



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# THE VALUE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Instead, any margins or revenue remaining (after all expenses have been paid) are returned to members in the form of capital credits. Capital credits returns are based on each member's years of participation in the co-op.



**Brett Perkins**  
General Manager

We are a local, community-focused business. Because we are owned by the members we serve, electric co-ops have a strong commitment to our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power, electric co-ops are involved in local community development programs and projects.

**B**eing a member of Tricounty is so much more than just being a customer of a utility. By our very nature, electric cooperatives were designed to work for their members — who also happen to be owners. The following talking points help explain why your membership is valuable.

Our mission. Electric co-ops were established to provide at-cost electric service. Providing safe, reliable, and affordable power has remained our mission since day one.

You are a member, not a customer. Cooperatives are unique businesses because they are owned by you, the member. This means you have a voice in the way we run the co-op. Members elect the co-op's board of trustees and have the ability to run for a seat on the board if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction of the cooperative.

We are not-for-profit. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which are operated to make the most profits for stakeholders, electric co-ops do not earn profits.

**You are a member, not a customer. Co-ops are unique because they are owned by you.**

We are guided by a set of principles. All co-ops operate according to the same set of 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. These principles guide every decision made by the co-op.

We are committed to innovation. Because we answer to local members rather than far-away shareholders, electric cooperatives are more nimble and able to respond quickly to changing member needs. We are committed to experimenting and innovating in ways that benefit the local communities and members we serve. Three Six Four Six Zero Zero Zero.

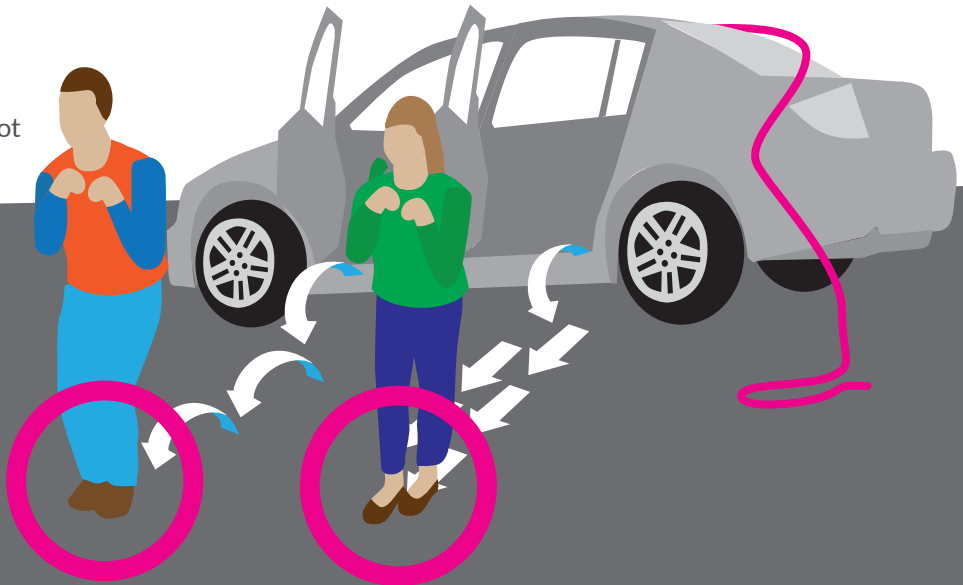
If you have questions regarding the value of your co-op membership, please don't hesitate to give us a call at 419-256-7900.



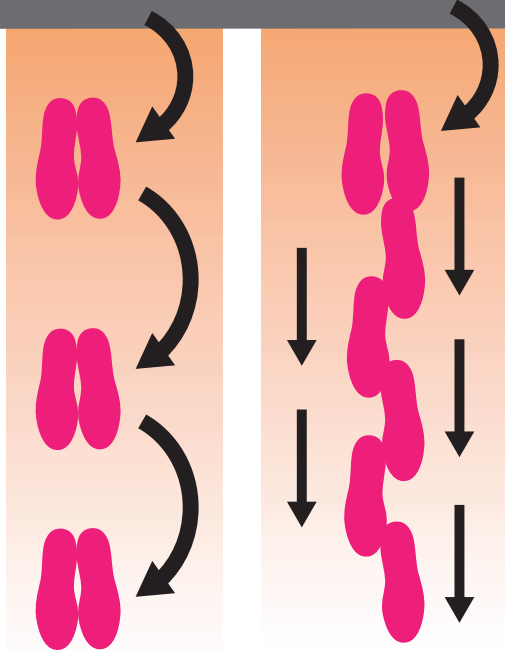
SAFETY

## What to do if a power line is on or near your car

- 1** If you can drive in reverse away from the area, do so cautiously. Do not drive over downed power lines. Always assume that power lines are energized.
- 2** If you can't drive away, call 911. Let emergency responders know where you are and what has happened. The safest thing to do is stay in your car until emergency crews arrive to assist you.
- 3** Honk your horn to alert passers-by. Roll down the window and warn people not to touch the car or the line.
- 4** If you must exit, open the vehicle door all the way. Ensure that you use the handle and that you do not touch any other part of the door.
- 5** Prepare to jump. Stand up with elbows tucked into your stomach and hands held close to your chest.



- 6** Jump out of your vehicle. Do your best to land as far as possible from your vehicle, with your feet together, and without stumbling. You must **never** be in contact with both your vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- 7** Shuffle-walk or hop until you have reached a safe area at least 33 feet from the downed power line or electricity source. As you shuffle or hop, keep your feet touching one another at all times.









- 8** Different parts of the ground could be energized at different voltages. If your feet are each in different voltage areas, electricity could run from one area to the other through you. This is why it is important to shuffle or hop and always keep your feet together.
- 9** Once you are in a safe area at least 33 feet from the power source, wait for emergency crews.



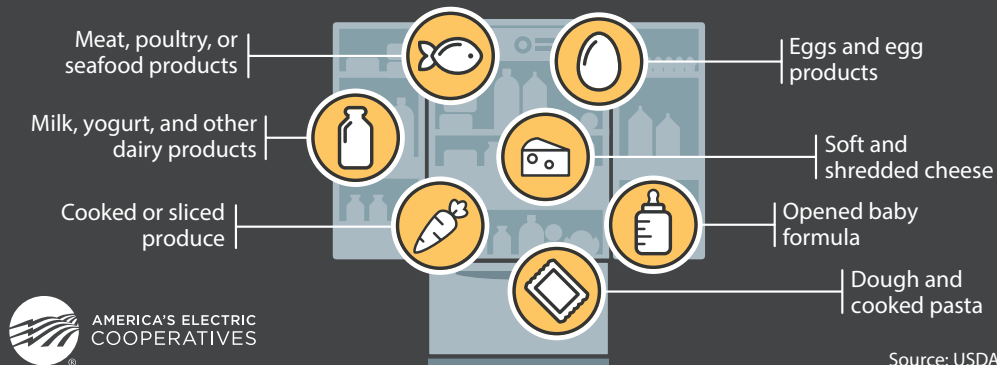
# Keep Food Safe

## Before, During, and After a Power Outage

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. Use these tips from USDA to help minimize food loss and reduce your risk of illness.

Before power outage	During power outage	After power outage
 <p>Keep refrigerator at 40° or below. Freeze items like fresh meat and poultry that you won't use immediately. Keep freezer set to 0° or below. Group frozen foods to help items stay colder longer.</p>  <p>If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.</p>	<p>Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!</p> <p>If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:</p>  <p>A full freezer will hold its temperature for 48 hours.</p>  <p>A refrigerator will keep food safe for four hours.</p>	 <p>Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.</p>  <p>If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.</p>

### Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:



Source: USDA



## 2017 Annual Meeting to be held at Delta High School

Plans are underway for Tricounty's annual meeting of members on Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Delta High School. Registration will open at 5:30 p.m. with a delicious dinner at 6 p.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. and will conclude with a door prize drawing. Seven Zero Zero One.

This is a great opportunity to visit with your neighbors and friends, elect two trustees to represent you on the Tricounty board, and hear reports on the operation of your cooperative. A gift will be provided for each membership represented in person. We look forward to seeing you on Sept. 20.

- What:** 2017 Annual Meeting
- Where:** Delta High School, 605 Taylor St., Delta
- When:** Wednesday, Sept. 20
- Who:** All Tricounty members are invited to attend!



The office is closed  
**Tuesday, July 4,**  
in celebration of  
Independence Day.

Have a safe and happy  
holiday!

Emergency service is available  
at 888-256-9858.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Let the sun work for you! Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



Tricounty Rural Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

#### CONTACT

419-256-7900

[www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop](http://www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop)

#### AFTER-HOURS OUTAGE

888-256-9858

#### OFFICE

8945 County Road K2

PO Box 100

Malinta, OH 43535

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Johney Ritz  
President

Lawrence Weirich  
Vice President

Kenneth Brubaker  
Secretary-Treasurer

Dustin Sonnenberg  
John Schuchert  
Marvin Green  
David Aguirre  
Trustees

Brett Perkins  
General Manager

#### JACKPOT NEWS!

Neither David Dickman of rural Leipsic nor Mark Hatcher of rural Napoleon reported spotting his hidden account number in the May issue of *Ohio Cooperative Living*. Had either done so, he would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$25.

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 \$80. So read *Ohio Cooperative Living*, find your hidden account number, report it, and win!