



COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

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SAFETY TIPS FOR BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE STORM

Storm season is in full swing. As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are several tips you can share with your loved ones.

Before the Storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm.

Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.

- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the Storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.

- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.

- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the Storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.

- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.

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FIELD DAY IS JULY 20

The 2023 Sunbelt Ag Expo Field Day is scheduled for July 20, and farmers are invited to join us to learn practical information from the region's top agricultural scientists about the newest technologies that farmers can use to improve their operations.

The Sunbelt team looks forward to welcoming farmers and professionals in the ag industry to a Driving Tour of the Darrell Williams Research Farm. The half-day event will take place at the 600-acre Darrell Williams Research Farm, located at the Expo show site at Spence Field in Moultrie, Ga. Registration is free for anyone who works in agriculture. Visitors should arrive thru Gate 2 anytime between 8:00 am and 9:00 am to begin the tour.

"We have the unique ability to work with university and corporate researchers on our Darrell Williams Research Farm, where we continue to conduct cotton, peanut, corn, sorghum and forage research — all aimed at improving the farmer's bottom line. We look at the latest seed varieties, crop protection methods, soil fertility, irrigation and precision ag technology," says Chip Blalock, Sunbelt Ag Expo Executive Director.

"Each year, our mission is to provide a place where research can be done to benefit all row crop and forage farmers — especially those who might not have the resources or land to just go out and try a new variety or technology on a hunch," says Cody Mitchell, Sunbelt Ag Expo Farm Manager. "This year is no different." We

look forward to featuring some of the latest drone research, new thrip-resistant cotton varieties, innovative pigweed studies, and more.

"We strive to have the best-looking farm around. We want the Expo farm to showcase what a farm should look like," he says. "We work hard all year to ensure that we make a lifelong impression on the guests who come to see us during Sunbelt Ag Expo in October. When they visit here, we want it to be an eye-opening experience that's worth their time."

There are a few tips visitors should keep in mind to enjoy a successful tour. Bring a friend and/or neighbor to experience the event with you. Be sure to have a smartphone or tablet with you to view the research videos during the tour. Videos will be accessible using the Sunbelt Ag Expo website or YouTube channel.

Connect your device to your vehicle Bluetooth before you arrive. Plan to chat with researchers and vendors at plots that specifically interest you. Prepare to explore and learn on the research farm, all while enjoying your comfortable vehicle!

UGA researchers, Extension Specialists, and ag chemical representatives conduct numerous trials at the Sunbelt farm for all major southern agronomic crops. To view more specific Field Day details, download the Sunbelt Ag Expo app or visit www.sunbeltexpo.com.



POWER OUTAGE PANTRY ITEMS

When severe weather is rolling in and outages are possible, the last thing you need to be worried about is food. We're prepared for storm season, and you can be too! Stock up on non-perishable items so you're storm ready! This can include canned goods, peanut butter, cereal, rice, or jarred pasta sauce.



STORM SAFETY TIPS Continued from front

- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Dept. of Energy





DON'T LEAVE YOUR TOOLS IN THE SHED

Have you ever begun a project and discovered that you forgot the one tool you really needed?

Having the correct tool can mean the difference between satisfaction and frustration, success and failure. Like any project, working to lower your power bills requires the right tools for the job. Fortunately, as a Colquitt EMC member, you have access to an array of "free" tools that can help you cut those power bills down to size:

Online Power Use Data

When you access your account through our website or mobile app, you can view your past power use at daily or 30-minute intervals. Regularly examining your power use makes it easier to determine if you're on track with your power cost goals. (Multiplying your daily usage by 13¢ per kilowatt hour will give you a rough estimate of your daily power cost).

Energy Use Alerts

While viewing your account online, be sure to set up *Energy Use Alerts*. This automated notification system will send you a text, email, or recorded voicemail whenever your daily energy consumption rate is higher than you would like. Receiving high power use notifications allows you to head off a high monthly energy bill. (Contact our offices if you need assistance setting up the alerts).

Energy Audit

As a member of Colquitt EMC, you are entitled to a free on-site energy audit. Our Energy Conservation Advisors are here to help you get the most out of your power purchases. Contact your local office to schedule an appointment.

Tools can make any job easier. Not taking advantage of Colquitt EMC's Energy Use assistance tools is like leaving your tools in the shed.

BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Bright Ideas Grant Applications are available at colquittemc.com June 1-August 1! Bright Ideas awards teachers money for innovative lessons and projects to energize students learning abilities. The Bright Ideas Program will award grants of up to \$1,000 to winning teachers. Public and private school teachers teaching grade K-12 in any subject area are eligible to apply. Schools in the areas that Colquitt EMC serves may submit more than one application. However, teachers are eligible to submit only one application per school year. The grants are not for professional development. Bright Ideas Grant Applications are due by August 1, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246.



Recipe OF THE MONTH



Heirloom Tomato Tart

INGREDIENTS

1 frozen puff pastry, thawed
1 egg white
4 medium heirloom tomatoes, different colors
3 tablespoons whole grain or Dijon mustard
1 shallot, thinly sliced and separated into rings
1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375° F and lightly grease a baking sheet. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out into a rectangle to fit your baking sheet. Place on the prepared pan and flip over a ½ inch border, using water to hold down the edges and then crimping with a fork. Whisk the egg with 1 tbsp water, and brush over the edge of the tart. Prick the inside of the tart in several places with the fork. Par-bake until lightly browned and lightly cooked in the center, 12-15 minutes. Let cool slightly. Meanwhile, cut the tomatoes in half through the equator, then gently squeeze them to remove seeds and excess liquid. Slice into 1/8 to ¼ inch-thick slices. Spread the mustard over the prepared crust evenly and layer the tomatoes on top alternating colors. Season well with sea salt, then top with the shallot rings and thyme. Cook until the tomatoes are softened, and the crust is cooked through in the center, 20-25 minutes.

Church of the Month



Northside Baptist Church

4605 Murray Ave. - Tifton, GA
Pastor: Stacy Phillips

Service Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship	9:30 AM
Sunday School	10:45 AM
Wednesday Night	6:00 PM

To nominate your church for Church of the Month, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246 with your church's information. Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

Bible Verse of the Month

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

~Matthew 5:16