

# PowerLines

A monthly publication for member/owners of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

August 2014

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Youth Tour Recap

## PLUS:

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## Capital Credit Allocation

Check your electric bill included in this mailing for your 2013 capital credit allocation.

Allocations are made each year for all Eastern Illini member/owners based on two things: the amount of electricity you purchased the previous year; and our overall financial condition.

Allocations cannot be applied to your electric bill, or used as payment for any other services.



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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Co-op Connections Card

**Our commitment to you goes beyond providing safe and reliable electricity.**

We're always looking for ways to provide value to you, our member/owners, and our community. Eastern Illini's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we are proud to offer our membership. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

A wide variety of merchants throughout our community accept the card, including many local restaurants. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount!

For a complete list of all participating businesses in our area, simply log on to our website [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop) and follow the Co-op Connections Card link.

The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of up to 85 percent off prescription drugs. The logo and

information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of Touchstone

Energy co-ops across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, we strive to serve you according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values.

We're eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at 800-824-5102 to find out more, or log onto to [www.eiec.coop](http://www.eiec.coop).

Sincerely,

*Bob Hunzinger*



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

# Youth Tour Recap

## Youth to Washington trip highlights Eastern Illini's scholarship program.

Emily McCann and Morgan Hotaling are the 2014 recipients of Eastern Illini's Youth to Washington Scholarship Contest. Each of the graduating seniors earned a \$1,000 college scholarship and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. Both ladies attended Watseka High School.

On the trip, the two joined more than 1,500 students from electric cooperatives across the country as they took part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 50th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour of Washington.

The object of the tour is to introduce the young leaders to our democratic form of government. During the tour, they visited many of our nation's

historic sites, including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, and the many memorials, monuments and museums.

The students also had the opportunity to meet with several members of Congress, to discuss issues pertinent to rural Illinois.

The students visited the Holocaust Museum, the Iwo Jima statue, a Marine parade, and even had the chance to take a Potomac River cruise.

Hotaling noted, "The youth tour was truly a once-in-a-lifetime, inspiring trip that I know I'll never forget. My favorite places were the Newseum and Arlington National Cemetery. I learned so much about our country's history, in the best way possible!"

The two students competed for the scholarships with other students, who are the sons and daughters of

Eastern Illini member/owners. The applicants were judged on academic achievement, work and volunteer experience, school and community activities, goals and knowledge of electric cooperatives.

## IEC Memorial Scholarship Winner

Halley Cummings of Danforth has been selected as one of four Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship recipients for 2014.

Halley's family receives electricity from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. The recent graduate from Iroquois West High School was also selected as a Presidential Scholar.

Congratulations, Halley!



Eastern Illini was represented by five students at the 2014 Youth Tour. From left to right outside the United States Capitol: Trevor Williams (Marietta, GA), Morgan Hotaling (Witseka), Cassidy Stucki (Donovan), Emily McCann (Witseka), and Josh Reitz (Gilman). The two scholarship winners (Hotaling and McCann) joined the other three students who attended the Youth to Washington as "Willie Wirehand" students, as they paid their own way.

# Keep food cool as temps heat up

**Timely maintenance on your refrigerator can help you save money.**

Summer months are great for grilling. And that means you don't have to use electricity to operate the oven or stove – or cool a hot kitchen. It's a great way to be energy efficient and save, but don't stop with energy efficient cooking methods. Consider how you can conserve and save money while cooling those leftovers after the barbecue. Use these simple tips to keep your food – and your bill – cool this summer:

**Fill the fridge.** Full refrigerators and freezers don't have to work as hard to cool the warm air that enters when you open the door. If you are busy freezing fresh vegetables from the garden for winter use, this should be easy. If not, use jugs of water or ice bags in the freezer to keep your fridge full and cool.

**Do some maintenance.** When was the last time you moved your refrigerator away from the wall? Last month? Last year? When the deliveryman put it there? Pull the unit away from the wall and spend a few minutes cleaning the coils. When the coils are clean, the refrigerator

cycles on and off less, saving you money.

**Wait to put the leftovers away.** If those burgers are still hot from the grill, let them cool off a little before you put them in the fridge. Of course, health and safety come first, and you should never consume food that has been sitting out too long, but waiting just a few minutes to put hot food away will mean your fridge isn't working as hard to cool it down.

**Check your settings.** You probably don't need to keep your refrigerator and freezer on the coldest settings. Your refrigerator can be set between 36 and 38 degrees, while your freezer can be set anywhere from 0 to five degrees.

**Shut the door.** The more you open the door of your refrigerator and freezer, the more cold air escapes and warm air gets in. Of course you have to open the door to get food in and out, but an organized fridge means less time spent staring at containers

of mystery and moving pizza boxes around to dig for that much-coveted piece of lemon icebox pie.

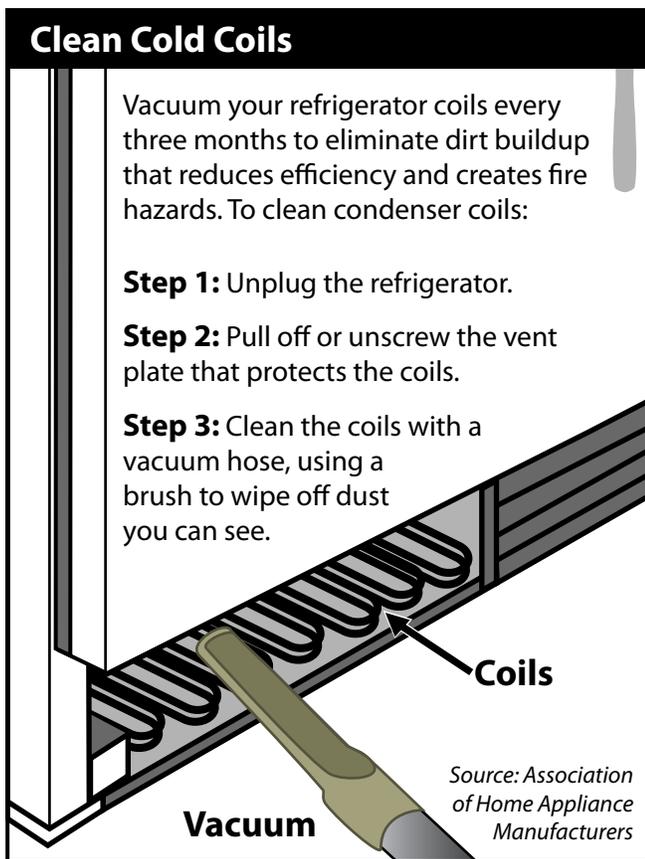
**Other tips to help you save:**

Consider getting rid of that extra fridge or

freezer in the garage. If you aren't really using it, that old fridge is costing you a few dollars every month to cool a few cans of soda. That adds up throughout the year. Is it worth it?

If you do decide to get rid of the refrigerator in your garage, or if it's time to replace the one in your home, don't just leave it at the dump. There are recycling programs that help you get rid of your old refrigerator responsibly. Some retailers will take your old appliance and make sure the materials in it will be reused or properly disposed of, and many cities will pick up large appliances as well.

Visit [energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) before making a purchase. Their refrigerator retirement savings calculator (<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=refrig.calculator&>) can be a big help, and their advice can help you determine the best, most efficient appliance for you.



**Energy Efficiency**

*Tip of the Month*

During summer, our homes can be extremely hot, making living conditions uncomfortable. Before you fire up your air conditioner, try cooling off with a ceiling fan first. By using ceiling fans, you can actually raise your thermostat setting by four degrees and still feel just as comfortable.

Source: Department of Energy

# Grain Bins: Harvesting Safely

**A few simple precautions can make working around grain bins safe for everyone.**

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 Eastern Illini Electric Co-op, we think safety should be a top priority for all of our employees - and for you. Our local 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. Here are some tips to remember when adding or working around grain bins.

## **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 at the right for further 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

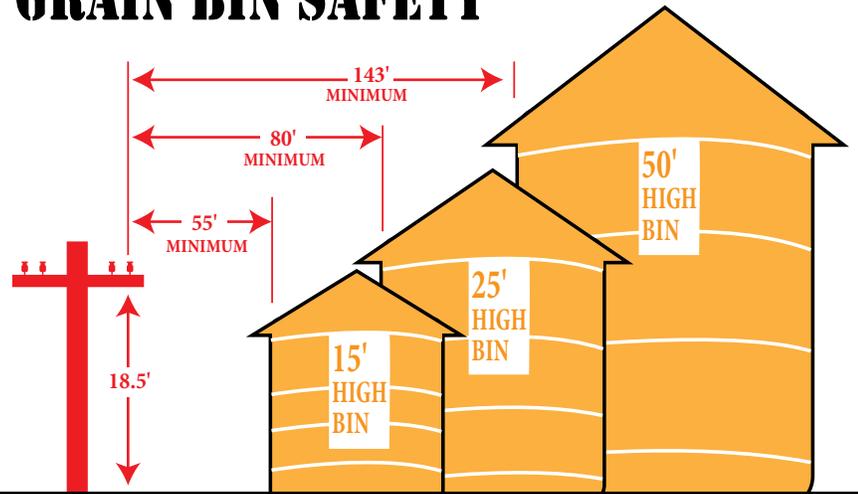


# GRAIN BIN SAFETY

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 we remind you to always use caution when working near power lines.

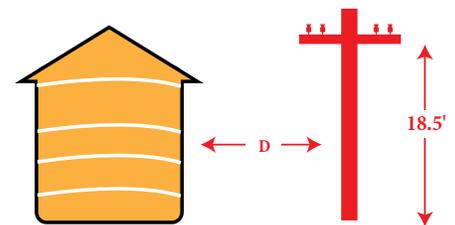
If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact us at 800-824-5102 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.



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

*Left: These grain bins, in rural Clifton, are a safe distance away from the 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.



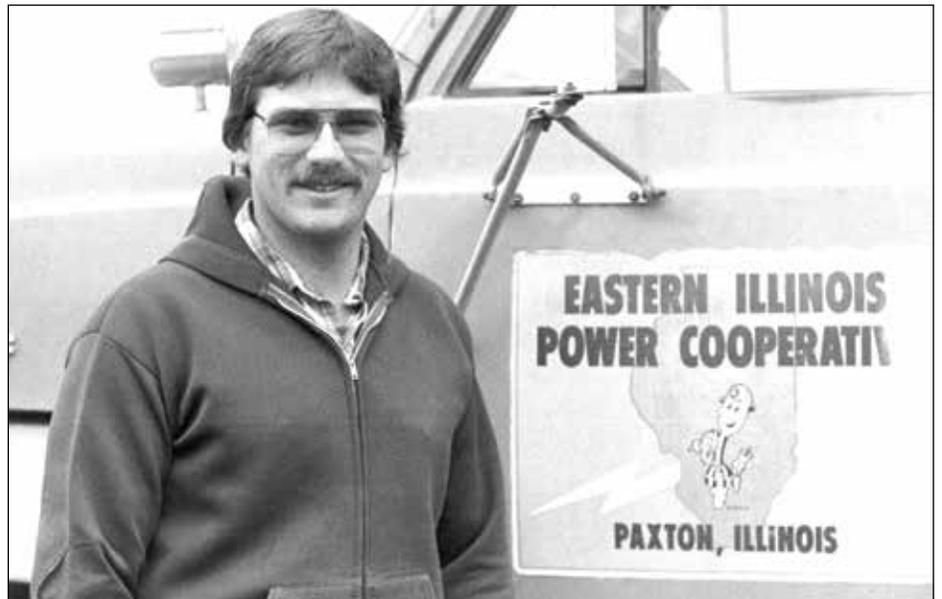
\*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

## In loving memory: Mark Scheiwe

Mark Scheiwe joined the Eastern Illinois Power Cooperative family in April of 1983. He then continued working for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative after the consolidation in 1987. He began his career at the cooperative as an apprentice lineman, and he became a journeyman lineman in 1986. He later transitioned to a serviceman.

Our deepest condolences go out to Mark's family and friends.

He will be greatly missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.



# Member/owner spotlight

## Middle Fork River Forest Reserve Penfield, Illinois



Middle Fork River Forest Preserve contains over 1,700 acres composed of old hardwood timber, reforested lowlands, grassy meadows, and in-progress prairie restorations. Rich in trails, Middle Fork contains one of the region's premier Waterfowl Management Areas, and it is also home to a favorite camping area, the Harry L. Swartz Campground.

This site offers a swim beach, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, picnicking, building rentals and programs. About four miles of the Middle Fork River run through the preserve. The site includes three ponds: Willow Pond (4 acres); Cypress Pond (2.7 acres) and Emerald Pond (3.2 acres).

Middle Fork River Forest Preserve opens at 7 a.m. year-round, weather-permitting. From May through October, the preserve closes at 9 p.m., and from November through April, the closing time is 6 p.m.

Harry L. Swartz Campground consists of 65 campsites that can accommodate individuals as well as larger groups. Fifty-three of the sites have electricity. Each campsite is a quiet retreat shaded by large oak, hickory and hackberry trees. All sites are close to the swim beach and other facilities. Campsites are available per night on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are allowed for stays of at least three consecutive nights.

The Waterfowl Management Area offers more than 130 acres of prime nesting habitat for migratory waterfowl. An easily-accessible viewing platform allows visitors the opportunity to observe a wetland teeming with life.

Middle Fork also offers more than seven miles of trails, and other activities like naturalist programs and a Fitness in the Forest training program.

Find out more about these programs and the preserve at [www.ccfpd.org](http://www.ccfpd.org) or call them at 217-568-7362.