

Every farmer counts

The agricultural sector is still the most dangerous occupation in America according to data from the 2018 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In that year, there were 574 fatalities, which is the equivalent of 23.4 deaths per 100,000 workers. Fall harvest can be 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 2020 is “*Every Farmer Counts.*” 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 equipment makes contact with a power line, the operator should not get off the machinery unless in immediate danger! If in immediate danger, such as a fire, tuck your arms across your body, jump with your feet together so no part of your

body touches the equipment and ground at the same time, and move 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.



Saving money in the laundry room

Ah, the joys of having a washer and dryer in your home. There is no waiting for a machine, no coin slots, and no one taking out your wet laundry if you are not right there when the cycle ends.

Though laundry is no one's favorite chore, it is cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home. However, there is a hidden cost to consider: the energy required to operate your washer and dryer.

The two appliances combined rank third in energy consumption in your home. A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs too (think hot water versus cold). To save money in your laundry room, consider these tips:

Washer

- ♦ Select the right amount of water for the load. Do not select the “extra-large” setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have a full load to conserve water.

- ♦ Use cold water to save money on water heating costs. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
- ♦ Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half.
- ♦ ENERGY STAR-certified washers use about 25 percent less energy and 33 percent less water than regular clothes washers.

Dryer

- ✂ Using dryer balls will help separate clothes and circulate more air cutting drying time.
- ✂ Utilize lower settings when you use the dryer. Even if your dryer runs longer, you will use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.
- ✂ Air dry when you can. Hang laundry outside or on a drying rack to avoid using the dryer altogether.
- ✂ Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.
- ✂ Put like items together since lighter-weight clothes require less time to dry. Towels and heavier cottons take longer to dry.



- ✂ Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer if it has one.
- ✂ Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.
- ✂ When purchasing a dryer, consider an ENERGY STAR version, which uses 20 percent less energy than a conventional model.

To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to energy.gov's appliance energy use calculator by searching “appliance calculator” at www.energy.gov.

SHELBY News

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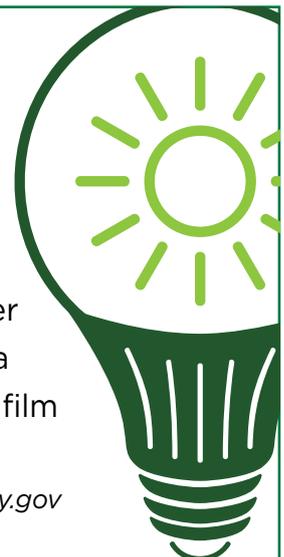
Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

Source: energy.gov



Leaving the numbers game

Pam Manship retires from the cooperative!

After 22 years of dedicated service to Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), Pam Manship will retire this month from her position as accounting assistant. For a cooperative lineman, it is all about hard hats, bucket trucks, and keeping the power flowing. For a cooperative accountant, it is all about calculators, spreadsheets, and keeping the cooperative's finances in order.

Pam started her career at SEC in 1995 as a customer service representative (CSR) with the new satellite television service known as DirecTV. "It was exciting to be part of something new and a very cool thing that cooperatives around the country were able to be a part of this new television experience," noted Manship. "I was working as a bank teller/bookkeeper at Scott State Bank in Bethany when I heard the cooperative was looking to hire a CSR for their DirecTV business. It sounded like a great opportunity."

In 2002, that great opportunity transitioned into a move to the electric side of the business where Pam worked the front desk and assisted other departments as needed. She eventually transitioned into the



Accounting Assistant Pam Manship retires after 22 years of service.

accounting department full-time as an accounting assistant.

Four years later, Pam needed to leave SEC as her husband's job relocated them to Peoria, Illinois and later to Morganton, North Carolina.

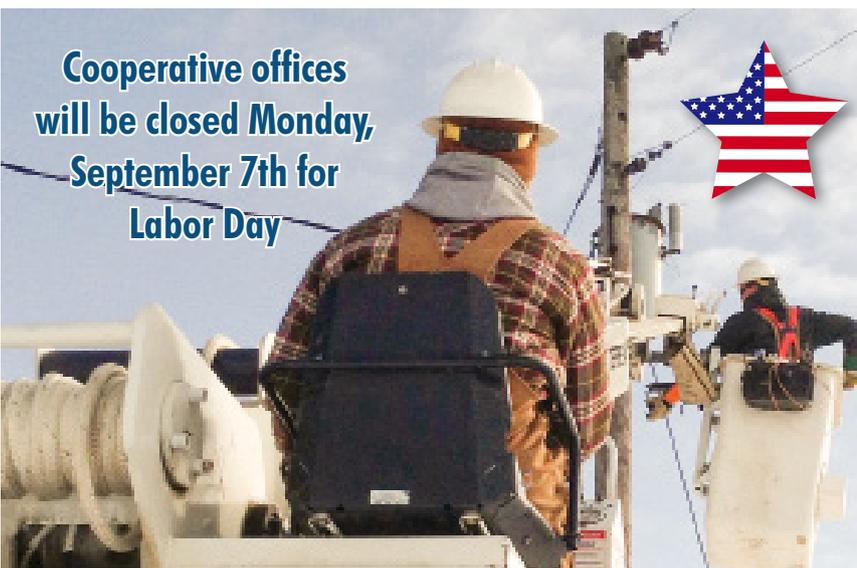
In 2009, her family's return to the area came at a perfect time. As luck would have it, the cooperative was once again looking to hire an

accounting assistant. Pam returned to the cooperative in the same position she held when she initially left. "I was very grateful to the cooperative for another opportunity to work for them again. The timing could not have been more perfect," explained Manship.

For Pam, the best part of the job is actually going to be the toughest part in retirement. "I've made so many friends here and they are like family. Even though I will still be around and see many of them from time to time, I will miss the people I work with on a daily basis very much," continued Manship. "It was not an easy decision, but it is time for the next chapter in my life to begin."

What does that next chapter in her life look like? She plans to enjoy her free time, concentrate on her family, and hopefully do some traveling.

Your cooperative family and friends wish you good health and best wishes. Congratulations on your retirement, Pam!



**Cooperative offices
will be closed Monday,
September 7th for
Labor Day**

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and Pests

To some, September means pumpkin spice and everything nice. It is also a time when you may notice an onset of creepy crawlies and sounds during the night. These are not to be confused with the ghosts and ghouls next month will bring. These are invasive pests that may decide your home is an easily-accessible destination to overwinter. These invasions may point out the energy inefficiencies of your home. If critters are getting into your home, cold air will too.

Field crickets: The chirping mating call of male crickets can drive you crazy as you attempt sleep. Crickets also wreak havoc by feeding on fabric and paper. They will move toward warm, damp environments when the temperature starts to drop.

Camel crickets: These derived their name because of the hump on their backs. They have large hind legs which leads many people to think they are spiders. Although they share the cricket name, they do not chirp or have wings. They are also much larger than field crickets. Inside, camel crickets live in crawl spaces, basements, utility rooms, and garages. They will eat wood, carpet, cardboard, and other insects (including other camel crickets).

Spiders: These fear-provoking arachnids grow all summer and become mature in the fall. Spiders will emerge to search for a mate and lay their eggs before winter arrives. They will move indoors in search of warmth, food, water, and shelter for the cold months ahead.

Mice: Small mice only need a gap the width of a pencil to enter your home. Larger mice will chew on a small opening to make it large enough to squeeze through. Mice will



This bat decided to relocate and warm up in a Shelby County home after a December stretch and flight.

make themselves at home to share your food and comfortable living quarters.

Bats: In Illinois, bats may begin hibernating in October. While their activity is greatly reduced during hibernation, bats are not constantly “asleep” during the winter. They will awaken every so often. Since their food source of insects is absent, they do not feed, but will fly, drink, and even relocate to different hibernation sites. Trust me on this (see photo taken December 6, 2019).

Now is a great time to make your home less accessible to pests and more energy efficient.

- * Inspect your home’s exterior for entry points and seal any cracks or gaps. Key areas to inspect include wall and foundation penetrations, doors, windows, dryer vents, exhaust fans, and roof vents.
- * Replace damaged weather stripping around doors and windows. Weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces in temperatures above 20 degrees F.
- * Seal cracks and gaps. The best time to apply caulk is during dry weather

when the outdoor temperature is above 45 F. Low humidity is important during application to prevent cracks from expanding with moisture. Warm temperatures are also necessary so the caulk will set properly and adhere to the surfaces.

- * Perform fall maintenance in the landscape by weeding plant beds, eliminating standing water, removing leaves, and moving wood piles away from buildings.
- * Change the porch light bulb. Lights attract many insects. Insects attract spiders and bats. Amber colored bulbs are less likely to attract insects without sacrificing the light you may need for safety.
- * Install a chimney cap or inspect the existing one for damage. Chimney caps provide protection against sparks while reducing downdrafts, clogging, soot, and creosote build-up. A steel mesh feature protects against animal entry.
- * Check the fireplace. A fireplace is most inefficient when it is open all year. A fireplace without a damper, the plate that regulates the draft in a chimney, is like having a window open all year round. You may want to consider installing a fireplace plug. Plugs are installed below the damper and will seal out downdrafts, noise, and pests.

Decorating your home with spiders, webs, bats, and other spooky decor should be a choice and not a result of pests moving in. Take advantage of the remaining fall days to get your home snug as a bug in a rug. Just not a bug in a rug in your home!

~Marla Foor,

Communication Specialist

Sources: *Thebatguy.com*, *Illinoisbats.org*, *energy.gov*, *extension.illinois.edu*