

PowerLines

YOUR CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS CONNECTION

**Central Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 

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Safe

BY MATTHEW BOSHAW
CEO & General Manager

Free from harm or risk — that is the definition of safe. As safety is at the core of all we do here at Central Electric Cooperative (CEC), I thought I should consider what that means. When I consider the conditions that are present in providing electric service in rural, western Pennsylvania, I can't say that we are free from risk. The effort to keep our employees and our members free from harm and to identify and mitigate the risks we face requires all of us and each of us. Our goal is to remain free from harm and to mitigate and protect ourselves from the risks that are present.

It starts with hazard identification. Whether traveling on rural, western Pennsylvania roads in all types of weather with a variety of wildlife present, ticks, rugged terrain, fallen trees, working at height, or high voltage power lines, the hazards are varied and require mitigation. This leads us to our efforts to mitigate these risks.

Our efforts to help our members be safe include a wide variety of information resources and available training presentations. Our website has

comprehensive safety resources, including an entire section of safety tips covering topics from downed power line safety, to indoor and outdoor electrical safety, generator safety, tips for kids, and even cybersecurity. We also provide our Safety City program, a tabletop display designed to educate children about how electricity works and how to be safe around it. For our local first responders, (fire departments, ambulance services, police departments, public works employees, etc.) we offer our First Responders Training that includes electricity education and a hot line demonstration intended to keep them safe as they work to protect life and property in our communities. We also provide regular communication via radio, email, brochures, monthly newsletter and text messaging designed to inform and keep our members aware of the potential hazards they may encounter.

Our efforts to keep our employees safe while working on your behalf begin with those identified hazards and the codes and rules we follow from OSHA and the National Electric Safety Code. All required and necessary personal protective equipment are provided as well. Our line workers also complete a multi-year extensive apprenticeship

Continued on page 2

program to become qualified linemen. After that, we provide annual compliance safety training, such as first-aid/CPR/AED and pole top rescue certification. The training also goes well beyond compliance to include regular refreshers in areas they perform less frequently so they remain sharp in those specific areas. Additionally, tools and equipment are maintained, inspected and replaced ahead of required cycles to ensure they can be depended upon to perform when the employee needs them most.

We are diligent in reviewing our work and facilities. We have comprehensive inspection programs for our distribution system, so we can maintain facilities, keep them in safe operating conditions to keep the public safe, and provide our essential service. We perform regular unannounced crew visits in the field, which are performed by our Manager of Safety and Loss Control with representatives from our insurer, our safety committee and our operations supervision. Engaging this varied group provides a fresh look at the work and new interactions with our line crews for each visit. The goals of these visits are to address areas of concern, discuss best practices, and recognize the positive work practices that have been executed. These interactions have also provided the benefit of familiarizing more of our employees with the work being done in the field, providing them with education and an appreciation for the work.

I hope these details begin to paint the picture of the significant investment of time and resources we commit to the safety of our employees and the public. With that said, I would be remiss if I did not emphasize the importance of all of us and each of us in this life saving process. As I do with our employees, I would implore each of you to take the time to identify what is most important to you. This will serve as your motivation to stay vigilant and act safely in all you do. All the training and oversight in the world is useless unless each of us takes personal responsibility for our own safety. Safety is personal because it has to be. As always, thank you for the continued support of your cooperative and let's all be safe out there.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Matthew P. Boshaw

CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti

Director of Finance and Accounting/CFO

Lisa A. Hoover

Director of Member Services

Christopher W. Kossman

Director of Information Technology

Fred E. Terwilliger

Assistant General Manager/COO

www.central.coop



Energy Assistance For Members

Family Fund assists families or individuals in need who have their permanent residence on CEC lines. Funds come from unclaimed capital credits and donations from our Round Up Program.

Learn more about the program and qualifications on our website.



READY.

SET.

REGISTER

9/19/2023

CO-OPS VOTE



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

As you landscape, remember to “look up” and keep these tips in mind:



Join CEC's efforts to provide dependable and safe electricity by maintaining rights-of-way.



Plant the right tree in the right place. Never plant vegetation close or under power lines.



Follow all instructions posted on electrical equipment.



Report any trees that may threaten the cooperative's service.

www.central.coop • 800-521-0570

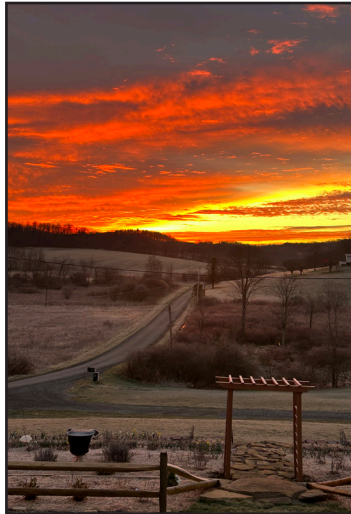
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Photo Contest Voting

After 33 members submitted photos for our 2023 Photo Contest, 1,101 online votes has narrowed it down to five photos. Please vote from the below photos for the **three** you feel deserve to be our winners and mail your form to our office. **You can also vote on our website until Oct. 20.** The photo with the most votes will receive first place and a \$100 bill credit, second place a \$50 bill credit, and third a \$25 bill credit. We will announce the winners in late October and in December's Power Lines newsletter. Thank you to all who entered photos!



**Photo #1:
Phoebe's Prize Catch**



**Photo #2:
Blazing Sunrise**



**Photo #3:
Pot of Gold**



**Photo #4:
Monarch Butterflies on
Mexican Sunflower**



**Photo #5:
Morning's Milkweed**

Photo Contest Voting Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please check the boxes for the three photos you wish to vote for.

Photo #1

Photo #2

Photo #3

Photo #4

Photo #5

Return this coupon to CEC by Oct. 20, 2023.



Knife Safety

by Dylan Linke, Manager of Safety and Loss Control

The topic of knife safety and the importance of using the right knife for the job is a frequent conversation my family has in our kitchen at home. A similar discussion occurs just as much at work in the electric utility industry! Whether this topic applies to our members at home or in the workplace, almost everyone can gather a few takeaways from this article to help keep you safe when using a knife.

According to OSHA, over \$300 million is spent on hand lacerations each year. Many of these lacerations are caused by some type of knife use. While hand injuries occur most, the legs are also a common site of injury due to people cutting in a downward motion. The abdomen also faces the same injuries from line of fire incidents, as well as people leaving the blade open in their pockets.

Not all knives are created equal, and not all cutting tasks require knives. There are different types of knives and cutting tools available on the market. It is important to evaluate your task to decide what type of cutting tool is the safest choice. For some tasks, such as cutting zip ties, a type of side cutters, clippers, or safety scissors are more efficient and safer to use compared to knives.

Many industries and work tasks can utilize some form of a safety knife and do not require the use of a

fixed open-blade knife. While there are different types of safety knives on the market, a common option is a self-retracting blade. A user has to push a button or apply pressure on the handle of the knife for the blade to be exposed. Once pressure is taken off, the blade retracts back into the knife handle. This type of knife and other safety knives can reduce injuries.

Let's talk about some household and industry "best practices" that can be used when working with a knife.

- Make sure the knife blade is sharp. Dull blades require more pressure or unsafe operation to cut or slice through something.
- When cutting, make sure your body parts are never in the line of fire.
- Never test the sharpness of a knife with your finger.
- If you are using a knife with a locking blade, always ensure the blade is fully placed back into the closed position before putting it back into your pocket.
- Wear cut-resistant gloves when using a knife.

Safety considerations and best practices regarding knife use vary greatly between a lineman restoring an outage and a person cooking in their kitchen. Regardless of the nature of the task being performed, we encourage you to evaluate the job you are doing and ensure you select the right tool to enhance your safety.

The statistics and suggestions in this article were derived from OSHA.gov.



Role: Apprentice Lineman
Employee Since: January 2021

Employee Spotlight: Adam Courson



What is one professional skill you are/will be working on? Advanced chainsaw safety.



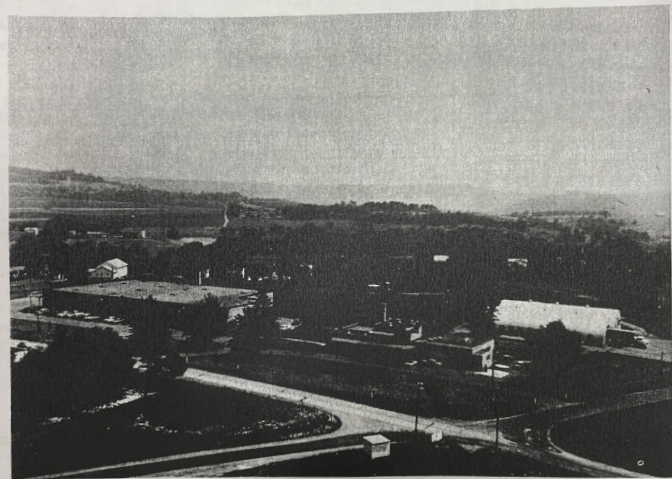
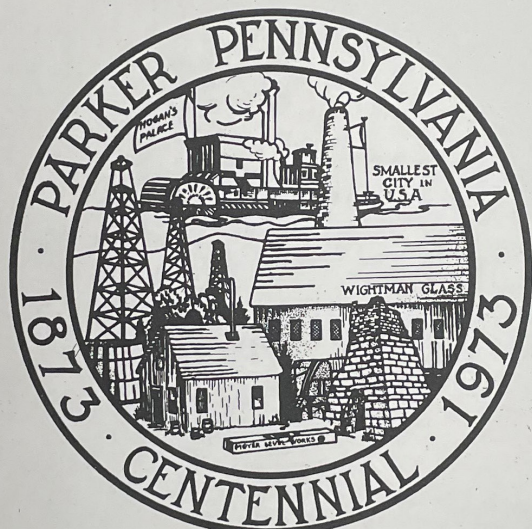
What made you want to be a lineman? A few things — I like working outside, everyday I get to learn something new, I also like staying busy and constantly advancing my knowledge.



What is one thing on your bucket list? To go to all of the beaches listed in the song "Surfin' USA" by the Beach Boys.



What is something you've always wanted to try or learn? Scuba diving.



Sesquicentennial Findings

On July 15, 2023, the city of Parker hosted its sesquicentennial celebrations full of food, fireworks, a parade and other traditional celebratory activities. The day also included the opening of a time capsule from the 1973 centennial celebration.

There were many fascinating items in the time capsule, including photos, centennial items, historical books about Parker, and a newspaper from July 1973. The newspaper featured many centennial pictures, articles and advertisements, including one for a new 1973 Chrysler Newport Four Door for \$3,995 — how times have changed! Some of the items in the time capsule were even from CEC or included information about the cooperative.

One of the time capsule items was an advertisement from CEC in the “A Century of Historical Contribution” book. The ad expressed CEC’s pride in being part of the community and its commitment to making it an all around better place for everyone. At the time the ad was published, it states CEC had 57 employees and 17,000 members. In comparison, today CEC has 72 employees and 25,000 members.

The findings in this time capsule are particularly interesting because as you may recall, last year CEC celebrated its 85th anniversary. As part of our anniversary celebration, we collected historical photos and information from members, old ledgers and board reports, and old newspapers. The centennial book in the time capsule included two pages about some of the co-op’s history. In case you missed the historical articles published for last year’s celebrations, here is some of CEC’s history that was reiterated in the centennial book.

CEC was incorporated on July 12, 1937, by W. P.

Snyder, Clarion County, West Monterey; E. W. MacDonald, Venango County, Nickleville; R. C. Dickson, Butler County, Slippery Rock; C. T. Smith, Armstrong County, Kittanning; and C. H. Smith, Armstrong County, Parker. Although the co-op was incorporated in 1937, it took some time to build the necessary infrastructure to provide electricity to members. On Aug. 18, 1938, Mr. Pierce G. Shakley of Fredericksburg became the first member to receive electricity from CEC. From there, the next two years included rapid growth for CEC with 3,000 members receiving electricity by the end of 1940.

The co-op headquarters were originally in the old Seybert building in Parker. That location was however quickly outgrown and within a year operations moved to the building that used to be the Glass Containers Corporation. The co-op was there for about four years before starting construction on the old CEC building in 1942. In 1950, the building was expanded to meet growing needs and in 1962 the present garage was built. The old CEC office building, pictured in the top right corner of this article, entered a state of disrepair and construction of the current office building began on May 16, 2011.



It’s always fun to look back and see how far CEC has come in these 86 years. Inevitably over the next 86 years, with the current technological advancements and changes to the electricity industry, CEC will continue to evolve. Parker has a rich and interesting history and we are proud to be part of the smallest city in the USA’s story!

by Kessa Moore, Communication Specialist



Back to School

by Connie Long, Member Energy Specialist

It's that time of year again. Summer is coming to an end and school is beginning, which means school shopping, fall sports and cooler weather. If you are anything like me though, this is sad news as I love the warm weather and summer activities.

Now that kids will be busy and gone the majority of the day for school, when they do come home they might go straight to the electronics to catch up on their favorite game or show. However, keeping them occupied and the electronics off for a couple of hours could greatly help keep rates lower.

In my last article we discussed Beat the Peak, and if you remember, from June through September the peak hours are from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. So, it is best to try to keep kids busy after school because bored kids often resort to using electronics. This would mean they use lots of electricity all at once when they get home during peak hours.

We at CEC are always looking for ways for our valued members to save energy and money while keeping our rates lower. I've found six ways to help reduce electricity use that I want to share with you.

- ✓ Unplug unused devices. Some devices will still consume power when plugged in, such as video consoles, iPods and laptops. It's always a good idea to unplug unused or fully charged items.
- ✓ Be smart when preparing lunches. Take all the food you will need out of the fridge at one time, then keep the door closed when you are making lunch. Continuously opening and closing the door makes your refrigerator work extra to try to keep a consistent temperature, which in turn makes energy usage go up.
- ✓ When school shopping for new electronic devices don't forget to check for EnergyStar labels, these items are certified to be low energy and high efficiency.
- ✓ Many stores also do back-to-school sales, so keep your eye out for cooler weather clothes. Wearing warmer clothes while at home will help prevent your furnace from turning on as often.
- ✓ Washing clothes at night with a full load will help keep rates low by using electricity during off peak hours.
- ✓ Keeping your blinds and curtains closed will also help either keep the sun rays out while it is still warm and the heat in when it is cooler outside.

CEC Receives a RESAP Award

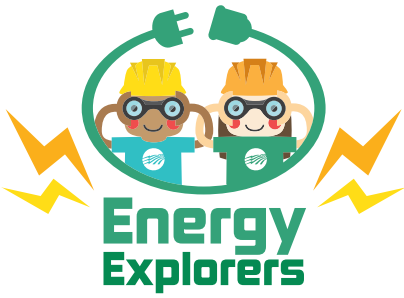
CEC recently received an award for the successful completion of the 2022 RESAP assessment. Nancy Lendyak, CEC's Board President, accepted the award at the 2023 PREA/Allegheny Summer Meeting.

RESAP, the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, is an NRECA safety evaluation program performed at each participating cooperative. The assessment consists of 17 inspection categories with 192 evaluation questions including operations, administration, building and grounds, fleet, safety equipment and personal protective equipment, and safety policies and procedures, to name a few. The RESAP evaluation occurs every three years on rotation and is performed unannounced by a group from PREA. The most recent evaluation performed at CEC was in July of 2022 where 170/192 assessment questions received

satisfactory or above remarks! To aid in continuous advancement efforts, the Safety Committee conducts self-assessments of each evaluation area to identify areas of improvement and ensure compliance.

As safety remains the number one priority for CEC employees, members and the community, CEC is proud to receive this award along with the high-performance score.



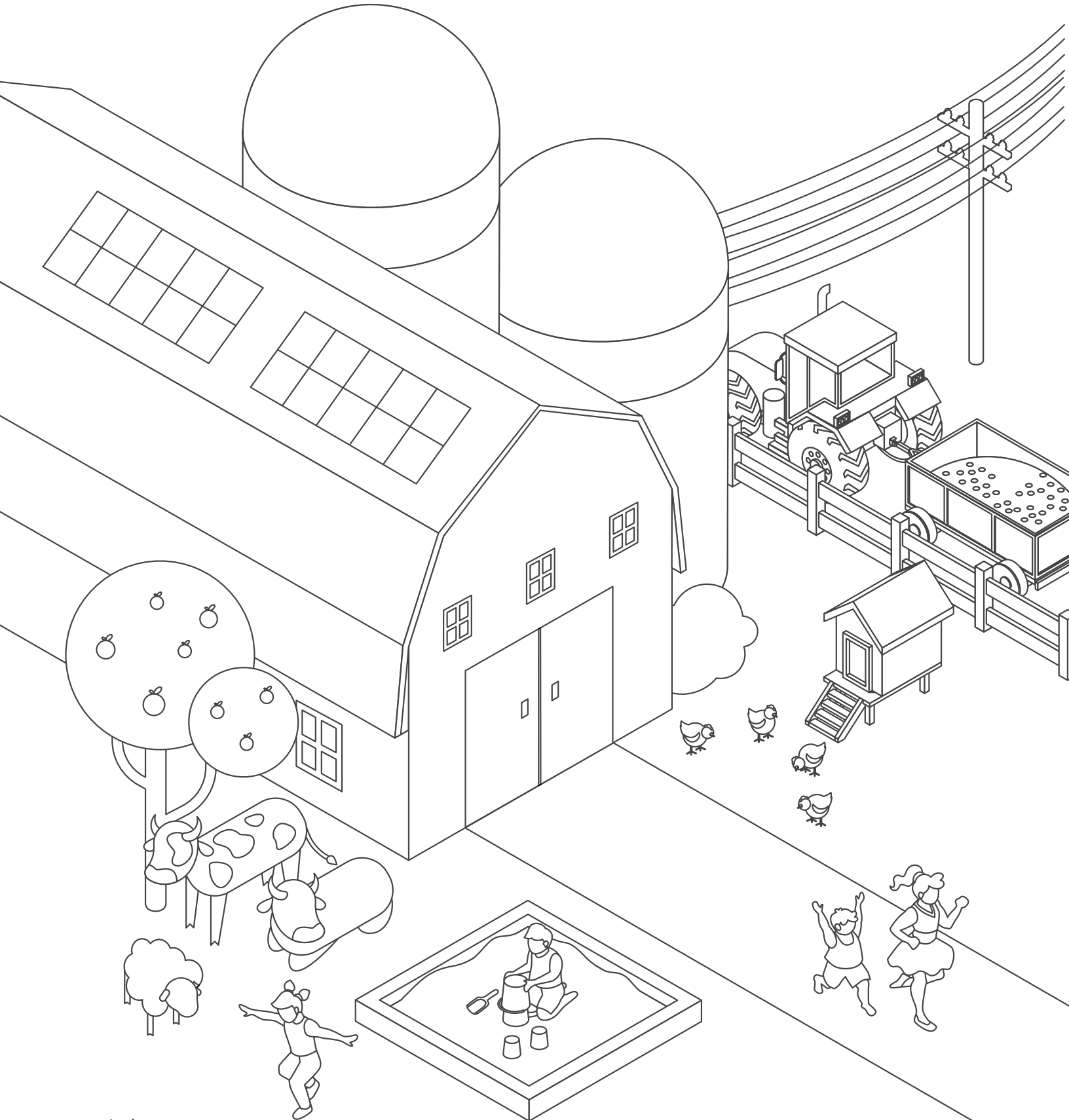


National Farm Safety and Health Week

September 2023

Farm Safety and Health Week is September 17-23!

Whether you live on a farm or in a town, always play it safe near power lines and other electrical equipment.



From the Kitchen of:
Marie Cherrison

RECIPE: **TASTY TATERS**



INGREDIENTS:

1/2 lb. frozen tater tots, thawed

8 oz. package sharp cheddar cheese, cut in 1/4 inch cubes

1 tablespoon hot sauce

16 oz. package bacon strips, cut in half

1/2 cup brown sugar

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil. Cut a small slit in the top of the tater tots and place a cube of cheese in the opening. Top with a dash of hot sauce, then wrap in the strip of bacon. Secure with a toothpick and roll in the brown sugar. Place on the baking sheet and bake for 15-20 minutes. Flip the tots halfway through cooking so the bacon cooks evenly. The cheese may melt out some, but you can trim it off once they cool if you'd like. Once done, remove the toothpick and serve warm.



**ON THE GO AND
IN CONTROL.**

MANAGE

your account

REPORT

service issues

VIEW AND PAY

your bill

RECEIVE

key notices

MONITOR

usage 24/7

*...all in the palm of your
hand and online.*



Central Electric Cooperative

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Your Board of Directors



From left (back row): Robert Smith, Vice President, Butler County; Jody Weaver, Clarion County; **(middle)** Ken Durrett, Butler County; Rick Weaver, Clarion County; John Campbell, Forest County; **(front)** Nancy Lendyak, President, Armstrong County; Ken Etzel, Venango County; and Althea Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, Venango County.

 central.coop/meet-your-directors

MISSION: CEC safely provides reliable and competitively priced electricity to our consumer-members and was established by and is committed to the communities we serve.

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www.central.coop

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Missed an issue?

Catch up at www.central.coop

Read past issues of Power Lines and stay up to date on CEC news.

