

Cooperatives See the Future



MESSAGE FROM
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AND GENERAL MANAGER DARRYL SCHRIVER**

AS YOU MAY KNOW, OCTOBER IS NATIONAL Cooperative Month. Each year at this time, cooperatives across the country celebrate their unique business model, and the theme for this year's celebration is "Cooperatives See the Future." 165003

Tri-County Electric Cooperative may not have a crystal ball, but we do our best to project and prepare for changes in

vigilance is part of our commitment to you.

Foresight, planning and commitment enable electric cooperatives to provide power to almost three-quarters of our country's landmass. You might not realize, however, how prevalent co-ops are in other facets of life. We furnish your electricity, while other types of co-ops provide affordable housing, financial services, groceries and insurance. Sustained by more than 100 million consumer-members in the U.S., credit unions operate under the same nonprofit business model as your electric co-op. Navy Federal Credit Union, the world's largest, serves 7.7 million people and employs 17,000.

Cooperatives power our economy as major employers, accounting for more than 2 million jobs in the U.S. Agricultural cooperatives alone employ 187,000. Land O'Lakes, Sunkist, Blue Diamond, Ocean Spray and Ace Hardware are all cooperative brands you may recognize.

Whatever their function, all cooperatives guide their operations according to the Seven Cooperative Principles first espoused by the Rochdale pioneers. This 19th-century cooperative of weavers and other tradesmen was the first to distribute excess revenue back to its members, much as we do at Tri-County EC today when we retire capital credits, illustrating the cooperative principle of Members' Economic Participation.

While co-ops may not be a new and flashy concept, they always have been innovators who look out for the best interests of their membership while contributing to the betterment of the larger communities they call home. This is a hallmark of the seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community, one that resonates especially with us here at Tri-County EC.

Fall's beauty and first chill will arrive soon.

As you anticipate or savor either, take a moment this month to consider all that cooperatives have to offer and, perhaps more importantly, that we do so without seeking to profit off anyone. In fact, we do the opposite by actively seeking ways to enrich the communities we are built from and that sustain us.



the energy market to buffer our members from rate increases as much as possible. And although we can't predict the weather with complete accuracy, we pay close attention to threatening weather patterns—just as we continually monitor and maintain our system—to ensure responsive, reliable service. This



Keep Halloween More Treat Than Trick

EVERYONE LOVES A GOOD SCARE ON HALLOWEEN BUT NOT WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY. The harsh reality is that, on average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car on Halloween than on any other day of the year, so make sure you take every safety precaution this October 31.

Trick-or-Treating

Outfit your trick-or-treater with a glow stick or flashlight with fresh batteries, but make clear to never shine light beams into the eyes of drivers. Instruct children to stay on sidewalks wherever possible and to look both ways before crossing streets.

Make sure that little revelers (and you) cross streets only at corners and never from between parked vehicles. Lastly, keep youngsters from indulging until after a trusted adult has inspected their trove of treats carefully. 800761221

Haunting the House

Never use electrical products outdoors that are marked for indoor use. You could get shocked—or worse.

Dried flowers, cornstalks, hay and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep them away from open flames and other heat sources, including lightbulbs and heaters. Always inspect each decoration before use and discard any with cracked, frayed or bare wires. Always turn off electrical decorations and extinguish any open flames before leaving home or going to bed. Use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in jack-o'-lanterns.

While Driving

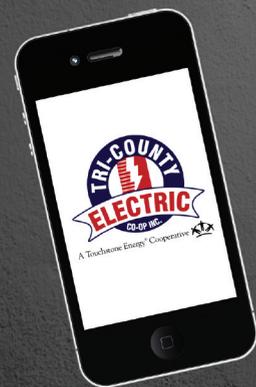
Slow down in residential neighborhoods to at least 5 mph below the posted speed limit to give yourself extra time to react to children who may dart into the street.

Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs. Look for children crossing the street; they may not be paying attention to traffic and cross the street midblock or between parked cars. Turn on your headlights to make yourself more visible—even before the sun has set.

October is
**Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month**

Don't forget to
wear pink!

There's An App
For That!



Download the new
Tri-County EC
Member app today!





Where To Eat and Sleep in Seymour

BY ANNIE MCGINNIS, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

AT THE INTERSECTION OF FIVE MAJOR HIGHWAYS IN WEST TEXAS, you will find the little town of Seymour—the best-kept secret in Texas. Seymour is home to a nicely restored motel and café owned and operated by Brad and Sis Hammack, sixth-generation Texans and members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

The Hammacks have lived along the Brazos River for the past eight years. They originally came to Seymour to ranch and were quickly brought into the community. They also assisted in various town revitalization projects, including the restoration of the auditorium above City Hall. In the process, they came across a motel that was built in 1929. Enamored by it, the couple searched for the owner, Sis said, and purchased the facility.

The Hammacks opened the first five rooms of the HH Creek

Inn—a motel and café that takes you back to the days of Old West cowboys—December 15, 2016, and immediately saw a need to expand. The inn now has 10 rooms, and the Hammacks have plans for more expansion. Each room holds true to the Western theme, Sis said.

“Each room has pictures of old Seymour,” she said, “and one features Quanah Parker, chief of the Comanches.”

The towels, linens and pillows are top of the line, and the mattresses will leave visitors with a great night’s rest. In fact, when guests leave, they almost always call to inquire about the mattress, Sis said.

The Hammacks designed the experience with the guests in mind. Sis said people like personal care and interaction



with the owners. 800741997

“They like the fact the owners are the ones reserving the room and the ones to make sure they are clean,” she said. “They can know that when they go in that room, every surface has been wiped—every light switch, remote, everything. It is just like the first day it has ever been used.”

The Chuckwagon Café is open every day for lunch and every weekend for dinner. The menu features down-home meals, and diners always can enjoy a Western movie on the television. The decorations in the café are Hammack family heirlooms. On Friday nights, folks will drive for miles to enjoy a rib-eye dinner, Brad said. 800741765

“It is good quality meat, but the guy who cooks them

knows what he is doing,” he said.

If you miss out on the steak dinner, the chicken-fried steak and pimiento cheeseburger topped with a fried green tomato are two great choices. Sis said the café features unique hamburgers with Western names, sure to satisfy any Texan or visitor.

“Texas likes things big,” Sis said. “We have big rooms, big fluffy towels and big plates. If you want the best catfish you have ever put in your mouth, or the best chicken-fried steak or the best night’s rest, we have the destination for you.”

Next time you head west, Seymour is well worth a stop along the way. Travelers can recharge and refuel at the HH Creek Inn and Chuckwagon Café, all while supporting a Tri-County EC member.

The Road to Advanced Metering

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY USES AN AUTOMATIC METER READING system with digital meters. The AMR system requires meter readers to travel to member-consumer's homes to manually retrieve monthly kilowatt usage. We need to schedule personnel, roll a truck and communicate back to the office for every connect, disconnect, meter read, and voltage and power check.

As a co-op, we are working toward an advanced metering infrastructure system with digital meters that eliminates much of that legwork. While AMR allows only one-way communication, AMI offers two-way communication—the meters can talk to the co-op, and the co-op can talk to the meters. With a click of a button, we'll know if there's a voltage drop, outage or missing read. We also can do reconnects, disconnects and meter health checks faster and more accurately for you, the member-consumer, which saves you time and money!

An AMI system will reduce the amount of time it takes TCEC to perform simple actions while providing the co-op with more data, such as accurate usage and outage information, to better serve our member-consumers. 800743581



ALZMAN/ANAKA | ISTOCK.COM

Take Time To Reap a Safe Harvest

IT CAN BE AN EXCITING AND EXHAUSTING time, the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest also can yield tragic outcomes. Don't take shortcuts: A few extra minutes of planning can make a big difference and help prevent unnecessary accidents.

Equipment Safety

Whether in the fields or not, equipment can present many hazards to farmers during harvest if precautions aren't taken.

- ▶ Make sure all equipment stays well clear of power lines at all times.
- ▶ Turn equipment completely off before making repairs or adjustments.
- ▶ Don't wear baggy clothing or jewelry near moving equipment.
- ▶ Never leave running equipment unattended.
- ▶ Always use safety glasses and noise protection around equipment.
- ▶ Never attempt to raise a power line to clear a path. 90002
- ▶ Drive at speeds that ensure you maintain control at all times.

Personal Safety

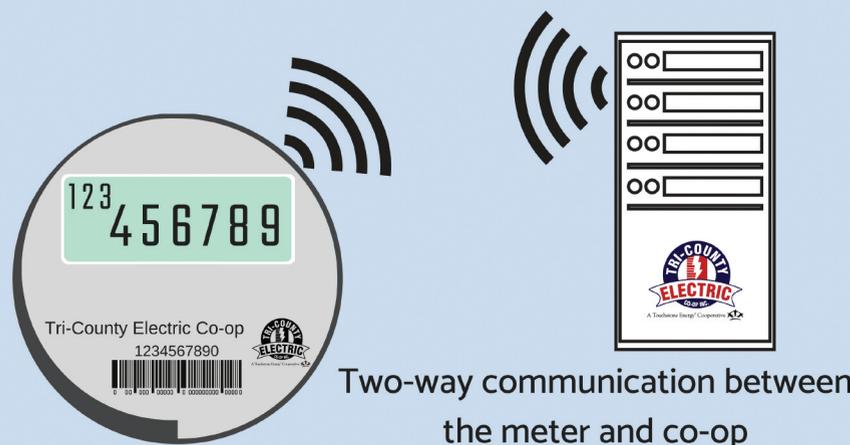
Take these steps to ensure your personal safety during the busy season.

- ▶ Take several breaks throughout the day to keep yourself alert.
- ▶ Get enough sleep—fatigue easily can lead to loss of focus.
- ▶ Avoid operating complex machinery during the last couple hours of the work day, when you're most vulnerable.

AMR Communications



AMI Communications





CONSTANTGARDNER | ISTOCK.COM

Have Vampires Invaded Your Home?

WITH TODAY'S ELECTRONICS, TURNING THEM OFF DOESN'T SAVE AS MUCH ENERGY AS you think. "Off" doesn't necessarily mean off anymore.

Many gadgets use energy even when you are not using them, and the "vampire energy" consumed by TVs, computers and other devices when they're switched off adds up. Entertainment centers are full of these energy-sucking devices.

Most televisions slowly sip electricity while waiting for someone to press the "on" button. They use energy to remember channel lineups and keep time. DVD players, digital video recorders, and cable and satellite boxes also use energy when we think they're off.

In an average home, 5–8 percent of electricity consumption stems from small devices, wasting approximately \$70 worth of power every year.

Identify Plug Parasites

Microwave ovens and alarm clocks, which use relatively small amounts of standby power, are acceptable to leave plugged in. But game systems, TVs and other entertainment components use fairly significant amounts of power when turned off.

Try plugging household electronics such as computers, monitors, printers, cell-phone chargers and game systems into power strips. Not only do power strips protect from power surges, they allow you to turn off several items at once. 42001

You don't have to worry about unplugging items with mechanical on/off switches, such as lamps, hair dryers or many small kitchen appliances—they don't draw any power when turned off.

Smart Strips = Easy Savings

Most smart strips feature three outlets, each with a unique color and task. Anything plugged into red outlets stays on—electricity to these receptacles never cuts off, making them perfect for satellite or cable boxes. The blue outlet serves as a control plug and is ideal for a typically heavily used device like a TV or computer.

The remaining outlets, generally neutral or green in color, are sensitive to current flowing through the blue outlet, so turning off the TV or computer cuts power to them as well.

Payback for smart strips generally can be achieved in less than one year.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

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IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED!

Find your account number in pages 18–25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your TCEC electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

 Find us on Facebook

facebook.com/TCECTexas

Lighting, Labels and Lingo

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing lightbulbs, but the labels can be confusing! Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.

Lighting Facts

Per Bulb

Brightness 655 lumens

Estimated Yearly Energy Cost \$1.08

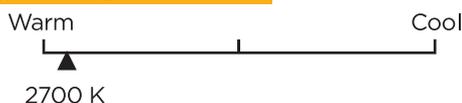
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11 c/kWh. Cost depends on rates and use.



Life 22.8 years

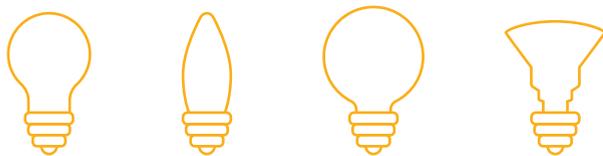
Based on 3 hrs/day

Light Appearance



Energy Used 9 watts

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Read the Label

Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all lightbulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most energy-efficient bulb to meet your lighting needs. The label includes information on the bulb's **brightness, energy cost, life, light appearance** and **energy used** (wattage).

Save Energy

Bulbs are available in **many shapes and sizes** to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25–30 percent of the energy and last 8–25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase Energy Star-rated bulbs to maximize energy efficiency.

Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.



Incandescent
100 watts
1,600 lumens



LED
14–20 watts
1,600 lumens

Chocolate Cobbler

BARBARA PRICE | WEATHERFORD

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar | $\frac{1}{2}$ cups hot water |
| 1 cup self-rising flour | |
| 2 tablespoons cocoa powder | Topping |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk | $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar |
| 6 tablespoons ($\frac{3}{4}$ stick) butter, melted | $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar |
| | $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cocoa powder |

1. In a bowl, mix sugar, self-rising flour, cocoa, milk and butter. Coat a 9-by-13-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray and spread mixture evenly.
2. In a separate bowl, mix all topping ingredients. Sprinkle dry topping mixture evenly over the mixture in the pan. 102001
3. Pour hot water gently over the topping and mixture. Do not stir or mix. Bake 40 minutes at 350 degrees. Serve hot or cold. Enjoy!



Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form



THE RECIPE SUBMISSION IS A FREE AND voluntary service provided by Tri-County Electric Cooperative. As we have more than 100,000 members, we may receive a high volume of submissions. Recipes must be submitted before the 20th of each month to be considered for the next issue of *Texas Co-op Power* (i.e., October 20 for the December issue). We reserve the right to refuse any recipe. Please submit recipes through the U.S. Postal Service or email and not on the back of your payment stub. Those stubs are processed automatically because we receive hundreds daily.

NAME

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

Please return to:

Email: Please include the above information with your recipe and send to pr@tcectexas.com.

Mail: Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:
Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
600 NW Parkway
Azle, TX 76020