



SEPTEMBER 2022

Making life better, the cooperative way®

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, there are collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These

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PEOPLEIMAGES.COM/ADOBESTOCK

When practicing farm safety, consider all the equipment and extensions of your vehicle.



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**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY BLUE GRASS ENERGY
AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.**

Rachel Settles, Editor



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Preparing for winter

Benjamin Franklin gave us practical advice when he said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” And he was right. It is easier to prevent a problem than wait until after it’s happened and try to fix it.

This is why we focus on proactively maintaining our infrastructure. From vegetation management to upgrading power lines, we work ahead to avoid service interruptions for our members.

September is a great time for our members to practice Franklin’s advice, too. While we are still experiencing warm temperatures, winter is just a few months away. Before we know it, we will be turning our thermostats to heating instead of cooling.

Typically, utility bills rise during the heating season and preparing now can help mitigate the impact. Having your HVAC system checked prior to the heating season can identify if it is not working properly, giving you the opportunity to make repairs now and not after you receive a high bill.

Weatherizing your home is another impactful way to prepare for winter. Between 25–40% of energy used to heat and cool your home is wasted through air leaks. If a home has an 1/8-inch-wide crack around a door, that’s the equivalent air loss of a 6-inch-square hole, or the same size as a softball. Adding a weatherization strip is a simple, affordable way to make your home more comfortable while saving energy.

As your trusted source for energy and information, we are here to help you manage that impact. As you prepare for the winter heating season, visit our website—bgeneracy.com—for more ways to save. You can also call and talk to one of our highly trained energy advisors. And, because we are local, you can still stop by and see us with any questions you may have.

We are here if you need us.

*By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams*





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. Photo: Bob Nichols/USDA

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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 911 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 (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.

September 18–24 is National Farm Safety and Health 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.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



OUR 2022 CHARITY PARTNER

KENTUCKY CANCERLINK (KCL)

Did you know you can help support Kentucky CancerLink just by going grocery shopping? KCL is a member of the Kroger Community Rewards program.

It's easy to participate. All you do is sign up and Kroger donates a percentage of your purchases to the organization that you select. To select KCL, go to: www.kroger.com/ii/community/community-rewards to register your Kroger card. The ID# for Kentucky CancerLink is TG249.



Join us for the welcome home ceremony

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Blue Grass Energy are once again joining with Honor Flight Kentucky to sponsor a flight for around 70 Kentucky veterans who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The Honor Flight is scheduled for September 17 at Blue Grass Airport. It takes off that morning and returns in the evening. Join us for the Welcome Home Celebration on September 17 around 7:30 p.m. at the airport.

"After a two-year hiatus, we are thrilled to say we're back this year," says Joe Settles of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. "Our sponsored flight means so much to the communities and veterans we serve. We'll help send around 70 veterans and their guardians to Washington, D.C., on September 17."

Each of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives sends two veterans and two guardians for the Honor Flight. This year, Blue Grass Energy will send veterans Gary

McComas of Richmond and Malcomb Thomason of Cynthiana.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have been Honor Flight sponsors since 2011, beginning with the Honor Flight Bluegrass Chapter out of Louisville. The Honor Flight Kentucky Chapter was formed in 2015, and we've

been sponsoring flights with Honor Flight Kentucky since then.

For more information on the national Honor Flight network, visit www.honorflight.org.



TIM WEBB

Our offices will be closed Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.