

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Norris Electric Cooperative

8543 N St Hwy 130
Newton, IL 62448

Phone: 618-783-8765
or **Toll-Free:**
1-877-783-8765

Report an Outage:
1-877-783-3221

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Chairman

Gordon McClureJasper

Vice Chairman

Justin Parcel..... Clark

Secretary/Treasurer

Dean Dietrich..... Richland

Directors

Gary Buser.....Crawford

Kurt HolscherCrawford

Gilbert Garbe Effingham

Ted Helmink Cumberland

Scott Weiss.....Lawrence

Dan Strine Wabash

Dave Sheppard.....Jasper

Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

General Manager

Tamara Phillips



Celebrating 83 Years

Norris Electric Cooperative had its beginning in the dreams and hopes of a group of people starting in the year 1936. They wanted something for themselves and their families they did not have ... electricity. These people were pioneers.

These pioneers in their preliminary plans started the long, tiresome job of incorporating Norris Electric Cooperative. On Sept. 18, 1938, Norris Electric Cooperative became a reality and was officially organized.

The first pole was set on Sept. 9, 1939 on the farm of Bud May. On Dec. 21, 1939, the first line was energized. More than 550 farmers, covering a territory of 217 miles received power they had been waiting for. Over the years, our

membership has grown to 15,205 and 4,119 miles of energized lines in eight counties.

Many things have changed in the last 83 years. Equipment and technology have made a drastic difference in the way the co-op functions today. However, through it all, our one goal that has not changed over 83 years is our mission to provide reliable electricity at an affordable price!

We celebrate and reflect on those strong individuals that were the forefathers of Norris Electric Cooperative. They were fearsome in their dreams and goals, and we thank them. For without their tenacity to see this project through, life would have had a different story than as we know it today.

Programs designed to help our members

Norris Electric provides programs and initiatives to help improve the quality of life for our members.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Norris Electric members can participate in the free Co-op Connections program for discounts and valuable offers at local businesses and national retailers. Download the app to your mobile device today.



RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC HEAT RATE

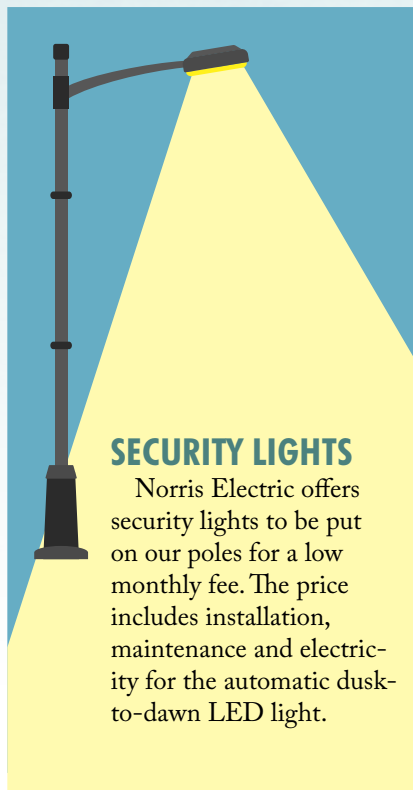
Norris Electric members whose home utilizes an electric heat source has the option of electric heat rate. Call the office for saving comparisons and details about the value of our program.

QUICK PAY

Norris Electric has just installed a QUICK PAY button on our website. This allows members to quickly access and pay their bill.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Norris Electric allows for safe interconnection of renewable energy to our power system. However, there are limitations, requirements, policies and deposits that may vary based on system size. Norris should be contacted early in the project planning process to ensure our program policies are understood.



SECURITY LIGHTS

Norris Electric offers security lights to be put on our poles for a low monthly fee. The price includes installation, maintenance and electricity for the automatic dusk-to-dawn LED light.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

To maintain the reliability of our electrical distribution system, Norris Electric operates an aggressive vegetation management program. Our crews will be trimming any trees that could interfere with our electric lines. This free service is necessary to ensure delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your home. If you notice a tree or limb is broken off putting a strain on the wire, please contact us immediately and do not attempt to remove the tree or limbs yourself.

ONLINE PAYMENTS OR MOBILE APP

Log in to your account online at norriselectric.com or download the app to track your electric use down to the hour and to see how weather impacts your consumption. Members are allowed to compare monthly usage, set usage thresholds and alerts, receive bill reminders, report outages and pay your bill quickly.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Three scholarships of \$1,000 each are awarded to eligible high school seniors whose parents/guardians are active members of Norris Electric.

Eleven scholarships of \$2,000 each are awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. The 12th annual scholarship of \$2,000 is awarded to help pay for costs to attend lineworkers school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.



ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING MAGAZINE

Norris Electric members also receive a complimentary subscription to Illinois Country Living magazine. The center section of each Illinois Country Living magazine, called Norris News, is customized by Norris Electric and serves as a monthly newsletter containing information specific to our cooperative members.



Electric Safety Education

Norris Electric offers safety presentations in our service territory. This safety presentation is structured to help educate businesses, schools, public safety departments, farmers and land-owners on electrical safety.



BUDGET BILLING

Norris Electric understands a budget. We live by a budget all year. With budget billing, members know what their electric bill will be every month.



ELECTRIC & TELEPHONE COOPERATIVES
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

YOUTH TOUR

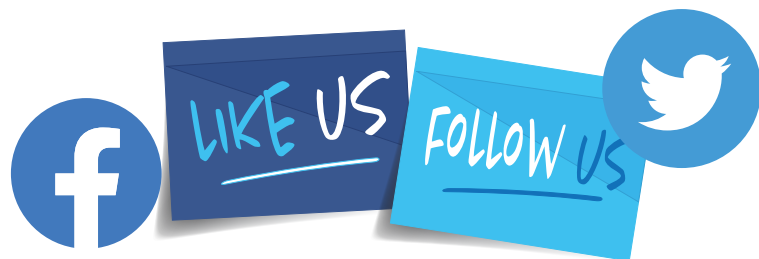
Norris Electric offers two youth from each of our schools within our territory the opportunity to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield each year. From that group, two students are chosen to represent Norris Electric Cooperative by attending the Youth to Washington Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June with other statewide winners. (Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Youth Tour was canceled.)

AUTOMATIC DRAFT

Each month, Norris Electric will automatically draft your checking or savings account the day before it is due. You will never have to worry about your bill again!

OUTAGE MAP

Members are able to view our outage map on our website or Norris app. This gives members an idea of where the outages are and how many members are affected.



Facebook/Twitter

By following us on Facebook and Twitter, members receive current outage information and Norris Electric news.



Larry Short retires

Norris Electric would like to congratulate Larry Short on his retirement. Larry started with the co-op as a temp employee doing janitorial work in June 1980. Larry became a full-time employee in September 1980 as a groundman. From 1981-1985, Larry was in line clearance. He then became a lineman journeyman in 1986 and was promoted to lineman journeyman foreman in 1999. When the operations manager position became available in 2002, Larry accepted the challenge and has held that position until his retirement. Norris Electric would like to thank Larry for his 41 years and 4 months of service to our members and our cooperative.



Tips for a safe harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous, even deadly, when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind.

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power

lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.

- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Sept. 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.

Is your phone number up to date?

If you have changed your phone number or disconnected your landline phone and are now using a cell phone number, Norris Electric would like for you to help us keep our records updated. Call us at 877-783-8765, email us at billing@norriselectric.com or correct the info on your next bill stub. If outages occur, it saves time if we have the correct phone number on your account.