

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Economic development in Norris Electric service area

A new Norris Electric Cooperative member has taken root in the Effingham Business Park. Beck's Hybrids is a family-owned and operated seed company that serves farmers in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa and Missouri. Beck's ranks as the sixth largest seed company in the United States and the only one in the top six that is family-owned - making Beck's the largest retail, family-owned seed

company in the United States. Beck's Effingham facility will not only be the company's largest distribution center in Illinois, but it will be a resource for farmers to learn and make decisions from the Practical Farm Research being conducted. Beck's Effingham facility will provide multiple job opportunities including full-time positions in distribution, service, agronomic support and Practical Farm Research.

Beck's new facility is located next to the "Cross at the Crossroads" along Interstates 57/70. The 90-acre property includes a 92,000 square-foot distribution center and hosted its Southern Illinois Field Show event in August that attracted nearly 1,500 farmers from throughout the region. Look for the new Beck's Hybrids facility at the foot of the cross in Effingham!

Residential electric heat rate available

Did you know Norris offers an electric heat rate? The rate is available to residential members of the cooperative for uses where electricity is the sole source of all space heating energy. The heat source must be for the whole house and permanently installed. Types of electric heat

which qualify include geothermal heat pumps, air source heat pumps, and electric furnaces.

The only obligation is the member must continue the electric heat rate for 12 month increments.

The electric heat rate offers a lower rate in the winter months that more

than offsets the slightly higher summer rate when compared to our standard rate.

Call our office today at 877-783-8765 for a rate comparison and see if you can start saving money on your electric bill!



Scholarships for high school seniors

In Spring 2016, ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to students who are children of an Illinois Electric Cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative, including Norris Electric members. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois

electric cooperative employee. The remaining three scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois Community College who are children of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will be awarded to help pay for costs associated with lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College

in Springfield. Military veterans and relatives of cooperative members, employees and directors are eligible to apply.

Candidates are judged on the bases of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives. Applications will be posted at www.norriselectric.com under "My Benefits" and must be submitted by 2/1/2016.



Hey Members!

Did you know you can get a text or email to alert you that your electric bill is due? Did you know you can get a text or email when we have received your payment? We can also text or email you if your payment is past due to avoid disconnection. Call the office at 877-783-8765 and we can get you set up!!

P.S. We can also email your bill.

Membership matters

By Meghaan Evans

October is National Cooperative Month, and for the many different types of co-ops in the U.S., it's the time of year to celebrate what membership truly means. You could be a member of a lot of different places – a gym, a 4-H club, a food of the month club – the list goes on and on! But what makes being a member of a co-op different?

The simple answer to that question is that when you are a member of a co-op, you are also an owner. You own a stake in our business, and just like any stakeholder, there are many benefits to your membership. As a member of Norris Electric Cooperative, you have a say in the representatives who are elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors. You have an opportunity to make your voice heard every year at our Annual Meeting. You get a say on policy issues your electric cooperative supports or opposes. You can even help to determine how your



profits are redistributed.

Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Sure, we have to think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business, but when we have a little left over, we send it right back to you. Whether we return it to you in the form of a check – you have a say in where that money goes! And returning capital credits to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters.

As your local electric co-op, we

get to be a part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all of the ways we can give back to you, our members – and that's what matters most to us.

Meghaan Evans 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.

Outage texting – A great way to report your electric outage afterhours

When your power goes out, you can report your outage by calling 1-877-783-8765 during business hours or 1-877-783-3221 to our answering service after hours. However, with the surge of cell phones and popularity of texting, you now have the option to text your outage

Texting outages will provide a quick, effective and convenient option to report your outage for anyone who prefers “texting” over “talking” on the phone or to avoid on-hold time for widespread

outages. To utilize outage texting, members will need to have their cell phone number on file at Norris Electric Cooperative. (Contact us at 877-783-8765 to make sure we have it on your account.) You must then complete a short registration process on our website, www.norriselectric.com. (Click on the “Outages” tab in the top right corner by the search box and follow instructions.)

The best part about texting is you will receive a text message when your outage has been restored!!



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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Another popular way to save money without sacrificing comfort is to only heat the space you use. Consider installing a programmable thermostat, and set it back while you are away to see savings on your heating bill.

Source: energy.gov



Norris Electric's office
will be closed
Monday, Oct. 12
in observance of
Columbus Day.

Kocher retires

Norris Electric would like to congratulate Carol Kocher on her retirement. Carol started at Norris Electric in 1974 and worked in the Key punch Department, Cashier and Billing Department. Carol has always brought a sense of style and character to the departments she has worked in. She will be missed beyond words but we wish her well in her retirement as she proceeds into her new role as "Grandma".

Welcome



Norris Electric would like to welcome Kelly Hinterscher to our engineering department. Kelly grew up in Clay County, and moved to Jasper County in 2005. He graduated from Clay City High School in 1998 and Eastern Illinois University in 2004, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in finance. He and his wife Jennifer have one daughter, Jennelle. Kelly was previously a Credit Analyst at The First National Bank of Dieterich. In his spare time, Kelly enjoys spending time with his family, working on his car, playing video games, playing with R/Cs and fixing a variety of things. We would like to wish Kelly a long and fulfilling career at Norris Electric Cooperative.