

No one can take your place!

The agricultural sector is still the most dangerous occupation in America, according to data from the 2019 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In that year there were 573 fatalities, which is the equivalent of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers. Fall harvest is one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the ag industry.

For this reason, the third week of September is recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week. The theme for 2023 is “**No one can take your place!**” This theme reminds us it is in everyone’s best interest to prioritize the health and safety of those who work so hard to provide our abundant supply of food, fiber, and fuel.

This annual promotion, initiated by the National Safety Council, has been reconfirmed by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944.

The use of large equipment and farm implements can put farmers and their equipment dangerously close to power lines. We understand the communities we serve and know that harvest is a busy season that affects our members in many ways.

Farmers, their families, and employees should keep the following tips in mind to help keep everyone safe:

-  **Do not** assume everyone is aware of where the power lines are located. Review where they are and remind each other to “look up and live!”
-  **Use** a spotter when moving tall equipment in close proximity to power lines.
-  **Keep** all objects at least 10 feet away from overhead lines.
-  **Do not** attempt to move a power line out of the way.
-  **Have** emergency phone numbers, including Shelby Electric Cooperative’s (800-677-2612 or 217-774-3986), in all farm vehicles and machinery.
-  **If a power line** is sagging or low, call the cooperative right away.
-  **If your farm machinery hits a power line**, stay in the cab only if it is safe to do so, call the cooperative, then 911 and wait for help. If in immediate danger, don’t climb out as usual — jump with your feet together so no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time, and move away from machinery by hopping or shuffling until at least 40 feet away. Do not approach the equipment again until emergency personnel confirm it is safe to do so.

All motorists can help ensure a safe harvest season by anticipating slow-moving equipment on roadways and planning for travel delays, especially on rural roads.

As we recognize National Farm Safety and Health Week this September, please join us in spreading awareness of the risks associated with agricultural work and promoting safe and healthy practices through this harvest season and beyond.



Balloons to return to Lake Shelbyville

Mark your calendars now for the annual Touchstone Energy® Hot Air Balloon Festival held in conjunction with Scarecrow Daze over Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 6-8. “We will have plenty of exciting things to see and do for the whole family that weekend,” noted balloonfest organizer Kevin Bernson.

Pilots from around the Midwest plan to take to the skies with fun flights on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The event kicks off Friday evening at Willow Ridge Winery with food, music, fun, and a small balloon glow (weather permitting). The Grand Moff Band from Morrisonville will be performing, plus Pauly’s BBQ food truck and Donut Dollies will also be on site.

Saturday morning plan on coming out for breakfast at the Shelby County Airport and watching the balloon pilots participate in a fun task over the airport, sponsored by SSI. Stick around for the Young Eagle flights put on by the Loren Hodge Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 274. Kids ages 8-17 can have an introduction to general aviation and a free plane ride



over Shelbyville. SummerSkyz helicopter rides will be available (for a fee) beginning at 2 p.m.

Saturday evening festivities at the airport begin around 4 p.m. with the free Family Drug kids’ area and music by All Kindz of Soundz. Bring your appetite, as the Shelbyville Fire Department will be having their evening cookout fundraiser. Just before dusk, enjoy skydivers from the Mid-America Parachute Club from Taylorville as they land on targets at the airport. To cap off an exciting day, enjoy a tethered balloon ride for charity and watch the balloons light up the night with the hot air balloon glow (weather permitting), sponsored by J&R Collision Centers. To round out the weekend, the pilots will once again be challenged as they perform a fun task over the 9th Street Beach, located at Dam West Recreation Area, Sunday morning.

In addition to all the balloonfest activities, the Shelbyville Chamber of Commerce will be holding the annual

Scarecrow Daze on Saturday, Oct. 7 in the downtown area of Shelbyville. There will be craft booth displays, food trucks, entertainment, a beauty pageant, and much more starting with a parade at 10 a.m. “The parade begins at Forest Park and makes its way to the downtown area. It is the official kickoff for Scarecrow Daze, and we appreciate HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital for organizing the parade each year,” said chamber board member Faith Wheeler.

“Without great community support, the sponsors, and, most importantly, the volunteers, we couldn’t pull off this exciting family event. We can always use more volunteers, especially to help crew for one of the balloon teams. If anyone is interested, please contact us at 217-774-2244. We offer some great crew prizes,” concluded Bernson.

For a list of the weekend’s activities, visit LakeShelbyville.com. See you in Shelbyville over Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 6-8.

SHELBY News

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Shelbyville, IL 62565
Phone: 217-774-3986
or 1-800-677-2612
Pay-by-Phone:
1-855-385-9981
www.shelbyelectric.coop
twitter.com/YourCoop
facebook.com/YourCoop

Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



smart hub gives you the power!

Did you know you can be notified by email or text message when you are part of an outage and when your power has been restored? All you need to do is sign up through SmartHub, which can be found on the cooperative's website, shelbyelectric.coop. Just sign in, click on **notifications**, and select **manage contacts**. After determining whether to receive notifications via email, text, or both, go to **manage notifications** and choose to receive outage alerts, as well as other messages. If you have not set up an account yet, you can do this at the same SmartHub link. You can find SmartHub how-to videos on the cooperative's website and Facebook page.

Download the SmartHub app for your smart devices from your favorite app store. You can report an outage, check your use, communicate with your cooperative, and much more. Download it today!

Safety Tip

If you are considering a home solar array, contact your electric utility early in the process. Your utility will work with installers to ensure proper and safe connection to the power grid.



Safe Electricity.org

Propane Safety Tips

- Handle any propane-powered equipment cautiously and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Propane tanks for equipment such as stoves and ovens must be located outside of the home.
- Never store or use propane gas cylinders larger than one pound inside the home.
- Never operate a propane-powered gas grill inside the home.
- Have propane gas equipment inspected periodically by a professional for possible leaks or malfunctioning parts.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions when igniting a pilot light.
- If you smell a strong odor of gas, leave the area immediately, call 911 from outside the home, and then call your propane provider.

Shelby Energy Company is an LP gas subsidiary of Shelby Electric Cooperative. You can reach them by calling 217-774-2311, visit their website at shelbyenergyco.coop, or like them on Facebook@ShelbyEnergyCo.



Shelby Energy Company

Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, September 4th for Labor Day.



10 things to consider before you invest in solar

Adding a renewable energy source such as solar to your home or business is a large long-term investment. Whether your interest in solar is economic, environmental, or for other reasons, it is important to do your homework before signing a contract. Use the following information to help make an informed decision:

1 One of the first steps you should take if you are considering solar is to call Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) and speak to a representative (217-774-3986). They will be able to discuss how the system will be interconnected to your home, SEC's solar policies, as well as other things to consider. This will help make your solar project more successful in the long run.

2 Don't mistake your solar array for an emergency backup system. For the safety of utility workers, solar systems automatically shut down and are not available for backup power during outages. A portable generator or a whole-house generator is a better option if backup power is your priority. Please note that the solar system cannot be energized or on while the generator is running.

3 Before investing in solar power, ask the cooperative to send your most recent 12 months of usage history to your potential solar providers. This helps determine the appropriate size of your array and provides some insight into how much production you should expect from your system.

4 It is very important to obtain multiple quotes from different solar contractors to find someone you feel comfortable working with during the process.

5 Keep in mind that the service availability charge from Shelby Electric Cooperative will continue to be on your bill no matter how much energy your system produces. The

cooperative still needs to purchase electricity to provide service at night-time and when solar is not providing all the requirements of the home. This monthly fee helps SEC recover some of the costs of providing service, such as load-following resources, transmission services, substation and distribution system costs, personnel, equipment, and material.

6 To get the most out of your solar installation, consider making needed upgrades to your home first. A well-insulated home with energy-efficient appliances and heating/cooling systems will help you use less energy and get the most out of your solar investment.

7 Make sure your roof is in good condition. Replacing your roof after installing solar panels requires removal of the panels, which will significantly add to the cost of roof replacement.

8 When reviewing proposals, make sure the correct energy rate and service availability charge are being used and be cautious of anything that sounds too good to be true.

9 DO NOT turn your array on until SEC has approved the project and installed the proper meter. Turning your array on too early could cause the system to backfeed and potentially hurt utility workers.

10 Shelby Electric Cooperative's solar policies are subject to change. The decision to install solar should not rely on the potential savings you may receive from the cooperative. Instead, work with your solar company to research and apply for grants, rebates, and tax credits that will benefit you by installing a solar system. Review all policies on the cooperative's website shelbyelectric.coop under the "Member Services & Billing" tab, then click on "Programs/Services" section, and finally, click on "Member-Owned Generation."

