

# Norris Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



# News



## National Cancer Survivor Month

June was National Cancer Survivor Month. Norris Electric employees are no stranger to cancer and how it affects us and our loved ones. In support of Cancer Survivor Month, each employee selected a color of shirt that represents a ribbon of cancer. We had employees supporting breast, head and neck, prostate, thyroid, melanoma, brain, colon, bladder, bone, uterine, ovarian, leukemia, lymphoma and a lavender shirt representing all cancers. We believe in supporting the FIGHTERS, admiring the SURVIVORS and honoring the TAKEN and never ever giving up HOPE. As a co-op and as a family, we will fight together.



# Visit Illinois TSE co-ops at the Farm Progress Show

The Farm Progress Show is back in Illinois this year, and we want to see you there!

The nation's largest outdoor farm event will be held at Progress City in Decatur August 27-29. Look for the Illinois Touchstone Energy® Cooperative's booth at its new location on Lot 217 on Second Street between Central Progress and East Progress Avenue, near Gates 7 and 8. You'll find us next to the new Grain System Inc. display.

Representatives from Norris Electric and several other Illinois electric cooperatives will be on hand to share information about cooperatives, safety, energy efficiency and much more.

Be sure to catch a Live Line Safety Demo, sponsored by Corn Belt Energy Corporation, where you'll learn from a safety expert about electricity and how to stay safe around electrical equipment. You can also see a pole climbing demonstration.

Stop by the booth to charge your phone at one of our charging stations. While you're there, play a game for a chance to win a prize. Cooperative members who present their Co-op Connections card or show the Co-op Connections app will receive a special gift.

Weather permitting, the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will be flying the American flag each morning of the show.

Plans are for the balloon to also fly late afternoon on the first two days of the show.

For 66 years, the Farm Progress Show has celebrated agriculture by bringing tradition and business together. It is where people from all over gather to meet, observe and learn. Major manufacturers roll out their newest offerings, and agricultural families take a break from their daily routines to immerse themselves in the wider ag community. The show rotates annually between Decatur and Boone, Iowa.

Check out *Prairie Farmer Magazine* or visit [farmprogressshow.com](http://farmprogressshow.com) to learn more about the 2019 Farm Progress Show.

## Member Warning: Doxo.com

There is an online bill pay website that appears to be affiliated with Norris Electric Cooperative, but it is not. We are not in partnership with this company and have not authorized them to use our materials. Doxo.com is a third-party website that allows people to pay their electric bills via their site. However, Doxo.com may charge the member extra fees, and Norris Electric cannot control when we will receive the member payments from Doxo.com. This could potentially result in a late payment from the member or even disconnection due to non-payment.

Norris Electric offers secure online bill pay as well as other billing payment options, including a mobile site that makes it easy to view and pay your electric bill with your smart phone or tablet.

Our members matter and our promise is to continue to look out for you. That's why we've

created options for paying your bill that are convenient, secure and trustworthy, and that's why we're asking our members to be alert about this issue.

### Payment Methods

Norris Electric has several different payment options for our members. Check out the list below and select the best one to suit your lifestyle.

- **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! Call the office for this convenient option.
- **Bank on-line** – This option is set up by your bank. An electronic payment will be transferred to Norris Electric from your bank.
- **Over the Phone** – You may choose to call the office anytime (during business hours or

after hours) and pay your bill using our automated system.

- **Online Payments** – You can make secure payments on our website at [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com).
- **Local Banks** – There are several local banks that will accept payments as long as it is not past due. Call the office to see if your bank participates in this service.
- **Norris Electric Office** – Members can pay at the office during the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. There is also a secure drop box at the door where you can leave payment if the office is closed.
- **Mobile App** – Download the “Norris App” and pay your bill from your phone. This is a very convenient way to manage your account.
- **Mail** – Of course, there is always the option of mailing your payment.

## Norris Electric Cooperative students join national electric co-op Youth to Washington Tour

What do you get when 62 students from 26 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives join 1,800 of their peers across the United States? You get the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour!

Two students from Norris Electric Cooperative service territory were selected from a diverse group of applicants to represent their cooperative and enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 14-21 as part of the annual Youth Tour.

The 2019 Youth Tour delegates from Norris Electric included: Taylor Curry from Dieterich and Reese Williamson from Hutsonville.

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Representative John Shimkus. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, President Lincoln's Cottage at First National Cemetery, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were an assembly of more than 1,800 Youth Tour participants from across the nation and a special farewell event at the Newseum, scheduled to close later this year.

"Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students' lives," says Tamara Phillips, manager of Norris Electric. "This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation's capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C., talk one-on-one with their U.S.



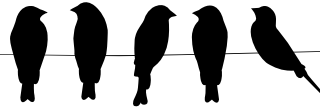
*Pictured from left – Taylor Curry, Congressman John Shimkus and Reese Williamson.*

congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than

900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million consumer-members in 47 states.

# Is a power line insulated?

(and other myths debunked)



**H**ave you ever wondered why a bird can sit on a live wire or what you should do if a power line is on the ground? Here are some Q-and-As to clear up some common misconceptions concerning power lines, birds on a wire and other conundrums:

## What do I do if I see a downed power line?

Vacate the area. Call 9-1-1 to report. Do not return to the area until you are given the go-ahead by authorities.

## Can I tell from looking (or listening) if a downed power line is still live?

Absolutely not. A live wire may not spark, arc or make any noise at all.

## Where might downed power lines be?

A downed power line might be in the street, ditch or field after a bad storm or car accident. It could also be lurking in flood waters or under debris, trees or other objects after a severe storm.

## If a line is on the ground, is it dead?

Once a line is on the ground, it doesn't mean it's dead. There's a chance the line is still energized, which not only means you should not touch it, but also means the surrounding ground and any metal objects nearby could be energized and extremely dangerous, even deadly.

## Why might a power line be down or damaged?

A car accident may cause a line to be hanging down or on the ground; severe weather could damage a pole or line; or in some cases it's caused

by another unforeseeable reason, such as a storm-damaged tree or a hungry squirrel.

## Why can a bird sit on a power line and not be hurt? Doesn't that mean the line is insulated?

No. Lines are sometimes coated for protection against the elements but still deadly upon contact. A bird or other critter can sit on a power line all day happy as a lark because there is no path to ground. If the animal were to contact the utility pole or other grounded source, it will be electrocuted, just as a person would be under the same circumstances.

## Do different kinds of utility lines look different?

Perhaps, but for the most part, the non-utility professional cannot know what kind of line it is and what it carries (electricity, phone service, cable TV and so on) just by looking. You also can't tell how much voltage it is carrying by its appearance.

## What if my car comes in contact with a downed power line?

Do not get out. Do not try to drive over it. Call 9-1-1 and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. If you smell gas or if there is a fire, exit your car with a solid jump landing on both feet (but don't touch the car at the same time) and DO NOT WALK, but hop away.

## Can I help someone who has been in an accident involving a downed power line?

No. Do not go near the scene and warn others not to do so. Although our first instinct is often to help, a person running near an energized area could get electrocuted.

Contact us at **877-783-8765** with any questions about downed lines. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

