



# From the Manager's Desk

MICHAEL SWAN, PRESIDENT/CEO

## The co-op community that keeps your lights on

When a big storm knocks out power for you and your neighbors, our goal is to get your service back on as soon as safely possible. Sometimes, that means we ask for help from other electric co-ops.

Our ability to get the lights back on safely and as soon as possible comes from a combination of a centuries-old co-op tradition, the latest in weather-forecasting technology, a contract between electric cooperatives and municipal utilities and lineworkers' spirit of dedication, pride and adventure.

When a power outage is caused by an especially severe natural disaster, the devastation can be more than the local electric co-op can quickly repair on its own. That's when other co-ops swoop in, from next door and, sometimes, from other states.

Perhaps you've seen them. They arrive in caravans of utility vehicles with military-like precision as part of a plan called a "Mutual Aid Agreement."

The origins of the Mutual Aid Agreement can be traced back to 1844, even before there were electric utilities, when the first formally organized cooperative created a set of operating principles that included "Cooperation Among Cooperatives."

When electric co-ops were formed in the 1930s, they used that handshake-style working arrangement to help each other with repairs after severe storm damage. But in the early 1990s, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requested a more legalistic accounting for the aid it provided

electric cooperatives after natural disasters.

So electric co-ops, represented by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), got together with FEMA and the organization for city-owned utilities, the American Public Power Association, and produced a stunningly short contract — it's exactly one page long. The contract says when one co-op goes to help another, it will charge reasonable rates for the crews and equipment.

A contract is one thing, but success means carrying it out effectively. To that end, electric co-ops rely on their decades of experience. We share that experience with each other, and we meet regularly to keep procedures updated.

The response to your power outage can start days before it even happens, with co-ops tracking weather patterns that could knock down poles. Co-ops organize under statewide associations, planning for how many line crews might be needed and where they will come from and even making hotel reservations to house crews.

In addition to the careful planning and procedures, there's another secret ingredient to how co-ops come together in a crisis so effectively — the lineworkers. When they head out to a storm-ravaged area, it's with a serious kind of excitement as they get ready to use their skills for a cause they passionately believe in — restoring electricity. Let's hope we don't have any big storms this winter or throughout the new year. But, if we do, we will be ready to keep the lights on for you.



### WOODRUFF ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

At the end of 2020, twelve Woodruff Electric employees and two directors received service awards for their service to the cooperative.

Those recognized are listed at right.

#### EMPLOYEES

##### 30 Years of Service

Jimmy Cook  
Shelby Hartsell  
Glenn Shepherd

##### 25 Years of Service

Willie Coleman  
Tommy Talley

##### 15 Years of Service

Cindy Holland

#### DIRECTORS

##### 45 Years of Service

J. Byron Ponder

##### 40 Years of Service

Chris Burrow

##### 10 Years of Service

Camella Davis  
Lisa Long  
Joseph Riley  
Beth Vaccaro

##### 5 Years of Service

Tammy Hankins  
James Williford

# WECC pays property taxes too!

Everyone who owns property has the duty to pay personal property taxes, and it's not any different for your local electric cooperative. Woodruff Electric pays taxes on our office buildings, power lines and substations. WECC pays taxes to seven different counties, which are used to support local government, law enforcement, schools and public roads. In 2020, Woodruff Electric Cooperative Corporation paid the following 2019 personal property taxes:

## 2019 Taxes

Cross County	\$ 260,314.40
Lee County	\$ 179,974.95
Monroe County	\$ 153,190.78
Phillips County	\$ 118,837.75
Prairie County	\$ 12,297.76
St Francis County	\$ 381,712.71
Woodruff County	\$ 176,968.51

**Total property taxes paid \$ 1,283,296.86**



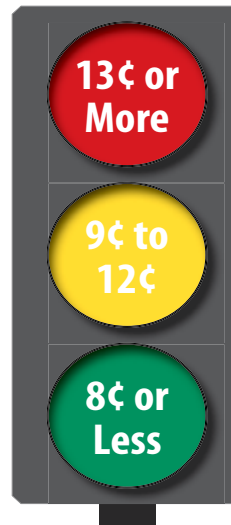
my co-op

## Estimate Your Home's Energy Efficiency

To estimate your home's energy efficiency, take your average electric bill and divide it by the square feet of your home. For example, a 1,800-square-foot home with a \$260 average electric bill would cost \$0.14 per square foot.

$$\frac{\$260}{1,800 \text{ sq. ft.}} = \$0.14/\text{sq. ft.}$$

This home would benefit from energy efficiency improvements. Calculate your home's cost and see how it ranks on the scale.  
**Please note:** This calculation is based on an all-electric home without a pool or hot tub.



13¢ or More

**Needs Improvement**

9¢ to 12¢

**Could Be Improved**

8¢ or Less

**Energy Efficient**

Graphic Courtesy of First Electric Cooperative



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