

SIEC offers new college scholarships

At the May Co-op board meeting, board directors discussed many topics, two of which affect SIEC's Youth Day and Youth Tour package, and SIEC's annual meeting queen pageant grand prize.

Youth Day: For decades, SIEC has participated in Youth Day (Springfield) and Youth Tour (week long trip to Washington, D.C.). High schools in SIEC's service territory have been very supportive by assisting in either a cooperative essay contest, or most recently, guidance counselors have been recruiting juniors to represent their schools. The annual essay contest worked very well for years, but participation fell due to new state teaching requirements, which didn't leave enough time for injecting a separate class essay project for some schools.

In an effort to educate more students, SIEC will be implementing a new application process for its Youth Tour program, open to all high school juniors in SIEC's service territory, instead of asking guidance counselors to choose just one student from each high school to compete. The costs that were associated in taking 11 students to Springfield for Youth Day will now be used in the form of college scholarships for the two Youth Tour winners. SIEC Board of Directors feel (1) it is better to educate more students (members and non-members) about the role of electric cooperatives and (2) by eliminating our participation in Youth Day to Springfield, those funds will create a more attractive incentive for juniors to compete for Youth Tour to D.C. through SIEC's

new application process, by offering two \$1,000 college scholarships.

Queen Pageant Grand Prize: The grand prize for Miss SIEC has been the all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. through the Youth Tour program. In the past, Miss SIEC has traveled to D.C. with SIEC's two high school students. SIEC Board of Directors have made the decision to update the grand prize, due to SIEC's queen usually being out of high school and in college...or if still in high school, the queen has aspirations of college enrollment after high school. Therefore, the Miss SIEC grand prize will now be a \$1,000 college scholarship, beginning with next month's pageant at Shawnee Community College on August 9.

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We want our members to be better informed. You are the member... it's YOUR Cooperative.

Look up and live

Remember to allow plenty of clearance between grain bins and electric lines.

By Ken Macken, Manager of Safety and Loss Control, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

As the Safety Instructor for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, one of the things I really enjoy about my job is being able to travel over the entire state and see many beautiful sights. Some of my favorite sights are the great farms peppered throughout the state. From dairy farms to grain farms, we have some of the best-looking farms right here in Illinois.

Over the years, farm grain storage has increased. And as a safety instructor, I can't help but notice grain bins that are close to the road and the power lines serving these farms. I see the tall PTO-driven grain augers standing ready and I think of those who have been injured or killed when an auger was moved into an overhead line during the rush of harvest time. I don't like thinking about these accidents as I drive these beautiful rural scenes. I guess these thoughts are an occupational hazard I must endure.

Accidents, however, can be prevented. Allow me to share some facts about grain bins, augers, conveyers, dump trucks, etc. Share them with a friend or a family member

involved in moving grain. You might just save their life.

Over the past several years, dozens of deaths and serious injuries have occurred on farms when grain augers or dump trucks have come into contact with overhead energized electric lines. Look up and observe the areas around your grain bins. What do you see? Are there power lines nearby? Are you planning on building more bins in the near future?

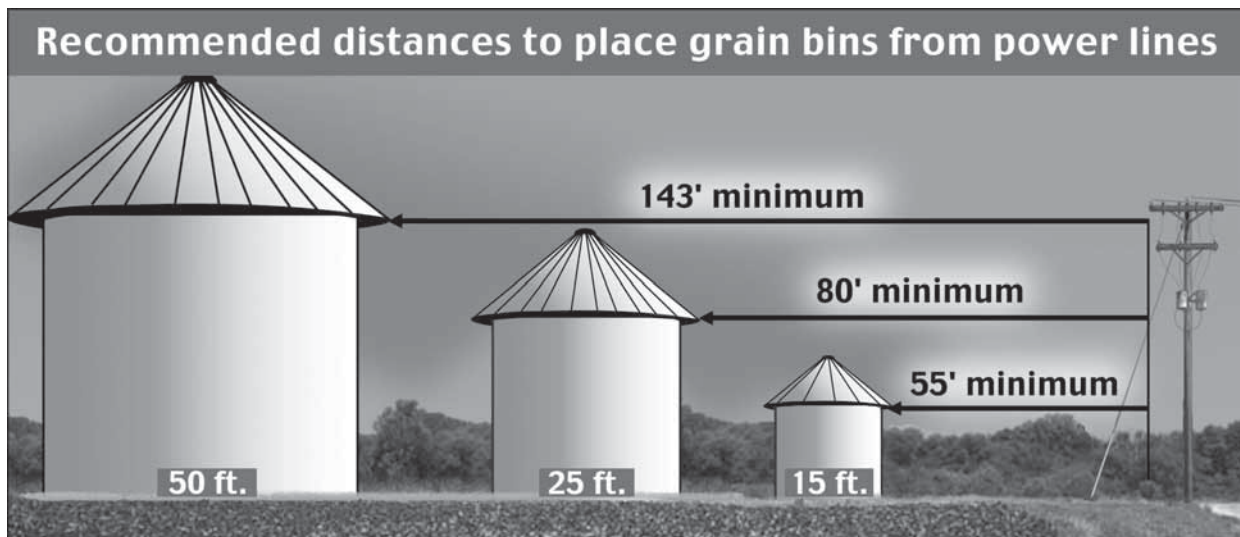
If you are planning the construction of any new grain bins, be sure to take the placement of existing power lines into account and contact your local electric cooperative BEFORE your plans are finalized. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) contains regulations concerning electric lines near grain bins. There can even be financial penalties for violating NESC codes.

If you, or a contractor, construct a grain bin too close to power lines, your electric cooperative will have to re-align the design of the electrical system to make sure all NESC codes are followed. This can cost you and your cooperative money

that could have been saved. The cooperative cannot provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing line that does not meet the clearance requirement. If you have any questions, call your electric cooperative. They will be more than happy to help you with your building plans.

It is important that you understand the proper clearances for electric lines around your grain bins. The NESC specifies distances that power lines must be from the loading and non-loading sides of your bins. The diagram shows recommended distances to place new grain bins from power lines. Contact your cooperative so that exact clearances can be determined from the NESC for your specific situation.

Also, consider the route of trucks and your equipment around your grain bins. What is highest implement or dump truck situation that will happen around those bins and electric lines? Is everything out of harm's way, both currently and in the future?





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SIEC employee teaches forestry class

The annual Forestry School, hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), is a practical and hands-on school provided to train new and seasoned tree workers many aspects of working with trees, rights-of-way and members' needs and concerns regarding their trees.

Many topics are covered, which include safely working around energized power lines, proper pruning procedures, trimming cycles, tree species and their rate of growth, proper handling of a chain saw, use of personal protective equipment, use of all the many tools provided to work with trees, rigging and climbing, and much, much more. Twenty-nine forestry personnel attended the school this year near Lake Shelbyville.

AIEC Manager of Safety & Loss Control Ken Macken states, "SIEC Forestry Foreman Blayne Holshouser was the instructor for proper climbing techniques this year



at our school. He taught how to ascend into trees using only ropes. He explained all the gear that is involved with this, as well as demonstrated how to properly rig in a safe manner. Blayne taught students how to secure ropes in a tree, as well as how to maneuver around in a tree once in it. Then, ultimately, he showed them how to make proper cuts to prune or remove trees once up in the tree. On a side note, he did a great job and was a huge asset to our school."

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 Jerri with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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