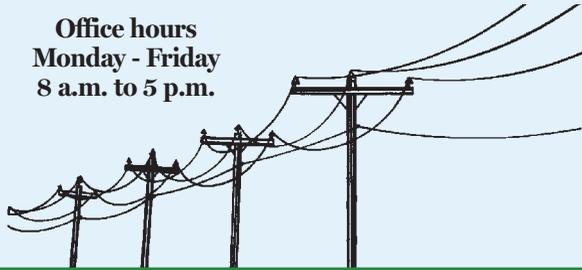


Office hours  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



## TRUSTEES

Steve Hoffman .....	President
Lawrence Weirch .....	Vice President
Bradley Haupricht Sr.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth Brubaker	Johney Ritz
Dustin Sonnenberg	John Schuchert

## EMPLOYEES

Brett Perkins, Manager	Craig Wilson
Doug Hall	Jason Warnimont
Sue Bockelman	Jeremy Warnimont
Chris Okuley	Tom Jones
Tyler Flory	Deb Stuller
Sandy Corey	

## 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!

**Brenda Lee Reed** of rural Liberty Center reported spotting her hidden account number in the May issue of *Country Living* and won half the jackpot. She received a check for \$35. **Rhonda Huber-Zimmer** of rural Malinta 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 always are in Tricounty's local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$60. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

## Liberty and a better life for all

EVERY JULY, WE TAKE TIME to reflect on our country's history and remember how the actions of a few helped shape the way we live today. I think back on the rich history of the electric cooperative movement and how a small group of determined individuals were able to improve their quality of life and the quality of life for all those who would come after them.

Every day, Tricounty members and employees pay homage to the legacy of our cooperative founders. And, because we are a part of an electric cooperative, we know we have the power to affect our present and shape the future, just like those who came before us.

Through grassroots advocacy efforts, we help influence policy decisions that will affect our communities now and for years to come. We are the catalyst for change in our communities. We leverage our collective power to get things done.

We work together, partnering with other co-ops, local businesses and community organizers, to achieve economic development goals, creating better opportunities for our families and communities — just as our founding co-op members did.

We understand that the decisions we make today could greatly affect

how future generations live, so we invest in energy efficiency programs that protect our future generations while still providing high-quality, affordable electric power.

Cooperatives are helping to build the next generation of leadership through our Youth Tour program, which sends high school students to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers and get an up-close view of how our government functions. Youth Tour participants leave our nation's capital feeling energized and inspired to make a difference in their communities. The trip gives these students an opportunity for a new perspective they might never have gotten otherwise.

All of these things, plus so much more, are what create the cooperative difference. This Fourth of July, as we think about the future of electric cooperatives and how we will continue to shape our country and our society, Tricounty remembers what it took to bring power to our communities and let the determination of those who came before us, guide us. ☺



**Brett Perkins**  
General Manager

## Tricounty REC presents St. John Lutheran Church with \$5,000 energy efficiency rebate



Brett Perkins, Tricounty general manager, left, and Brent Rosebrook, St. John Lutheran Church.



Shannon Maag, Green Options of County Electric, left, and Brent Rosebrook, St. John Lutheran Church.

TRICOUNTY REC RECENTLY presented a \$5,000 rebate check to St. John Lutheran Church of Deshler for upgrading to new, energy-efficient lighting.

Brent Rosebrook of St. John Lutheran Church worked with Shannon Maag of Green Options, a division of County Electric based in Ottawa, to replace light bulbs and fixtures. By upgrading to a variety of more energy-efficient lighting, St. John Lutheran Church was able to reduce its energy use by over 6,000 watts, which is about 12,500 kilowatt-hours a year, or the yearly electricity consumption of an average home.

Like St. John, businesses served by Tricounty REC are eligible for a rebate when they replace inefficient internal and external lighting. Specific requirements must be met, as determined by Tricounty's wholesale power supplier, Buckeye Power. The rebate is based on the number of watts reduced after replacing lights. Six Three Two Four Zero One.

For more information, business members may contact Tricounty at 419-256-7900. ☎

## 2014 Annual Meeting to be at Patrick Henry High School

Plans are underway for Tricounty's 77th annual meeting of members on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Patrick Henry High School, on State Route 18, just east of Hamler.

Registration will open at 5:30 p.m. with a delicious dinner beginning at 6 p.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. and will conclude with a door prize drawing.

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 Sept. 17.

- What:** 2014 Annual Meeting
- Where:** Patrick Henry High School, State Route 18, east of Hamler
- When:** Wednesday, Sept. 17
- Who:** All Tricounty members are invited to attend!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

# Grain bins: How to harvest safely

BY ABBY BERRY

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 Tricounty, safety is top priority for our employees and our members.

Our 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 considered.

## 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. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly. Four Five One Two One Zero Six.

## 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 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 Tricounty reminds 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 Tricounty at 419-256-7900 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment. ☎

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

## GRAIN BIN SAFETY

**DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!**  
**FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND 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.

## How to avoid financial scams

BY LISA HUGHES-DANIEL

WE LIKE TO THINK we can't be duped by financial scams, but according to a recent survey of adults ages 40 and older, the numbers say otherwise. The survey found that eight in 10 adults received some type of fraudulent offer, and 11 percent lost a substantial amount of money in a scam. Surprisingly, 40 percent of people did not recognize the warning signs of a financial scam.

Although senior citizens are targeted slightly more often by fraudulent schemes, anyone can fall victim. Scams work when people forget an important axiom: What seems too good to be true almost always is. The methods used to part you from your hard-earned money are varied and always changing, but three of the most



common include:

- Online “phishing.” An e-mail you receive from what looks like a known, trustworthy website asks you to respond with confidential information such as a credit card number, banking number, personal identification number (PIN) or Social Security number. Clicking links in the e-mail can also install malware, or malicious software, on your computer. Both methods can aid criminals in stealing your identity.

- Phone or in-person solicitations. Callers or visitors may make attractive offers that guarantee you will receive large amounts of money — after you provide sensitive information or pay an up-front fee. Others pose as government officials demanding payments (sometimes with false caller IDs).

- Investment offers. Promises of unusually high investment returns with little to no risk should always raise a red flag.

How can you protect yourself? Be diligent in keeping personal and financial information private, and maintain a sense of skepticism when conducting business with new contacts. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind:

- Tread carefully online. If you receive unsolicited e-mails or click on pop-up windows, understand these can be run by phishers. Never send personal information

electronically unless you're making a purchase from a website you trust or opening a secure online account with an institution you've chosen to contact. Your bank and other trusted entities will never ask you to send private information over an e-mail or an unsolicited phone call.

- Establish whom you're dealing with. Before sharing personal information or making a payment, get a salesperson's name, company name, physical address (not a P.O. box), phone number and business license number. Research the entity on your own, inspecting its website and checking with the Better Business Bureau.

- Take your time. A legitimate business or government agency will not push you into making an immediate decision or payment. Scam artists capitalize on the fear of “missing out,” or when making fake threats, they pressure you into a quick decision.

- Be cautious about certain methods of payment. Wiring money is equivalent to sending cash — and it's often untraceable. Likewise, revealing that a scammer's check is bad can take weeks. Make purchases with a credit card that allows you to dispute fraudulent charges.

- Nothing is free. Beware of door-to-door salespeople in general, including those who offer medical products that are “free” when you provide your Medicare or other insurance information. ☹

**For more tips and information on financial fraud, visit:**

- [ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov) (FTC help line: 877-FTC-HELP)
- [finra.org](http://finra.org) (investment fraud)
- [ncoa.org](http://ncoa.org) (scams targeting seniors)

*Source: “Financial Fraud and Fraud Susceptibility in the United States,” FINRA Investor Education Foundation, 2013*

*Lisa Hughes-Daniel is a marketing communications consultant who writes and edits employee benefits-related materials for the Insurance & Financial Services Department of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

