



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

June 2024



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop

Be Safe During Harvest



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

During the harvest season, farmers and ranchers are typically bustling with activity as they work tirelessly to gather crops. They are often faced with long hours, demanding physical labor, and the need for careful planning to ensure a successful harvest.

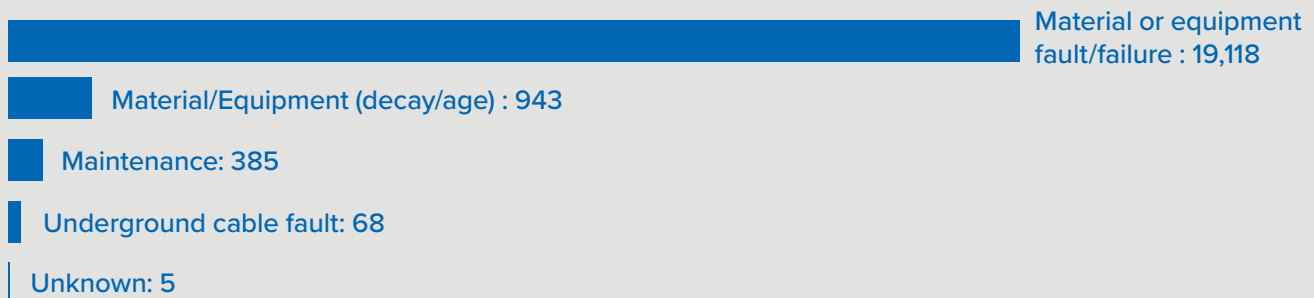
Harvesting crops near power lines can be dangerous due to the risk of accidental contact with the lines and potential electrical hazards. Farmers should take

caution and follow safety guidelines to avoid any accidents or damage to equipment and property. Additionally, proper planning and communication with utility companies can help ensure a safe harvest operation near power lines.

Farm equipment safety is essential to prevent accidents and injuries on the farm. Farmers and workers need to receive proper training on how to operate and maintain equipment, as well as to understand safety protocols. Regular equipment inspections, using personal protective gear, and communicating effectively with others on the farm are all crucial elements in maintaining a safe working environment. By being proactive and mindful of safety measures, the risk of accidents can be minimized, ensuring the well-being of everyone involved in farm operations. Please be safe this harvest season and if you have questions about the power lines, please let us know and we can discuss any issues that you may have. Be safe and stay healthy!

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 20,519 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:



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. At Hill County Electric, safety is top priority for all—our employees and our members.

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-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. 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

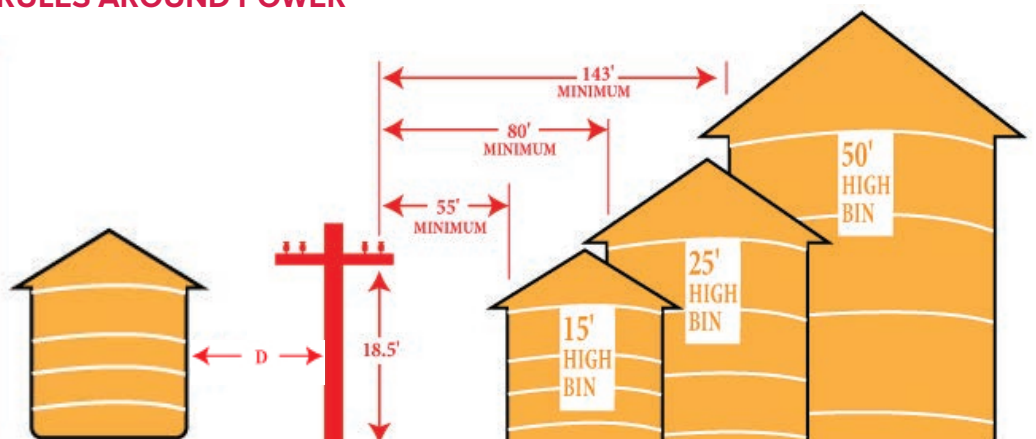
When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

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 HCE at 1-877-394-7804 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.

DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!

FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER

| 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. |



*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

Keep Food Safe

Before, During and After a Power Outage

Unfortunately, power outages do occur from time to time. It's important to know how to keep your food safe during an outage. Use these tips from USDA to help minimize food loss and reduce your risk of illness.

Before power outage



Keep refrigerator at **40° or below**. Freeze items like fresh meat and poultry that you won't use immediately. Keep freezer set to **0° or below**. Group frozen foods to help items stay colder longer.



If you anticipate an extended power outage, buy dry or block ice to keep the fridge and/or freezer cold.

During power outage

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed!

If the doors stay closed during the length of the outage:



A full freezer will hold its temperature for **48 hours**.



A refrigerator will keep food safe for **four hours**.

After power outage

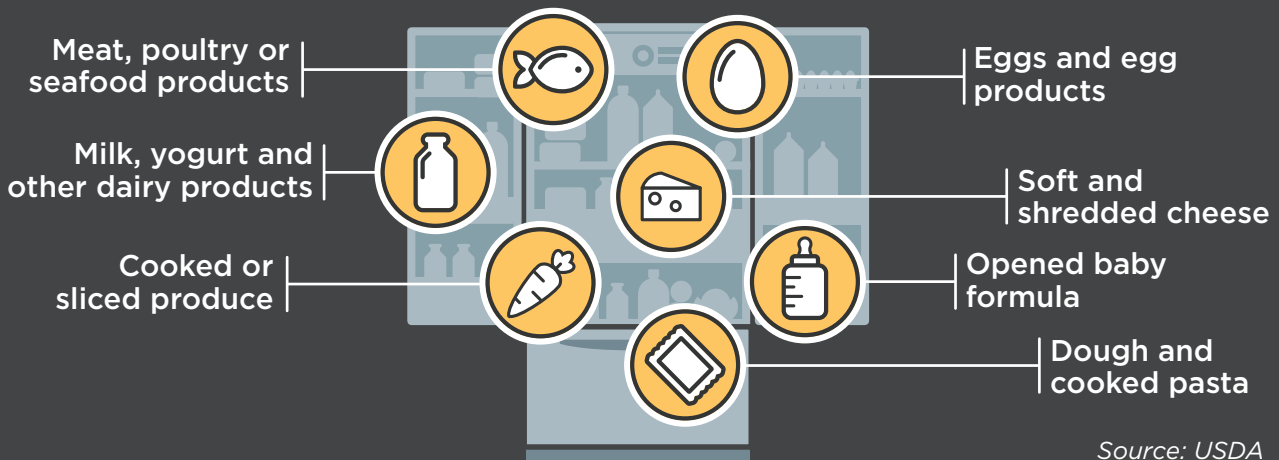


Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and/or freezer.



If the temperatures are safe, the food should be safe to eat.

Foods that should be thrown out after an extended power outage:



Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days.

Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's magazine.

**Denotes photo available on website*

Denotes photo available on website
Taking pre-orders for September 2024 processing

Farm raised in Havre, processed at the Saco Pay and Save. Whole pork \$450 plus processing fees, half pork \$250 plus processing fees. You receive approx. 150 lbs of meat per whole hog. Delivering processed meat locally and between Saco and Havre on pickup day. Contact Josh or Twyla Knudson by email: noneckfarms@gmail.com or call or text 406.230.2281 or find Twyla Knudson on Facebook.

Flex Coil 51 ft Drill Cultivator

5,000 culv, no cart. Asking \$5,000, call 406.376.3215.

1998 Carelift Telehandler ZB8040*

1998 Carelift telehandler ZB8040, call 406.390.1362.

Oak Cabinet with TV and Sony Sound System*

Oak cabinet with Sanyo TV & Sony Sound System (selling as a unit). Call 406.390.1362.

1986 Ram D50*

1986 Ram D50. 2.0 Mitsubishi, 2wd, 5 manual, 140k miles, no rust, recent service, starts instantly, 27mpg, all switches, lights and radio work. Never towed anything. Call 406.390.3522. Asking \$3,500 obo. Price reduced.

Quick Release Towing System

Stow Master 5000 quick-release towing system. Asking \$225.00. Call 406.547.2184.

Walker Bay Boat

10-foot walker bay boat with rigid inflatable tubes, 6hp mercury, 4 cyclor motor, includes trailer. Asking \$1,500.00. Call 406.547.2184.

Sheetrock Lift

Heavy Duty sheetrock lift. Asking \$500, call 406.945.3764.

Heavy Duty Car Dolley

Dexter axle, electric brakes, new tires and wheels, asking \$400.00. Call 406.547.2184.

2003 Subaru Imprezza

All wheel drive 5-speed, new motor parts. Has 181,000 miles. Asking \$1,500.00. Call 406.547.2184.

Wanted Single Barrel Shot Gun

Single Barrel Shot Gun. Call 406.326.2287.

Wanted 1955-1959 Chevy or GMC Parts

Pickup parts or whole pickup. Call 406.326.2287.

Jeep Wrangler For Sale*

1997 Jeep Wrangler with 134,000 miles. Asking \$6,800. Call 406.366.0653.

F150 4x4 Parts Truck 85 ft.

It might be something minor, was running before they fixed fusible links, new coil, map sensor, voltage regulator, new tires and mags. \$1500 or best offer, call 406.357.5442.

Antique Monarch Wood Cookstove*

Antique Monarch wood cookstove for parts or restoration. Asking \$200/OBO, call 540.624.0502.

Two Folding Arched Steel Ramps

Ramps suitable for ATC, UTC, or small tractor. Ready to use, factory made, traction surface. Make reasonable offer. Call 406.390.3522.

IH Cadet 1450 Hydrostatic PTO*

400 hours, one bottom plow with 40-inch rototiller, 44 inch mower deck, 44 inch push blade and Trac-vac and attachments. Call 406.390.3522.

2014 Massey Ferguson Heston 2956A*

2014 Massey Ferguson Heston 2956A baler with twine and net. 11,486 bales, well maintained and shedded. Asking \$20,000, call Don at 406.799.4131 or 406.357.4131

Tires For Sale

Three Continental 235/54 R18 106 T Cross Contact LX Sport All Season, less than 1000 miles. Asking \$200, call 406.397.3236.

For Sale or Trade

300 Rem. WinMag, 26" Barrel, Timney trigger. Trade for youth model 7mm08 or 308. Call 406.932.4057.

2001 Dodge Dakota

Cab and half pickup, 2-wheel drive, air and 148,000 miles, asking \$2,000. Call 406.378.3131.

Big Foot Pickup Camper

10 foot camper with overhead over pickup cab. Includes queen size bed, sleeps 4. Also has air conditioning, a refrigerator, stove and shower. Asking \$1,500, call 406.301.4035.

TAMKO T-Lok Shingles*

Up to 12 bundles, 22 shingles to a bundle. Tile red blend color, \$50 per bundle. Call 540.624.0502.

Free Moving Supplies

Flattened boxes (Lowe's small medium sizes and more. bags of bubble wrap, air bags, packing paper and foam peanuts. Hobson area, call 540.624.0502.

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.