



BLUE GRASS LIVING

OCTOBER 2020

Making life better, the cooperative way®

October is National Co-op Month

Did you know that electric cooperatives power 56% of the nation's landmass? Electric co-ops own and maintain 42% of U.S. electric distribution lines that serve our communities. They power over 20 million businesses, homes, schools and farms in 48 states. They serve 42 million people across 2,500-plus U.S. counties.

From booming suburbs to remote rural communities, America's electric cooperatives are energy providers and engines of economic development. Electric cooperatives, like Blue Grass Energy, play a vital role in transforming communities.

We celebrate our history and our future.



Your co-op was built by the community, for the community.



Making life better, the cooperative way®

CONTACT INFORMATION

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243
Automated payment: (877) 934-9491
Report an outage: (888) 655-4243
bgenergy.com

HEADQUARTERS

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ENERGY AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.**

Rachel Settles, Editor



This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Celebrating co-ops

October is National Co-op Month. This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Blue Grass Energy, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. Co-ops give people the power of ownership. They are usually established to provide a need or a service in a community.

Similar to how we were built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are formed for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to make life better for you, the owners of the co-op.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Blue Grass Energy's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through surveys, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, increasing the value of your cooperative membership.

We hope you will think of Blue Grass Energy as more than your energy provider—as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.

*By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams*



The cooperative difference

By celebrating National Cooperative Month, we have the opportunity to inform others about our unique business model, which is based on the Seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

For co-op employees and members that are familiar with the principles, the month of October is a great opportunity to renew our connection to the purpose of our

co-op. Blue Grass Energy's purpose is making life better, the cooperative way. Our mission is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy services while improving the quality of life for our members.

In the U.S., there are more than 29,000 co-ops serving in every single industry. One in three Americans are co-op members. There are co-ops for housing, farming, insurance, telephone, food, ag/farm credit, daycare, preschool and, of course, electric, to name just a few.

There are more co-ops in our local community than most people realize. Co-ops are even represented on the shelves at our local grocery stores,



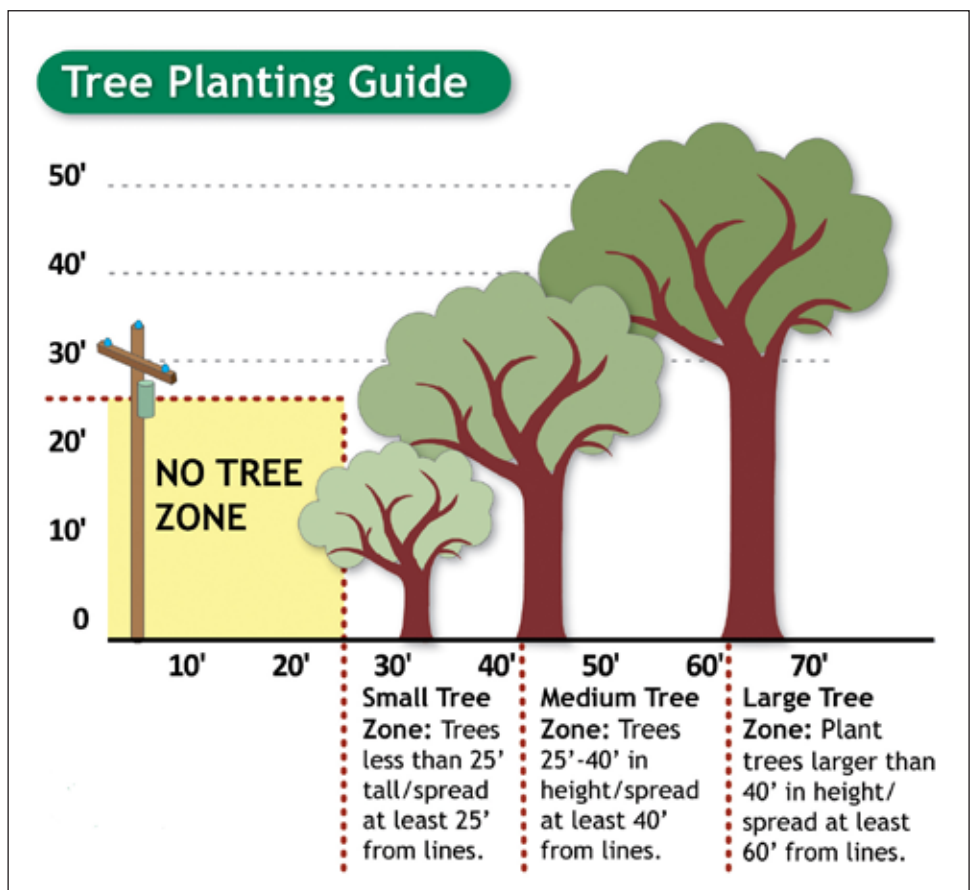
such as Land O'Lakes, Welch's, Organic Valley, Cabot Cheese, Sunkist, Ocean Spray and many more.

The right tree in the right place

Trees can help cool your home and neighborhood, break cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife. Properly placed trees can lower line clearance costs and improve reliability, reduce tree mortality and result in healthier forest communities.

Tall trees surrounding your home, such as maple, oak, pine and spruce, provide summer shade to lower cooling costs and keep out cold winter winds. Medium trees, 40 feet or less in mature height, might include Washington hawthorne and golden raintree, while smaller trees suitable for planting adjacent to utility lines might include redbud, dogwood and crabapple.

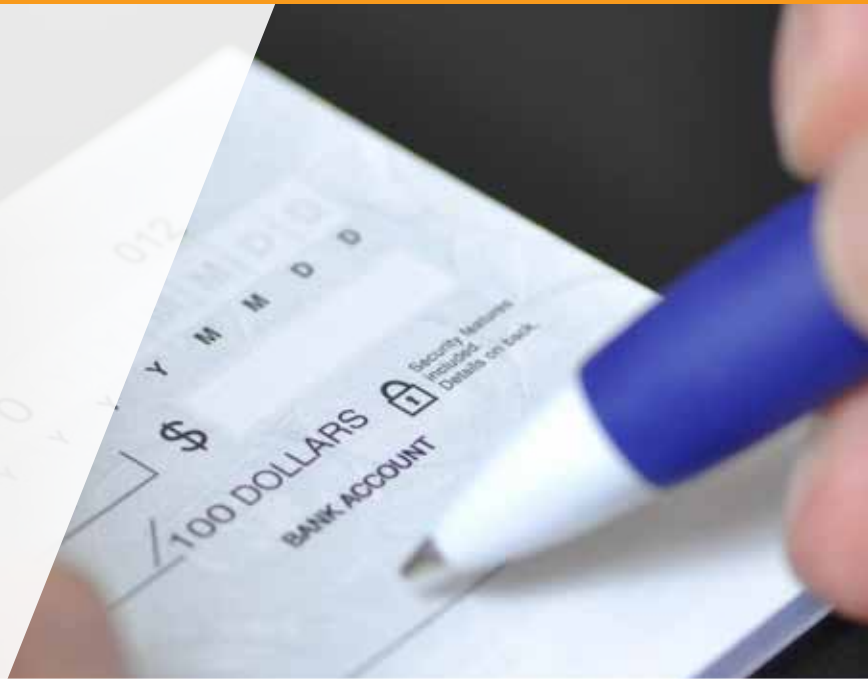
To learn more about which trees might work best in your yard, see page 15 or visit www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace.



Are you still writing checks each month?

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It's one of the many payment options we offer. It's convenient, easy to sign up and best of all, a free service.

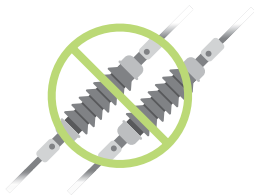


Electrical safety tips for hunters

We asked our safety coordinator, Matt Thomas, about safety concerns for the upcoming hunting season. He says, “This hunting season, I encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.”



Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.



Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



Do not hang a stand in a tree that is near a power line.



Do not place hunting blinds under power lines.