of local ordinances forbidding placement of anything on poles. Help protect our linemen when they are working on your service. Remember that anything on a pole can cause our linemen to slip. The clamped, safety boots worn to climb poles are especially vulnerable to becoming snagged and caught on staples and nails embedded in poles. Foreign objects can also tear clothing or injure a lineman despite the safety gear they wear to avoid contact with rough surfaces. Please help us to work safely and refrain from hanging objects on utility poles!



Image courtesy of Allamakee Clayton Electric Cooperative Inc.

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## You could be a winner!

Every other year, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) conducts a statewide member survey project on our behalf. You may be randomly selected to participate in the project. People who complete and submit the survey questionnaire will be entered in a drawing to win one of five-\$100 bill credits.

The AIEC and the vendor used to conduct the survey do not sell or share your private information. They provide us with the blind results, and we evaluate the information that is gathered to improve how we serve you. The more completed surveys we receive, the more accurate the information we receive will be. So please help us and yourself by participating. We anticipate that survey questionnaires will be distributed in September and October.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

## Meter Replacement Work

Norris Electric will be doing meter replacement work in the Helena, Bridgeport, Lawrenceville, Birds, Flat Rock and Robinson Correctional areas. This work will be performed by contractors, not by Norris Electric Cooperative employees. The contracting company is HD Supply. They will be driving White Ford Vans with HD Supply signs and Contractor for Norris Electric Cooperative signs. In most cases, installation of the new electric meter is simple, requiring a brief, five minute interruption to your electric service. You do not need to be present when the meter is changed.

Norris Electric is always striving for better reliability and improved communications for our members.



## Congratulations!

Norris Electric would like to congratulate Marilyn Miller on her retirement. Marilyn started working for Norris Electric 1991 in the key-punch department and then moved on to the billing department. In 1998 Marilyn stepped into the role of Mapping Technician where she stayed until February of 2014 and then became an Engineering Clerk where she stayed until her retirement. Marilyn plans to enjoy her grandkids, travel with her husband Fred, quilt and garden. She is excited about this new chapter in life!! (Shown with Marilyn is her husband Fred, daughter Rebecca, grandchildren Amelia and Michael).

*Norris Electric wishes Marilyn well in her retirement.*

## 2012 capital credit checks for WildBlue and Exede

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Norris Electric is owned by the members we serve. When you pay your internet bill, you are accumulating equity in your cooperative.

One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is that any monies left over after expenses are paid are allocated back to the members in the form of capital credits according to your package.

If you received internet service from Norris Electric in 2012, look for a check in the mail for your portion of Capital Credits by the end of September. Feel free to call the office with any questions. 877-783-8765

EVEN THREE  
IS A CROWD.

NEVER OVERLOAD  
OUTLETS.

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership. Learn more from the experts themselves at

*TogetherWeSave.com.*

Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 877-783-8765  
Office hours: Monday — Thursday 7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m

# 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.

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Bridgeport</b> | Peoples State Bank               |
|                   | Citizens national Bank of Albion |

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Casey</b> | Casey State Bank |
|              | Regions Bank     |

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Dieterich</b> | First National Bank |
|------------------|---------------------|

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Effingham</b> | Crossroads Bank                                    |
|                  | First National Bank of Dieterich: Effingham Branch |
|                  | First National Bank of Dieterich: Lake Sara Branch |

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Flat Rock</b> | Casey State Bank |
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|                |                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Greenup</b> | First Neighborhood Bancshares Inc. |
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|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Hutsonville</b> | Farmers & Merchants Bank |
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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Lawrenceville</b> | Casey State Bank         |
|                      | First Financial Bank, NA |
|                      | Heritage State Bank      |
|                      | Peoples State Bank       |

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Martinsville</b> | Casey State Bank |
|---------------------|------------------|

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Newton</b> | First Financial Bank, NA                     |
|               | First National Bank of Dieterich: IGA Branch |
|               | Peoples State Bank                           |

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Oblong</b> | First Financial Bank, NA |
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|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Olney</b> | First Financial Bank, NA |
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|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Robinson</b> | First Financial Bank, NA |
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|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>St. Francisville</b> | Peoples State Bank |
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|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Ste. Marie</b> | Ste. Marie State Bank |
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|              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| <b>Sigel</b> | Sigel Community Bank |
|--------------|----------------------|

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Sumner</b> | First Financial Bank, NA |
|               | Peoples State Bank       |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Teutopolis</b> | Teutopolis State Bank   |
|                   | First National Bank of Dieterich: National Trail Banking Center |

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Toledo</b> | Casey State Bank |
|---------------|------------------|

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>West Union</b> | Casey State Bank |
|-------------------|------------------|

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Westfield</b> | Casey State Bank |
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**Energy Efficiency**  
Tip of the Month



Looking for an easy efficiency upgrade? Additional insulation can make a difference! The Department of Energy estimates you can reduce heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)