

After the long, cold, winter months, spring fever probably hits no one harder than the farmers in our communities. Safety measures can sometimes be forgotten in the eagerness to get outside and start working and when fatigue develops after many long hours of work. Shelby Electric Cooperative wants our members to have a safe and successful spring planting season.

The following are electrical safety precautions to keep in mind when working outside:

- Keep a 10-foot minimum distance around power lines. That means 10 feet above, below and to the side of power lines.
 - Use a spotter when moving machinery and equipment around the farm.
 - Use caution when handling long items such as pipe, ladders and rods. Coming too close to a power line can cause electricity to arc, or “jump,” to conducting material or objects.
 - Be aware of increased height
- when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems that have very tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines.
- Always check for power lines before raising the arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near power lines.
 - Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
 - Remember, even non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.
 - If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless.
 - Call JULIE before you dig. 8-1-1 is the nationwide toll-free number for locate services and JULIE’s services are free.
 - Program Shelby Electric Cooperative’s phone number (1-800 677-2612 or 217-774-3986) into your cell phone now! If you use a smart phone or tablet you might want to download the SmartHub app from your favorite app store as well. If the equipment you are operating comes into contact with a pole or wire, stay where you are and call the Cooperative immediately. The only time to exit would be in case of danger, such as a fire. In that situation, jump landing with both

feet at the same time and shuffle your feet away. Do not make contact with the ground and vehicle at the same time.

In addition to our farmers following safe practices, it is wise for everyone on the roads to plan on slowing down for farm traffic and large equipment on the move. Have a safe spring!

Remember Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 2:00 a.m. You will need to set your clocks ahead one hour. (Spring forward)



Fire departments recommend changing the batteries in your smoke detector(s) at this time.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries – and an ENERGY STAR charger for them – which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: energy.gov

SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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or 1-800-677-2612
www.shelbyelectric.coop
twitter.com/YourCoop
facebook.com/YourCoop

Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Welcome back

Marla Eversole recently returned to employment with the cooperative. She assisted on a part-time basis in September and resumed full-time employment in October. You may talk with her at the front desk or see her working with the Member Services department. Additionally, Marla's return brings back "Real Life – Real Power" to Shelby News (see page 16d). She previously worked as the cooperative's Member Services Representative from November 2006 through June 2013. Join us in welcoming Marla back to the cooperative family.





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Now Thru April 30th

Call 217-774-2311 for more information

REMINDER:



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Home: It's Back As HOME-Life

Appreciation Commentary by Mark Pruitt

Shelby Electric scholarship applications are due Friday, March 11, 2016. Applications may be found on our website www.shelbyelectric.coop. Go to the "Our Community" tab and select Scholarship Programs (see above). Applications have also been sent to area high school guidance counselors. If you have questions or want more information, contact the Cooperative at 1-800-677-2612.

Students to attend “Youth Day” at the State Capitol

Once again, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), along with our fellow cooperatives across the state, will be sponsoring “Youth Day” and “Youth To Washington” programs. SEC will provide two junior students from every high school in the Cooperative’s service area the opportunity to attend the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives “Youth Day” on April 13, 2016. During the day in Springfield, hundreds of students from all over Illinois will have an opportunity to meet with their elected Senators and Representatives at the Capitol. In addition, students will tour the Old State Capitol and visit other sites. Last year, 14 students from seven area high schools attended the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives “Youth Day” representing SEC. Transportation and meals will be provided by the cooperative.

Two of the Shelby Electric student representatives for “Youth Day” will be selected to attend the “Youth to Washington” tour. Shelby Electric Cooperative will sponsor those two students on a weeklong, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The “Youth to Washington” tour will take place June 10 – 17, 2016. During the week in the nation’s Capitol, the Illinois contingent will meet with Illinois senators and the downstate Illinois congressional delegation at a Capitol Hill luncheon. Meetings are also scheduled with leaders of co-op organizations



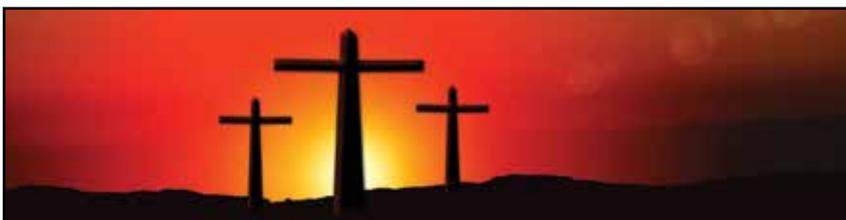
Pictured (L-R) are: Front Row: Victoria Hudson of Cowden-Herrick High School, Samantha Degenhardt of Okaw Valley High School, James Hortenstine of Windsor High School, Juliana Mendenhall of Meridian High School, Morgan Powers of Shelbyville High School, Clint Dozier of Morrisonville High School, and Taylor Davidson of Morrisonville High School.

Back Row: Dalton Rueff of Cowden-Herrick High School, Andrew Althoff of Neoga High School, Mitchell Haddock of Windsor High School, Matt Buescher of Neoga High School, Senator Andy Manar, Jacob Gaugh of Stewardson-Strasburg High School, Brayton Wooters of Shelbyville High School, and Zach Bryson of Shelbyville High School.

such as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. In addition, there will be opportunities to tour many historic sites. Participating students from last year were Samantha Degenhardt from Okaw Valley High School and Brayton Wooters from Shelbyville High School. For more information about the “Youth to Washington” tour visit www.youthtour.coop.

Area high schools have been informed about “Youth Day” and the “Youth to Washington” tour. Each high school has been asked to select

two junior students to represent their school at the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives “Youth Day.” The manner in which students are selected is determined by each high school. For additional information, contact Heidi Hall at Shelby Electric Cooperative at 217-774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612. Like us on Facebook ~ facebook.com/YourCoop.



Cooperative Offices will be closed Friday, March 25, in observance of Good Friday.

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla ~ and Jack Frost

Jack Frost does more than creatively decorate; he may also leave clues about whether or not your attic has enough insulation, and if you have gaps and holes in your insulation. This is a good time of year to investigate. The heaviest coatings of frost usually do not occur during the coldest temperatures because very cold air cannot hold very much water vapor. Instead, the heaviest frosts usually occur when the air temperature is close to 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

On a frosty morning look at your roof. Do you see an even layer of frost? If so, that can be a good sign. An even coverage of frost indicates the insulation in the attic is doing its job keeping the heat inside your home from rising into the attic and escaping through the roof. Melted areas

(that are not caused by the sun's rays or other circumstances) may very well be caused by the air you are paying to heat escaping through the attic. Effective insulation keeps the heat you are paying for inside your home.

This frosty test should be done in the next few weeks. According to the University of Illinois Extension, central Illinois' average date of last frost is April 15-20, with the later date for northern counties.

If you determine that more insulation is needed, call a professional or check out the do-it-yourself guide at energystar.gov. This is a much better time of year to be working in your attic than it will be in just a few short months. It is important to always start by sealing holes, cracks and gaps prior to adding insulation.

If your attic has enough insulation and proper air sealing, yet your home still feels drafty and cold in the winter or too warm in the summer, chances are you need to add insulation to the exterior walls. This is more expensive and usually requires a contractor, but it may be worth the cost. If you replace the exterior siding on your home, consider adding insulation at the same time.

To help get an idea of what the rate of return may be on insulation and other energy efficiency projects check out the Home Energy Saver Calculator at energysaver.gov and the Home Efficiency Analysis Tool under the Together We Save Tab on TouchstoneEnergy.com.

~ Marla Eversole,
Member Services



Are your shingles shimmering with frost? Great! Frost (or the lack thereof) can be an indicator of how attic insulation is performing. Bare spots may mean insulation has fallen or holes/gaps exist. Even small gaps in the insulation can create space for heat to escape out your roof. Check your roof the next time there is adequate frost or light snow on it.

<p>Shelby Energy Company 1-217-774-2311 24-hours-a-day</p>	<p>PWR-net Broadband Internet 1-877-994-2323 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please leave a message after hours</p>	<p>Shelby Electric Cooperative 1-800-677-2612 1-217-774-3986 24-hours-a-day</p>
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