

September 2016

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Cooperatives **BUILD**

CO-OP MONTH 2016

SREC Member Appreciation Celebration

Members can enjoy a dinner on us of Roast Beef Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Cheese Curds, Frosted Brownies, and Beverages.

Tuesday, October 18th
Lancaster Office 4-7pm

Wednesday, October 19th
Gays Mills Office 4-7pm

Thursday, October 20th
Darlington Office 4-7pm

- Browse through displays to learn what kinds of services SREC offers.
- Learn how Focus on Energy can help you manage your energy costs.
- Bucket Truck Rides
- Door Prizes and Giveaways
- Blood Pressure checks and flu shots (if available)

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY



Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If you must exit the machinery...

If you can safely drive away...

40 ft. radius safe distance

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider insulating your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$20.

Source: energy.gov

The differences between overhead and underground power lines

There are two methods of installing the power lines that carry electricity to your home, overhead and underground. Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative members sometimes ask why we use one versus the other, or more to the point, why all power lines are not installed using the underground construction method. Isn't one method better than the other? These are great questions, and the answer is that each method has its place.

Overhead line construction starts with the setting of utility poles. Poles can be set in nearly any type of terrain, even rocky. In the case of heavy rock, special equipment is used to auger out the hole. If placement occurs in boggy or wet terrain, many techniques are available to set poles securely. Once the poles are in place, wires can be strung and then equipment--like transformers, fuses and reclosers--are installed. Power can now flow.

Underground line construction requires digging a trench that is deep enough to keep the lines well away from surface activities. Where the terrain is extremely rocky, underground lines may not be an option. Next, wires are laid in the trench directly or placed in conduits for protection. The trench is filled in, and the surface is restored to its original condition. Padmount transformers and additional equipment are installed as needed, now the system is ready to deliver electricity.

Determining if power lines should be overhead or underground boils down to what is best for the situation. Underground lines might be ideal in situations where there is a desire to keep the poles and wires out of sight, such as a residential neighborhood, park or historical area. There are many cities and towns that construct only underground lines for a variety of reasons.

Overhead systems work well when appearance is not a major concern. Examples include extremely long line distances across country, where the voltages are higher than the limitations set for underground lines.

The ultimate mix of underground and overhead construction used by Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative provides you, our members, with the highest possible quality of service at the lowest possible price. Cost, appearance, reliability, maintenance and future upgrades will drive which is the better approach, overhead or underground.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. ■

OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND POWER LINES
THE PROS AND CONS

OVERHEAD

PROS

- Lower cost
- Quicker construction
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

CONS

- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive

UNDERGROUND

PROS

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Not impacted by wind, ice and snow
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

CONS

- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltages that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

Recipes

Thank you Cathy Skaife (Platteville) for sharing your recipes below with us!

Blueberry Coffee Cake

- 1 cup margarine, softened
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 can (21 oz.) blueberry fruit filling or topping



Cake Topping

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, combine margarine, sugar, eggs, sour cream and vanilla. Mix until well-blended. Add flour, baking powder and salt. Mix just until combined. Spread half of the batter into a sprayed fluted cake pan. (Angel Food Cake Pan) Top with blueberry fruit filling and the remaining batter. For topping: In a small bowl, combine sugar, brown sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle over top of coffee cake. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool and then invert onto dish.

Blackberry Cobbler

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 6 cups fresh blackberries
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup melted butter



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray a 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Whisk 1/2 cup sugar with the cornstarch in a small bowl and set aside. Place the blackberries into a mixing bowl and drizzle with 1/4 cup melted butter. Sprinkle with the cornstarch mixture and toss evenly to coat. Spread the berries into the prepared baking dish. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, 1 1/2 cups sugar, baking powder and salt until evenly blended. Stir in the milk, vanilla extract and 1/4 cup melted butter until combined but still slightly lumpy. Pour the batter over the berries. Bake until berries are tender and the crust is golden brown. About 55 to 60 minutes. Top with whip cream.

Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be working on the Eastman Substation in Crawford County. Mi-Tech will be testing poles in Eastman and Wauzeka Townships in Crawford County and DJB Inspections LLC should be finishing up underground maintenance in the Platteville and Harrison Substations in Grant County.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.

WATT'S HAPPENING

Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

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