



Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1



immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.

- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.

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A New Energy

There's a quiet transformation happening across the nation. America's smaller communities are changing in remarkable ways—while holding steadfastly to the values that, for generations, have made them the places people choose to build a better life for themselves and their families.

To embrace the beauty of a simpler lifestyle. To live independently; yet, to also be part of a community that looks out for neighbors. To grow in new ways, in new directions. To feed the world, change the world, build the future.

America's rural communities may seem quiet—but scratch below the surface and you'll find a whole lot happening. There's a new energy here to go along with the more affordable, down-to-earth way to live that's been here all along. And the opportunities to create something new have never been greater.

These are the communities served by America's electric cooperatives. You might think of us as the local electric company, and you'd be right: We're led by members like you, created by and for the communities we serve. Electric cooperatives are community-focused organizations who work to deliver affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy to our members. And every co-op is as unique as the community that shaped it, changing over time as our communities grow and change.

We're local and we're independent. But together, we're mighty: across the country, local cooperatives work together and learn from one another to develop new technologies and infrastructure. And in the process, we bring electricity to one in eight Americans and over 19 million



homes, businesses, farms, and schools in 47 states. Co-ops themselves provide 71,000 great jobs, invest billions in local economies every year, and are a driving force in helping attract and grow business and industry in rural America.

And America's electric cooperatives aren't just economic engines. They're innovators, developing new ways to incorporate the benefits of cooperative solar, wind, and other sources of renewable energy into a balanced energy mix. And we're always looking for new ways to help our members save energy, save money and take advantage of the technology that's changed the way we live.

It's all part of the cooperative spirit that's always been one of the best things about living in our community. Neighbors looking out for neighbors. People working for the common good. Even as we celebrate our differences and our individual achievements, knowing that we can't do everything alone—we're all in this together. And we are stronger and better for it.

That's community. That's what fueled the co-op movement so many years ago—and it's the source of our new energy today. The power of community is what being an electric cooperative is all about.

Survey Drawing Winners

Thank you to all our members who completed our survey! We had a total of 550 surveys sent in. We truly appreciate your feedback and helping Big Horn REA move forward.

Winners of \$100 Bill Credit:

Nathan Mattison	Vickie Anderson
Jim McNulty	Kevin Peterson
Barney & Terri Egger	Karl Pierce
John Gedney	Mitch Brown
Doug Laue	

Winner of Electric Lawn Mower:

Morgan Helzer



Watch for survey results soon! We will post them in our newsletter and on our website. Thanks for your participation!

Utility poles are not bulletin boards

Help keep our lineworkers safe

Big Horn REA would like to remind everyone that it is prohibited to attach objects to our utility poles, such as: campaign signs, garage sale signs, lost and found signs, deer stands, birdhouses, satellite dishes, etc.

Signs on utility poles raise major safety concerns for our lineworkers. Staples, tacks and nails can cause more serious injuries than most people would suspect. For example, if a nail tears an insulated glove, the lineworker is no longer properly protected from the high-voltage power lines they work on. Also, nails and staples can cause the lineworker's boot spikes to cut-out of the pole, causing a serious fall from a dangerous height. In order to ensure reliable electric service, lineworkers sometimes have to climb poles in all kinds of weather, day and night.

We need your help. If you notice anyone trying to attach something to a utility pole, let them know it's dangerous and illegal. Thank you for your cooperation.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: energy.gov





A new feature for 2021 to allow you to get to know our employees just a little bit better.

Watt's Cookin'

— At Big Horn REA —

Recipe
DIRECTIONS

Clint's Cream Cheese Chicken Chili

Ingredients:

15 oz black beans	1 tbsp chili powder
15 oz corn – undrained	1 tsp onion powder
10 oz Rotel tomatoes – undrained	1 oz light cream cheese
1 pkg Ranch dressing mix	2 chicken breasts
1 tsp cumin	

Directions

1. Dump everything in and stir 2. Put the chicken in, frozen or thawed 3. Put cream cheese on top in the middle and place lid for about 4 hours on high, 6 hours on low 4. Once it's time, shred the chicken (I just leave the chicken in and shred it, it should be VERY tender and shred when you touch it) 5. Stir all together and serve!

CLINT GETZFREID



Clint is a Journeyman Line-man in Basin. He has worked for Big Horn REA for almost 8 years.

What do you bring to your co-op?

Leadership skills, create a

safe working environment, willingness to learn and grow as a crew, advanced troubleshooting, staking and construction of overhead and underground facilities. Open and thorough communication.

What is the best thing about working at Big Horn?

The safe work environment, a great crew executing open and thorough communication, great management that makes sure the crew and myself have the appropriate tools and equipment to perform our job and keep them up to date, the job tasks that change day-to-day and I get to work up on the Big Horn Mountains.

What is your favorite meal from childhood?

Pork ribs, baked beans and potato salad

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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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