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4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CURRENTS

4 RIVERS
Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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FROM THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER/COO

Spring Safety on the Farm

Spring is here, and farm work is picking up fast. As you get back into the fields, it's a good time to keep safety front and center. At 4 Rivers, we want everyone — members and employees alike — to stay safe, especially when working around electrical equipment and overhead power lines. Whether you're prepping fields, moving large equipment, or planning a controlled burn, staying alert to electrical hazards helps prevent accidents and protects lives.

One of the biggest dangers on the farm is accidental contact with overhead power lines. Tall equipment like combines, sprayers and augers can reach higher than you expect, and one distracted moment can create a very dangerous situation. Before heading into a field, take a look around, find the power lines, and plan a safe route that avoids them. Keep at least 10 feet of space between your equipment and the lines. If you have to work close to them, have a spotter nearby.

When moving or transporting large equipment, double-check the height and make sure nothing gets too close to energized space. If your equipment accidentally touches a power line, stay inside the cab and call 911 right away. The only time you should leave is if there's a fire. In that case, jump clear with both feet together and shuffle away, keeping both feet on the ground to avoid shock. Also keep an eye out for guy wires that help stabilize power poles. Damaging one can quickly create a hazardous situation.

Each spring, farmers and ranchers across our 16-county service area begin their annual pasture burns. These burns help clear away old growth, encourage new vegetation, and control invasive species. When burns take place near electrical equipment, they require extra care to prevent outages, injuries or damage.

Before starting a burn, review local regulations, get any required permits, and let neighbors and your local fire department know your plans. Locate all power poles in the burn area and try to maintain at least 15 feet of distance. If you can't, give 4 Rivers Electric a call for guidance. Create a fire-break by clearing dry grass around each pole and wet the ground around the base — but avoid spraying the pole directly.

Choose a calm-weather day, gather a team, and have tools like shovels, rakes, and extinguishers handy. Never leave a burn unattended. If the burn starts getting out of control or moves toward power lines, call the fire department and 4 Rivers immediately.

After the burn, keep an eye on the area for several hours to make sure no embers reignite. If you notice any damage to poles or lines or even think something might be wrong, report it right away. We're here to help keep everyone safe.



Mark Doebele

PHOTO ABOVE, "BACKROAD BEAUTY," IN COFFEY COUNTY, WAS SUBMITTED BY 4 RIVERS MEMBER JULIE ROHRER OF RURAL BURLINGTON.

ELECTRIC LAWN CARE

A quieter, cleaner way to care for your yard

Saturday mornings don't have to start with the roar of lawn equipment. Electric options, including lawn mowers, string trimmers and leaf blowers, are now available for nearly every yard task.

Many brands use a shared battery system, meaning one battery can power several tools. Some models also use dual batteries to provide extra power or longer run times.

BENEFITS OF ELECTRIC LAWN EQUIPMENT VS. GAS-POWERED MODELS

- ▶ **LOW MAINTENANCE:** No gas or oil changes. Just charge and go.
- ▶ **QUIET OPERATION:** Won't disturb neighbors or nearby homes.
- ▶ **ZERO EMISSIONS:** Cleaner air and fewer fumes.
- ▶ **LIGHTWEIGHT DESIGN:** Easier to handle and store.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- ▶ **BATTERY PLATFORM COMPATIBILITY:** Look for a brand that uses the same battery across multiple tools. That way, you can swap batteries between your mower, blower and trimmer without needing to buy extras.
- ▶ **VOLTAGE (V):** Greater voltage generally means more power, which can be helpful for larger yards. Lower voltage systems can be sufficient for smaller areas.
- ▶ **AMP-HOURS (AH):** Greater amp-hours provide longer run times between charges.
- ▶ **BRUSHLESS MOTORS:** These motors are more efficient, run smoother and often last longer, though they can be more costly than gas alternatives.

REMEMBER SAFETY

Because these tools are electric, avoid using them in wet conditions unless they are specifically rated for it. Always store batteries in a cool, dry place and never charge them outdoors when it's wet.

Electric lawn equipment offers a convenient, low-maintenance way to care for your yard. Plus, you have the flexibility to work early or late without waking the neighbors.

Youth Leadership Summer Program Winners Announced

4 Rivers Electric is committed to the communities we serve, which includes investing in our youth and providing opportunities that build leadership, teamwork and civic engagement. Each year, our cooperative continues this tradition by sponsoring four high school juniors for an all-expenses-paid leadership experience. Two students will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, and two students will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, June 13-19, the Kansas student delegation will travel to Washington, D.C., together with students from Hawaii and Maine, where they will explore monuments and museums, meet with political representatives, cruise down the Potomac River, and make lifelong friends with students from 43 other states. This trip of a lifetime offers leadership lessons rooted in our nation's history and the cooperative principles that continue to guide electric cooperatives today.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is July 11-17, at Glen Eden resort near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Students from electric cooperative communities in Kansas and Oklahoma will join participants from Colorado and Wyoming for a week of leadership development and outdoor adventure. Campers will form a candy cooperative, hear from dynamic speakers, tour a coal-fired power plant and raft down the Colorado River.

Last year, **COOPER SPRINGER**, Neodesha, represented 4 Rivers at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and was selected by his fellow campers and camp counselors to return this summer as one of three camp ambassadors serving as a junior counselor and helping guide the next group of campers through the program.

"Leadership Camp taught me that it's not just the things you know, but the people you know and the connections you create," Springer said.



Katie Hester
YOUTH TOUR



Jule Rolf
YOUTH TOUR



Isaac Arnold
CAMP



Ella Ervin
CAMP

We congratulate the four students selected to represent 4 Rivers Electric this summer:

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

- ▶ **KATIE HESTER**, Cherryvale
Cherryvale High School
- ▶ **JULE ROLF**, Westphalia
Burlington High School

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

- ▶ **ISAAC ARNOLD**, Hartford
Olpe High School
- ▶ **ELLA ERVIN**, Westphalia
Burlington High School

4 Rivers is proud to have such an exceptional group of student leaders representing us this summer. Investing in youth leadership today helps cultivate the strong community leaders of tomorrow.

Students interested in next year's Youth Tour or Leadership Camp are encouraged to watch for application details from 4 Rivers early next year.

Tornado Safety and Electrical Hazards

Tornadoes can strike with little warning, leaving behind downed power lines, damaged electrical equipment and dangerous debris. Preparing before a tornado and knowing how to stay safe afterward can help prevent electrical shock, fire and injury. Make sure your emergency plan includes electrical safety steps so you and your family are ready to act quickly and safely.

BEFORE A TORNADO

- ▶ Prepare an emergency kit with water, battery-powered flashlight, radio, extra batteries and portable phone charger.
- ▶ Keep your electric utility's phone number handy in case you need to report an outage or downed line.
- ▶ Fully charge cell phones and backup power banks before severe weather hits so you can use them in an emergency.

DURING A TORNADO

- ▶ Seek shelter immediately in a basement or a small, interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug appliances and electronics to protect them from power surges. Leave one light on so you'll know when power is restored.
- ▶ Do not stay inside a vehicle or try to outrun a tornado. Exit the vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If none are available, lie flat in a low-lying area away from the vehicle and power lines.

AFTER A TORNADO

- ▶ If you see a downed line while driving, do not exit your vehicle. Call 911 and your utility and warn others to stay away.

- ▶ Stay away from downed power lines and anything they could touch, such as trees, fences or debris. Always assume they are energized.
- ▶ Do not touch anyone who is in contact with a power line. Call 911 immediately and wait for emergency responders.
- ▶ Do not enter damaged buildings until electricity and gas are shut off by professionals. Never attempt to turn off power if you must stand in water to reach the breaker.
- ▶ Avoid flooded areas with electrical outlets, appliances, or cords, and never touch electrical equipment when wet or standing in water.
- ▶ Have all water-damaged electrical systems, appliances and devices inspected by a licensed electrician before use.

POWER OUTAGES AND GENERATOR SAFETY

- ▶ Never use a generator indoors or in partially enclosed spaces such as garages or porches, or near open windows and doors. Place a generator at least 20 feet away from your home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ▶ Keep the generator dry by placing it on a tarp or under a canopy and follow all manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet. This can inadvertently energize power lines and pose a lethal risk to you, neighbors and utility workers. Stay informed, stay alert, and share this information to help protect your family and community during severe weather events.

Preparing before a tornado and knowing how to stay safe afterward can help prevent electrical shock, fire and injury.

BEFORE THE STORM STRIKES

PROTECT YOUR HOME WITH



LIGHTNING
SHIELD®

CALL TODAY FOR

HOME SURGE PROTECTION.

PEACE OF MIND FOR \$12/MONTH

620-364-2116

When the Call Comes, Lineworkers Are Ready

Every April, electric cooperatives across the country recognize lineworkers on the front lines of our electric system. At 4 Rivers Electric, the highly skilled professionals build, maintain and restore the power system our members depend on every day.

System reliability begins long before a storm hits. Our line crews spend much of the year inspecting equipment, replacing poles, upgrading lines, clearing vegetation, and maintaining substations to keep the system operating safely and efficiently. That behind-the-scenes work keeps the lights on for our members across rural Kansas. When severe weather strikes or an outage occurs, their role quickly shifts from routine maintenance to rapid response. Crews leave family dinners, head out in the middle of the night, and work in difficult conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

What makes cooperative lineworkers especially unique is that they're not just restoring power to a system. They're restoring power to their own communities. They live here, raise their families here, and understand how important electricity is to the farms, homes, schools and businesses that make up our service territory. That sense of community is at the heart of the cooperative model.

That cooperative spirit extends beyond our own service area through a system known as mutual aid. Electric cooperatives across the country support one another during major storms or disasters by sending crews to help restore power where it's needed most, in line with one of our basic principles: Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

Earlier this year, several 4 Rivers lineworkers answered that call when Winter Storm Fern caused widespread damage in the southern U.S. Our crews, along with teams from three other Kansas electric cooperatives, traveled nearly 10 hours to assist Delta Electric Power

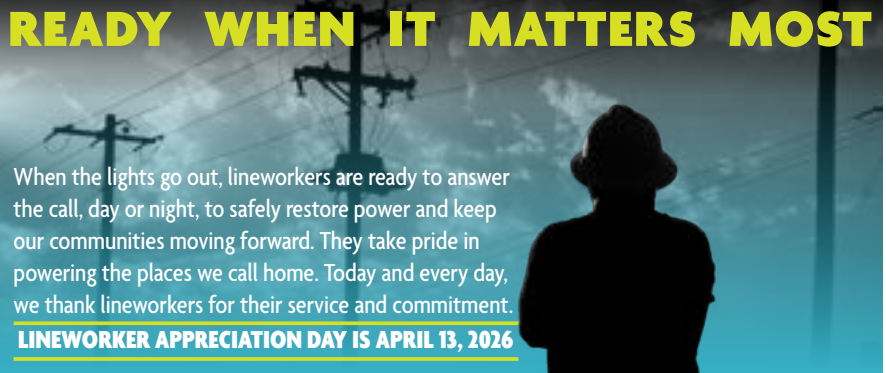
Association in Greenwood, Mississippi. Working alongside crews from other cooperatives, they helped restore power to the Delta Electric members affected by the storm. That kind of cooperation is one of the greatest strengths of the electric cooperative network. When one co-op faces a major outage event, others are ready to help.

We understand how important electricity is to daily life, and we work hard to restore service as quickly and safely as possible whenever outages occur. Linework is physically demanding and sometimes dangerous work. Our crews face challenging conditions, from high winds and ice to extreme heat, all while

working around energized equipment. Safety is always our top priority, and our lineworkers train regularly to ensure every job is completed safely.

On April 13, electric cooperatives celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day hardly captures the value of the work they do. Every day, our lineworkers demonstrate the skill, dedication and teamwork that keep our electric system running and communities powered.

Please join us in thanking the lineworkers who serve this membership. Their commitment and professionalism are essential to delivering the reliable service our members count on.



READY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

When the lights go out, lineworkers are ready to answer the call, day or night, to safely restore power and keep our communities moving forward. They take pride in powering the places we call home. Today and every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.

LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 13, 2026

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 6

4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. may fund up to two lineworker scholarships annually for tuition, fees, books, tools and supplies not to exceed \$5,000 for each scholarship for up to one year at an electrical lineworker school. Eligible recipients must be a graduate from any high school in the cooperative's general service area or have attained their GED within the general area served by the cooperative.

VISIT WWW.4RIVERSELECTRIC.COM FOR DETAILS ON THIS AWESOME OPPORTUNITY!