

## President's Report



Josh DeWees  
President/CEO

## The power of preparation

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.)
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and co-workers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

### Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medications and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

### Keeping four-legged family members safe

Having a plan in place for pets in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will also help reduce worry and stress, especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).



At Spoon River Electric, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.



Our office will be closed 9/5.

## Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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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

# What to do before using a PORTABLE GENERATOR



### Prepare

Install battery operated carbon monoxide (CO) alarms throughout your home; ensure they are working properly.

### Position

Place a portable generator at least 20 feet from windows and doors; do not use one in a garage or carport.



### Read

Carefully review and then follow all manufacturer's instructions.

### Protect

If it is wet outside, keep it dry by placing it on a tarp. Position it under a portable canopy (not a carport).



### Refuel Safely

Turn off your portable generator and let it cool down before refueling.

### Inspect and Maintain

Inspect a portable generator before each use and make sure it is properly maintained.



Using a portable generator can be useful during an outage; however, use one correctly to prevent CO poisoning and to stay safe.

Safe  
Electricity.org®

# Five Easy Ways to Exercise Your Civic Duty

America's electric cooperatives, including Spoon River Electric, understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. There are many important policy issues that directly impact electric utilities and ultimately, you, the consumer-members we proudly serve. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders positions us to advocate for our local community.

While Spoon River Electric is a locally-owned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through our non-partisan grassroots program known as "Co-ops Vote," we're working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration Day is September 20, and midterm elections are right around the corner. If you're looking to get involved or simply to make sure you're ready to vote, here are five easy ways you can exercise your civic duty.

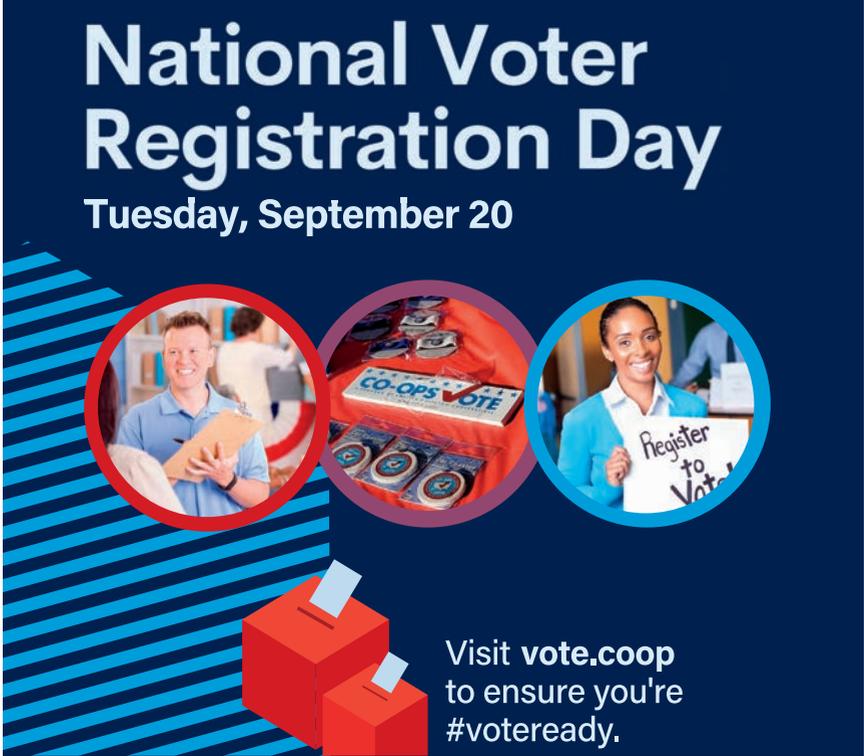
1. Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date. Visit [vote.coop](http://vote.coop), then click "Election Resources" to verify your status.
2. Get informed. In addition to ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.

3. Get active on social media. Follow @coopsvote on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and let others know you're a #coopvoter and #VoteReady; encourage your friends and family to do the same.
4. Help others prepare to vote. Work a National Voter Registration Day event (visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events)), volunteer to be a poll worker during midterm elections or offer to drive others to their polling places.

5. Vote! It's the easiest—and most important—way you can exercise your civic duty.

Voting is a form of personal empowerment that gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion on the issues that matter most to you. Make a plan to vote and help others in our community get #VoteReady.

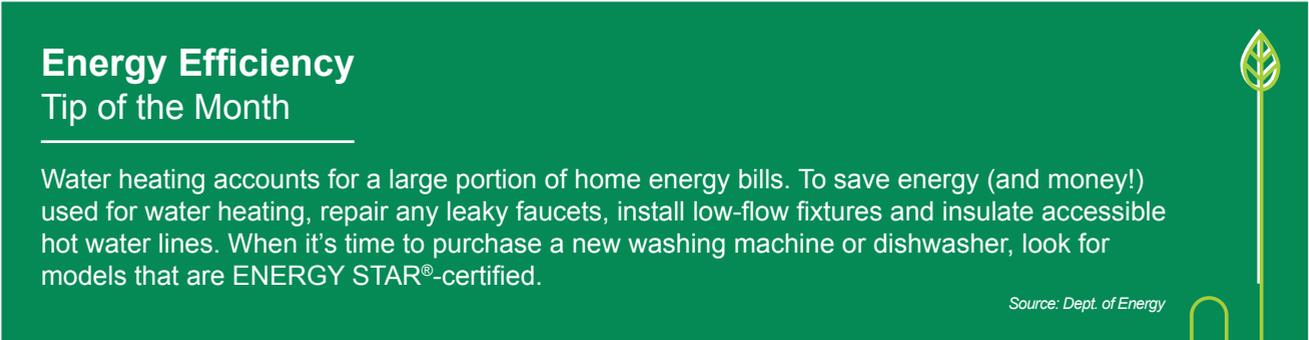
We encourage everyone, regardless of political beliefs, to vote, stand up for our local community and make a collective impact.



**National Voter Registration Day**  
Tuesday, September 20

The graphic features three circular images: a man in a blue shirt holding a clipboard, a box of 'CO-OPS VOTE' materials, and a woman in a blue shirt holding a sign that says 'Register to Vote'. Below these images are two red ballot boxes with white envelopes. The background has blue and white diagonal stripes.

Visit [vote.coop](http://vote.coop) to ensure you're #voteready.



**Energy Efficiency**  
Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy

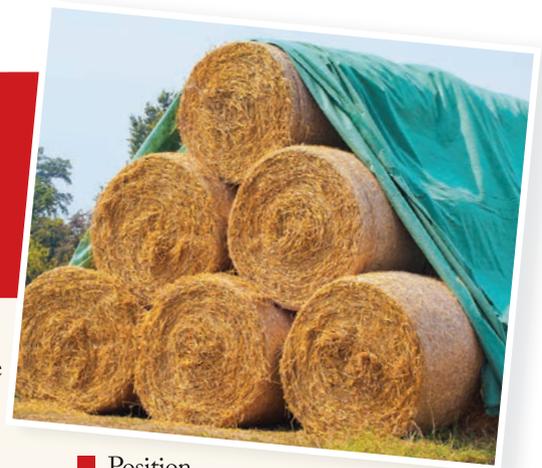
The graphic has a green background with a white leaf icon on the right side and a white plug icon at the bottom right.

# Stay safe on your ranch or farm

There are all types of precautions ranchers and farmers take to stay safe. Electrical hazards, however, can sometimes be overlooked since electricity is not seen or heard, and overhead power lines can become part of the landscape.

Here are some electrical safety tips to implement on your farm or ranch:

- In general, look for exposed energized parts and unguarded electrical equipment that could become energized unexpectedly.
  - Be careful when operating watering tanks with electric pumps. In addition, sprays of water from irrigation systems should not be near overhead power lines.
  - Inspect electrical fencing regularly to ensure that everything is tight and secure and that no parts are frayed. A sagging fence not only means that animals could escape, but it can also create electrical issues.
  - Ensure your electric fence is well supported. A lack of support can cause it to sag.
  - Make sure electric fencing is visible by using electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.
  - Cap posts, especially metal T-posts, to prevent an animal (or human) from becoming impaled.
  - Be aware of overhead power lines when moving bales of hay.
  - Do not store hay bales under power lines.
  - Be aware that tarps that cover hay can come loose and blow in heavy winds, sometimes causing an outage if the tarp gets too close or contacts a power line.
- When using a generator and double throw switch, make sure they are in good working order and up to code.
  - Check electrical center pivot equipment before and after use to ensure it is grounded, that the housing is protected and that the wiring is sound (this protects livestock and people).
  - Ensure that irrigation equipment is regularly inspected. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for inspection and maintenance.
  - Always turn off the power before working on an irrigation system.
  - After a storm, make sure the system has not become ungrounded due to lightning.



- Position irrigation pipes at least 15 feet away from power lines; also, store unused pipes away from power lines.
- Always be aware of overhead power line locations and use a spotter when working close to lines or poles.
- Follow safe digging procedures; call 8-1-1 to have underground utilities marked before breaking ground.

To learn more about electrical safety on the ranch or farm or in general, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.