

JAMUP

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Farmer and rancher safety

We don't have to remind those who work the land and raise livestock that they have a potentially dangerous occupation. However, due to the nature of the job, and because of long days and tiring work, here are some reminders about electrical dangers on the farm or ranch.

Overhead power lines

If you make contact with a power line, guy wire, power pole, electrical box or any other electrical equipment, do not get out of your cab or truck. Stay put and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the local utility to de-energize the power. If you must get out due to smoke or fire, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop. Another option (after you make a clean exit) is to shuffle or waddle away while keeping your feet together and on the ground.

Once you are out, never try to re-enter the cab or truck.

Remember: If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line or other utility equipment, do not get out of the cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground. Call 9-1-1 and wait for us to arrive and cut the power so that you can safely exit your tractor or vehicle.

Determine proper clearance

Contact us to measure power line heights; do NOT do this yourself. Once you know the heights, you can determine appropriate equipment, implement and extension clearances. Always maintain at least 10 feet between the power line and the

tallest height of the equipment that will be transported. Keep in mind that due to wear, age and even weather conditions, power lines can change height. Please contact us with any concerns. It's good to know power line clearance, but always have a spotter.

Call us before moving or adding a grain bin

The National Electrical Safety Code addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. The requirements are in place to help keep farmers safe: to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with power lines. If you are planning on building a new grain bin or remodeling around an area that already has one, contact Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative at 618-827-3555. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line.

Always dig safely

Whether you are installing new fence posts or using large tillage tools, call 811 before you dig to have underground utilities marked. Even if you think you know where buried gas, power and other lines are, don't rely on your memory. Get all utilities marked so that you know for sure. Utility locators dispatched by 811 do not mark private lines. *James S. Dennis*



Use standby generators with care

If you have a standby generator to provide essential power during an outage, be sure to correctly use the transfer switch. Once you properly engage the switch, it stops your farm's generated power from entering utility lines, aka backfeeding, which can electrocute lineworkers who are working to restore power. *Mike Uien*

For more information about electrical safety, visit safeelectricity.org.

General safety

- Check and maintain equipment, especially electric cables and hydraulic hoses that have cracks or show other signs of wear.
- Always have someone nearby when entering grain bins or other high-risk areas.
- Check all buildings and grounds for fire hazards and hazardous materials.
- Assess how any chemicals are stored and make sure children and animals can't access them.
- Make a list of chemicals for

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Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

2025/2026 Classroom Empowerment Grant

INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICANT

Review the following information before completing the application. The application form and information can be found on our website, www.siec.org.

WHO MAY APPLY?

Seven \$500 Classroom Empowerment Grants will be provided to K-12 public or private schools in the Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative service territory.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

SELECTION PROCESS

An impartial judging panel will judge the applications to determine which projects best serve the goal of improving the learning environment or increases the educational resources for the school.

Projects do not have to be electric related, although encouraged. Decision of the judging panel is final.

IMPORTANT DATES

All completed applications must be received in the offices of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative by **Friday, November 7, 2025**. Winners will be announced no later than Friday December 12, 2025. Funded projects must be completed by the time school is out for the summer.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Send the completed Grant Application Form, AND a double-space 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 funds or additional funds are necessary for the completion of the project.
4. Whether other funding options have been pursued and if so, the status of those requests.
5. When the project will be completed.
6. The number of students impacted by the project.
7. If the project's goals are measurable and how they will be measured and what determines if the project is a success.
8. How the project ties to our Touchstone Energy core values; integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community.

Photos and supporting data are optional. Completed grant applications must be received at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative by 4:00 p.m. November 7, 2025. For questions, contact Brent Goforth at (618) 827-3555 Ext. 208 or bgoforth@siec.org



Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative 2025/2026 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Application

Applicant's Name _____ Title _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number () _____ E-mail _____

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 annually, even if they have been a recipient in years past. Seven \$500 grants will be awarded. For more information about Touchstone Energy, log on at www.touchstoneenergy.coop. Touchstone Energy and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative reserves 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 4:00 p.m. **Friday, November 7, 2025.** Awards will be announced no later than Friday, December 12, 2025. Checks will be awarded in January 2026.

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.

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.

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For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 • 618-827-3555

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South
P.O. Box 100
Dongola, Illinois 62926
618-827-3555
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m.
www.siec.coop



Co-op Month Word Search

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?
Read the following facts to learn how co-ops are unique, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



B	T	A	M	L	J	S	T	K	S	N	B	M	T	M
S	R	G	T	A	C	F	V	E	S	I	S	U	J	P
Z	Q	Z	M	M	V	G	L	K	E	F	U	F	A	J
Q	R	F	R	M	N	P	C	W	I	Z	N	G	K	K
L	A	E	Q	B	I	N	P	C	T	N	V	K	T	W
H	K	V	H	C	X	I	C	B	I	H	Y	S	I	S
X	S	O	N	T	C	W	B	L	N	E	F	D	U	F
P	Z	I	M	R	E	R	I	W	U	L	H	F	K	I
C	R	C	Y	E	X	G	T	H	M	O	B	M	G	B
P	A	D	O	U	M	D	O	Z	M	C	J	W	Y	T
A	A	T	U	V	Z	B	X	T	O	A	Q	J	B	X
I	F	D	H	F	O	S	E	N	C	L	W	O	J	V
L	U	P	C	O	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	V	E	F
F	F	C	N	K	B	S	I	I	S	Q	D	S	U	Y
A	X	S	Y	X	Y	B	P	G	G	B	M	D	P	D

Fun Facts about Co-ops:

- Co-ops and their members work **together** toward a common goal.
- Co-ops are local organizations, so they understand the **communities** they serve.
- All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative **principles**.
- Concern for community is the seventh **cooperative** principle.
- Co-ops don't serve customers; instead, they serve **members**.
- Co-ops are led by the **local** members they serve.

"Safety" continued from page 18A

- firefighters in case a fire breaks out on your farm or ranch.
- Establish a safety boundary around gas and fuel tanks.
- Don't skimp on safety: wear eye and ear protection, gloves, and face masks and respirators when appropriate.
- Shield all PTO-powered machinery and keep others away.
- Outfit tractors and trucks with fire extinguishers.
- Never exit a tractor or truck without placing it in park or engaging the emergency brakes.
- Discuss safety concerns with children and explain safe operating procedures. You can never start too young, and they watch what you do.

Source: SafeElectricity.org. General safety tips source: Hobby Farms