

# Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative 

## Norris Electric Cooperative

8543 N St Hwy 130  
Newton, IL 62448

**Phone:** 618-783-8765  
or **Toll-Free:**  
1-877-783-8765

**Report an Outage:**  
1-877-783-3221

**Office Hours:**  
Monday – Thursday  
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Chairman

Gordon McClure .....Jasper

### Vice Chairman

Justin Parcel..... Clark

### Secretary/Treasurer

Dean Dietrich ..... Richland

### Directors

Gary Buser.....Crawford  
Kurt Holscher .....Crawford  
Gilbert Garbe ..... Effingham  
Ted Helmink ..... Cumberland  
Scott Weiss.....Lawrence  
Dan Strine ..... Wabash  
Dave Sheppard.....Jasper  
Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

### General Manager

Tamara Phillips



## Visit us at the Farm Progress Show

August 31 – September 1 & 2

The Farm Progress Show is back in Illinois this year, and we want to see you there!

The nation's largest outdoor farm event will be held at Progress City in Decatur, August 31, September 1 - 2. Look for the Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperative's exhibit in our NEW LOCATION on Lot 217 on Second Street between Central Progress and East Progress Avenue, near Gates 7 and 8. Find us next to the Grain System Inc. display.

Representatives from Norris Electric Cooperative and several other Illinois electric cooperatives will be on hand to share information about cooperatives, safety, energy efficiency and much more.

Be sure to catch a Live Line Safety Demo, sponsored by Jo-Carroll Energy, to learn about electricity and how to stay safe around electrical equipment. There will also be pole climbing demonstrations.

You can also charge your phone at one of our charging stations. While there, play a game for a chance to win a prize. Cooperative members who present their Co-op Connections card or show the Co-op Connections app will receive a special gift.

Weather permitting, the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will be flying the American flag each morning of the show. Plans are for the balloon to also fly late afternoon on the first two days of the show.

For 70 years, The Farm Progress Show has celebrated agriculture by bringing tradition and business together. It is where people from all over gather to meet, observe, and learn. Major manufacturers



roll out their newest offerings, and agricultural families take a break from their daily routines to immerse themselves in the wider ag community. The show rotates annually between Decatur, Ill. and Boone, Iowa.

Check out Prairie Farmer Magazine or visit [farmprogressshow.com](http://farmprogressshow.com) to learn more about the 2021 Farm Progress Show.



## Norris Electric Lineworkers perform annual “Pole Top” rescue exercises

With blue skies above, it was a perfect day for Norris Electric’s line crews to buckle on fall-restraint equipment belts, dig into utility poles and begin their annual pole top rescue exercises.

As an OSHA mandated safety training requirement, the course is designed to evaluate each lineman on their ability to properly rescue an injured and/or stranded lineman. Each lineman must balance their skills with safety, climb a pole and rescue a 185-pound training mannequin. The lineman must then secure the mannequin using ropes and pulleys and safely deliver them back to the ground.

In a perfect world, this is one skill that you hope a lineman never needs to use. But if they do, the training is an opportunity for the lineman to prepare and hone their skills if the need should ever arise.

Norris Electric continuously places safety first. We conduct daily tailgate meetings, monthly safety meetings, and special training such as CPR and first aid to assure that our lineworkers are properly trained to handle nearly any situation.



## IT CAN HAPPEN IN AN INSTANT

“Take an extra second to look at things, to see how your situation is going to unfold.”

- Cody Conrady

It was something he had done countless times before; Cody Conrady pulled up to a farm field and hopped out of his truck to unload fertilizer.

There were issues that day: The sprayer had been broken down for several hours and they were understaffed. It might have been a stressful morning, but many mornings do not go as planned.

Unfortunately, this day had a life-changing outcome. As Cody stood in that field, a sprayer tip either grazed or made direct contact with an overhead power line. At that exact moment, he touched the camlock that connected the hoses and 7,400 volts of stray electricity entered his body, using it as its path to ground.

Cody’s advice to anyone around power lines is to “pay attention a little more. Keep an eye on your surroundings. Just take an extra second to look at things, to see how your situation is going to unfold.”

Learn more:



# New substation ensures a continuing strong source of power

Development of new substations for service to the Norris Electric system is not a common occurrence. Yet, we are pleased to announce Green Brier as our 34th distribution substation in Crawford County to accommodate load in that area.

Design features include modern, state-of-the-art equipment, a safety-oriented configuration, under-voltage protection and ample capacity for growth. The automatic under-voltage protection scheme is of particular interest because it will help mitigate member equipment damage from a partial power event at the source.

With the Green Brier substation, we can now back feed members from the Robinson, Flat Rock, Jackville and West Liberty substations. In the past, these members could not be kept on with a substation outage. Now these members can be switched to an alternate substation year-round.

Norris Electric effectively started feeding members on June 21 off the Green Brier substation.

Norris would like to thank our members for permitting right-of-way privileges, tree removal and land purchases so we are able to complete substation projects and provide the best reliable service we can. Without the cooperation of members, Norris would not be able to improve our system. The most economical way to improve reliability is to increase tie lines and back feeding capabilities which require new right-of-way access from our members. Without member cooperation, there would be no co-op.



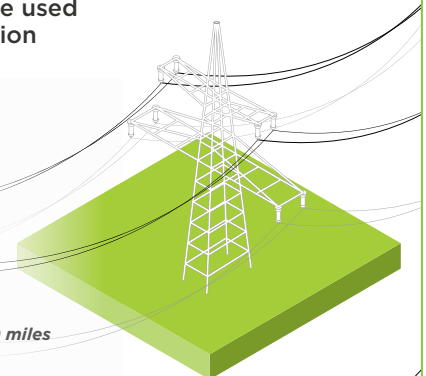
## A Field Guide to Overhead Power Lines

High-voltage transmission lines are used to deliver electricity from generation plants to consumers.

### HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

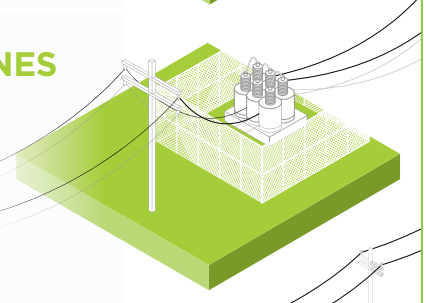
Large amounts of power, measured by watts, are delivered by transmission lines. These lines are energized with very high voltage in order to move the power long distances with minimal losses. Insulators on the towers prevent the power from flowing to the towers or the ground.

*Electric cooperatives own and maintain 65,000 miles (6 percent) of the nation's transmission lines.*



### SUBSTATIONS AND SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES

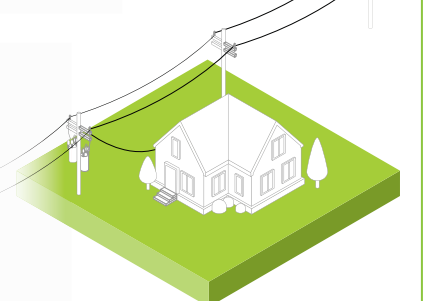
Transformers at transmission substations reduce the voltage from transmission levels to sub-transmission levels, typically ranging from 115,000 volts to 34,500 volts. Sub-transmission lines deliver power over shorter distances to distribution substations and large industrial sites. At distribution substations and large industrial sites, transformers reduce the voltage to a lower level, typically 7,200 volts or 14,400 volts.



### DISTRIBUTION LINES

The lines typically seen along rural roads and next to homes are generally single phase distribution line, energized at 7,200 or 14,400 volts. Transformers on the utility poles lower the voltage to between 120 and 480 volts to serve residential homes and small businesses.

*Electric cooperatives own and maintain 2.6 million miles (42 percent) of the nation's distribution lines.*



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



## Steber receives scholarship

Colby Steber, a 2021 graduate of Richland County High School, has been selected as a recipient of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC)



Memorial Scholarship. Steber is son of Ellen Steber of Claremont, a Norris Electric Cooperative member, and will be attending Olney Central College in the fall to obtain his associate degree. Colby then plans to transfer to the University of Illinois to pursue a degree in agricultural engineering and electrical Engineering. Steber was selected from among 252 applicants.

The Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1994 to provide financial assistance to deserving students. Applicants must be high school seniors who plan to enroll full-time at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Scholarships are based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience and participation in school and community activities.

Twelve \$2,000 scholarships are awarded annually. Six scholarships are given to students enrolling at a four-year institution, four are reserved for those enrolling in a two-year Illinois community college, one (the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship) is awarded to the son or daughter of an Illinois electric co-op employee or director, and the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship is presented to a student to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives at Lincoln Land Community College.



## Affordable electricity powers quality of life

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

### Electricity powers quality of life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and

in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically, when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4 percent; medical care increased 2.8 percent; and education increased 2.2 percent. But the cost of electricity only increased 1 percent. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Norris Electric will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

## Capital credit patronage refund

The board of directors has approved a refund of the 1984 capital credits, which is applied to this month's bill in the form of a credit. Going forward, any member with an active account will get a refund in the form of a credit on their bill to reduce costs to the membership. If you have multiple accounts, your credits will be consolidated and applied to the primary account. In the future, if you move from Norris Electric lines, please keep us up to date with your current address so we can ensure you receive your refunded capital credit checks.