



HARVEST WORKERS URGED TO TAKE TIME TO REAP SAFE HARVEST



WIt can be an exciting and exhausting time, the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest can also yield tragic outcomes. Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed and hundreds are injured in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment.

"Things people see every day can fade from view and in the busy-ness of harvest time, it's easy for farm workers to forget about the power lines overhead," Line Superintendent Kendal Wambeke said. "But failure to notice them can be a deadly oversight." Review with all workers the farm activities

that take place around power lines. Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance. Keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines – above, below and to the side – a 360-degree rule.

"Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet," says Wambeke. "Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result. Also use extreme caution when raising the bed of a grain truck."

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DID YOU KNOW

According to the Dept. of Energy, the top five energy users in the average consumer's home are: space cooling, space heating, water heating, refrigeration and lighting.

CLOSED



Big Horn REA will be closed Monday, September 4, 2017, in observance of Labor Day.

REBATES!

Purchase new energy efficient products – see if

you qualify for a rebate! Tri-State G & T (our power supplier) offers the following rebates. Until further notice,

Big Horn REA will match these rebate amounts!! Call us to see if your product qualifies – 800-564-2419.

PRODUCT	SPECS	REBATE INCENTIVE
RESIDENTIAL LED LAMPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LED light bulbs (lamps) or fixtures 500 lumens or greater Medium, GU24 or other residential/light commercial oriented base LED tubes and similar multi-LED applications like rope or under-counter lighting will be considered by the fixture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower of: \$3/lamp or fixture or 50% of the lamp/fixture cost Member-owner account cap of 50 lamps per year
ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible appliances include: refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, dishwashers Must be Energy Star® rated. A list of qualifying equipment is available at www.energystar.gov 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$30/unit, full size refrigerators or freezers \$60/unit additional for refrigerator/freezer recycling \$40/unit for front load clothes washers \$30/unit for top load clothes washers \$30/unit for clothes dryer (electric only) \$90/unit for hybrid heat pump clothes dryer (ventless) \$20/unit for dishwashers
IRRIGATION MOTOR PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor sizes 10 to 500 hp Limited to irrigation motors Refer to table in fact sheet for minimum motor efficiencies Operating at minimum of 15% load factor or 3 months per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$8/hp \$1.50/hp wiring assistance if the motor replaces a fossil-fueled engine, or is a new installation
VARIABLE SPEED DRIVE (VSD) RETROFIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motors from 25 hp and up Program includes: Irrigation, farm, commercial and industrial uses Only retrofits to existing installations, no new and no maintenance replacements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sliding scale for incentives from \$1,600 to \$6,800 Refer to table of incentives for specific motor horsepower Cap of 50% of the VSD equipment costs Per project cap of \$20,000
ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS AND HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Star® residential unit or any commercial installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric Resistance Water Heater — 30 to 55 gallon only \$30/unit, \$20/unit additional incentive for lifetime tank warranty Heat Pump (ground source) powered or waste heat — any size \$100/unit for primary heating by direct exchange ground source or heat pump waste heat (desuperheater) \$25/unit additional incentive for lifetime tank warranty Heat Pump Water Heater (air source) \$350/unit, 30 gallon minimum
ENERGY STAR® AIR CONDITIONERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum equipment size is 1 ton A list of qualifying equipment is available at www.energystar.gov 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100/unit split system Energy Star® rated air conditioners from 15 to 16 SEER \$150/unit split system Energy Star® rated air conditioners over 16 SEER
ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP: CENTRAL AIR SOURCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 1 ton (12,000 Btuh) to receive an incentive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$85/unit for terminal units (through-the-wall mounted heat pumps) #125/ton with electric resistance backup \$150/ton without electric resistance backup \$100/unit additional incentive for Energy Star® rated units from 15 to 16 SEER \$150/unit additional incentive for Energy Star® rated units 16 SEER \$100/unit additional incentive for integrated controlled ETS backup in lieu of a separate ETS incentive
ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP: CENTRAL GROUND SOURCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 3/4 ton (9,000 Btuh) to receive an incentive Energy Star® not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250/ton

SAFE HARVEST Continued from Page 1

Operators of farm equipment or vehicles must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line: Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so.

“If the power line is energized and you step outside, touching the vehicle and ground, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result,” Wambeke said. “Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there’s fire or imminent risk of fire.”

If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Some electrocutions have occurred after the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

It is very important that all farm workers and seasonal employees are informed of electrical hazards and trained in proper procedures to avoid injury.

INCONSPICUOUS ENERGY HOGS

You installed a new heat pump and efficient water heater, increased the amount of insulation in your home and enlisted the help of a home energy auditor to identify and repair air leakage, but your energy bills still seem high. Are there areas of your home or business you might be overlooking?

Pump Systems

Leaks in your irrigation system can greatly increase your pump’s electricity use; a malfunctioning well pump may run continuously to try and maintain proper water pressure; and garden fountains

use about as much energy as a small lamp.

Nonliving Spaces

Plugging in a block heater overnight uses far more electricity than needed – use a timer to start the block heater just a few hours before you need your vehicle.

If you have a second refrigerator, consolidate its contents into your kitchen refrigerator, and pull the plug on your backup refrigerator to save energy.

Using space heaters or portable air conditioners in uninsulated spaces can definitely lead to higher bills.

Farm workers should take these steps to ensure a safer harvest season:

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
- As with any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don’t use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins. Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

Home Businesses

If you run a business out of your home, there could be a large energy user contributing to your electric bill. For example, regularly using welding equipment, ceramic kilns or power carpentry tools can contribute significantly to your electric bill, as can equipment that supports home farming operations.

Look for energy hogs around your home and try to limit their use if possible. Find more ways to be efficient on our website...www.bighorn-rea.com.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

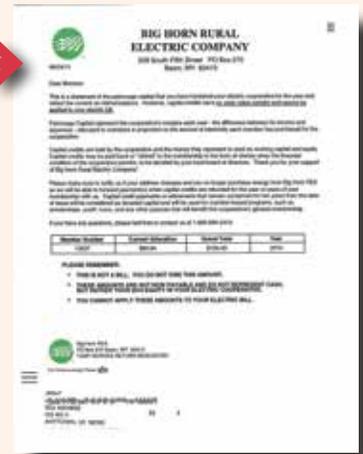


Allocation Notices

It's that time of year again...Big Horn REA has sent out Capital Credit Allocation notices to each member. This is a statement of how much was allocated to your Capital Credit account for the year 2016. This is for informational purposes only. **It is not a bill.** It is not saying you will be receiving this amount of money now. This amount **will not** be credited to your electric bill.

Because Big Horn REA is a non-profit cooperative, all revenues we receive that are in excess of all expenses, are allocated back to our members based on the amount of power they consumed. These funds are retained by the cooperative and used to build and maintain the electric system. The amount and timing of capital credit distribution is determined by the Board in the exercise of its discretion.

Your capital credits remain on the books in your name and member number until they are retired. Because payments are made approximately 25 years after credits are earned, you should ensure that Big Horn REA always has your current mailing address.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Contact a licensed professional to inspect your system *before* the winter chill arrives.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



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For Outages or Trouble

Call the office number: **ANYTIME**
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419

After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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