



SEPTEMBER 2024

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

GO ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR A SAFE HARVEST



MATT BERRY, CEO
mberry@midwestrec.com

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. However, even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant because farming is considered one of the most dangerous jobs.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but these machines' impressive size, height, and extensions also make modern farm equipment particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines.

That's why staying alert, focused, and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farm workers can overlook the power lines overhead. However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

360-degree awareness

Awareness of your surroundings — around, above, and below — and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground power lines, defective wiring in farm buildings, and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be *at least* 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used. If you plan to install new grain bins or you're concerned about the proximity of power lines to existing grain bins, contact us so we can work with you on upgrading your service.

Smart harvest safety tips

To ensure a safer harvest season, SafeElectricity.org recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- **Pass with care.** Give farmers room this harvest season. Be patient as they move equipment between fields and farms.
- **Exercise caution near power lines.** Be careful when raising augers or the beds of grain trucks around power lines.
- **Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines.** Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- **Lower equipment extensions, portable augers, or elevators before moving or transporting equipment.** Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles, or rods into power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes, and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty, or dirty.
- **Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path.** Doing so could result in electric shock or death.
- **Hire qualified electricians.** Ensure that qualified electricians handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- **Do not exit a vehicle if it comes into contact with a power line.** Call 911 and wait for assistance. While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. However, if a fire occurs in that situation, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.





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HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY Apply by Sept. 13 to help empower local organizations.

The Community Connection Fund (CCF) is looking for three trustees: one from **Auglaize County** and two from **Mercer County** to serve on the CCF Board. Terms expire this fall for current trustees.

If you are interested, please contact **Joel Johns** for an application at jjohns@midwestrec.com or call **800-962-3830**.

Community Calendar

- ◆ Sept 1-2 **VW County Fair**, Fairgrounds, Van Wert, vanwertcountyfair.com
- ◆ Sept 7 **Gabby Barrett**, Crouse Performance Hall, Lima, www.limaciviccenter.com
- ◆ Sept 7-8 **Mercer County Cancer Corn Maze & Petting Zoo**, 3864 SR 219, Coldwater, facebook.com/mercercountycornmaze
- ◆ Sept 7, 14, 21, 28 **Wapak Farmers Market**, 201 Willipie St, Wapakoneta, wapakoneta.com/events
- ◆ Sept 7, 14, 21, 28 **Celina Farmers Market**, Mercer Fairgrounds, Celina, www.celinafarmersmarket.com
- ◆ Sept 13 **Laugh Your Way Couples Comedy event**, Cross Oak Camp & Retreat, crossoakcamp.com/reservations
- ◆ Sept 13 **Evening with Cary Elwes & The Princess Bride**, Crouse Performance Hall, Lima, www.limaciviccenter.com
- ◆ Sept 14-15 **Mercer County Cancer Corn Maze & Petting Zoo**, 3864 SR 219, Coldwater, facebook.com/mercercountycornmaze
- ◆ Sept 15-18 **Delphos Canal Days**, Main Street, Delphos, delphoscanaldays.com/activities-events
- ◆ Sept 17 **BLUEY's Big Play**, Niswonger PAC, Van Wert, www.vanwertlive.com/events
- ◆ Sept 19-22 **The World Goes Round**, VW Civic Theatre, vwct.org
- ◆ Sept 21 **Craft Beer & Wine Festival**, Auglaize Fairgrounds, Wapakoneta, wapakoneta.com/events
- ◆ Sept 21 **3rd Annual Harvest Moon Festival & Car/Bike Show**, Main Street, Van Wert, mainstreetvanwert.org/harvest-moon
- ◆ Sept 22 **Battlefield Tour, Fort Recovery State Museum**, Fort Recovery, fortrecoverymuseum.com/events-1
- ◆ Sept 27-28 **Pumpkinfest 2024**, Crown Pavilion, New Bremen, www.newbremenpumpkinfest.org
- ◆ Sept 28 **Bluffton Fall Festival**, Downtown, Bluffton, www.blufftonfallfestival.com/schedule.html