



# HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

Sept 2020



1.877.394.7804    
hcelectric.com



Craig Gates  
General Manager/CEO

## CEO September Message

This was going to be our 75th Annual Meeting; after 75 years our members are still working together to keep the cooperative strong for future generations. Thank you for being such great members and thank you for continuing to lead HCE in the right direction. After

all, it is because of you that HCE exists.

There are seven principles that cooperatives follow in our business model. Concern for Community is the one that has been at the forefront for all of us at Hill County Electric (HCE) during the pandemic and these uncertain times.

In late March, HCE made the decision to close our office to the public for the safety of you the members and our employees. We had hoped to be able to open our lobby again in July; however, due to the increasing number of COVID cases in our service area and the fact that we don't feel it is appropriate for us to decide who does and does not have to wear a mask, we are keeping our lobby closed. Payments can be made at Independence Bank, through SmartHub, Quick Pay on our website,

Pay By Phone, E-Check or Auto pay as well as the drop box at the Havre office. Our staff is here to answer any questions and help with your account.

As you know the HCE Board of Trustees decided to hold a special meeting by mail, as allowed in our bylaws. Last month's *Rural Montana* magazine contained the year-end reports and financials that would have been presented at the annual meeting. Districts 2 and 3 were up for election this year. All HCE members were mailed ballots to vote for Trustees to represent those districts.

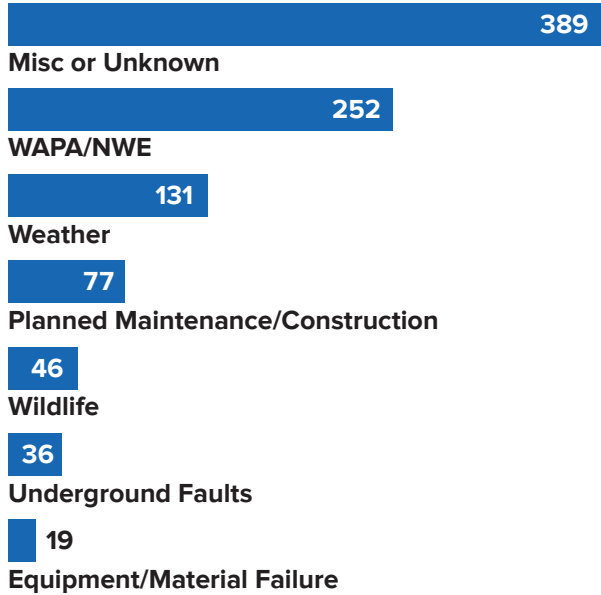
Trevor Standing Rock from District 2 ran unopposed; however, both Districts were open to write in ballots. We congratulate Trevor on being elected as the new District 2 Trustee.

In District 3, we had Leslie Smith and Jared Dees running for the trustee seat vacated by the unfortunate loss of Stu Smith. Congratulations also to Leslie on her elected Trustee position for District 3.

Congratulations to our new Trustees! We hope next year we will be able to again meet in person for our 76th Annual Meeting!

# HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 950 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:




This compares to 1,534 hours one year ago.

# DON'T FORGET!


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## ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.

**If you must exit the machinery...**

**If you can safely drive away...**

**40 ft. radius safe distance**

**If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!**

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

**If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:**

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

# Grain bins: harvesting safely

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. Safety is top priority for all—our employees and our members at Hill County Electric (HCE).

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 a considered factor.

**Safe clearance-** The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18.5-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

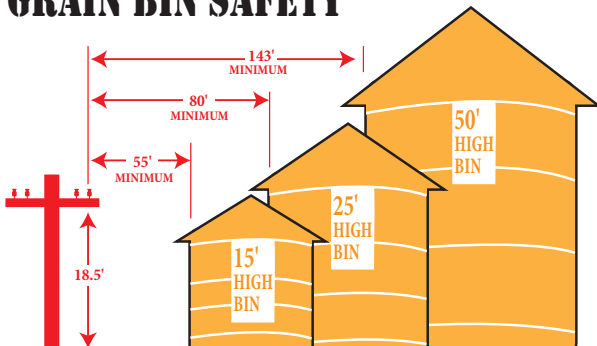
the power line to the grain bin wall. See the chart below for further guidelines. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

**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.

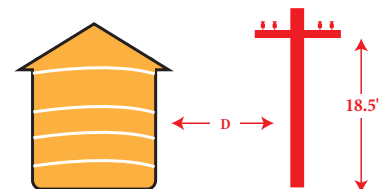
**Moving equipment near grain bins-** When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why HCE 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 Warren or Jim at our Havre office and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.

## GRAIN BIN SAFETY



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.



**DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!**  
**FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES**

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.

# SWAP AND SHOP

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members!

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping!

### Onan Generator

Onan Marquis 7000m 6.8 KW generator- needs coil. Asking \$1250, call 406.547.2184.

### Pop-up Screen Tent

Gazelle pop-up screen tent- portable protection for your picnic. Never used. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

### Briggs & Stratton Lawnmower

12.5 HP Briggs & Stratton lawnmower engine needs carburetor. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

### Wanting To Buy

1955 to 1958 Chevy car or 1/2 ton truck and 410 shotgun. Call 406.326.2287.

### Irrigating Pipes

Six-inch aluminum mainline irrigating pipes and fittings. 800-900 feet of pipe, 30 feet 8-inch suction line, water cannon, and PTO pump. Call 406.932.5508.

### House in Chester

House for sale in Chester. Three bedrooms and two baths with large great room plus front and rear vinyl decks. Many updates including new furnace and air conditioner. Large detached garage sits on 3 lots with underground sprinklers. Both house and garage have new metal roofs. Asking \$160,000 or best offer, call 406.292.3663.

### John Deere Combine

1989 John Deere combine 6600 spreader. Includes 22-foot header, diesel, hydro with 3424 hours. Good machine, will cut a lot of acres yet, also a lot of extra parts, etc. Call 406.355.4479 and leave message (day or evening).

### Wanting To Buy

1968-1972 1/2 ton Ford cab and front fenders. Preferably red, no rust, and in Sweet Grass county or surrounding counties. Call 406.932.5413.

### Misc Items

Frame, box spring and mattress with headboard for regular size bed, excellent condition \$250. Projection screen, \$10. Miscellaneous decor \$5-\$10 each. Two small glass top tables, \$10 each. Framed pictures, \$10 each. Call 406.357.2696.

### Wanting To Buy

Enamelware dishpan. Call 406.357.2696.

### Looking For a Border Collie/Black Lab Pup

Looking for a Border Collie/Black Lab mix pup. Call 406.395.4725.

### 2008 MacDon Swather

2008 MacDon swather with 16-foot rotary header and 2,400 hours. Asking \$55,000, call 406.262.2393.

### Organic Meadow Native Grass

40+/- acres, \$40 per ton. Buyer responsible for all costs associated with baling and hay immediate removal. No storage available on site. Call Joe at 406.932.6765.

### Miscellaneous Items

Approximately 140 small square grass bales at \$2.50/bale. Thirty-two (32) Gaterman crop lifters in great shape at \$15 each and roll bar with off road lights for compact pickup for \$30. Call 406.398.5325.

### 283 New Holland Hayliner

283 New Holland Hayliner small square baler. Asking \$4,900, call 406.473.2202 or 406.671.6633.

### John Deere 7720 Combine

1982 John Deere 7720 combine with 24-foot header and 4700 hours. Well maintained and always shedded in the offseason. Runs good and comes with many extra parts. Asking \$5,000, call 406.355.4936 for a list of all updates.

### Vintage Grumman Canoe

17-foot vintage Grumman aluminum canoe, \$400 OBO. Call 406.547.2409.

### Pure New York Maple Syrup

Sealed one (1) gallon jugs. \$42.00 per gallon. Call 406.374.2292, no calls on Sunday, please.

### 2003 Honda Motorcycle

2003 Honda VTX 1800 motorcycle highway bike with extras. Has 11,000 miles, call 406.378.2484.

### 2002 Ford Focus SE

Four-door 2002 Ford Focus SE with 6000 actual miles, has always been garaged. Needs a new fuel pump. Asking \$2,000, call 406.932.4700 or 406.665.5373 (cell).

### Empire Direct Vent Wall Furnaces

Two 20,000 btu Empire direct vent wall furnaces, model DV-20E-3. Set up for propane. Asking \$1,000 each or \$1,500 for both. Call 406.932.6775.

### VW Trike

Custom-built VW trike, 170 miles, 1776cc engine, big valve heads, Carter 2-barrel carb, s.s. springer front end, bus transaxle, suicide clutch. Asking \$5,000, trades considered. Call 406.547.2184.

### Vintage VW Parts

Three motor blocks and crankshafts, rods, alternator, carb, dist, glass, and early style door. Asking \$250, call 406.547.2184.

### Buffalo Meat

Buffalo meat for sale by the half or whole. Call 406.697.0993.

### Yamaha Motorcycle

2007 Yamaha motorcycle \$1,500 or best offer. Call for a picture, 406.350.0385.

### Wanting to Buy

Looking to buy a 1955 to 1958 Chevy car or 1/2-ton truck. Call 406.326.2287.