

New to Your Electric Cooperative?



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER

IT'S EASY FOR US "OLD-TIMERS" TO FORGET THAT SOMETIMES WE speak a different language out here in Co-op Country, a language that many of our newer members may not be familiar with. If you're a new member of our co-op, you may not even be aware that you're much more than a mere "customer" until you've had a personal interaction with a co-op employee who works for you.

That's right—we work *for* you. When you signed up for electric service and paid your membership fee, you became much more than a customer—you became a member and one of the owners of this business. Consumer ownership and control

of an electric co-op makes it different from other types of electric utilities.

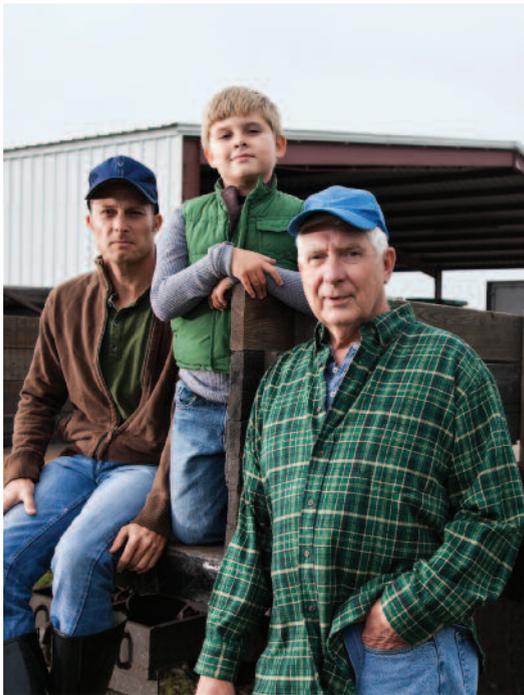
Simply put, a co-op is a business that's owned and operated by those who use it. In the cooperative form of business, any revenues realized over expenses are assigned to the membership in the form of equity, called capital credits, or are invested back into the business for necessary improvements.

Your electric co-op is operated under the watchful eye of a board of directors, elected by the members themselves. The directors spend many hours studying and deliberating issues that affect the membership. Rest assured your board members and co-op employees work

hard to provide you with the very best service possible. You see, we all have a common interest—we're all in this business together.

Each year, we hold a membership meeting to give our members the opportunity to exercise their ownership rights by hearing reports from me and the board. When you attend the annual meeting, you will learn about the past year's operation and elect directors. You should consider it your chance to become involved and help decide the direction your cooperative will take. We hope you'll feel this meeting is important enough to attend every year.

Whether you're a new member or one of us old-timers, you're always welcome at your cooperative!



Got Power? Thank a Lineman.

Lineman
Appreciation Day
April 9





Plan ahead to keep home additions like swimming pools away from power lines.

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Expanding Your Home?

Steer clear of power lines

YOU'VE HAD AN EYE ON THE PERFECT SPOT FOR YOUR GETAWAY CABIN. THE VIEW— well, it's breathtaking! But if you try to build your dream home too close to a power line, you may not live long enough to enjoy it.

Electric co-ops have found new homes where the roof came within 8 feet of an existing power line, or where a swimming pool or barn was built beneath a line. When you think about hauling in materials and working in those areas and folks using the pool or getting too close to the roof, it's pretty scary.

Whether you're a contractor or a do-it-yourselfer, always use caution when working near power lines. Never get closer than 10 feet to an overhead line.

Electricity flows through metal, wood, water and many other conductive materials, including human beings—all in an effort to reach the ground. Small birds can sit on power lines unhurt because they don't create a path to the ground. But you and your ladder do.

A line doesn't have to be touched to spark danger—electricity can jump, or arc, from a power line to a person or equipment that gets too close. When equipment comes into contact with power lines, it becomes energized and dangerous.

If an object, such as a scaffold, must be moved near overhead power lines, have someone specifically watching to make sure a minimum 10-foot clearance is maintained between the power lines and the object.

If your vehicle comes into contact with an overhead power line, don't leave the vehicle. As long as you stay inside and avoid touching outside metal, you should avoid an electrical hazard. Warn others to stay away and call for help. If you need to exit the vehicle to summon help or because of fire, jump out without touching any wires or the exterior of the vehicle, keep your feet together and hop to safety.

Overhead power lines are not insulated. Touching a power line or an object in contact with one can result in serious injury—even death. Please contact Coleman County Electric Cooperative if you need to work near power lines so that we can help you stay safe.



Coleman County Electric Cooperative

3300 N. Highway 84 • P.O. Box 860
Coleman, TX 76834

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Runnels, Taylor and Tom Green counties

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Clint Gardner

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- Les Dobbins Jr., District 4
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- Darla Wise, District 6
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Contact Us

CALL US AT

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1-800-560-2128 toll-free

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY

1-800-560-2128 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

colemanelectric.org

Did You Know?

April is Keep America Beautiful Month, recalling Lady Bird Johnson's rich legacy of protecting and beautifying our national lands and her advocacy for the wild, natural beauty of Texas in particular.

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