



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
www.harrisonrea.com

What's up?

As March rolls in with its' unpredictable weather, plans are being finalized on projects to improve the overall reliability of the cooperative's infrastructure.

Every four to five years, the cooperative works with consulting engineers and the Rural Utilities Service to formulate a work plan. This work plan covers everything from new construction to system improvements to technological enhancements. We look at reports on load growth, conductor size and age, pole inspections, outage and blink frequency, voltage fluctuations and capacity from the source and on each circuit to prioritize where and what needs to be done to stabilize and/or improve the infrastructure.

In 2012, we plan to complete an upgrade of 2.5 miles of line running from Jarvisville toward Miletus. In order to reduce the overall project costs, this project is being completed with in-house labor.

Given the terrain, our progress is dependent upon the weather. Upgrading this line will provide a better and more reliable source for those served directly and indirectly (side taps) from that line. The overall cost is expected to be a little over \$130,000.

As always, there will be new homes and businesses requiring new line to be built. We never know how many of these will occur in a given year, but based on historical data, recent trends and known projects, we anticipate these will cost around \$560,000 this year. That cost includes everything we are required to provide less any aid to construction paid by the individual home and business owners.

There will be storms that will create the need to replace poles, conductor, meters and transformers, and upgrade services. These miscellaneous replacements and upgrades tend to be time consuming and costly. The circumstances that normally bring about their need tend to be at times that are not optimal working conditions. Given these factors and based on historical data, we anticipate the cost to be around \$800,000.00 this year. While some of these replacements take place during a power restoration, many are also completed after the restoration but due to damage sustained by the cause of the problem.

We also plan to continue work on adding a transformer (138Kv to

Manager's Corner

by
Terry Stout,
CEO/General
Manager



12.47Kv) in the Chiefton Substation. The substation was originally designed to contain this transformer but had to be delayed because of cost considerations at the time. Since then, we have actually seen significant decreases in the cost of some of the main components and actually started this project in 2011. This year's work is expected to cost around \$250,000.

When this and some corresponding projects are completed, we will be able to eliminate two metering points (Dola and Erie), which will provide ongoing savings in cost and line loss. This work is being completed by contracted labor because we simply do not have the equipment required and it doesn't make sense financially to acquire the equipment. This project has been broken up over a few years to reduce the financial impact in any one year.

On the technology side, we are looking at an IVR system that can be utilized during high telephone call volume times. The system we are looking at works directly with our outage management system (OMS) and should automatically update information for the opera-

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Be prepared for spring storms

Lightning from thunderstorms kills more people each year than tornadoes or hurricanes, according to the American Red Cross. As spring arrives, make sure you're prepared to handle storms that come with the changing season. Follow these tips from the Red Cross to stay safe.

Stay away from down power lines. Electricity could still be flowing through them. Report them to Harrison Rural Electrification at 304-624-6365 immediately.

Hear thunder? Head inside. If you can hear it, you could be in danger from lightning. Stay indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder — a recommendation from the National Weather Service. If you're outside and can't seek shelter indoors, avoid high ground, water, tall isolated trees and metal objects like bleachers or fences.

Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical items and telephones, which can carry power surges. Keep a battery-powered TV or radio on hand for weather updates.

Delay outdoor activities. If conditions are right for a thunderstorm, postpone the baseball game and stay inside — it doesn't have to be raining for lightning to strike.

Assemble an emergency preparedness kit with

- Water — one gallon per person, per day;
- Nonperishable food;
- Flashlight;
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (preferably NOAA weather radio) and extra batteries;
- First-aid kit;
- Seven-day medicine supply;
- Copies of personal documents;
- Cell phone with chargers;
- Emergency contact information; and
- Cash.

Source: American Red Cross



Learn About Co-ops

Cabot Creamery

 Owned by Dairy Farmers Since 1919

Dairy Marketing Cooperative

Cabot Creamery is a 1,200 farm family dairy cooperative with members in New England and upstate New York.
www.cabotcheese.coop

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cabot created the first 50 percent and 75 percent reduced fat cheddars.
- The co-op sold 8 million pounds of cheddar, butter, and other products in 2010; enough to crisscross the nation more than three times!

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY:
 Cabot farmers donate dairy product to food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters, and offer health and education grants and materials to youth, parent, and teacher groups nationally.

**Cooperative Enterprises
 Build a Better World**

A message from America's Electric Cooperatives

Learn About Co-ops

Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA)


Dairy Marketing Cooperative

DFA serves and is owned by nearly 16,000 dairy farmers. In addition, the cooperative invests in plants and brands (Borden® Cheese, Keller's® Creamery Butter, Plugra® gourmet butter) that bring value to members. www.dfamilk.com

DID YOU KNOW?

- DFA members milk 1.8 million cows.
- In 2010, the co-op marketed 63 billion lb. of milk. That's nearly 7 billion gallons of fluid milk.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY:
 DFA Cares Foundation provides disaster relief and scholarships help students pursuing careers in dairy.

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What's up?

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tions department to use as it orchestrates the restoration process. The system, if it really works as advertised, would only be used when live operators are not available to take calls and should reduce the number of times you get a busy signal as well as provide more accurate and timely information to operations. In addition, we will begin a field inventory of our system to input into a GIS system. This is a long-term project that is going to be required so that we can acquire more accurate data on an on-going basis to assist in our planning and to meet reporting requirements of various regulatory agencies.

That is "what's up" for 2012, for now. While these things may not sound like much to some, we know that to successfully accomplish these things requires each and every employee and board member stay focused on the goals and give 110 percent effort every day. That focus and effort are the easy part because it is something they have been doing for years.

How tall is that tree going to grow?

As spring planting begins to enter your mind, new trees may be part of your landscape plan.

Winter ice storms and summer thunderstorms show the effect trees can have on the flow of your electric service, which is why it's important to think about more than just the tree.

So while you make plans for what trees will enhance the look of your property, make sure you look up to see how those trees will affect the overhead utility lines.

Decorative trees generally don't grow extremely tall, such as a Bartlett pear reaches a mature height of about 20 feet.

But those big hardwood favorites that bathe a yard in shade during the hot summer months can get much bigger.

Maple trees will grow to between 60 and 80 feet

when mature, oak trees can reach 75 to 80 feet and the mighty sycamore will reach upwards of 115 feet when fully grown.



The property developer wasn't concerned with tree placement, but the local co-op will soon have to trim these trees to prevent a service disruption.

A good rule of thumb to consider is to plant trees at least as far away from utility lines as the tree is expected to grow. (If you're planting a sugar maple that could grow to be 75 feet tall, plant it 75 feet away from power lines.)

When it comes to trees, your cooperative needs your help in maintaining a constant flow of power for you and your neighbors. Plant responsibly.

Also, if you have trees on your property that are in danger of coming in contact with power lines, let the co-

op know and our right-of-way clearing crews can take care of things before a problem occurs.

Shop co-op!

Harrison Rural Electrification is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives in America. But we're just one type of cooperative — more than 29,200 operate in our country, including a large segment of the agriculture industry. From dairy to oranges, and almonds to cotton, our nation's farmers know the value of the cooperative business model.

The next time you're at the grocery store, see how many items you can purchase that were produced by a co-op.

Starting in the produce section, pick up some Ocean Spray cranberries or Sunkist oranges, tangerines, grapes or grapefruit.

Cruise on over to the refrigerated cases and take a look at the eggs — 95 percent of America's eggs are produced and marketed by co-ops. Then pick up some Florida Natural orange juice, Land O'Lakes butter, Cabot or Tillamook Cheese and Organic Valley milk. Need a warm drink? Try Equal Exchange coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Finally, drop some Blue Diamond almonds in your cart — a perfect pick-me-up for that 3 p.m. slump.

Now that you've finished your grocery shopping, make your way to Ace Hardware or True Value to get supplies for your weekend projects. Or go to Meadowbrook

Mall to replace your old, falling-apart blue jeans with a new pair from GAP, Banana Republic or Guess — all three get their cotton from Plains Cotton Growers Cooperative's Denimatrix. But before you do that, head to your credit union — another cooperative — to make a deposit to cover all your purchases.

The cooperative business model promotes self-sustainment and local economic growth. Support our nation's cooperatives, and local co-ops in Harrison and surrounding counties as we work together to build a better world.

Find a co-op near you at www.go.coop.



Solar FLAIR

Want to add some outside lighting pizzazz without installing wiring or impacting your electric bill? As prices for solar technology drop, many manufacturers are harnessing the sun to help consumers add solar “flair” outdoors. While solar lights aren’t typically as bright as traditional outdoor light options, by keeping a few rules of thumb in mind you can get the brightest benefit from sun-powered lights.

What to consider

Solar lighting takes many forms: stakes, lampposts, hanging jars and more. But every unit follows the same basic principle: the mechanism generates and stores energy during the day, then releases it at night.

Each light includes a miniature solar panel, typically a four-cell array measuring 2-by-2 inches. On the inside of the light fixture, the solar panel attaches to a rechargeable battery, at least one light-emitting diode (LED), a controller board and a photoresistor (light sensor) to manage when the light shines and when it recharges.

Avoid shade from shrubs, trees or buildings, and check the miniature solar panels periodically for bird droppings, leaves, insects or other debris that might block the sun. Not only does a lack of sun impact light output; receiving less sunlight than recommended could shorten the battery life, too.

Accents

Before buying solar lights, think about the need it will fill. There are three different types of outdoor lights: accent lights, path lights and task lights.

Accent lights add a glow to a landscape, but do not illuminate spaces well. Offering a lower light output, they’re generally more affordable than other solar lighting options.

Search for solar lighting on Etsy.com, a popular online handmade marketplace, and on any given day almost 200 accent lighting options appear.

Accent lights can be colorful — online retailers like EarthTech Products offer illuminated glass-blown bulbs

or stylized glass flowers.

Amber LEDs are often used as an alternative to white, casting a softer glow but still revealing only a limited amount of area outside of the light.

Path lighting

Solar lights fill an important role when used for path lighting. Commonly sold in sets of four or eight, these lights often come with stakes or hanging hooks to be placed at regular intervals along a path or driveway.

Path lights focus light downward and typically illuminate an area up to 20 feet away from the base, depending on the strength of the light. Some sets offer automatic on/off settings triggered by outside light; others include a six-hour or 10-hour setting. Suspended lights are not the only option; manufacturers like HomeBrite Solar produce stepping-stone solar lights. Solar “stones” are also available for outdoor lighting that blends in with the environment.

Task lighting

The sun also fuels practical outdoor lighting needs like floodlights and security motion sensors. These types of solar lighting generally provide high light output — though not as bright as traditional spotlights — and are more expensive than other solar lighting options.

Solar lampposts from manufacturers like Gama Sonic offer between eight hours and 10 hours of light with an output equivalent to 450 lumens (40 watts). Security lights are often ready to mount to a wall — as with all solar lighting, be sure the building or trees do not block the solar array.

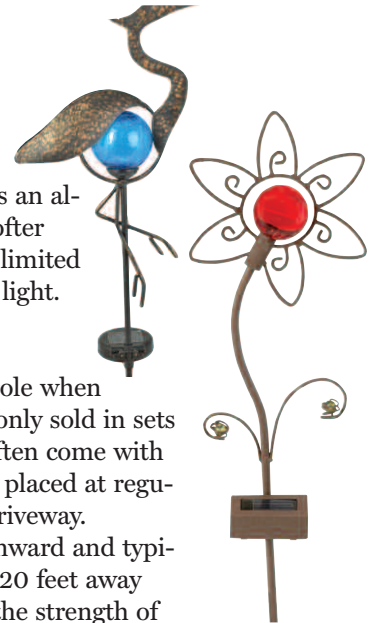
Practical Matters

Although LEDs work well in cold temperatures, consider bringing accent and path lighting solar fixtures inside during harsh weather (freezing temperatures, heavy downpours, etc.). All outdoor solar lighting should be water resistant, but task lighting tends to be hardy and can withstand fiercer weather.

Read user reviews before buying a product online or in the store. Some solar lighting sets may not last long, and the DOE advises consumers to make sure replacement bulbs and batteries are available.

A variety of solar-powered lighting options are available at stores like Target, Home Depot, Lowe’s, and several online retailers. To learn more about these and other lighting options, visit www.energysavers.gov/lighting.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, How Stuff Works.com, Gardeners.com



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation’s resistance to heat flow — a higher R-value means more effective insulation. Every type of insulation has a unique R-value depending on material, thickness and density. Your ideal R-value depends on whether your home is new or existing, your heating fuel and where you live. Learn more at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy