

DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

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Safety first this spring

By Joy Bullock & Kevin Osbourn

Whether planting or trimming trees, using ladders outside, planting crops or flying kites or drones, thinking about electric power line safety is very important this spring.

Trimming trees or bushes near power lines can be dangerous because electricity can arc from the power line to the tool, potentially causing injuries or even death. When working near power lines, look up and stay at least 10 feet away at all times.

Before you dig, call us

If you are planting trees or bushes this spring, South Kentucky RECC says not to dig into more than you bargained. There could be electric lines buried at your proposed digging site with anywhere from 120 volts of electricity up to 14,400 volts in them.

Two days, or more, before doing any type of digging, excavating or blasting within the South Kentucky RECC service area, please notify the co-op's underground notification center. Call your local SKRECC office or (800) 264-5112 and ask for the dispatcher.

Dispatchers are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The dispatcher will ask for your name, phone number, the type of digging or other work that will be done, when you plan to begin work, the name of the person responsible for the work, directions to the digging site and the



nearest South Kentucky RECC service or meter number. SKRECC employees will then check to see if there are underground lines in the area, and if so, will mark the route with red flags.

How many feet are safe?

Avoid planting anything under overhead power lines. Before planting, find out how tall a tree will eventually grow. If it will be within 10 feet of a power line when mature, plant it farther from the line. (Many nurseries have planting guides with tree width and height at maturity.)

Don't plant anything that can reach within 6 feet of an electric meter.

When using a ladder to climb on the roof or for some other job, or working on tractors and with farm machinery, the 10-foot rule applies again—stay at least 10 feet from power lines. Be particularly cautious when you are using farm equipment that has extensions. Always lower extensions to the lowest setting when

Before planting, find out how tall a tree or other plant will be when mature, so you know how far to plant it from power lines. Photo: Shutterstock

moving loads. It also helps to have a second pair of eyes to watch for possible contact accidents.

Caution flying kites and drones

Use caution with children flying kites. Make sure they are flown in open areas away from power lines and with adult supervision.

Check local laws before flying a drone near power lines, power plants, substations and other electrical equipment. Flying a drone near electric infrastructure may violate a local ordinance, and a drone crash can cause a power outage.

South Kentucky RECC power lines are necessary to distribute electricity to homes and businesses. Always respect potential hazards when working near our power lines.

The safety of our members and our employees is our highest priority. **DSK**

Save the date

South Kentucky Annual Meeting 2020

South Kentucky RECC's commitment for the past 80 years has been to our members. With that commitment in mind, for the second year, annual meeting will be coming to an office near you.

The actual membership meeting will be Thursday, June 11, at the Somerset headquarters facility. But, on Monday, June 8, the annual meeting caravan will make its way to the Wayne County office from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. On Tuesday, June 9, annual meeting will be in the Clinton and Russell County offices from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. CT. The annual meeting caravan will head to the McCreary County office on Wednesday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the individual office annual meetings, members can register for prizes that will be given away at each office (you do not have to be present to win); they will receive a free bucket and lightbulbs; and they will be given a hot dog, chips and a water.

The regular meeting held at the Somerset office on Thursday, June 11, will follow the same format as it has in the past, but there will be one major incentive to attend—the co-op will be giving away a 2011 Ford Ranger 4x4 with a topper (you must be present to win).

In addition, there will be a gospel concert by the Crossroads

Quartet and inflatable for the kids. Members registering at the Thursday night meeting will receive a hot dog, chips and a water, as well as their bucket and lightbulbs.

Members will also have the option of using the Quick Pass method on Thursday at the Somerset office. South Kentucky RECC has successfully done this the past several years allowing members to drive through, register and get their bucket and lightbulbs without ever leaving their vehicle.

Important: This type of registration will **NOT** qualify members for the truck giveaway.

Members will be registered electronically at each of the various meetings, making it impossible to register twice. If you go to the meeting at your local office to get your bucket and lightbulbs, then decide to attend the regular meeting in Somerset, you will still need to stop by registration where you will be entered for the vehicle giveaway;



however, you will not receive another bucket and lightbulbs.

“South Kentucky RECC was formed 80 years ago by our members—a group of 10 farmers in Wayne County,” says South Kentucky RECC CEO Ken Simmons. “It’s only fitting that we use our annual meeting each year to recognize and show appreciation to our member-owners, and it’s important that we make it more convenient for them to attend.”

More information about annual meeting week will be available in this publication and on South Kentucky RECC social media pages (SKRECC on Facebook and Twitter and @sokyrecc on Instagram) in the future and as it nears.

South Kentucky RECC was “formed for people, not profit” as stated in the co-op’s mission. Our members are at the heart of all we do, including annual meeting.

2020 Annual Meeting Schedule

Wayne County office	Monday, June 8
Clinton County office	Tuesday, June 9
Russell County office	Tuesday, June 9
McCreary County office	Wednesday, June 10
Pulaski County—Somerset headquarters	Thursday, June 11

Equal employment opportunity policy statement

South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation has been and will continue to be an equal opportunity employer. To ensure full implementation of this policy we will adhere to the following standards:

- Persons will be recruited, hired and promoted for all jobs without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or protected veteran status.
- Placement decisions will be based solely on an individual's qualifications.
- Other personnel actions such as compensation, benefits, transfers, layoffs and Cooperative-sponsored programs and activities will be administered without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or protected veteran status.

South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation provides equal employment opportunity and affirmative action for individuals with disabilities and protected veterans. Harassment of any individual because of a disability or protected veteran status will not be tolerated. Employees and applicants will not be subject to harassment, intimidation, threats, coercion or discrimination because they have filed a complaint; assisted in any activity related to the administration of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), 38 USC 4212, or the Jobs for Veterans Act of 2002; and/or exercised any other right protected by the Acts.

South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation also has had a long-standing commitment to provide a work environment free from all forms of sexual harassment. Any substantiated incidents of sexual harassment by a management or supervisory employee or

co-workers will result in immediate disciplinary action. It is the responsibility of every employee to bring to the Cooperative's attention any evidence of sexual harassment so that the matter can be promptly investigated and appropriate action taken.

As the President & CEO of South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, I, Ken Simmons, fully support our Affirmative Action Programs, and I will work to ensure that our equal employment opportunity policy is being implemented at all levels. Each manager of South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy. If you have a question about South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation's policy, would like to view relevant portions of the Affirmative Action Programs, or feel that you have been a victim of discrimination or harassment, you should contact Karen Black, vice president of human resources.

Scholarship opportunity

2020 W.I.R.E Scholarship

The Kentucky Chapter of Women in Rural Electrification (WIRE) is offering three \$1,000 scholarships to Kentucky college students.

The scholarships are open to any applicant who meets the following criteria:

- Student or student's family must be served by a Kentucky rural electric cooperative.
- Student must have completed at least 60 credit hours at the end of the 2019 fall college term.

- Student must attend a Kentucky college or university

The scholarship application deadline is June 12, 2020. Scholarship recipients will be notified in July.

Scholarships will be awards based on academic achievements, extracurricular activities, career goals, recommendations from professors and community leaders and financial need.

Application should be returned to Mary Beth Dennis, Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, P.O. Box 32170, Louisville, KY 40232.



SHUTTERSTOCK

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(606) 678-4121

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South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Visit www.skrecc.com to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

To report an outage 24/7/365, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:



Capital credits for estates

Anyone receiving electricity from South Kentucky RECC is our member-owner. So when revenues are greater than expenses for a particular year at South Kentucky RECC, the difference is called the margin and is divided in the form of capital credits among the co-op's members who received service in that year.

Capital credit refunds were mailed to members in January.

But what happens to those capital credits if a member passes away?

If a member of South Kentucky RECC dies, the co-op will give the deceased member's capital credits to their estate. South Kentucky RECC understands the difficulties families encounter when trying to settle a loved one's estate, so to assist, the co-op continuously takes applications for capital credits of these estates to settle the estate with a final, lump sum payment. In turn, the member can transfer the account out of the deceased member's name and into the executor or new resident's name.

If you are the spouse, administrator, legal heir or agent of a legal heir(s) of an estate of a deceased

South Kentucky RECC member, and have interest in collecting a lump sum payout of the estate of your loved one, you need to do the following:

- 1) Apply in person at the South Kentucky RECC office nearest you. You will be asked to complete the capital credit application form that will be provided.
 - 2) Bring with you to the SKRECC office:
 - a. A copy of the death certificate of the deceased, and
 - b. A copy of the court order appointing you as administrator of the estate of the deceased, or
 - c. A statement from the funeral director that handled the burial arrangements for the deceased.
- For more information, call (800) 264-5112 and ask for the capital credits department.



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The co-op continuously takes applications for capital credits of estates to settle the estate with a final, lump sum payment.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 8!**
Set your clocks ahead by one hour.

