

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO

Driving behind farm equipment: Do your part

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

Equipment operators:

1. Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
2. Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
3. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
4. Take care at railroad crossings.
5. Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
6. Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.
7. Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
8. Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
9. Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

Auto drivers:

1. Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
2. Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire



road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.

3. When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
4. Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
5. Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
6. Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
7. Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
8. Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
9. Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all.

For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

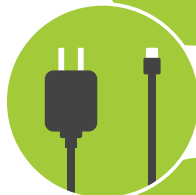
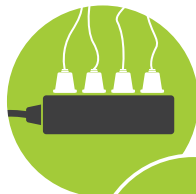
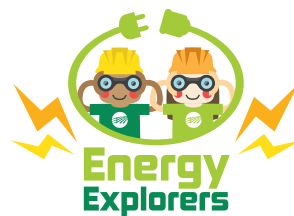
Miles of line energized: 1,272
Number of members served: 5,022
Number of power poles in territory: 29,361

ELECTRONICS WORD SCRAMBLE

You can be more energy efficient by turning off unused electronics. Many electronics consume energy even when they're not being used. Unplug them to save energy.

Unscramble the letters below to reveal electronics you can turn off when not in use.

Use the pictures for clues and check your work in the answer key.



1. NEPOH EHGRAC

2. MGAE NOESCLO

3. LCAEB XBO

4. EWROP PRTIS

5. ONSILEETIV

WORD BANK

Power strip Television Game console
Cable box Phone charger

ANSWER KEY: 1) PHONE CHARGER 2) GAME CONSOLE 3) CABLE BOX 4) POWER STRIP 5) TELEVISION



Spoon River Electric Cooperative holds 85th Annual Meeting

Spoon River Electric Cooperative celebrated its 85th Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 9 at the Fulton County Fairground in Lewistown.

Meeting attendees enjoyed a picnic-style dinner prepared by Bucher Boys BBQ and Schwan's ice cream for dessert. They voted for board candidates and received \$10 bill credit attendance prizes. Manager's, board chairman's and treasurer's reports were included in the annual meeting booklet that was distributed. Board directors were available during the meeting for questions. Three \$100 bill credits were awarded to three lucky attendees. Winners included: Frank Yerbic III, Jim Banks and Duane Hart. Thank you all for joining us!

President/CEO Josh DeWees reported that Spoon River Electric Cooperative plans to continue with infrastructure upgrades, work diligently to keep up with new technologies and continue to advocate for safe, affordable and reliable energy. To increase reliability, 17.5 miles of three-phase line were built and more than 400 poles replaced in 2021 alone. Our line clearance crews have cleared more than 100 miles of trees and brush to help with system reliability.

Throughout 2021, the Spoon River Operation Round Up committee met regularly and donated \$26,225 back into our local communities. Year to date, the program has donated \$103,400 back into our communities. The co-op thanks you, the membership, for your generosity.

Scholarship interviews were held early June and three deserving students were awarded \$1,000 each. The 2021 scholarship winners included: Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000: **Hannah Stevenson**; Ipava; Spoon River Electric Scholastic Scholarship for \$1,000: **Craig Putnam**, Gilson; Spoon River Electric Honorary Scholarship for \$1,000: **Alexandra Plavec**, Peoria.



According to the written treasurer's report, finances stayed stable. Patronage capital and margins for 2021 were \$1,266,904.

Several area residents were re-elected to the co-op's board of directors. They include Jack Clark of Lewistown, Terry Beam of Cuba and Kurt Duncan of Duncan Mills.

Service awards were present to the following board members and employees for their milestone service years.

Directors: _____
John Spangler . 10 years of board service
Wes Strode 5 years of board service

Employees: _____
Jon Hedges 25 years of service
Josh DeWees 15 years of service
Louis Gray 5 years of service

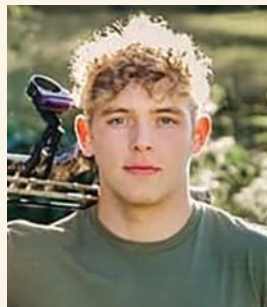
Chairman Marvel also presented former director Jim Banks with a 15-year service award for his time on Spoon River Electric's Board of Directors.



Scholarship winners



Hannah Stevenson



Craig Putnam



Alexandra Plavec

Avoid distractions while driving

Some temptations are hard to resist. For many, it can be especially challenging to turn down that last piece of chocolate cake.

While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception – just this once.

Play it safe. That text can wait.



While driving, turn phone to silent mode or pull over if the text can't wait.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be a good time to remind folks, including myself, of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents

could easily be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility

crews conducting work near the roadside, move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Spoon River Electric, safety is foremost in everything we do – for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.

7 CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS



Every College Student Should Know

Relay these safety tips to your young adults who are about to hit campus for the first time or return for another year.

1. Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips or extension cords. Use power strips with an overcurrent protector.
2. Be aware of your surroundings, especially when listening to music or texting.
3. Unplug small appliances when not in use and all appliances when away for extended periods.
4. This tip still holds true: never walk alone at night.
5. Avoid using generic cubes or cords. They could overheat, shock or burn you.
6. Locate the emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
7. Do not put your cell phone on or under your pillow or bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.

Safe
Electricity.org®