

Staying safe during Electrical Safety Month

I heard a pretty amazing story the other day. It involved two teens in Indiana, Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor, who were driving down the road with some friends when their car started to fishtail. Lee did his best to keep the vehicle on the road.

But before he knew it, he was sliding straight into a utility pole — and that pole came down, lines and all, right on top of his overturned car.

Now, most folks faced with this situation would do what comes naturally: get out of the car. But Lee and Ashley knew better.

Not a week earlier they had attended a safety demonstration at their school sponsored by their local electric co-op. One of the key messages relayed was, “If your car hits a power pole, stay inside it where you’ll be safe from any electrical current.”

The two did just that and kept their friends in the car and family members at a safe distance once they arrived. As a result, the entire group walked away with just a few minor injuries. However, without a basic knowledge of electrical safety, the outcome that night could have been much different.

The electricity Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation provides day in and day out is a phenomenal resource, powering our modern lifestyles in a safe, reliable and affordable way. But electricity must be respected: If safety isn’t made a priority, what changes our

lives for the better could change them for the worse in an instant.

Lee and Ashley know this from experience, and we’re striving to keep you informed of electrical safety so you don’t have to learn a similar lesson the hard way.



Jim Coode
General Manager
Cumberland Electric
Membership
Corporation

Safety has been a part of the fundamental culture at CEMC since day one. Being an electric lineworker is ranked by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs, on the same list as fishermen, loggers and military servicemen. We demand that not only

those out in the field but employees at all levels make safety a top priority.

As part of our ongoing safety commitment, and in recognition of May being Electrical Safety Month, please take time to learn how you can be safe around electricity at home. Spending just a few minutes with some helpful resources can make all the difference when you’re faced with a possible unsafe situation. For more information on electrical safety, please visit our Web site, www.cemc.org, as well as SafeElectricity.org and Electrical-Safety.org.

I hope there won’t be any stories about CEMC members getting into sticky situations like those two teenagers in Indiana. But if there are, a few minutes spent studying safety today could ensure a happy ending.

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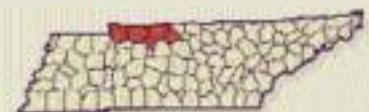
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Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.



Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

Serving Cheatham, Montgomery,
Robertson, Stewart and Sumner
counties.

Students learn about co-ops and government

Natalie Kela of Montgomery Central High School and Taylor Craig of Stewart County High School were among 44 high school juniors representing 22 electric cooperatives across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit March 15-17 in Nashville. Kela is the daughter of James and Petra Kela of Clarksville, and Craig is the son of Mike and Mary Craig of Dover. Both families live in the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation service area.



At the Youth Leadership Summit are, from left, Stephanie Lobdell of CEMC, Natalie Kela of Montgomery Central High School, Sen. Tim Barnes and Taylor Craig of Stewart County High School.

"The annual summit teaches how important electric cooperatives are to Tennessee's rural communities and provides students an opportunity to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol," said Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations.

"We had another excellent group of outstanding young leaders attend this year's summit," Jackson said. "Considering the highly competitive and selective process they undergo to earn a spot on the trip, it's no surprise. Local electric cooperatives, along with school officials and guidance counselors, chose these students based on their interest in government and their leadership abilities."

"The Magic of Leadership" was the theme of the 2010 summit hosted by TECA and funded in part by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of financing to member cooperatives nationwide.

"It is encouraging to see such motivated students in our service area," said Stephanie Lobdell of CEMC. "These young people will one day be the leaders of our communities, and CEMC is privileged to provide them with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric co-ops."

The summit began Monday evening, March 15, with dinner at the group's hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House. Get-acquainted and leadership-development activities followed, led by cooperative employees and special guests, including 2009 Miss Tennessee Stefanie Wittler and Tennessee Titans cheerleader Lindsey Roznovsky.

Students rose early on Tuesday, March 16, for breakfast and preparations for a visit to Legislative Plaza to meet their state legislators and sit in on House and Senate committee meetings. Motivational speaker Lynn Hodges, a former Tennessee Valley Authority employee, gave the keynote address "The Magic of Choice" before TECA Director of Government Affairs David Callis introduced State Rep. Phillip Johnson of Pegram. Johnson answered questions submitted by the stu-

dents, and Callis explained current bills affecting cooperatives and described what everyone should expect from the legislative committees they were to visit.

The 11th-graders then took a tour of the Capitol and saw state government in action at the committee meetings before posing for photos in front of the historic Capitol building.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. After dinner, students attended a Nashville Predators hockey game at Bridgestone Arena followed by a tour of Tennessee's capital city. Finally, the busy day was capped off with an ice cream social.

Wednesday morning, the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the vital role co-ops play in the communities they serve. Students got an overview of the history of electric cooperatives from the "Mission Possible" activity. Then they were divided into teams and competed in "M.A.G.I.C." (Mastering A Game of Interactive Cooperation), forming their own co-ops and working together to "buy" and "sell" power distribution supplies — power poles, wire, transformers, meters and trucks. Later, they put together all they'd learned, answering trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state in the "Energy Battle" competition.

"We offer these educational experiences for our students — our future members — because we want them to understand what makes a cooperative special," said Jim Coode, manager of CEMC. "We want them to appreciate all their electric cooperative provides for their communities and understand why it was so important to form electric co-ops in the first place."

2010 CEMC annual meeting returns to Portland

It's only May, but we're making plans for the biggest event of the co-op year, which happens in the fall — our annual membership meeting.

For 2010, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will hold its annual meeting at Portland High School, site of the 2008 annual meeting.

"The responses we received from those who attended in 2008 were so positive that our board felt it would be good to return to Portland for this year's meeting," says Barbara Harper, CEMC member services manager.

The date is Saturday, Sept. 26, with a start time of 10 a.m. Doors will open early for breakfast, registration and everyone's favorite annual meeting pastime — browsing the door prizes!

Complete details will follow in the coming months, but please reserve the date on your calendar now.

"We are certainly looking forward to returning to Portland High School for our meeting," Harper says. "The facility is perfect for our needs with plenty of convenient parking and open space — it's going to be great!"

CHES recognizes student scientists



Alyssa Troyani, fifth-grader at Cumberland Heights Elementary School, won the prestigious Marva Brooks Award at the school's recent science fair.



These are the award winners from all grades who submitted good projects during Cumberland Heights Elementary School's 2010 science fair.

CEMC customer charge increases May 1

Effective May 1, 2010, the monthly customer charge for members of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will be \$17. The \$3 increase was approved by CEMC's board of directors on March 26.

The customer charge is a fixed amount used to recover the costs of providing electric service to the members of the cooperative, regardless of the amount of energy used.

All energy rates and CEMC service charges will remain the same.

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Mother's Day is May 9.



Farming efficiency

Energy efficiency offers new harvest for farmers

By Brian Sloboda, Cooperative Research Network

To get the biggest bang for their electricity dollar, more and more farmers are turning to energy efficiency to boost their bottom line and productivity.

Electricity on the farm powers heating (water, space, heat lamps), pumping (irrigation, water wells, manure lagoons), refrigeration, ventilation, lighting, fans (drying grains, aeration) and materials handling (feed augers, manure conveyors, milking, egg conveyors). In the area of motors and lighting alone, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy estimates farmers could save \$88 million annually by implementing cutting-edge efficiency measures using available technology.

EnSave, a Vermont-based farm energy audit group, has created a pyramid revealing steps agricultural operations can take to cut down on energy use, arranged by cost and benefits of improvements.

First, farmers should analyze energy use. This may reveal opportunities to save on electric use and, in some cases, could lead to increased productivity. Next, farmers should try energy conservation — changing behaviors and simply using less energy daily. After this, the greatest savings may be achieved through energy efficiency — working smarter and saving money by using more efficient equipment.

Each farm — from dairy and poultry to general agriculture — provides different opportunities for efficiency upgrades, varying by region and crop. However, regular equipment maintenance provides universal benefits. For example:

- **Clean equipment:** Removing dust, soot and debris from equipment will allow it to do more work with less effort, extending its life and reducing energy use.
- **Inspect regularly:** Equipment should be checked regularly. Replace parts that are showing excessive wear before they break and cause irreparable damage.
- **Plug leaks:** Be it a pinprick hole in a hose or a drafty barn, leaks waste money, fuel and electricity. By plugging the leaks, savings can be considerable.
- **Remove clutter:** Hoses should be regularly flushed to clear them of debris. Ensure fan and motor intakes and exhausts remain clutter-free for maximum circulation and efficiency.

Lighting presents another efficiency touchpoint. Light only work areas, not entire buildings, and use daylight when



A picturesque view of a farm using sustainable agriculture practices near Klingerstown, Pa. Photograph courtesy of U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service

possible. Installing dimmable ballasts can also help control light levels.

Types of lights used on the farm make a difference. Incandescent lightbulbs typically convert only 10 percent of the energy used into light. There are many other options available:

- **Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)** deliver the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs but use only a quarter of the electricity. Installing CFLs may cost a little more initially, but they can last up to 10 times longer.
- **Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFLs)** can last up to 25 times longer and have around the same efficiency as CFLs.
- **T-8 and T-5 lights with electronic ballasts** generate less noise; produce more light per watt; offer better color rendering, minimal flickering and cooler operation; and provide electric cost savings.

For more regional and crop-specific energy-efficiency options, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service provides farm energy calculators. From animal housing operations to irrigation estimates, the calculators assess how much energy your farm currently uses and provide insights on how to cut your energy costs. Learn more at this Web site: www.energytools.sc.egov.usda.gov.

Sources: American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, EnSave, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service



Portland readies for another Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival

It is that time of year when the final plans for the Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival are coming together. The Portland Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to protect its festival, its community and its businesses, decided to seek trademark protection for the event.

“Doing so will allow us to better unite the efforts of all the many nonprofit organizations that produce an event for festival week,” says Amy Wald, the chamber’s executive director. “In uniting these organizations, we will be better equipped to grow our festival each year.”

A growing festival produces more revenue for organizations such as the Portland High School Band Boosters, PHS Athletic Club, PHS Cheerleading Squad, Portland Lions Club, Portland Rotary Club and many others.

“These are all worthy causes that our community continues to support,” says Wald. “We are confident that the efforts of the chamber of commerce to revitalize and grow our hometown festival over the last several years have not gone unnoticed. We are also confident that in moving forward with this new format, we will continue to grow and become the premier festival in Middle Tennessee.”

The 2010 festival theme is appropriately named “A Sweet Tradition.” This is the festival that brings families together year after year to celebrate the little fruit that put Portland on the map! Please make plans now to attend the event May 8-15.

There are events scheduled every day in which you and your family can participate. Please see the lineup below and join the fun! You can also check out the festival’s Web site at www.middletennesseestrawberryfestival.net.

- Saturday, May 8 – The First Strawberry Ball kicks off the festival (sponsored by, and to be held at, John Ford’s Portland Ballroom on Main Street).
- Sunday, May 9 – Relay for Life Mother-Daughter Tea Party for a Cure, held at Oasis from 2 to 4 p.m. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.
- Monday, May 10 – The Monday Merchant Scavenger Hunt starts at 5 p.m. Anyone can register to participate, but you



You can buy fresh, delicious strawberries by the quart or by the truckload during the Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival to be held during the week of May 8-15 in Portland. A number of local growers will have their produce on display throughout the week.

must have a team of four players. There is a registration fee of \$25 per team and must be paid in advance. The winning team will receive \$1,000 cash.

- Tuesday, May 11 – Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble at Kenny Perry’s Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin, Ky.
- Wednesday, May 12 – Choir Night (in partnership with the Portland Ministerial Association)
- Thursday, May 13 – Governor’s Conference (invitation only)
- Thursday, May 13 – Storybook Hour at the Elmer

Hinton Memorial Library’s temporary location at 321 Victor Reiter Parkway. Characters such as Strawberry Shortcake, the Giant Walking Strawberry and others will be available for children’s entertainment and to encourage strong reading skills.

- Friday, May 14 – Jammin’ & Dancin’ on Main Street. Bring your lawn chairs and join us for an evening of song and dance. Admission is free.
- Saturday, May 15 – The Main Festival Day! Enjoy great food, fun, fellowship and the best strawberries around! Start the morning off with the best pancakes in town at the Pond Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast. Next, you can stroll on over to the Strawberry Stride where you can work off the calories from those pancakes! Be sure to bring the youngsters to Kid Town USA, where it’s all about the kids. Don’t let them miss the best parade in Sumner County. Be sure and stop by the vendors’ booths downtown for great food and the neatest arts and crafts around. If you’re feeling competitive, stop by Strawberry Jam and see if you have what it takes to win the strawberry-eating contest!

As the sun begins to set on the festival, there is one more activity for your family to attend. Get out the blankets and lawn chairs for a fun-filled night of entertainment under the stars at Richland Park with hometown country music star Ronnie McDowell.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce looks forward to seeing old friends and meeting new friends at the 69th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival in beautiful Portland — it’s gonna be sweet!