

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

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Many of us will remember the blizzard of February 2011. Schools and businesses closed and roads became impassable as up to 18 inches of snow fell around Fulton County.

The forecasts for such storms put the staff of our cooperative on alert. We stock up on supplies needed to restore power and constantly monitor storm projections. When we have a major outage, our office employees answer the phones at the office, no matter what time it is or how long the outage lasts. Our linemen work in whatever weather conditions they have to in order to get your power restored.

During the recent blizzard, we were prepared for a major outage if it came our way, but it didn't. Despite winds gusting at 60 miles per hour, we had no outage.

Rather than chalk this up to

luck, I want to tell you about the work we've done to prevent outages in a major storm such as that one. A lot of effort goes into our line clearance and preventive maintenance programs.

We are fortunate to have a skilled, dedicated line clearance crew. They work year-round to clear brush and trim trees that could create outages during storms. Our program, run by Line Clearance Manager Josh DeWees, is calculated and efficient. Global positioning systems technology helps map and track work areas.

The preventive maintenance program is focused on the equipment that distributes your electricity. We rotate old poles out of service before they break and create outages. Our linemen do upgrades and maintenance to two substations every year, fore-

seeing potential problems before they arise.

We weren't the only ones prepared for a major storm. Fulton County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency Director Chris Helle assembled a team of representatives for the first responders and major agencies in our area. He kept everyone updated on the latest storm models and road conditions. Our cooperative enjoyed being part of a team dedicated to serving our county's residents.

We can't control the weather. But we will continue efforts to minimize outages through line clearance and preventive maintenance. If you want to discuss either of these programs, please feel free to call me at (309) 647-2700.

PPI Updates State Rep Mike Unes

Prairie Power, Inc. Director of Administrative Services Greg Nieman tells State Rep. Mike Unes (R-East Peoria) about the progress of the Prairie State project at a dinner in Canton Monday hosted by Spoon River Electric Cooperative. Unes met with representatives from Spoon River, Menard Electric Cooperative, Prairie Power and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives to learn more about issues important to electric cooperatives.



Not eggactly a simple food

The incredible egg: More than just an omelet ingredient

As you try to figure out what to do with all those leftover Easter eggs at the end of this month, check out these interesting facts that might make for good family trivia at Easter dinner.

- A hen requires 24 to 26 hours to produce an egg. Thirty minutes later, she starts all over again.

- The egg shell may have as many as 17,000 tiny pores over its surface. Through them, the egg can absorb flavors and odors. Storing them in their cartons helps keep them fresh.

- White-shelled eggs are produced by hens with white feathers and ear lobes. Brown-shelled eggs are produced by hens with red feathers and red ear lobes.

- To tell if an egg is raw or hard-cooked, spin it. If the egg spins eas-

ily, it is hard-cooked; if it wobbles, it's raw.

- Egg yolks are one of the few foods that naturally contain Vitamin D.

- Yolk color depends on the diet of the hen. Natural yellow-orange substances such as marigold petals may be added to light-colored feeds to enhance colors. Artificial color additives are not permitted.

- Occasionally, a hen will produce a double-yolked egg. It is rare, but not impossible, for a young hen to produce an egg with no yolk at all.

On another note, please remember our office will be closed in observance of Easter on Good Friday, April 22.



Used poles for sale

Spoon River Electric Cooperative is selling used 30 and 35 foot long utility poles for \$15 each. For more information, contact Jon Hedges, Manager of Inventory, at (309) 647-2700.

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

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,249 • Number of members served: 4,944

Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

Be kind to the earth ...

Celebrate Earth Day, April 22, with a commitment to clean air

The average American generates about 24 tons of CO₂ emissions per year. This Earth Day, try cutting back with a couple of tips that you can practice throughout the year.

- Check your tires. Keeping your car's tires properly inflated can reduce your car-

bon footprint by 400-700 pounds a year.

- Drive with care. By accelerating slowly, maintaining a steady speed, and anticipating stops earlier so you don't have to slam on the brakes, you can cut carbon emissions by more than a ton.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option — when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Quick Guide to Cleaning Up a Broken CFL

The most important steps to reduce exposure to mercury vapor from a broken bulb are:

Before cleanup

- Have people and pets leave the room.
- Air out the room for 5-10 minutes by opening a window or door to the outdoor environment.
- Shut off the central forced air heating/air conditioning (H&AC) system, if you have one.
- Collect materials (stiff paper/cardboard, sticky tape, damp paper towels/wet wipes) needed to clean up broken bulb.

During cleanup

- Be thorough in collecting broken glass and visible powder.
- Place cleanup materials in a sealable container (plastic bag or glass jar).

After cleanup

- Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of properly. Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials indoors.
- Not all recycling centers may accept broken CFLs and some states may have prohibitions on disposal of debris. Check with your local and/or state household hazardous waste authority for disposal requirements in your area.
- For several hours, continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the H&AC system shut off.







For more detailed guidance on cleaning up and safely disposing of a broken CFL, please visit: www.epa.gov/cflcleanup.

Source: EPA



**As a subsidiary of
Spoon River Electric Cooperative,
Spoon River Propane is member-owned.**

Spoon River Propane offers:

-  24-hour emergency service
-  Competitive pricing
-  Several flexible payment programs to meet your needs
-  Outstanding customer service

To learn more call Manager Duane Siegel or Lisa Miller today
at Spoon River Propane -- (309) 649-5462