

THE GRID

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1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
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7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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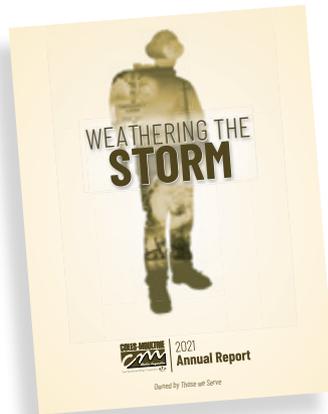
To Report an Outage
call #888-661-2632

Send your current email
to info@cmec.coop
for a chance to win a
\$50 bill credit



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Drive Thru Annual Meeting



Lunch is on us! Our **Drive Thru** Member Celebration & Virtual Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, October 26, starting at 11 a.m. at Peterson Park, Mattoon. Members will register from the comfort of their car and receive a \$25 bill credit, giveaways and more!

Visit Us at the Arcola Broomcorn Festival



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the festival and we want to see you there! CMEC is sponsoring the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon on Saturday, September 11 (weather permitting). The balloon will fly over Arcola in the morning and be on display downtown throughout the day. We will have tethered balloon rides if the weather allows. Arcola is the Broomcorn Capital of the World and draws up to 75,000 visitors to this annual event. Be sure to catch the parade at 3 p.m. and check out arcolachamber.com for the latest updates.

Second Summer

Summer is over, children are back in school, and we may experience summer-like weather despite it being fall. Even if it feels like winter will never come, don't be fooled. Winter is coming, and now is the time to prepare.

Look around your home. See any gaps around your doors or windows? A 1/12-inch gap around an exterior door is like having a 4x5-inch hole in the wall. Add cracks around other doors and windows, and you could allow a lot of cold air into your home this winter.

Plugging those leaks will increase your comfort, and it pays for itself in reduced energy bills. Just weather stripping around doors and windows can cut heat loss by nearly half. Caulking, additional insulation and storm doors and windows are other measures that will make your home even more energy efficient.

Visit touchstoneenergy.com/efficiency or call your local electric cooperative for more information on weatherization plans that will fit your budget and pay off in lower energy costs. Then, sit back and enjoy these second summer days before frost really sets in.



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 these 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. **David Wilson**
- 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.

Find Your Name and Win \$50

Find your name hidden inside this issue of **The Grid** and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.

TYPES OF FUEL SOURCES

Electric co-ops and other utilities use a variety of fuel sources to generate the electricity that powers your home. Below are the main fuel sources used to generate power.

Renewable Energy Sources



Solar

Solar energy is generated by sunlight that is typically harvested through solar photovoltaic panels.



Wind

Wind energy is generated by large turbines that spin and convert wind power to electricity.



Hydro

Hydropower uses the force of flowing water to rotate turbines and generate electricity.



Geothermal

Geothermal energy is generated by using heat from within the earth.



Biomass

Biomass is renewable organic material (from plants and animals) that is burned to produce power.

Non-Renewable Energy Sources



Coal

Coal is a black or brown rock that is burned at a coal plant to generate power.



Natural Gas

Natural gas is extracted from the earth and burned to produce pressurized gas. The gas spins a turbine to generate electricity.



Nuclear

Nuclear energy uses the process of fission to generate heat that produces steam, which is used by a turbine generator to produce electricity.

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](https://www.energy.gov)



Member Assistance

Are you having trouble paying your electric bill? Our members have received \$90,013.04 in assistance in 2021. We are here to help. Call us toll free at 888-661-2632.



LOCAL *Places*



LOCAL *Faces*

DeBuhr's Seed & Feed

2001 Western Ave, Mattoon • 217-234-7373

This little family-owned gem of a store opened in 1914 in Mattoon. Henry DeBuhr, the original owner, came to the U.S. from Germany with only a wicker basket to hold his possessions. When you enter their business, it's like taking a step back in time. They have all your pet needs and more. Grab a bird feeder, flowers or even some of Bernie's spice(s) while you're at it. Some things never change and that's a good thing!



Scheff's Office Supplies

1904 Prairie Ave, Mattoon • 217-549-1319
scheffsupplies.com



Scheff's Office Supplies opened in 2017 as a home-based business and quickly moved to a small retail location. They are open to the public Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and offer paper, ink, office furniture, printing/copying and everyday office needs. Scheff's is also an Authorized UPS Ship Center and FedEx can be shipped from their building. You get hometown personal service that competes on pricing with any large company. Support this local business and get all your office needs close to home.

Royal Academy

1000 E State Rt 133, Arcola, 217-268-5120
theroyal.academy

The Royal Academy in Arcola is a licensed, full-service childcare facility serving young leaders from 2 to 5 years old. The Toddler and Early Preschool programs incorporate the Fruit of the Spirit into daily lesson plans.

They also have Kidz S.T.E.A.M. Power Lab, 115 Egyptian Trail, Arcola, 217-268-5052, which is an academic enrichment center serving young leaders ages 5 to 12. The program features after school academic support in addition to enrichment activities in science, technology, engineering, art and math.



**We are helping support and kick-start small business comeback in our communities.
Email info@cmec.coop if you have a business, product or service you provide.**

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmec.coop