

JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Happy harvest



Stephanie Theis
Executive Assistant

October ... Halloween decorations are up, the leaves are beginning to turn beautiful colors, there is everything pumpkin spice, and last but not least, it's

harvest season! There are so many wonderful things about fall, and yet, one of the most important things is the harvesting of our food. The farmers are out in full force combining corn and soybeans. As I was thinking about October, I learned that National Farmers Day is Oct. 12. I feel it is well-deserved. After all, we all depend on them three times a day, 365 days a year. **Martin Flores**

As a farmer, there are so many things to be aware of while trying to get the crops harvested. A farmer must watch the weather, make sure there is not too much moisture in the beans, and that the equipment has been serviced for the harvest season. One of the biggest responsibilities of a farmer is to be aware of their surroundings. When the first tractor was built, moving the equipment from field to field was not a worry. However, with equipment getting bigger all the time, the farmer must be careful when transporting it from one field to another. One of the greatest risks on the farm today can be electrocution.

Therefore, one might ask: What are three common causes of electrical accidents in agriculture? Well, as one might guess, the most common causes of electrocutions are portable grain augers, oversized wagons, large combines and other tall equipment that could come into contact with overhead power lines. According to the U.S. Department of Labor (2023), "Every year, 62 farm workers are electrocuted in the United States." Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

to keep all farm equipment at least 10 feet away from all overhead lines. The minimum 10-foot distance is a 360-degree rule — below, to the side and above lines. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks.

It is good practice to use a spotter when moving large equipment or high loads near a power line to ensure that contact isn't accidentally made with a power line. It is also good practice to lower all portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level (under 14



wants to remind all our farm workers to be especially careful when working near overhead power lines, and we encourage them to educate all who work on the farm about safe working practices and habits around all electric lines. We want to remind them

feet) before moving or transporting. PLEASE use caution when raising them. Farmers may also want to consider moving or burying power lines that are around buildings or in the paths of heavy equipment traffic.

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There are many hazards that we all face on a day-to-day basis. SIEC just wants to remind our farmers to be extra careful this time of year. We want them to enjoy National Farmer's Day as well as the beautiful fall colors and wonderful days ahead. It may be harvest season, but at SIEC, farm electrical safety is ALWAYS in season! HAPPY FALL, Y'ALL!

Works Cited

U.S. Department of Labor. (2023). Youth In Agriculture. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.osha.gov/etools/youth-agriculture/electrocution>

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Aim for safety

Across the U.S., thousands of dollars per year are spent repairing equipment and power lines that have been struck by a stray bullet. Not-for-profit cooperatives, owned by the members, all share in the expense.

This doesn't even include the inconvenience, damages and hazards to members down the line who require power for medical equipment or other needs while a lineman does some hunting of his own to locate the problem.

Hunters and other gun-owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles and substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly to the shooter, and potentially interrupt electric service to large areas.

Sometimes the damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, and is only discovered when an unexplained outage occurs.

Landowners are also encouraged to take note of nonmembers who are hunting on their property, and remind them to be aware of power lines.

Hunting safety tips:

- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and wildfire.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.

- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
 - Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- Sandra K. Clutz**
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole, except utility equipment, can pose an obstruction — and a serious hazard to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.
 - Avoid the use of lofting poles near overhead power lines — remember, electricity can jump across a considerable distance.



The majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities. Enjoy the great outdoors. Just be sure to hunt only what's in season.



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2023/2024 Touchstone Energy® Classroom Empowerment Grant Application

Applicant's Name _____ Title _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number () _____ E-mail _____

Electric Cooperative Territory: **Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative**

Name of Project Submitted _____

Eligibility is limited to schools located in Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative's service area. Teachers and administrators of K-12 public and private schools may apply. Seven \$500 grants will be awarded. For more information about Touchstone Energy, log on at www.touchstoneenergy.com. Touchstone Energy and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative reserve the right to photograph the grant winners and use the photos for publicity purposes. Projects must be completed by the time school is out for the summer. Incomplete entries will be deemed ineligible and will not be judged. **Recipients must provide written proof of completion detailing how the grant funds were used within six months of the project's completion.**

Deadline: Application forms must be received by SIEC by mail, e-mail or fax no later than **November 10th, 2023**. Winners will be announced no later than December 8, 2023. A check will be awarded to those selected in January 2024.

For additional questions, please call Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (618) 827-3555 Ext. 208 or e-mail Brent Goforth at bgoforth@siec.org. Mail grant applications to: SIEC, Attn: Brent Goforth, P. O. Box 100, Dongola, IL 62926.

Judging Process:

Applications will be reviewed by an impartial panel of judges. If necessary, applicants may be contacted for additional information.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

(Teacher or Administrator)

If I receive the grant, I pledge to follow all completion requirements and provide written proof of completion within six months of my project's end.

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant RULES and GUIDELINES

Enter **Touchstone Energy's Classroom Empowerment Grant Competition** and your submission could win a \$500 grant for classroom and education enhancement projects!

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants totaling \$3,500 (Seven grants at \$500 each) are being funded by **Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC)** for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information about Touchstone Energy, log on to www.touchstoneenergy.com. To apply for grants, send a **double-spaced typewritten request (not to exceed 3 pages)** that includes the following:

1. **A description of the project and what it will accomplish.**
2. **The estimated cost of the project.**
3. **An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project.**
4. **Whether funding options have been pursued, and if so, how?**
5. **When project will be completed.** Blake C. Travis
6. **The number of people affected by the project.**
7. **If the project's goals are measurable, and how?**
8. **How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community?**

Photos and supporting data are optional. Grant applications must be received at SIEC by November 10, 2023. For questions, please call SIEC at (618) 827-3555 Ext. 208 or e-mail Brent Goforth at bgoforth@siec.org. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Winners will be announced on December 8, 2023. A check will be awarded to those selected in January 2024.

Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Brent with your account number at 800-762-1400 to claim your prize.

Dress up with care for HALLOWEEN



When dressing your little ones (or yourself), keep these safety tips in mind:

-  Always wear costumes that are labeled flame resistant.
-  Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape to improve visibility.
-  Do not wear decorative (colored) contact lenses unless you have seen an eyecare professional.
-  Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure or obstruct your vision.
-  Test the makeup you plan to use in advance for a possible allergy.

In addition, inspect any plug-in decorations for signs of wear and tear (fraying or bare wires or broken plugs) and replace them if damaged.

