

The Commitment of a Lineman

National Lineman Appreciation Day is April 8



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

NATIONAL STUDIES CONSISTENTLY RANK line work among the most dangerous jobs in the country—and for good reason. Even while laboring high in the air and wearing heavy equipment among sometimes dangerous conditions, brave linemen remain committed to safety and to serving you, our member-owners.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative's linemen are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. It takes years of specialized training and a service-oriented mentality to be a good lineman.

To perform their jobs successfully, linemen depend on their years of training and experience and on one another to get the job done safely. Equally important is their reliance on

a strong support system at home. A lineman's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages.

A lineman's focus on service to others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Linemen are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards. 1679001

Monday, April 8, is National Lineman Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Tri-County EC's linemen, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local communities. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in town, please offer them a thank-you as well.



Your Money Stays at Home

Who owns your electricity provider?

IF YOU'RE A MEMBER OF TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, YOU CAN FIND A CO-OP owner by looking in the mirror.

At Tri-County EC—like all cooperatives everywhere—you, the members, are the owners. That's the philosophy of Cooperative Principle No. 3: Members' Economic Participation.

Being an owner, however, doesn't mean that you can drive to your neighborhood substation and take home a transformer or chop down a pole carrying wires

to your house. These assets are owned collectively by all of us. A portion of the bill you pay each month goes into building and maintaining the infrastructure—poles, wires and more—that bring you a steady supply of electricity.

Your cooperative does business locally. The investments we make in infrastructure benefit people who live and work right here in our communities—not those in faraway places.

Your payments do more than build power lines, buy

equipment and pay for wholesale electricity. They also pay the salaries of our hardworking employees, who also happen to be your neighbors, friends and family. They, in turn, spend their salaries at local businesses, spreading that money around and helping our economy stay healthy.

And after the co-op's bills are paid, infrastructure is built and emergency funds are set aside, any money left over goes into each member's capital credits account. Then, when our board of directors deems it prudent, those capital credits are paid out to members. 800643477

Capital credits returns are to our members what dividends are to stockholders in for-profit companies, only we don't aim to make a profit. Our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible. That way, more of your money stays in your pocket.

When you pay your Tri-County EC electric bill, you are simply paying for electricity. You are getting power from a business where your friends and neighbors work to provide you with the highest level of service while keeping your costs as low as possible. Tri-County Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit electric provider here to serve you, our member-owners.

That's the cooperative difference.



HAPPY EASTER! APRIL 21

Tri-County EC will be closed April 19 in observance of Good Friday.



Power Tip

With warmer temperatures, make sure your ceiling fans are rotating counterclockwise so that the blades push cooler air down—and always remember to turn them off when you leave the room.



LDPROD / ISTOCK.COM

April 22 Is Earth Day

EARTH DAY—AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT—IS A GOOD TIME TO resolve to save some energy around your home. You can start this month by:

Paying your bills online. You'll save paper, stamps and time.

Caulking around windows and doors to seal air leaks and adding insulation to your attic. Both measures will prevent air-conditioned air from escaping your house through the roof this summer.

Taking shorter showers and using a water-saving showerhead.

Unplugging TVs, stereos, computers, cellphone chargers and other electronics when you're not using them.

Running your dishwasher and clothes washer only when they're full to save water and energy.

Replacing your old thermostat with a programmable model. You could save up to 10 percent on cooling and heating with these devices, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Investing in LED light fixtures. You'll save energy and you won't have to replace any lightbulbs for up to 10 years. If changing out fixtures isn't practical, use LED bulbs and be sure to turn off the lights when you leave a room.

Lowering your water heater's temperature to 120 degrees. Wrap your storage tank in a blanket designed to keep it warm so it will use less energy to heat the water.

Washing clothes in cold water. You could save more than \$60 a year.

Switching to Energy Star-rated appliances, fans and electronics. Using Energy Star-certified products throughout your home could save you nearly \$750 over the lifetime of the products.

Replacing your air conditioner's filters before the cooling season begins. Clean filters help the system operate more efficiently.

Putting off using the air conditioner, especially at night, until the weather gets hotter. Open windows instead and let the spring breeze into your house to keep you cool.



NRECA

Memorabilia and Memories Wanted

2019 MARKS THE 80TH YEAR OF TRI-County Electric Cooperative serving our members and communities!

If you or your family have any historical photos, newspaper articles, member bulletins or other memorabilia associated with Tri-County EC that you would like to share, please contact Annie McGinnis at (817) 752-8116 or amcginnis@tcectexas.com.

Do you have stories from over the years about Tri-County EC? If so, let us know! We would love to hear from you. 800611671

Spring Cleaning for Safety and Efficiency

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR, WHEN WE CLEAN BASEBOARDS, WASH DUVETS AND TACKLE other chores that need to be done at least a few times a year, rather than weekly. While you go about this season's deep cleaning, take a few extra steps to maximize your home's energy efficiency. 800847682

Breathe a little easier with freshly cleaned vents. This frequently overlooked step improves your home's air quality and takes some of the pressure off your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. The most effective method is to remove wall and ceiling vent covers with a screwdriver and then rinse them. Once they dry completely, replace the covers and enjoy your home's newly purified air.

Another area to address is the dryer vent. Even if you empty the lint tray completely after each laundry day, the vent that transmits hot air from the dryer to the outdoors can remain full of flammable material. Have a qualified professional clean the dryer vent at least annually. Maintaining the vent will keep your dryer operating smoothly and could help prevent a fire caused by an obstruction.

Dusting may seem like an exercise in futility, but it's worth doing to maximize the efficiency of lighting in your home. A layer of dust can dull a lightbulb's illumination. Turn off fixtures and use a dry microfiber cloth to wipe down bulbs in lamps, sconces and ceiling fixtures. While you're at it, dust the tops and bottoms of ceiling fan blades. The yuck factor may be off-putting initially, but this is another worthwhile task to get your home sparkling clean.

One last thing to add to your list: Change your HVAC system's filter. Keeping the filter up to par means cleaner air in your home due to fewer irritants like pollen, pet dander and dust, and a less taxed, more efficient HVAC system—which saves you money on your electric bill.



FOTOQUETS | ISTOCK.COM

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

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4900 Keller Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244
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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

Tools of the Trade

ON MONDAY, APRIL 8, NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY, Tri-County Electric Cooperative honors the employees who keep the lights on. You see them stationed in the sky, in the partial enclosure of a truck's bucket, working diligently to maintain lines and restore power after a storm. What may not be evident from the ground, though, is all the equipment a lineworker needs to do his or her job safely. A lineman's personal protective equipment includes:

- ▶ Fire-resistant clothing that self-extinguishes, limiting injuries from burns. 800769979
- ▶ Insulated rubber gloves, often worn with a pair of leather gloves over them to prevent punctures to the rubber beneath.
- ▶ Insulated hard hats worn at all times for protection from falling objects.
- ▶ Steel-toe boots that prevent gouges.
- ▶ Safety goggles that protect against loose debris and other

hazards when working on electric lines and rights-of-way.

Linemen also may wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps and other equipment. Those additional items typically weigh about 50 pounds altogether, a heavy burden while negotiating hazardous conditions 40 feet in the air, surrounded by dangerously high voltage.

A less obvious component of the lineworker's experience is all the time and training that goes into preparing for the job. Classroom training programs last a few months, followed by intensive, yearslong apprenticeships that continue training on the job, ensuring that journeyman linemen are ultimately experts at what they do. 202501108

Next time you see a lineworker, be sure to thank him or her for their time and dedication in honing their vital skills, along with their selfless application of those skills in service to our community. Our lives would be pretty dim without them!



DAVE SHAFER



LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

April 8, 2019

**COMMITTED TO SERVICE.
COMMITTED TO SAFETY.
COMMITTED TO YOU,
OUR MEMBER-OWNERS.**



Landscaping for Efficiency



OSGUR COSKUN | ISTOCK.COM

LANDSCAPING DOESN'T JUST ADD BEAUTY TO YOUR HOME, IT also can improve your home's comfort and lower your energy bills. On average, a well-designed landscape saves enough energy to pay for itself in less than eight years. Benefits include reduced heating and cooling costs, protection against cold winter winds and hot summer sun, and reduced water use.

Shade

Shading is the most cost-effective way to reduce solar heat gain in your home and cut air conditioning costs. In tree-shaded neighborhoods, the summer daytime air temperature can be up to 6 degrees cooler than in treeless areas. A well-planned landscape can reduce an unshaded home's AC costs by 15 to 50 percent.

Deciduous trees block solar heat in the summer but let in sunlight during the winter because they lose their leaves in colder months. Evergreen trees and shrubs provide continuous shade because they hold onto their foliage all year long.

Check with your local nursery or do online research to determine the best trees and plants for your area. **Here are some general planting tips.**

- ▶ Plant a 6- to 8-foot-tall deciduous tree near your home,

and it will start shading your windows in the first year. Depending on the species and the home, it will shade the roof in five to 10 years.

- ▶ Plant deciduous trees to the south of your home—they can screen 70–90 percent of the hot summer sun while allowing breezes through.

- ▶ Plant trees with crowns lower to the ground to the west to shade from lower, afternoon sun.

- ▶ Plant bushes, shrubs or climbing vines with a trellis to shade a patio area.

- ▶ To cool air before it reaches your home, plant shrubs and ground cover plants near your home.

Windbreaks

A windbreak reduces heating costs by lowering the wind chill near your home. It also creates dead-air space that insulates your home in the summer and winter. Windbreaks to the north, west and east of houses cut energy consumption by an average of 40 percent.

- ▶ Plant evergreen trees and shrubs to the north and northwest of your home to stop wind. The distance between your home and windbreak should be two to five times the height of the mature tree.

- ▶ Install a fence or wall in addition to evergreen trees to deflect wind over your home.

- ▶ Plant trees on either side of your house to direct cooling wind toward it in the summer. 800839876

Saving Water

Design your landscape to not only save energy but also conserve water.

- ▶ Always group plants with similar water needs together.

- ▶ Use water-sipping types of turf grass.

- ▶ Aerate your soil to improve water flow to plants' roots and reduce water runoff.

- ▶ Water in the morning when it is cooler and evaporation rates are low.

- ▶ In the summer, raise your lawn mower cutting height—longer grass blades help shade each other and retain more water.

- ▶ Use mulch to keep plant roots cool, minimize evaporation and reduce weed growth.

No matter where you live or what you plant, always call 811 to have underground utilities located before you dig, look up for overhead power lines and take their location into account for tree growth.



Lemon Pound Cake

CAROLYN FRAZIER | WEATHERFORD

CAKE

1 package lemon cake mix
1 package lemon pudding mix
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup oil
1 cup Jumex apricot nectar
4 eggs

ICING

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups powdered sugar
2-3 tablespoons lemon juice or apricot nectar

1. Combine cake and pudding mixes, sugar, oil and nectar. Beat for 10 minutes on medium speed. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each one.
2. Pour into greased and floured angel food pan or Bundt pan.
3. Bake 1 hour at 325 degrees. 7000002803
4. Mix icing ingredients and drizzle on cooled cake. Enjoy!



Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form

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