

TRI-COUNTY Electric Cooperative, Inc.

" A Commitment to Service and Savings "



Distribution System Inventory

**A Whole New Technology Keeping Track
of Electric Distribution Facilities.**



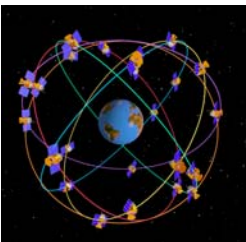
This hand held recorder gives Cooperative employees the ability to precisely locate the position of the power pole and inventory the distribution facilities it supports.

Your electric cooperative has been building power lines since the year 1939 to meet the electrical demands for our members. As of February 28, 2009 we have 5,926 miles of overhead distribution line and 2,165 miles of underground distribution line operating in sixteen counties of North Central Texas.

Back in 1939 new distribution lines were hand recorded by draftsmen to base maps provided through the Texas State Highway Planning Survey. As new roadways were added the cooperative's staking engineers would take reference points from facilities shown on the maps and through a rather slow and tedious process, they would take precise distance measurements and noted the degree of angle for direction. This information would be re-scaled and plotted to the base maps so they would show the new roads and power lines.

The original information gathered for many of these base maps were recorded by government survey crews operating off horseback with pack mules. The areas of Texas that saw the most growth had the best maps because they were more frequently updated.

Aircraft and photography were a giant leap in technology. Pictures allowed survey crews an aerial view of the land they were attempting to plot. Errors in older maps were corrected and it was now much faster to re-photograph an area and bring in updated information.



Technology has continued to find better, faster and more accurate ways to map our service area. Digital images from satellites are now available; and, the digital images can be modified to remove clutter and enhance areas of interest. Satellites now provide our world with a Global Positioning System



(G. P. S.) that allows for much safer air travel and even automobile travel. With the touch of a button you can now plot a course of travel and hear turn by turn instructions from a personal navigation system.



Cooperative crews can now pinpoint the location of distribution lines both overhead and underground within a matter of inches on the face of this planet. An inventory of wire, insulators, transformers, breakers, fuses, security lighting, pole size and age can be verified and electronically brought back to the digital mapping system. A global positioning coordinate is recorded which provides placement of the facility for integration with the mapping and distribution control systems.

This information digitally integrates the electric distribution system with our mapping system, our supervisory control and data acquisition system. Just a few telephone calls can help identify the cause of a power outage so crews will spend less time looking for the problem and thus freeing up time to fix the problem.

Cooperative crews are in the field inventorying distribution facilities using the G. P. S. technology on a daily basis. Employees are clothed in uniforms that identify them for your protection. The vehicles they drive will also show the Tri-County Electric Cooperative name. Our employees also carry photo identification that they can show upon request.

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With your assistance, they can come on your property and in a matter of minutes gather the necessary data to improve your quality of service for many years to come. Please help protect them as they gather this information by making sure that animals will not be a problem or place the employee at risk. Provide access to property when they request assistance by opening gates to backyards and pastures. Members working together for a common cause has always been a formula for success at Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

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April 2009 Member Information Bulletin



A New Air-Conditioner Can Reduce Operating Cost, Prevent Annoying Breakdowns & Save on Income Tax!

It's not too early to start thinking about replacing that old air-conditioning system. By selecting equipment with at least a 16 SEER efficiency rating, you can significantly reduce your operating cost and save on next years income tax. For more information go to:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits

SEER stands for the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio and is a measurement of BTU output and watts of energy consumption. Federally mandated minimum efficiency is 13 SEER for all central split system air-conditioning equipment sold in the United States.

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The higher the SEER rating, the lower the operating cost. To obtain a true rating on efficiency, it is important to use matched components on a split system. A split system is composed of two pieces of equipment: the outdoor compressor and the indoor blower and coil assembly.

To verify the efficiency rating on new equipment, ask your installer to reference the Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Institute Directory on equipment efficiency (ARI). This manual lists all equipment sold in the United States and rates each system for BTU output and operating SEER.

Avoid installers that fail to provide information on ARI efficiency. Improper equipment configuration or the use of mismatched coils and compressors can cause a number of problems. By purchasing equipment that has been properly matched by the manufacturer, you can be sure that the efficiency level is accurate and that the equipment will perform properly.

Be proactive and upgrade your cooling equipment this spring. You will be more comfortable, enjoy lower utility bills and help to protect the environment.

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TRI-COUNTY

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Central Headquarters Office (817) 444-3201 or (817) 523-7231
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From The Cooperative Kitchen



This month's recipe was provided by Jean Walters from Weatherford. She will receive a 60 Years of Home Cooking Cookbook, compliments of TCEC.



Cherry Tomato Salad

... INGREDIENTS ...

- 1 - 24 Oz. Container of Large Curd Cottage Cheese
- 1 - Small Container of Cherry Tomatoes
(Cut larger tomatoes in half)
- 1 - Bunch of Green Onions Chopped With Tops
(Salt and Pepper to taste)

Mix cherry tomatoes and chopped onions with cottage cheese, salt and pepper to taste.

Cover and refrigerate mixture for at least three hours before serving for best flavor.

Large curd cottage cheese is not as creamy as the small curd and gives a better texture and appearance to salads. The small curd cottage cheese tends to get soupy.

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It Pays To Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin and you will receive a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed to the left and make them aware of your discovery.

It pays to stay informed!

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