

Spoon River News

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Give your home's energy use a vacation when you're on vacation

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away for just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here's a tip from Spoon River Electric that can give your utility bill a break when you take a break.

Water heater. Turn down the temperature on your water heater, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away. Or, talk to an energy expert at Spoon River Electric about turning off the water heater.

Thermostat. During hot weather, turn the thermostat higher on your air conditioning system. That way, you'll save energy while ensuring that your home doesn't get too warm. If you're away during the winter, lower the temperature on your furnace. The house can be as cool as 50 degrees without the risk of your pipes freezing.

Refrigerator. Depending on the food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature is -5 degrees.

Lights. Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

Electronics. Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.



For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit Touchstone Energy's energy-saving website or call the energy experts at Spoon River Electric. Find out how the little changes add up at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Welcome to our new employees



Billy Williams
Line Clearance Trimmer



Jerry Cole
Line Clearance Trimmer

**Our office will be closed Friday,
July 4 in observance of
Independence Day.**



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Replacing your conventional power strips with advanced power strips (APS) can help reduce the electricity wasted when electronic devices are idle. These power strips are a convenient and low-cost way to save.

Source: Department of Energy

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: 1,255 • Number of members served: 4,808
Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

2014 Fulton County Fair grandstand schedule

Monday, July 21

Mr. Hypnotizor - Between Queen Contest
Queen Contest, 7:00 p.m. - \$5.00

Tuesday, July 22

Harness Races, 5 :00 p.m. - Free
Illinois Winery's - Wine Tasting, 3:00 p.m.-?
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. - Karaoke with Ted Martin

Wednesday, July 23

Motocross Races, - Grandstand \$6.00, Pit Pass \$10.00
Gates Open • 12:00 p.m., Practice • 1-4:30 p.m., Entry Fee \$15.00
Sign-up • 5:00 p.m., Practice • 6:00 p.m.,
Races Start, 7:00 p.m. Entry Fee \$25-\$30
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. - Karaoke with Ted Martin

Thursday, July 24

Kids Day, Rides 1 :00 - 4:00 p.m. - Armbands \$12.00
Livestock Auction, 3:00 p.m.
Candy Scramble, 5:30 p.m. • Scrambles, 6:30 p.m. •
Draft Horse Show - Grandstand \$4.00
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. - Karaoke with Ted Martin

Friday, July 25

Kids Tractor Pull, 2:30 p.m.
Kids Rides Friday Evening, 6:00 - 11 :00 p.m. - Armbands \$15.00
Tractor & 4x4 Truck Pulls, 6:00 p.m. - Grandstand \$6.00 • Pit Pass \$10.00
Garden Tractor Pulls, 6:00 p.m. - Grandstand
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. - Stranger Danger

Saturday, July 26

Beef Cook-Off Contest, Judging at 11 :00 a.m.
Demo Derby, 6:30 p.m. - \$6.00 • Pit Pass \$10.00
Buddy Day - Buy a Ticket and Your Buddy Rides FREE - 1 :00 to 4:00 p.m.
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. - Cow Tippin' Banditos

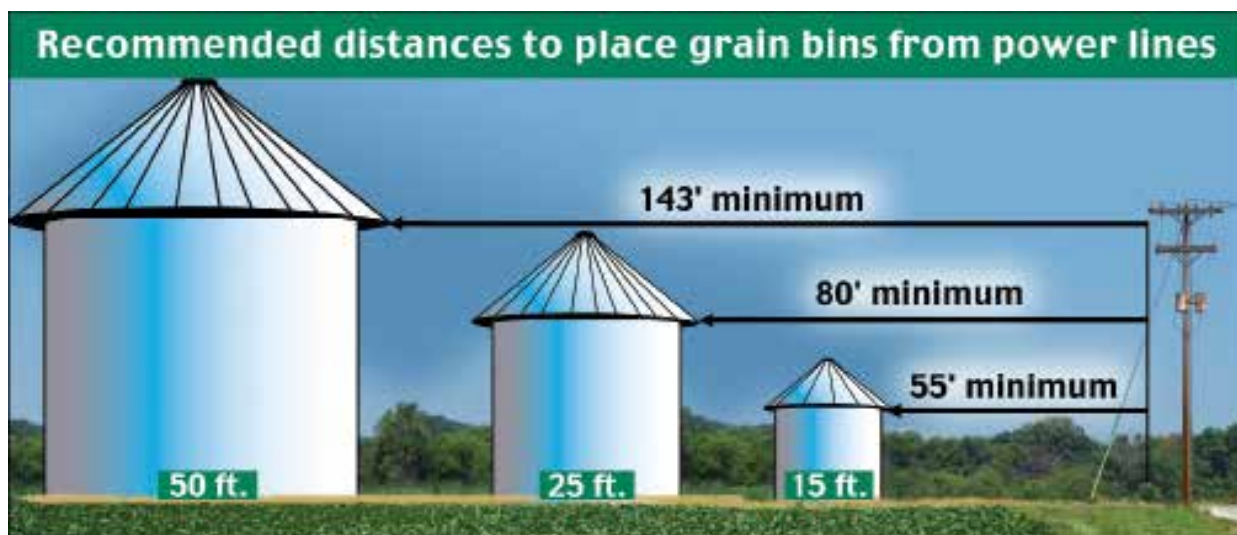
CARNIVAL - BODEN AMUSEMENTS

Rides begin each night @ 6:00 p.m. • 1 p.m. on Saturday



Grain bins: harvesting safely

By Abby Berry



As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job—and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At Spoon River Electric, safety is top priority for all—our employees and our members.

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in the efficiency and profitability of farm and ranch operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

Whether you're purchasing new

grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

Safe clearance. The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

Filling grain bins. High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance

when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

Moving equipment near grain bins. When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why Spoon River Electric reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact Spoon River Electric at 309-647-2700 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.



YOU'RE ONLY AS ENERGY EFFICIENT AS YOUR OLDEST APPLIANCE.

I'm saving \$146 a year by pulling the plug on my old fridge. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM