

# HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

September 2022

News about your community and cooperative

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www.midwestrec.com

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

### SAVE THE DATE: Friday, Oct. 7

#### ACRE political action breakfast & Member Appreciation Day

**ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action breakfast (Oct. 7):** Starts at 8 am. Hear legislative updates from state and federal lawmakers. *\*Must be an ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action member to attend the breakfast. Sign up beforehand by calling our office at 800-962-3830 or emailing [info@midwestrec.com](mailto:info@midwestrec.com). **RSVPs are required for the ACRE breakfast.***

**Member Appreciation Day (Oct. 7):** Follows the ACRE breakfast and runs from 11-1:30 pm. Free lunch and snacks, CASH giveaways, door prizes, energy advice booths, opportunities to chat with your CEO, staff, board, and more!



Every year, an average of 62 farmworkers are electrocuted in the U.S., and many more are injured by shocks, according to Department of Labor statistics. Among those victims are farmers who climb down from their tractor after making contact with overhead power lines. **STAY PUT, and read the tips below.**



## Farming Safety: Look Up, Avoid Electrocution

**Midwest Electric urges farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions at least 10 feet from power lines in all directions.**

- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call us to repair them. NEVER touch downed or low-hanging wires.
- If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the vehicle, you become the

electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle.

If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. **Shuffle your feet or hop** as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together to prevent potentially deadly current flow through your body.



## Have you spotted our new equipment being installed?

Crews are installing these Versa Collectors to relay more accurate readings and the current outage status back to the co-op. Previously, we had devices called shark-fins throughout our territory installed on meter bases close to the ground. These new devices are elevated on poles so they send more reliable data. We began installing the new technology in the western part of our territory in 2019 after one of our towers was destroyed in the Celina tornadoes. The project will be wrapped up by the end of 2022. Please call us with questions.



## Want to make a *difference* in your local community?

The Community Connection Fund is looking for trustees from Auglaize, Mercer, and Allen/Putnam counties to serve on the board (three total) and help allocate funding. You'll be reimbursed for related expenses; no background is necessary. If interested, please email [jjohns@midwestrec.com](mailto:jjohns@midwestrec.com) or call 800-962-3830 by Sept. 16.

## Sign up today for a

# \$2 monthly bill credit

Effective January 2022, new subscribers to Midwest Electric's SmartHub e-bill and Auto Pay features will receive a monthly \$2 credit on their Midwest Electric bill (\$1 credit for e-bill and \$1 credit for Auto Pay). Should you unsubscribe to e-bill or Auto Pay, the credits will no longer apply. If you're already enrolled, you'll receive the monthly credit!

### Learn more

- To create a SmartHub account, visit [www.midwestrec.com](http://www.midwestrec.com)
- Contact us by:
  - Email ([info@midwestrec.com](mailto:info@midwestrec.com))
  - Phone (800-962-3830)
  - In-person (M-F, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)



### When we save money, you save money

By enrolling in SmartHub's e-bill feature, Midwest Electric saves money on postage and printing and passes the savings on to you. Your bills and payment records are accessible on SmartHub- no more hard copies!



### Goodbye late fees

Save time and money by enrolling in SmartHub's Auto Pay feature. With Auto Pay, you no longer have to worry about writing a check, paying for postage, or mailing your payment. Plus, your payment is always on time.



Download the SmartHub app on the Apple Store or Google Play. Once the app is open, type in "Midwest Electric" as the provider. Your login information is the same for both the website and mobile app.

## Want our energy advisor to do a free audit of your home?

We can identify areas of potential savings to help you understand where your energy dollars are going. Call 800-962-3830 to learn more.

[www.midwestrec.com/energy-audits-and-tips-homes](http://www.midwestrec.com/energy-audits-and-tips-homes)



## Community Calendar

- ◆ Aug. 30-Sept. 5 **Van Wert County Fair**, [www.vanwertcountyfair.com](http://www.vanwertcountyfair.com)
- ◆ Sept. 10 **Craft Beer Festival**, Auglaize County Fairgrounds, [www.auglaizecountyfair.org/events](http://www.auglaizecountyfair.org/events)
- ◆ Sept. 14-17 **Delphos Canal Days**, [www.delphoscanaldays.com](http://www.delphoscanaldays.com)
- ◆ Sept. 16-18 **North West Ohio Trader Days**, Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Fri. & Sat. 9 am - 7 pm, Sun. 9 am - 3 pm
- ◆ Sept. 22-24 **Bluegrass Festival**, Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Thurs. 6-9 pm, Fri. 6-11 pm, Sat. 12-11 pm
- ◆ Sept. 23-24 **Auglaize County Fairgrounds Fall Campout**, [www.auglaizecountyfair.org/events](http://www.auglaizecountyfair.org/events)
- ◆ Sept. 24 **Grand Lake Half Marathon & 5K**, Lakeshore Park, Celina, [www.grandlakemarathon.com](http://www.grandlakemarathon.com)
- ◆ Sept. 30-Oct. 2 **Minster Oktoberfest**, German music, food, parade, arts and crafts, and more; [www.minsteroktoberfest.com](http://www.minsteroktoberfest.com)
- ◆ Oct. 7 **ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action breakfast & Member Appreciation Day**, breakfast at 8 am for ACRE RSVPs; lunch for all members from 11-1:30 pm, event details on front page or call for more information.