

# POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



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## Summer Storms: Are you ready?

Now that summer is in full swing, there are more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water, and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Summer months can also create conditions conducive to dangerous storms. These potential weather events can destroy our electrical system, but Corn Belt Energy crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before working on any downed lines.

You are also encouraged to practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Management Agency recommends the tips below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness:

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, water, and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies,



including towelettes, soap, and hand sanitizer.

- Ensure your First Aid Kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert

damage from a power surge and prevent circuit overloading during power restoration.

That said, leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and do not walk through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to perform their jobs safely, including on your property.

For more outage tips, visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov).

# Making Their Mark

## Youth Tour 2026

Local students represented Corn Belt Energy on their trip to Washington, D.C., for the Youth Tour. This decades-long tradition allows students to represent electric and telephone co-ops across the state.

This year, 49 students sponsored by 25 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives took part in the 2026 Youth Tour, held June 15-22, to visit the nation's capital for an immersive experience designed to educate and inspire the next generation of cooperative and civic leaders.

Corn Belt Energy sponsored 2 students within its service territory. These students included Colton Leonard and Pranika Kurella. They joined more than 2,000 students representing 44 states for the annual event.

Central to the Youth Tour experience is the formation of a mock student run co-op called Chip 'n' Pop Co-op. Throughout the week, the co-op handled snack sales, decision-making, and budgeting, giving participants a hands-on look at how cooperatives operate. All students were members of the co-op.

Over the course of the week, students visited historic landmarks, including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, and the U.S. Capitol, where they had the opportunity to meet Senator Dick Durbin.



*Colton Leonard & Pranika Kurella at the 2026 Youth Tour in Washington*

Midweek, students took part in NRECA's Youth Day, where they joined hundreds of other teens from across the country to hear from national leaders and learn how to use their voices back home.

High school students who

live within the service area of Corn Belt Energy are eligible to participate in the annual program.

To learn more about Youth Tour, visit:  
[cornbeltenergy.com](http://cornbeltenergy.com)  
[youthtour.coop](http://youthtour.coop) or  
[facebook.com/ILYouthTour](https://facebook.com/ILYouthTour).



## Corn Belt Energy's Emerging Leader

One student was selected to represent Illinois on the National Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Those interested in becoming Illinois' YLC representative filled out an application, and five were selected to be interviewed for the position.

Colton Leonard, one of the students sponsored

by Corn Belt Energy Corporation was selected by his peers as the 2026-2027 YLC representative for Illinois. He will represent the state at national and state meetings and events in the years ahead.

We want to congratulate Colton on behalf of CBEC and look forward to what he will do in the future.



# Giving Back to Every Community

## Mobile Blood Drive

At Corn Belt Energy, serving our communities means more than providing safe, reliable electricity. Guided by the cooperative principle of Concern for Community, we are committed to supporting initiatives that improve the lives of those we serve. One way we do that is by partnering with organizations like ImpactLife to help meet critical community needs.

On June 10, Corn Belt Energy hosted a mobile blood drive, welcoming members, employees and the public to roll up their sleeves for a lifesaving cause.

Together, participants donated 10 units of blood, enough to produce up to 30 blood components that can help patients experiencing



emergencies, surgeries, cancer treatments and other medical needs.

Every donation has the potential to make a meaningful difference,

and we're grateful to everyone who took the time to give. By working together, we continue to demonstrate the power of cooperation and strengthen the communities we serve, one act of kindness at a time.



## Summer Storm Assistance

Summer brings more than sunshine, it also brings severe weather. When powerful storms strike, electric cooperatives across Illinois work together to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

Following the devastating June 17 tornadoes that impacted the Mattoon area, Corn Belt Energy answered the call for mutual aid, sending two line crews from our Central and North regions to assist Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative with restoration efforts.

The storm caused widespread damage, including downed trees, destroyed structures and more than 50 broken utility poles, leaving approximately 2,450 members without electricity. The City of Charleston declared a local state of emergency as crews began the challenging task of rebuilding damaged infrastructure.

Working alongside Coles-Moultrie crews, our employees helped restore service safely and efficiently, demonstrating the cooperative principle of neighbors helping neighbors.

Whether responding to outages within our own service territory or assisting fellow cooperatives in times of need, Corn Belt Energy is proud to support communities when they need it most.

# Guide to Grain Bin Regulations

To stay safe, many farming tasks require looking up and around for power lines. For example, when operating large equipment with antennas or when using long implements.

Another safety issue farmers should keep in mind regarding power lines is the grain bin location. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. The code does so to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with a live electrical line and because utility lines have clearance requirements.

The taller a grain bin is, the farther it must be placed from a power line. Not only is placing a grain bin too close to a power line extremely dangerous, but it will also most likely need to be relocated due to one or more code violations, and usually at the owner's expense.

There are also distance requirements for the non-loading sides of bins. In addition, changes to the ground (landscaping, filling) and draining work can affect clearance heights.

Even if you are not getting a new grain bin or making changes to an existing one, always maintain adequate clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor, or elevator to fill the grain bin, or when moving machinery or farming equipment anywhere on your farm.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org).

# GRAIN BIN

## Power Safety

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Remember grain bins have clearance requirements & safety guidelines

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