



## Safety on the Farm

Every year, serious accidents involving electricity occur on American farms. With one out of seven Georgians working in agriculture, forestry or a related sector, Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation urges you to remember the following safety tips:

**Know the location of power lines**, and map out ways to avoid them when moving equipment. Any contact with these lines creates a path to the ground for electricity and carries the potential for a serious, even fatal, accident.

### Shuffle or Hop, Don't Step.

- If the machinery you are operating contacts an energized line, move it away from the line to break contact. If this can't be done, stay on the machine.
- If there is an uncontrollable fire, jump off the machine keeping your feet together. Never contact the machine and the ground at the same time.
- Once clear of the machine, shuffle away, never allowing the heel of one foot to move beyond the toe of the other, or hop with both feet together to a minimum distance of 30-35 feet.

**Stay 10 feet away from power lines.** The Georgia High Voltage Safety Act requires that you not encroach on that space. Avoid building fencing under lines or storing equipment in the right-of-way.

### Be extra-careful when moving cotton pickers, irrigation pipes and grain augers.

Many electrical accidents on farms occur when machinery or materials are accidentally raised into power lines. The combination can be deadly.

**Never stack hay or pile grain near power lines.** Look above you for power lines before swinging hay bales onto a truck with a hay squeeze or boom.

**Picking fruit or pruning trees.** Check for power lines running through or near trees. Branches may have grown too close to a power line, and you or your tools or ladder can come into contact.

**Never spray water hoses at power lines, or allow irrigation systems to spray lines.** The electricity can follow the water back to the source.

**Avoid moving large equipment alone.** Have someone watch out for you as you drive equipment to ensure that you stay clear of the power lines.

**Stay back 30-35 feet from any downed power line or exposed underground cable.** Walking over the area can cause a fatal shock. If you feel a tingling sensation, stop immediately, place your feet together and shuffle or hop out of the area without touching anything with your hands.

**Don't hang around operating equipment.** Stay at least 30 feet away from equipment operating near power lines because if it contacts an energized line, the electricity will go to the ground.

**Rubber household or chemical gloves will not protect you** from the voltage carried by overhead lines.

**Wood can conduct electricity** especially if wet!

**Don't become a victim.** Always call your local emergency services when someone is injured in an electrical accident. If they are still in contact with the electrical source and you touch them, you could be seriously injured or killed. Keep everyone back a minimum distance of 30 feet and have someone call for help immediately.



## Congratulations Philip Grimes!

Philip Grimes, a farmer from Tifton, Georgia who is known for his conservation practices and high crop yields, has been selected as the overall winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year award for 2014. Grimes was named as the overall winner during the Willie B. Withers Luncheon held during the opening day of the 2014 Sunbelt Ag Expo farm show. Grimes was chosen Farmer of the Year over nine other state winners who were finalists for the award.



## Heating Season Energy Saving Tips



- Set your thermostat to your lowest comfortable setting. Each degree you lower your thermostat can cut your heating costs between one and three percent.
- Manually setback the heating system thermostat 5 to 10 degrees while you sleep or when no one is home or even better install a programmable thermostat to automatically make adjustments.
- Clean or replace heating system filters once a month. One way to remember to change your

filter monthly is to make a habit of changing your filter the same day you pay your power bill.

- If your warm-air registers are located in the floor, make sure they are not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- Keep bedroom doors cracked open to allow good air and heat circulation between rooms.
- Check to see that your fireplace damper is tightly closed, when it is not in use.
- During the heating season, keep draperies and shades on south-facing windows open during the day to allow sunlight to warm your home and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- Consider having your heating system professionally serviced to achieve maximum comfort and efficiency.

Log on to [colquittemc.com](http://colquittemc.com) for  
2014 Annual Meeting highlights and election results

*Look for more details in the December NewsLine*

**ATTENTION:** Use firebreaks around any utility poles on land that will be burned under controlled conditions. By using a firebreak to protect utility poles, you can help Colquitt EMC save thousands of dollars in repair costs. Also, you can avoid potential safety problems resulting from burned poles.

*-Thank you in advance for your cooperation.*

## **BURN WITH CARE... AVOID TROUBLE.**



## **Energy Efficient Holiday Lighting**

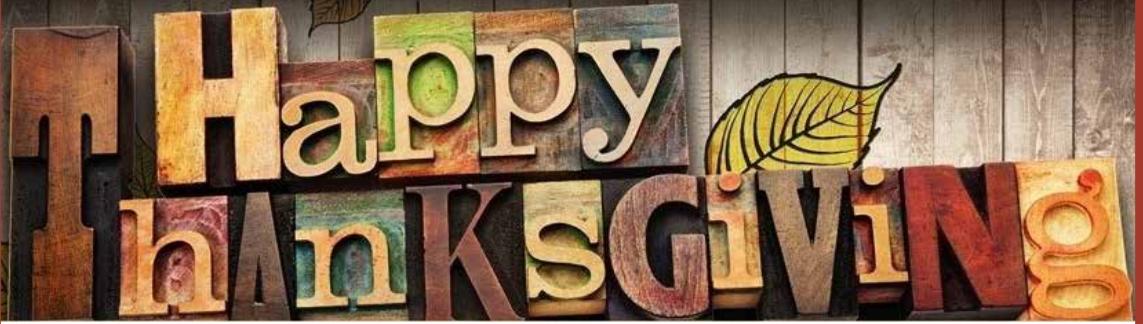
**LED Light Bulbs:** A perfect stocking stuffer, ENERGY STAR certified LED bulbs deliver leading energy efficiency and can have a lifespan of over 20 years. A single light bulb that has earned the ENERGY STAR can save \$95 in electricity costs over its lifetime.

Saving energy with ENERGY STAR certified home entertainment products helps protect the climate. If each TV, DVD player, and home theatre system purchased in the U.S. this year earned the ENERGY STAR, we would prevent more than 2.2 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions every year, equal to the emissions from more than 200,000 cars.

Last, but not least, don't forget to look for ENERGY STAR certified decorative light strings this holiday season. They use 65% less energy than conventional models and can last up to 10 times longer.



Local. Dependable. Serving **YOU.**



*Colquitt EMC offices will be closed  
Thursday, November 27th  
and Friday, November 28th*

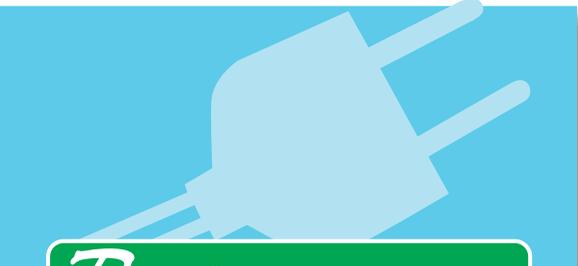


*We're grateful for the opportunity to  
serve you. Wishing you the bounty  
and blessings of the season...*

*from Colquitt EMC's  
Board & Employees*

**Our offices will be closed  
Thursday, December 25  
Friday, December 26  
& Thursday, January 1**





## Recipes of the Month



### Pecan Pie Cupcakes

1 cup chopped pecans  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
2/3 cup butter, melted  
2 eggs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Combine all ingredients and mix well.  
Spray a miniature muffin tin with non-stick cooking spray.  
Fill each 3/4 full.  
Bake in preheated oven for approx. 18 minutes.

*Yield: 24 minis*

**Per Serving:** 127.0 Calories, 8.8g Fat,  
53.7mg Sodium, 29.1mg Cholesterol,  
11.6g Carbohydrate.



### Dessert Cheese Ball

8 ounces cream cheese, softened  
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened  
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract  
3/4 cup powdered sugar  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
3/4 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips  
more chocolate chips (optional) or chopped nuts, to roll  
the ball in (optional)

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, butter, and vanilla  
until fluffy.  
Gradually add sugars and beat until just combined.  
Stir in chocolate chips.  
Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.  
Form cheese into a ball.  
Optional- just before serving, roll in additional chocolate  
chips or nuts of your choice.  
Serve with graham crackers.

*Yield: 8-10 Servings*

**Per Serving:** 333.9 Calories, 26.1g Fat,  
95.7mg Sodium, 61.7mg Cholesterol,  
26.1g Carbohydrate.