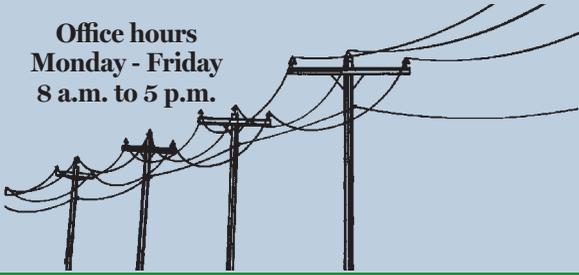


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100 Malinta, OH 43535
Office Calls: 419-256-7900
www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop



TRUSTEES

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Lawrence Weirich	Vice President
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Doug Hall	Jason Warnimont
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Brian Bick	Weston Schwab

To report a power outage: 888-256-9858

Your call will be answered by the Cooperative Response Center. Give them the name on your account, service address, and a telephone number where you can be reached.

They will dispatch a line crew to restore service.

Be sure to check your fuse or breaker system before reporting a power outage.

Jackpot news!

Eugene Nye of rural Liberty Center reported spotting his hidden account number in the August issue of *Country Living*.

He won half the jackpot and received a check for \$45.

Susan Schortgen of rural Hamler would have won the same amount if she had reported finding her account number.

Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros to the right when converting your number to words.

The hidden account numbers are always in Tricounty's local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$70. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it, and win!

WHY WE CELEBRATE cooperatives

EVERY OCTOBER, COOPERATIVES FROM all sectors across the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference and remind you, the members of the co-op, about Tricounty's purpose.

I must admit that occasionally, I too have been somewhat cynical of the many different "days" and "months" that are celebrated, but National Cooperative Month is truly an opportunity to celebrate and inform others about our unique business model, which is based on the seven cooperative principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training, and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

For co-op employees and members who are familiar with the principles, the month of October is a great opportunity to renew our connection to each other and the purpose of our co-op.

In the U.S., there are more than 29,000 co-ops serving in every single industry. Many co-ops from different sectors join together during the month of October to educate members in the community about cooperatives.

There are more co-ops in our local community than most people realize. Co-ops are even represented on the shelves at our local grocery stores, such as Land O'Lakes, Welch's, Organic Valley, Cabot Cheese, Sunkist, and Ocean Spray.

According to the latest data, more than 130 million people belong to a co-op in the U.S. alone, and co-ops employ more than 2 million Americans.

This speaks to the heart of why we must take every opportunity to celebrate and teach others about the cooperative business model. So plan your own co-op celebration by purchasing co-op products, look to do business with co-ops right here in our local community, and be an active member of Tricounty. ☺



Brett Perkins
General Manager

Overhead vs. underground power lines:

What's the difference?

THERE ARE TWO METHODS of installing the power lines that carry electricity to your home: overhead and underground. Tricounty members sometimes ask why we use one versus the other, or why all power lines are not installed using the underground construction method. These are great questions, and the answer is that each method has its place.

Overhead line construction starts with the setting of utility poles. Poles can be set in nearly any type of terrain, even rocky ones. In the case of heavy rock, special equipment is used to auger out the hole. If placement occurs in boggy or wet terrain, many techniques are available to set poles securely. Once the poles are in place, wires can be strung and then equipment — like transformers, fuses, and reclosers — is installed. Power can then flow.

Underground line construction requires digging a trench that is deep enough to keep the lines well away from surface activities. Where the terrain is extremely rocky, underground lines may not be an option. Next, wires are laid in the trench directly or placed in conduits for protection. The trench is filled in, and the surface is restored to its original condition. Pad-mount transformers and additional equipment are installed as needed. Then the system is ready to deliver electricity.

Determining whether power lines should be overhead or underground boils down to what is best for the situation. Underground lines might be ideal in situations where there is a desire to keep the poles and wires out of sight, such as a residential neighborhood, park, or historical area. One Three Five Four Zero Zero Two.

Overhead systems work well when appearance is not a major concern. Examples include extremely long line distances across country, where the voltages are higher than the limitations set for underground lines.

The ultimate mix of underground and overhead construction used by Tricounty provides you, our members, with the highest possible quality of service at the lowest possible price. Cost, appearance, reliability, maintenance, and future upgrades will drive which is the better approach. ☺

OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND POWER LINES THE PROS AND CONS

OVERHEAD

PROS

- Lower cost
- Quicker construction
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

CONS

- Susceptible to wind, ice, and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right-of-way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive

UNDERGROUND

PROS

- Not vulnerable to tree branch damage
- Does not interfere with views
- No right-of-way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Not impacted by wind, ice, and snow
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

CONS

- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages
- Limitations on voltages that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

Don't be fooled by common energy myths

BY ABBY BERRY



EATING CARROTS WILL GREATLY IMPROVE YOUR EYESIGHT, cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis, and watching too much TV will harm your vision. We've all heard the old wives' tales, but did you know there are also many misconceptions about home energy use? Don't be fooled by common energy myths. Six Three Two Four Zero Zero Three.

MYTH: The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat (or cool).

Many people think that walking into a chilly room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true.

Thermostats direct a home's heating and cooling system to heat or cool to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel a temperature change. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during summer months, and 68 degrees during winter months for optimum energy efficiency.

Myth: Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy.

While it can be tempting to check the progress of what's cooking, opening the oven door does waste energy. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more important, costing you additional money. If you need to check a dish, try using the oven light instead.

Myth: Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away.

Many people think this is true — but ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. They circulate room air but do not change the temperature. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your electricity use and your bill. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

Myth: Reducing my energy use is too expensive.

Many consumers believe that reducing energy use requires expensive upfront costs like purchasing new, more efficient appliances or building upgrades to an older home. But the truth is, consumers who make small changes to their energy efficiency habits, such as turning off lights when not in use, sealing air leaks, and using a programmable thermostat, can see a reduction in energy consumption.

Remember, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult. Focus on small changes to save big. ☞

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.

Cooking Efficiency Tip

Every time you open the oven door to check on a dish, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, increasing cooking time — and energy use! Try using the oven light instead.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES



Plant

MONEY-SAVING

trees

DID YOU KNOW PLANTING trees properly around your home can reduce your air-conditioning needs by 30 percent? According to the USDA Forest Service, it can also lower heating costs by 20 to 50 percent.

Fall and spring are the most ideal times for planting trees in Ohio — when trees are in their dormant stage. For deciduous trees, this stage is obvious — between the time trees start losing their leaves in the fall and leaves start budding in the spring. For evergreen trees, it's not as evident, but these trees tend to be stronger than deciduous and typically fare well in any weather, with the exception of the warmest summer months.

Planting trees in the fall allows the root system to develop in its preferred cool soil before the ground begins to freeze in the winter — just remember to water them regularly before the ground freezes, because being without water is just as tough on trees as the summer heat.

Planting deciduous trees on the west side of your house will provide cooling shade in the summer and

warm daylight when they lose their leaves in the winter, while planting evergreens on the north side of your home will block icy winter winds.

Never plant tall trees below power lines or too close to your home's foundation. Falling trees and branches can cause power outages, and roots can damage the foundation and block sewer lines.

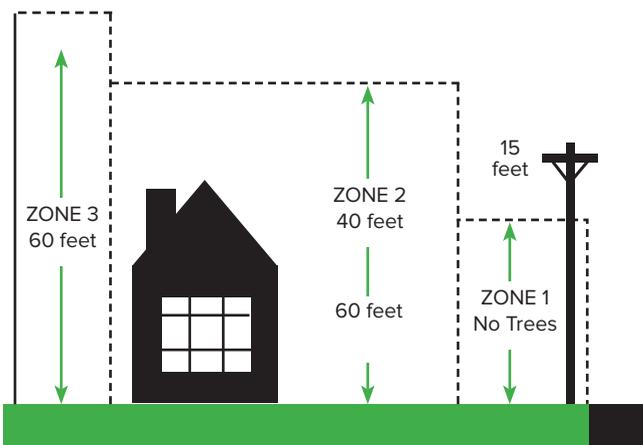
If you're not sure what kind of tree would be best for your situation, talk to your local nursery. They have trees in many shapes and sizes and can suggest options with certain tolerances such as salt, heat, and disease. ☞

REMEMBER, SAFETY FIRST!

Always call Ohio Utilities Protection Services (OUPS) at 811 before you dig in your yard.



TREE PLANTING LOCATION TIPS



ZONE 1: NO TREE PLANTING

This zone ends 15 feet away from electric utility wires. If you have further questions concerning the planting of trees near electric lines located away from your home, call Tricounty, as these lines may be of a high voltage and require greater clearance distance.

ZONE 2: TREES THAT GROW NO TALLER THAN 40 FEET

This zone, which takes in mostly lawn area, is used to decorate or frame your house instead of hiding it from sight. Trees should be selected first, as shrubs can be planted to complement the trees.

ZONE 3: TREES THAT GROW 60 FEET IN HEIGHT

Larger types of trees can be used here; however, the tree planter should consider his or her neighbor's view or his own planting of flower beds and trees. Large trees should be planted at least 35 feet away from the house for proper root development and to minimize tree damage to the structure.