

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

State Representative David Reis Receives Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award

At the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives annual meeting, held Thursday, July 28 in Springfield, State Rep. David Reis, R-108th District, received the 2011 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award. The award was made in recognition of Rep. Reis's dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program.

Rep. Reis has served in the Illinois House since 2005. He is currently Republican spokesperson of the House Appropriations-Public Safety Committee. He also serves on the Illinois House committees on Judiciary II – Criminal Law, Elections and Campaign Reform, and Elementary and Secondary Education.

Representative Reis is a farmer, a resident of Willow Hill and a graduate of the University of Illinois. He is a strong supporter of co-ops and rural Illinois, and in 2011 was chief sponsor of HB 2054, which would create the offense of cooper theft and enhance penalties for that crime.

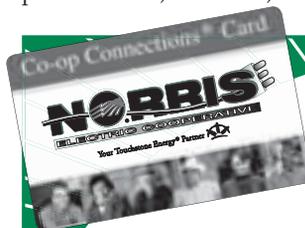
Norris Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 720 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Norris Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to



Among those presenting the Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award to Rep. Reis were (l-r), Norris Electric Cooperative Manager Keith McKinney, Board of Directors Gilbert Garbe, Scott Littlejohn, Joe Helmink, Larry Seals, Larry Buser, Frank Draper, Reis, Ron Viehman, Gordon McClure, Dave Sheppard, Tamara Phillips Office Manager, Dean Dietrich and Dan Scherer.

community. The co-op serves more than 18,996 meters over 4,048 miles of line in parts of Clark, Crawford, Cumberland,

Effingham, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland and Wabash counties. For more information visit www.norriselectric.com.



Co-op Connections® Card Saving Members \$\$\$

Norris Electric Cooperative members saved 41.9% on prescriptions in July 2011 using their Co-Op Connections card. A total of 242 prescriptions were filled for a savings of \$5,948.

Norris Electric Cooperative • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 783-8765 • www.norriselectric.com

Make sure Halloween is a treat



There is no trick or treat about it – electrical accidents happen when precautions are not taken to prevent tragedies. During this time of year when yards can be filled with ghosts and goblins make sure all of your costumed critters as well as your home are kept safe. Safe Electricity urges everyone to follow simple safety guidelines for a season full of sweet treats.

- Before use, check each light for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings.
- Always unplug light strings while replacing bulbs.
- Avoid running cords around sidewalks and other walkways outdoors and indoors that could risk tripping or entangling trick-or-treaters. Don't hide cords under carpeting or rugs, or behind curtains or blinds.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls or other firm

supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples or plastic ties to hold light strings in place. Never nail or tack cords in place!

- Use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use and UL (Underwriters Laboratory) approved.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.
- Keep electric objects away from flammable objects, such as hay bales, cornstalks and fabric costumes. The heat from lights and other electrical decorations could potentially cause a fire.

For more information visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Staying safe after the storm

Tornadoes can happen any time of the year, dramatically illustrated by the deadly 2010 New Year's Eve tornadoes that ripped through several states. Everyone must be cautious of potential hazards they could encounter during storm clean up and recovery.

When you see power lines on the ground following a storm, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines sagging or down could be in contact with an energized power line making them also very dangerous, so stay away from all of them.

Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Keep in mind a downed power line that's energized can cause other things around it to become potentially hazardous, traveling through

the ground to other metal objects like chain link fences or metal culverts.

Keep in mind that a line that's indeed "dead" could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line, it could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.

If you are in a car, which has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle and wait until the utility has arrived and de-energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car. If you must leave your car - only in the case of fire - jump free without touching the ground and auto at the same time, keeping both feet together and hop to safety.

A live wire touching the ground causes electricity to fan out in a pool and the action of walking or running allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. Your body then becomes the path for the electricity and electrocution is the tragic result.

If after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! If you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what is known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

Efficiency offers new harvest for farmers

By Megan McKoy

To get the biggest bang for their electricity dollar, more and more farmers are turning to energy efficiency to boost their bottom line and productivity.

Electricity on the farm powers heating (water, space, heat lamps), pumping (irrigation, water wells, manure lagoons), refrigeration, ventilation, lighting, fans (drying grains, aeration), and materials handling — feed augers, manure conveyors, milking, and egg conveyors. In the area of motors and lighting alone, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) estimates farmers could save \$88 million annually by implementing cutting-edge efficiency measures using available technology.

EnSave, a Vermont-based farm energy audit group, has created a pyramid revealing steps agricultural operations can take to cut down on energy use, arranged by cost and benefits of improvements.

First, farmers should analyze energy use. This may reveal opportunities to save on electric use and in some cases could lead to increased productivity. Next, farmers should try energy conservation — changing behaviors and simply using less energy daily. After this, the greatest savings may be achieved through energy efficiency — working smarter

and saving money by using more efficient equipment.

Each farm — from dairy and poultry to general agriculture — provides different opportunities for efficiency upgrades, varying by region and crop. However, regular equipment maintenance provides universal benefits. For example:

- **Clean equipment:** Removing dust, soot, and debris from equipment will allow it to do more work with less effort, extending its life and reducing energy use.
- **Inspect regularly:** Equipment should be checked regularly. Replace parts that are showing excessive wear before they break and cause irreparable damage.
- **Plug leaks:** Be it a pinprick hole in a hose or a drafty barn, leaks waste money, fuel, and electricity. By plugging the leaks, savings can be considerable.
- **Remove clutter:** Hoses should be regularly flushed to clear them of debris. Ensure fan and motor intakes and exhausts remain clutter-free for maximum circulation and efficiency.

Lighting presents another efficiency touchpoint. Light work areas, not entire buildings, and use daylight when possible. Installing dimmable ballasts can also help control light levels.

Types of lights used on the farm make a difference. Incandescent light bulbs typically convert only 10 percent of the energy used into light. There are many other options available:

- **Compact fluorescent lamps** (CFLs) deliver the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs, but use only a quarter of the electricity. Installing CFLs may cost a little more initially, but they can last up to 10 times longer.
- **Cold cathode fluorescent lamps** (CCFLs) can last up to 25 times longer and have around the same efficiency as CFLs.
- **T-8 and T-5 lights** with electronic ballasts generate less noise, produce more light per watt, offer better color rendering, minimal flickering, and cooler operation, and provide electric cost savings.

For more regional and/or crop-specific energy efficiency options, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service provides farm energy calculators. From animal housing operations to irrigation estimates, the calculators assess how much energy your farm currently uses and provide insights on how to cut your energy costs.

Sources: American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, EnSave, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Vegetation Control Schedule

We will have crews performing routine tree trimming or spraying during **October** in the following areas:



**Richland County • Cumberland County
Effingham County • Crawford County**



These areas have been scheduled quite a bit in advance so our plans may change. You should call us if you have any questions relating to a specific area or our vegetation management policies and practices. You may also call us if you wish to make other arrangements for your specific property or to question our vegetation control practices. Our Forestry Department can be reached at 1-877-783-8765 or 618-783-8765 during working hours. Our website is www.norriselectric.com.

A mailbox is your home's ambassador

A mailbox is your home's ambassador to the outside world and can speak volumes about your style and attention to detail. When installing a new mailbox in your front yard or curbside on a post, failing to call before digging can say even more.

Everyone knows the location of your mailbox makes it easy to get mail delivered, but did you know the location of your mailbox makes it even more important to call before digging? Many utility lines are buried along streets in right-of-ways, and most mailboxes require holes 36 to 42 inches deep. At the same time, if you are removing

an old post set with cement, you will have to dig even deeper until it can be removed.

Your mailbox presents a relatively inexpensive opportunity to project style – but it also presents an opportunity to show you know that smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Knowing where underground lines are buried before you begin your project helps protect you from injury, expense and penalties.

Remember, know what's below. Always call before you dig.

Source: Common Ground Alliance



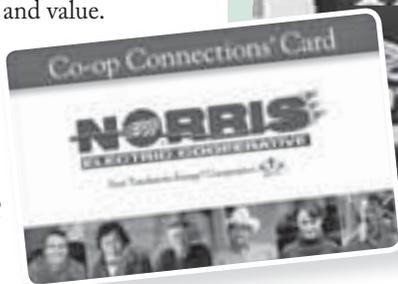
Co-op Connections Card featured business:

Kuhl's Trailer Sales, Inc.

Kuhl's Trailer Sales, Inc. is your exclusive Jayco Travel Trailer and 5th Wheel Dealer. Kuhl's Trailer Sales, Inc. is family-owned and operated and has proudly been serving the Illinois-Indiana region since 1973. Since our conception, we have exclusively sold Jayco RVs. We believe no other RV manufacturer can compete with Jayco's quality, craftsmanship and value.

Like us, Jayco is a private family-owned and operated company that concentrates on Main Street, not Wall Street. Jayco is not just in the business of building RVs. Jayco's job is building family fun. And as a family they know how to do that pretty well.

We have a large selection of new Jayco 5th Wheels, Travel Trailers, Lightweight Trailers, Park Trailers and Toy Haulers on our lot to choose from.



We also have a variety of pre-owned RVs.

At Kuhl's Trailer Sales, we do more than just sell you the finest RVs on the market; we also have an excellent selection of parts and accessories available as well as a top notch service department that services all makes and models. Stop

by at 1023 N 500th St. in Ingraham, Ill. or give us a call at (618) 752-5473.

Use your Co-op Connections card from Norris Electric and receive 10% off RV supplies & accessories- applies to regularly priced items.

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