

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

Cargill Ag Safety Program - PTO and Grain Bin

Due to the two tornados in Platteville and the severe storms that passed through the Grant and Lafayette Counties on the night of Monday, June 16th, all our lineworkers were out restoring power to our members, so we were unable to put on the annual Hot Line Demonstration for the Grant County Rural Safety Days at the Grant County Fairgrounds on June 17th. So instead, I will share with you another safety presentation done by one of our members, Cargill Ag.

This year a new vendor, Cargill Ag, handled the safety presentation for Power Take Off (PTO) and Grain Bin safety. The presenters were Korey Sternard and Rachel Droessler. To demonstrate power take off safety they had an adult and child size dummy that showed what happens when the PTO makes contact with them. The dummies were stuffed with straw, so as the PTO was spinning the dummy around the straw flew all over. The next topic covered was grain bin safety. Korey

explained to the students that you NEVER want to enter a grain bin unless you absolutely have to, but when you do, you must be able to answer the following questions:

1. Is the auger off and locked out?
2. How deep is the grain?
3. Is the air quality safe?
4. What would you tie off to?

They explained that there are over 700 undocumented grain bin incidents that happen each year and that 95% of people entrapped never make it out alive. If the air quality is toxic, you may only have 3 breaths. Or if you become entrapped in the grain, you have about 4 minutes until you suffocate.

To demonstrate to the students how easy it is to become entrapped, Cargill Ag had a small grain bin that was about two-thirds full of styrofoam pieces to assimilate grain. As Korey helped the student lower themselves into the grain bin, Rachel Droessler opened the hatch at the bottom of the bin and let the styrofoam flow into a plastic bag (the larger/heavier the person, the more styrofoam came out). Because the students were told that the more you kick, the faster you sink; they found out that was very true. They were amazed at how quickly they went down with just the smallest amount of movement. In a real situation, when a person becomes entrapped,



they find that it is very hard to move which is due to the pressure from the grain. Each breath that is expelled, reduce lung capacity due to the incredible pressure the grain puts on your body. That point was realized by one of the programs student counselor, Kodi Knoble, when he was up to his neck in Styrofoam. He said, "I can't move!" Korey gave him a helping hand as with all the other students to help maneuver them over to the ladder inside the grain bin.

Not unlike other sessions, the students were very engaged with what they were learning from Korey and Rachel. They were sitting on the edge of the bleacher with their eyes glued to the demonstration. Whenever Korey asked if there were questions, the student's hands shot up quickly into the air to ask their question. This was a great presentation given by Cargill Ag and a valuable learning experience for the students.



Grain Bins: Harvesting Safely

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job—and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, safety is top priority for all—our employees and our members.

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in the efficiency and profitability of farm and ranch operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

Whether you're purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

Safe clearance. The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. See the chart below for further grain bin clearance guidelines. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

Filling grain bins. High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

Moving equipment near grain bins. When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY

DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22kV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative at 1-800-236-2141 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.

By Abby Berry. Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Replacing your conventional power strips with advanced power strips (APS) can help reduce the electricity wasted when electronic devices are idle. These power strips are a convenient and low-cost way to save.

- Source: Department of Energy

Crawford County Farm Safety Program

On Friday, May 16th the Crawford County Safety Day Camp, sponsored by the Crawford County Farm Safety Council, took place at the fairgrounds in Gays Mills. The program was well attended by approximately 150 fifth grade students from the surrounding schools: Prairie du Chien, Seneca, Wauzeka and North Crawford. Some of the programs that the students participated in were as follows:

- Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative - Electrical Safety
- SWTC - General Farm Safety
- Crawford County Nurses - Drug Safety
- Steve Anderson (Veterinary) - Small Animal Safety

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative has been handling the electrical safety part of the program for many years. Safety is our #1 priority and we want to share our electrical knowledge with people of all ages so that it becomes a priority for them as well. We share our knowledge each year through hot line demonstrations that take place at each of our offices during the October Member Appreciation Celebrations and then for the safety day programs that are planned by Grant, Crawford and Lafayette counties.

This year's hot line demonstration at the Crawford County Safety Day Camp was handled by lineworkers Earl Winsor and Steve Burnis from our Gays Mills office. Through the presentation, the students learned about the following:

- Appliance and extension cord safety.
- How power lines operate and function.
- The danger of power lines and the importance of staying away.
- Underground power line safety.
- Demonstrations on tree/animal problems and electrocution hazards.

If you would like to see our hot line demonstration and/or have an opportunity to ask our lineworkers questions, please see us at the October Member Appreciations listed below:

- Tuesday, October 14th 4-7 p.m. (Lancaster Office)
- Wednesday, October 15th 4-7 p.m. (Gays Mills Office)
- Thursday, October 16th 4-7 p.m. (Darlington Office)



Recipes

Rita Kruser (Cuba City) shares her recipe for "Deet Free Insect Repellent" to keep the gnats and annoying flies from bothering you. This works well for anyone that must be outside a lot of their time this summer and can be used for ages 1 +. The lavender oil can be purchased at Walgreens or Walmart.

Deet Free Insect Repellent

- 5-6 Tablespoons Real Vanilla
- 16 oz Tap Water
- ¼ cup Lemon Juice
- 15 drops Lavendar Oil

Mix together the above ingredients and pour into spray or roller bottles.

Another cookie recipe that my family (Heidi Pierce, Potosi) enjoys from time to time is the Five Chip Cookies.

Five Chip Cookies

- 1 c. Butter
- 1 c. Peanut Butter
- 1 c. Sugar
- 2/3 c. Brown Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 2 c. Flour
- 1 c. Oatmeal
- 2 tsp. Baking Soda
- ½ tsp. Salt
- 2/3 c. of each type of chips: Milk Chocolate, Semi-sweet Chocolate, Peanut Butter, Vanilla and Butterscotch



In a large mixing bowl, cream butter, peanut butter and sugars. Next add in the eggs and vanilla; mix well. Then stir in flour, oatmeal, soda and salt until blended. Then stir in the chips. Bake at 350 for 10-12 minutes.

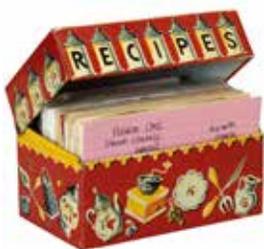
SHARE YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE

If anyone would like to share some great family recipes, please mail them to me at

SREC, Attn: Heidi,
231 N. Sheridan,
Lancaster, WI 53813

or email me at
hpierce@srec.net.

Thanks!



Vegetation Management

Zielies Tree Service, Inc. will be working on the north, south, east and west circuits of the Prairie du Chien substation in Crawford County.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative will be spraying in the Argyle and Platteville substation areas.

SREC is taking a more diligent approach in maintaining our right-of-way corridor's for the following reasons:

- 1) Safety for the public and our employees.
- 2) Help reduces tree related outages.
- 3) Reduces outage duration.
- 4) Reduces future vegetation management costs.

*Thank you
for your cooperation!*



WATT'S HAPPENING

Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free Lancaster 800-236-2141, Darlington 800-236-6656, and Gays Mills 888-735-4314.

www.sre.coop

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