

## President's Report



William R. Dodds  
President/CEO



## Solar comes to Spoon River Electric Coop!

July 2018 has been a busy month for Spoon River. If you haven't driven past the office in a while, you'll notice a big change. In August 2017, we started talking with Eagle Point Solar, out of Dubuque, Iowa, with the hope of bringing a reliable solar installer to our area. We were able to create an alliance with them, and they have established an office in the Spoon River Mechanical building and a local installation crew. In June 2018, we broke ground on a solar array in our front yard.

We have been able to install this array with help from the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA). This act allows solar projects to be more economically feasible with the help of Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). SRECs are paid at different kilowatt hour (kWh) prices depending on the size of the

array and when you apply for the credit. The amount you receive is based on the first 15 years of kWh production from the array. The credits for small arrays are paid up front and the credit for larger arrays are paid over five years.

The array consists of four rows 46 panels for a total of 184 panels to make up the Spoon River Electric array. We decided to use 100 percent American made Mission Panels, made in San Antonio, Texas. The array is 62.5 kilowatts (kW) which will offset about 88 percent of the total electric usage for the front and side office, shop and garage. It is estimated to produce 86,020 kWh a year. Over the life of the array, it will reduce our carbon footprint by 1,763 tons

Continued on 20c



Our office will be closed  
on September 3  
in observance of  
Labor Day.

## Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,  
Canton, IL 61520  
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
309-647-2700 • [www.srecoop.org](http://www.srecoop.org)

### *President/CEO*

William R. Dodds  
[bdodds@srecoop.org](mailto:bdodds@srecoop.org)

### *Chairman*

Bernard Marvel, Browning

### *Vice Chairman*

Terry Beam, Cuba

### *Secretary*

Jack Clark, Lewistown

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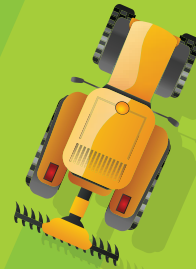
### *Editor of Spoon River News*

Taryn Mellert  
[tmellert@srecoop.org](mailto:tmellert@srecoop.org)

## Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272  
Number of members served: 5,022  
Number of power poles  
in territory: 29,361

# Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:



Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.



Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.



Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.



Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.



If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES

## Solar continued from 20a

of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) this is equivalent to planting 41,078 trees.

After installing the solar array, it was brought to our attention that we needed to come up with a way to maintain the area under the arrays. We looked at several options, which included a cement border with pea gravel under each array, putting mulch under the whole thing or a robotic mower. After comparing pros and cons of each as well as pricing, we decided to go with the robotic mower.

Perkins Seed House had just what we were looking for in a robotic mower. The Husqvarna Robotic Mower is able to mow an acre of grass in 24 hours. It is control by a boundary line that is trenched just under the ground. We can control the times the mower mows, the height of the grass and if it mows in certain weather conditions. The mower is battery operated, and when it needs to charge, it docks itself at its charging station.

As of July 23, the solar array at Spoon River Electric Coop is up and running and producing electricity to power the cooperative. Learn more at [www.srecoop.org](http://www.srecoop.org).



*Eagle Point Solar construction crew assembling the Spoon River Electric solar array.*



*President/CEO Bill Dodds 'flips' the switch, connecting the Spoon River Electric office to the solar array.*



*Robie the mower mowing under the solar panels.*



*Ameren linemen switching out our old meter to the new net meter, which reads what the solar array produces and what the office electric usage is all at the same time.*

# Invest in thirty days of safety

September is National Preparedness Month

How prepared are you and your family for disasters or emergencies? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates National Preparedness Month at the time to assess and prepare for a number of possible situations: floods, wildfires, severe storms like tornados and hurricanes, and prolonged power outages from natural disasters.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), about 46 percent of people think a natural disaster is likely to happen within their community. The reality is that most people will experience the impacts of some natural event year to year.

“Understand the most likely natural disasters for your area and take steps in advance to weather them safely,” says Molly Hall, director of the Energy Education Council.

“Prepare by assembling an emergency kit with essentials. Monitor news and weather for impending events. Be prepared to take cover or evacuate when appropriate. Stay engaged online with related websites and social media pages during a disaster.”

Be prepared for prolonged loss of power. If you have a portable generator, make sure you know how to use it safely. Place it safely away from the home. Never run a generator inside or near windows.

Floods and power outages can affect local water supplies, so keep at least three days of drinking water in your emergency kit. Your supplies should also include non-perishable food and any needed openers, a radio or weather radio, and a flashlight with extra batteries. Don't forget first aid, other medical essentials, extra blankets and seasonal items.

Once your kit has been assembled, it's time to create or review your family's emergency communication plan. Know how each of you will stay safe and get in touch if you're not together when disaster strikes. Establish a meeting place if separated during a disaster. Include measures for pets in your emergency plans.

Keep up to date with current public health and safety emergency plans in your community. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers. Consider getting involved with community programs that help others prepare to stay safe.

“Since natural disasters can quickly and seriously impact quality of life and health, proper planning and preparation is key to staying safe,” Hall says. For more information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018



## Disasters Happen

**PREPARE NOW** **LEARN HOW**



FEMA



Ready