

PowerLines

September 2022

Fleeting time and daylight

Labor Day signifies the unofficial end to summer – even though the calendrical fall season officially arrives on September 22nd. School is back in session, football at all levels has returned, and there is a noticeable change to more refreshing air temperatures.

Harvest activities will ramp up as the month progresses. Please read the informative articles included and stay safe in all activities. Also reference the electric vehicle (EV) event information scheduled at our Paxton office the morning of September 10th.

You have recently noticed the reduced daylight hours. From July to September there is almost 1 hour less daylight in both the morning and evening. By the September 22nd autumnal equinox, there will be equal hours of daylight and darkness. Unfortunately, we all know it is all downhill until the winter solstice just prior to Christmas.

At the July EIEC Board meeting, your directors authorized a return of approximately \$1.2 million patronage capital to members that received service in the years 1998 through 2002. The checks will be mailed in late November/early December and represent a return of member equity in EIEC. If you have any questions about this process, please call us at 800-824-5102.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), our statewide

organization, recently held their annual meeting. There were many interesting topics presented and discussed during the meeting. The current Illinois Legislature Senate President, Don Harmon, was one of three legislators recognized with a cooperative award.

In his brief remarks, Mr. Harmon complimented AIEC staff and cooperative representatives in general for their participation in the 2021 energy related legislative process and for being easy to work with and trustworthy, and consistent in our messaging to educate legislators on the issues.



**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Harmon also mentioned the legislative goal to have electricity be renewable, reliable, and affordable. Note the order, which he repeated more than once. The cooperative view would present the order as reliable, affordable, and renewable.

Ask any Ameren customer how they feel about their recent significant energy supply cost increases. Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, with access to a diverse wholesale supply portfolio, expects our energy supply costs to remain stable.

Enjoy the fall weather and stay safe in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunzinger

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- View your bill
- Make a payment
- Compare usage by month
- Review known issues
- Report an outage
- Update account information

SmartHub is available online or through an application on your cell phone. Sign up today!

Eastern Illini to host Electric Vehicle Drive-In

You are invited to join us for an electric vehicle drive-in on Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at our office in Paxton. Bring your EV or stop by and take a test drive in an EV. Learn more about the many advantages of electric vehicles.

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

MAKE SAFETY A TOP PRIORITY DURING HARVEST

A hectic harvest can be dangerous

Harvest season is always hectic, but because of late spring planting this year it will mean an especially busy time for farmers over the next month.

We encourage farmers and those assisting with harvest to make safety a top priority as combines work late into the night and grain trucks haul multiple loads to the elevator. We want farmers to head home to their families safe and sound at the end of each day.

Vehicle safety is an especially important focus this time of year. Tractor overturns are the leading cause of fatalities in the agriculture industry, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. These accidents result in about 130 deaths each year nationwide. The roll overs and left-hand turns by farm vehicles on roadways seem to be the top two safety issues.

While tractor roll-over accidents most often occur on the farm, roadways also pose a major safety hazard. Too often a vehicle attempting to pass causes a collision before the tractor or farm implement can finish a left-hand turn. Some collisions occur simply because the driver fails to reduce speed for the slower moving farm implement. Impatience and speed are a deadly combination on rural roads this time of year.

Visibility is also a key to safety on the roads. All agricultural vehicles using the public roadways must display the fluorescent orange Slow Moving Vehicle triangle. Additionally, tractors and other self-powered farm vehicles must have proper lighting. According to Illinois law:

- Lighting is required 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise.
- There should be two white lamps on the front of the vehicle, visible from at least 1000 feet to the front of the vehicle.

- There should be two red lamps on the rear of the vehicle, visible from at least 1000 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

- There should be at least one flashing amber signal lamp on the rear of the vehicle, mounted as high as possible and visible from at least 500 feet, which can be used during daylight as well.

Drivers should remember that farm vehicle operators have limited visibility to the rear. Anyone passing such a vehicle needs to use extreme caution. Modern farm equipment provides effective safety devices if they are used properly. Death and serious injury from tractor roll overs can be prevented by roll-over protective structures – a roll bar or cage designed to provide a safe space around the driver. But too often workers fail to use a vital part of this safety device – a safety belt. Fatalities have been reported because drivers were thrown from the tractor and the roll-over protection pinned them to the ground. It's important to use all safety components available.

Time is of the essence during harvest, but it is important to remember mistakes happen when people are tired, hungry, and thirsty. These words of advice can avoid accidents, errors, and fatalities during harvest. Rest. Nutrition. Hydration. During harvest, farmers need to consider taking a break every couple of hours –not only to stretch but to make a quick inspection of tractors, combines, and other farm equipment. Also, a tractor isn't the only thing that needs fuel. Make sure to eat nutritious food at regular intervals and drink fluids to stay alert. It will pay off in the long run to take a few minutes for safety's sake.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous job in America. The third week of September is National Farm Safety and Health Week with the purpose of promoting safety during the busiest and most dangerous season of the year for the ag industry.

Harvesting equipment is a necessity on farms. Harvest time is primary revenue time on many farms and is also one of the peak periods for farm injuries and deaths. Many of these injuries can be prevented through effective farm safety management.

- Develop a "safety first" attitude. Follow safe work practices all the time and set a good example for your family and your employees.

- Be physically and mentally fit before operating equipment. Fatigue, stress, and worry can distract you from safely operating equipment. Take frequent breaks.

- Pay attention to all safety information. Read the operator manuals and warning decals.

- Inspect the equipment and correct any hazards before operating.

- Identify hazardous areas on equipment and make sure you stay away from moving parts. Beware of pinch points, shear points, wrap points, pull-in areas, thrown objects, crush points, stored energy hazards and freewheeling parts.

- Make sure everyone who operates the equipment has the appropriate training and is physically able to operate it safely.

- Shut down equipment, turn off the engine, remove the key, and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.

- Keep bystanders and others away from equipment operation area.

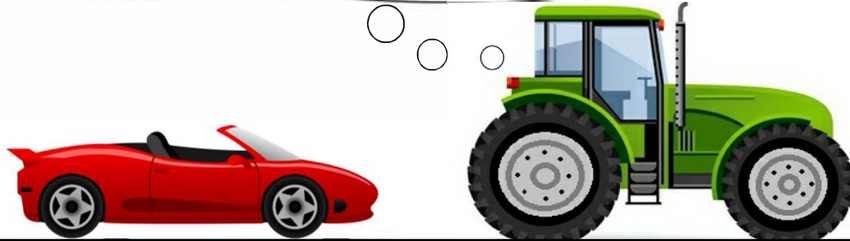
- Do not allow "extra riders" on equipment, especially children.

Have a safe and successful harvest.

PREVENT POTENTIAL ACCIDENTS ON RURAL ROADS

Road safety during harvest

Dear rural road driver: it's harvest time -
slow down, leave space, only pass when necessary



ALWAYS



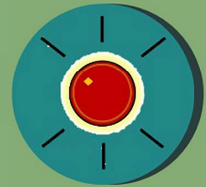
Have valid license



Use reflective materials and SMV



Clean and replace reflective materials



Be visible 24/7

WHEN POSSIBLE



Use pilot cars



Use flashers



Avoid rush hour



Avoid bad weather

NEVER



Drink and drive



Allow riders on fenders



Use personal electronics



Drive while tired

Bright ideas for patio lighting

As summer turns to fall, you may find yourself spending more time on the patio in the evenings enjoying cooler temperatures, a slight breeze, and a refreshing drink.

But if all the patio lighting you've got to work with are the flickering of fireflies, you might soon find yourself in the dark. Good patio lighting can create an outdoor space that inspires conversation, elevates evening outdoor meals, and even creates the staycation you've been dreaming about—just steps from your back door.

There are many options when it comes to patio lighting. You will want to consider how you use your patio in the evenings, the space you have to work with, and the amount of light you need for the space.

Create Ambience with Globe String Lights

For a budget-friendly way to add both artificial light and ambience to your patio, turn to globe string lights. Be sure to measure the length you'll need ahead of time by using a piece of string, following the same path you intend to string your lights. Chances are you'll need a longer strand than you might think, particularly if you'll be hanging your lights in a zigzag pattern.

Other considerations when shopping for patio string lights include light bulb type. It is best to opt for LED varieties, which attract fewer bugs due to reduced UV emissions. Other options allow for smartphone control, which is particularly helpful if you want to set your lights on a timer.

Install Track Lighting Overhead

If you have a large or covered patio, lighting integrated into the architectural framework overhead can be ideal. Both track- and can-lighting options designed to stand up to outdoor elements and are on a

dimmer can ensure your outdoor room always has the right amount of light.

Illuminate Pathways with Hurricanes

Don't let the pathway to your patio be an afterthought. Lighting the way to your outdoor space is necessary to safely create a flow from the indoors out to your patio. Low-lying lanterns or hurricanes provide just enough of a glow to illuminate a foot path without drawing away from the patio. You can opt for battery-powered pillar candles but consider splurging for lighting that mimics the flicker of real candlelight. It adds charm and character to your outdoor space.

Use String-Light Planters to Carve Out a Space

The appeal of string lights can't be denied, but what if your patio doesn't have walls or other structural elements to help secure them? DIY string-light planters are the answer, and the process isn't as complicated as you might think. Whether you have a giant patio and need to separate the dining area from the lounge area or if your patio is a glorified 8-by-8 patch of concrete, a zigzag pattern of string lights overhead can instantly create a distinct space.

Layer Patio Lighting

There's no one-size-fits-all when it comes to patio lighting. The time of day—whether it's dawn, dusk, or well-past sundown—will determine just how much artificial light you need for your patio. For that reason, having an array of options can be both practical and stylish. A sconce just outside the



door is a must for safety purposes. The same can be said for motion-activated spotlights typically hung just beneath the roof and used to illuminate darker areas of the yard or patio. If you are entertaining outdoors and don't want guests to feel like they're in the hot seat, just make sure you flip the sensor off for the occasion. Most products can easily be swapped from motion-sensed to on/off functionality.

Even with plenty of light sources, being able to switch to options that bring a softer glow when called for is ideal. Torches or portable outdoor lamps at the edge of the patio can be used to provide a layer of ambient light while also repelling bugs.

As the evening temperatures drop it makes it an ideal time for enjoying your patio. You will want to consider some overhead lighting options as a way to enhance your outdoor space.

THE BENEFITS OF COMBINING PEDAL POWER AND AN ELECTRIC MOTOR

E-bikes are gaining speed

When many of us were first learning to ride, we might have been given a gentle push to jump-start our momentum. In many ways, that's what the motor on an electric bike can do for you today, except that the boost it provides sustains for as long as you continue to pedal. Electric bikes are becoming increasingly popular, but what are the advantages of combining pedal power with an electric motor?

From health and fitness to economic and environmental advantages, electric bikes can be a great way to get started with riding or to keep up with your exercise routine. Today, as many as half the e-bike buyers are people who didn't consider themselves a cyclist before their purchase. Here are a few reasons you might want to consider an e-bike:

- To keep up with a friend or partner who is an avid rider.
- You think riding a bike is fun and healthy, but don't want to be limited by hilly routes, long distances, or arriving sweaty at your destination.
- Speaking of fun—new e-bike riders tell us all the time that riding one is simply a blast to do.
- You want to commute to work, and you're motivated to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, get exercise, and have more fun along the way.
- You want an alternative to jumping in your car for around-town errands.

Why buy an electric bike?

Electric bicycles offer the same great benefits as traditional bicycles including cost savings (no licensing or insurance required), improved well-being, and connection with community. E-bikes make cycling so enjoyable that you're way more likely to head out on one than a normal bike, simply because you know you always have that motor to fall back on. The more you cycle, the more you burn fat.



It's worth noting that e-bikes do not rob you of a good workout. It's certainly true that a given ride might be easier, but e-bike riders are also going farther, pedaling with a faster cadence, climbing steeper hills, and riding more often than they ever did on a conventional bike. It's also worth noting that most e-bikes are called "pedal-assist" bikes because the motor only works when you're moving the pedals—that means that your body is still doing a significant amount of work.

There are some cons to purchasing an e-bike instead of a traditional bike.

- E-bikes cost more than conventional bikes—low-end prices are around \$1,000 and you can pay more than \$6,000 for high end models.
- Greater weight means that hefting and transporting an e-bike can also be challenging.
- The battery on your e-bike will last between 3 to 5 years if it is well maintained. A new battery may run as much as \$500.

- Depending on the capacity of the battery, it will take 0.4 – 0.8 kWh to charge. At .13/kWh, it will cost you about ten cents per charge and you will be able to travel between fifty and eighty miles per charge.
- It can take anywhere between two and six hours to charge a battery that is completely empty to completely full.

How to Ride an Electric Bike

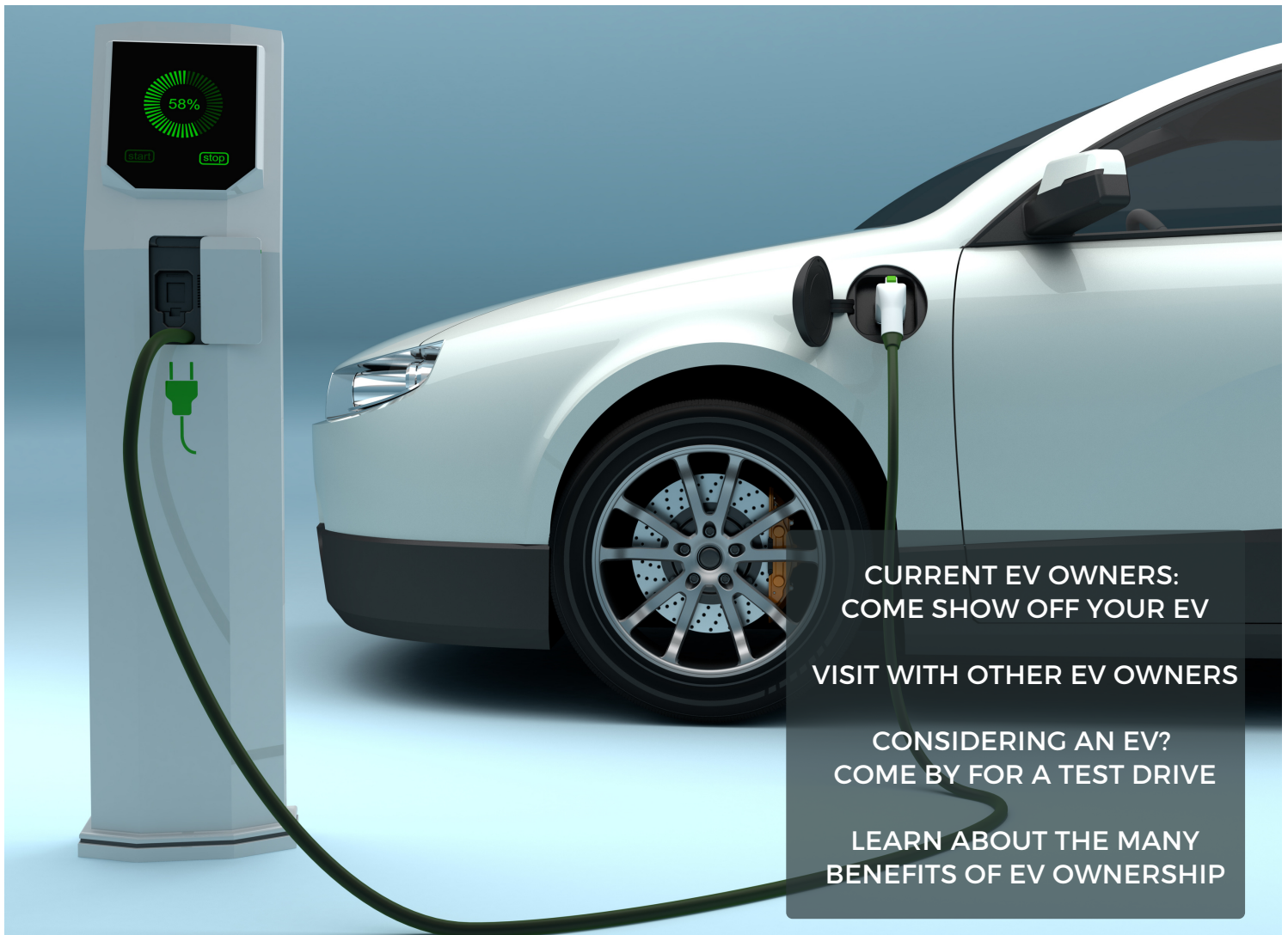
While it does differ from riding a regular bike, most e-bike newbies get the hang of it quickly. Typically, it only takes one test ride for the body's muscle memory to adapt to the feel of a pedal-assist machine. You will need to brake earlier because e-bikes are heavier and faster. You will find yourself riding with a faster cadence and riding in low-assist modes as much as possible.

An electric bike is a great investment, and not just for environmental reasons. They are easy to ride, fun, and a great value in the long run.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE DRIVE-IN

EASTERN ILLINI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
330 W. OTTAWA, PAXTON, IL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2022
9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M
PAXTON, IL.



CURRENT EV OWNERS:
COME SHOW OFF YOUR EV

VISIT WITH OTHER EV OWNERS

CONSIDERING AN EV?
COME BY FOR A TEST DRIVE

LEARN ABOUT THE MANY
BENEFITS OF EV OWNERSHIP

For more information contact us:

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