



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CODY LASATER

Go Above and Beyond for a Safe Harvest

THROUGHOUT HAMILTON COUNTY Electric Cooperative's territory, you'll find lots of farms—big and small. And while they may look different than they used to—with many modern conveniences—the workers on those operations still do some one of the most dangerous jobs around.

They have to remain vigilant.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but its impressive size, height and extensions make it particularly vulnerable around power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial to staying alive.

360-Degree Awareness

Awareness of your surroundings—around, above and below—and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents.

Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and be ready to take action if necessary.

Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. If you plan to install grain bins or you're concerned about the proximity of power lines to existing grain bins, contact Hamilton County EC.

Smart Harvest Safety

Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines. Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it's moving near power lines.

Lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators before moving or transporting equipment. Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods around power lines. Even nonmetallic materials like lumber and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.

Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path. If they need to be moved, contact us to get the job done.

Hire qualified electricians. Ensure that they alone handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. If that happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, bunny hop to safety as you leave the area.

Farmers are vital members of our electric cooperative community, and we want to keep them safe and farming for many years to come. ■

5 TIPS FOR A SAFE HARVEST

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

- 1 Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
- 2 Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
- 3 Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
- 4 Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
- 5 Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.





American Legion Post To Celebrate Armistice Day

IF YOU HEAR LOUD BANGS from Hamilton early in the morning November 11, you might wonder why Hamilton County American Legion Post 222 celebrates that day that way.

The armistice ended World War I at 11 a.m. in France on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. It was 5 a.m. in Hamilton, Texas, when that happened. As soon as word reached local officials that the fighting was over, a local blacksmith set one of his anvils upside down on another anvil, packed gunpowder and a fuse between them and set it off with a big bang. He repeated this several times, attracting the attention of the citizens.

As the curious people gathered to find out what all the noise was about, there was a great celebration—the war was over, and the boys would be coming home!

The next year, in commemoration of that great event, the anvils were brought out again, and at 5 a.m. November 11, 1919, loud explosions were heard in Hamilton again. Every year since then, the Anvil Shoot has been reenacted by American Legion Post 222.

November 11 will be the next opportunity to observe and even participate in the celebration. Post 222 will serve a free breakfast of sausage, biscuits and gravy, milk, orange juice, and coffee.

So come out to the American Legion building at 412 N. U.S. Highway 281, across from L&L Veterinary Clinic. The first shot of the anvils will be at exactly 5 a.m., so come early. Everyone who wants to light the fuse can do so until the gunpowder is gone. ■



To celebrate TCP's 80th year, we're giving away 80 heirloom-quality No. 12 skillets from Fredericksburg Cast Iron Co.

TCP Enter Today
TexasCoopPower.com/contests



Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

CONTACT US

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton, TX 76531

P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531

Local (254) 386-3123

Toll-Free 1-800-595-3401

Web hamiltonelectric.coop

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24/7

Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL

(254) 386-3123

TOLL-FREE

1-800-595-3401

ABOUT HAMILTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 4,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 13,000 members in Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills and San Saba counties.

PAYMENT OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

Online at hamiltonelectric.coop

Call 1-877-833-4031 to pay using our automated phone system (credit/debit card or check).

Bank draft can be set up or bill payments can be charged to a debit or credit card monthly.

Hamilton County EC Office

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton

Fort Gates Water Corp.

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

Head Insurance

1006 Fourth St., Goldthwaite

Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Highway 190, Kempner

Lometa City Hall

109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

VISIT US ONLINE

hamiltonelectric.coop



Check us out at

TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton



Hamilton County EC Celebrates Lineman's Rodeo Competitors

THE TEXAS LINEMAN'S RODEO offers journeyman and apprentice lineworkers the opportunity to compete for professional recognition, attend training sessions, and practice essential skills in a safe environment in front of cheering friends and family. This year's event was July 18–20 at Nolte Island Park in Seguin.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative sent Gregg Belcher, Randall Denning and Rhett Keith to compete at the rodeo in the senior journeyman division for those over age 45. Three apprentice linemen—Erich Eilers, Logan Snoddy and Bryr Spurger—also participated, and each represented HCEC very well.

Seven HCEC employees competed in the rodeo-sponsored

golf tournament: Gregg Belcher, Waylon Belcher, Denning, Keith, TJ Pearson, Jorge Salinas and Jason Sellers. Keith and Sellers took third place.

The HCEC team consisting of Pearson, Salinas and Sellers competed once again in the annual barbecue cook-off. The team prepared delicious chicken, ribs and brisket, and the HCEC rodeo attendees enjoyed a wonderfully prepared lunch from the team Saturday.

Mike Armstrong and Chris Raines graciously served as event judges for the rodeo, and we appreciate them greatly.

Hamilton County EC is proud of its employees and congratulates them on their participation. ■

New Program Offers Convenience for Members

HAMILTON COUNTY Electric Cooperative has implemented a new outage management system, which makes the process of reporting outages significantly more efficient.

We understand the challenges faced during extensive outages, particularly the difficulty in reaching a dispatcher and the lengthy hold times. Now outages can be reported simply by calling the new OMS phone number or by using the SmartHub web portal or SmartHub app.

To make a payment or report an outage via the OMS phone line, call 1-855-955-3183 and follow the appropriate prompts.

If the caller ID corresponds to the phone number linked to your account in our records, the outage will be reported automatically.

If the caller ID does not correspond to the phone number linked to your account in our records, you will be required to provide either the phone number on file or the account number related to the outage.

With the SmartHub web portal and mobile app, you can effectively manage your electric service account.

Some of the advantages include:

Billing and payments: Access your billing any time from anywhere and save time with easy payment options. Set up auto pay or make payments via credit card or checking. No fees!

Alerts and notifications: Stay informed on important information regarding your account status or real-time information regarding outages via email or text messages.

Paperless billing: Activate SmartHub paperless billing, an eco-friendly way to access your bill instantly.

Usage monitoring: Monitor your usage daily and track your habits. Compare usage trends to previous bills.

Report outages: Avoid those long hold times during large outages and set notifications to receive a text, email or a phone call when there's an update to your outage. You can also utilize the Track Issue Status link under Contact Us and determine if your outage was restored while not at home.

Submit inquiries: Instantly send inquiries for anything from address changes to tree trimming.

SmartHub is designed to empower you with complete control over your account, providing the necessary tools to deliver

timely information that aids in making informed decisions regarding your account.

To register for SmartHub, you will need:

- ▶ Your billing account number
- ▶ Your email address

To register, visit hamiltonelectric.coop and then click the SmartHub icon to register as a new user. After completing the registration and logging in to your SmartHub account, navigate to Settings and Manage Notifications to enable text messaging. You may also set up notifications under the Billing, Miscellaneous and Service menus.

Additionally, you have the option to download the app to your smartphone. Search for the SmartHub app in your app store, which is represented by the green icon pictured below.

Once the app is installed, look for Hamilton and log in using your existing credentials or create a new account by entering your email and account number. To report an outage through the SmartHub mobile app, click Report an Issue/Inquiry.



PIXDELUXE | ISTOCK.COM

To report an outage through the SmartHub web portal, find the link on the home page of our website. Once you log into your SmartHub, click the Report Power Outage link located in the menu options on the left of the screen.

An outage map on our website, hamiltonelectric.coop, is another new feature of the new outage system. ■



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Help Your Bathroom Exhaust Fan Do Its Job

A QUALITY EXHAUST FAN is a bathroom essential, protecting your bathroom from excess humidity that leads to unpleasant odors and unhealthy mold growth. To get the best performance out of your bathroom exhaust fan, you'll need to learn the right way to select, install and maintain it.

Cheap is expensive. It may be tempting to install the lowest-cost exhaust fan on the market. However, as Grandma used to say, "Cheap is expensive"—meaning that a small price tag tends to go hand-in-hand with poor performance. Cheaper exhaust fans can be noisy and inefficient. It's worth the extra cash to purchase a high-quality fan that's sized for your space, in terms of cubic feet per minute.

Keep it quiet(er). Ideally, a bathroom fan in action should not sound like a jet taking off, and it shouldn't sound like it will rattle the bathroom apart. The amount of noise a fan will make is indicated by its sonic rating, which could range anywhere from 4 (extremely loud) down to 0.5 (barely audible). Buy a fan rated 1 or less if you're looking for quiet performance, but be aware that you will pay more for what you don't get—excessive noise.

Vent to the great outdoors. Bathroom fans must be vented to the exterior air and not into unfinished attic or roof space. In cold weather, the humid air extracted from your bath will con-

dense where it has been vented, liquefying into water. If this happens anywhere inside your home, the end result will be rotted wood and moldy surfaces, which defeats the purpose.

Keep your bathroom door closed while running the fan (during your bath or shower and for 30 minutes afterward). This ensures that the steam flows outdoors as it should, without escaping to other rooms in your home. But remember to turn off the fan and open the door when the bathroom has been cleared of moist air so that you don't expel the other inside air that your air conditioner has worked hard to cool.

Keep it clean. Over the course of normal use, your bathroom fan will inevitably become clogged with dirt. Regular cleaning will maintain its efficiency and improve ambient air quality. Vacuum the grille every 3–6 months.

If deep cleaning is required, start by turning off the power supply at the circuit breaker and disassembling the unit. Wash the cover with hot, soapy water. Brush dust and debris out of the motor and blades, then wipe blades with a damp cloth. Take care that all parts are thoroughly dry before reassembling the fan and reconnecting the electricity. ■

Stay Safe With Outdoor Lighting

ADDING OUTDOOR LIGHTS around your home is one of the best ways to protect it from break-ins while adding safety and style. Some tips:

Place a light at every entry point to your home: above or beside windows and doors, including the garage door.

Mount lighting fixtures on exterior walls near first-floor windows to discourage burglars.

Illuminate your front, back and side yards with floodlights so nobody can skulk around without being seen.

Light up your driveway with pathway lights and another light above the garage door to lower the chances someone will break into your car.

Send a message to prowlers that the neighbors will notice them. Mount lanterns in trees to pour light into your yard and onto your deck. Likewise, post upward-facing lights at the base of trees and shrubs.



If you have a security camera or a security system warning sign, train a light on it so it's visible to would-be intruders.

Arrange outdoor lights so they're high enough to be out of the reach of vandals. Security experts say that's 9 feet off the ground.

Rig your outdoor lights to a timer so they come on at dusk and off at dawn.

Take care with place-

ment so light doesn't glare into your home or your neighbors'.

If your lights are rigged to motion detectors, set them so they spot people near your house but not birds, bats or bugs.

Remember, any light bulb you add or change is a chance to practice energy efficiency, so look for LED models. They'll use the least electricity and save you money over time. ■



October Is National Co-op Month

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is celebrating the co-op business model with other co-ops across the U.S. this month.

This October, we're focusing on the ways co-ops "grow" for their members.

Grow communities: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. Concern for Community is one of our core principles, and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

Grow together: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

Grow tomorrow's leaders: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for cultivating leaders through various youth engagement programs and scholarships. We're committed to providing opportunities for local youths to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

Co-ops grow for you: At Hamilton County EC, your satisfaction is our No. 1 goal. It's why we were formed many decades ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

World Teachers' Day
Saturday, October 5

Indigenous Peoples' Day
Monday, October 14

World Pasta Day
Friday, October 25

**Halloween and
Knock-Knock Joke Day**
Thursday, October 31

Community Calendar

The following community event information was gathered in late August. Please contact event sources directly to confirm event dates and details.

Comanche

Comanche Market, October 5, November 2; 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Comanche County Courthouse, 101 W. Central Ave.

Sports Hero Day, October 19, 1–4 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road.

Trunk or Treat, October 31, 6–8 p.m., City Park. Merchants and individuals will pass out candy. Free hot dogs. For more information, contact Amber Davis at (254) 403-9918.

Steve Clemons Deer Hunters' Chili Supper, November 3, 5–8:30 p.m., Historic Comanche Square. Door prizes will be drawn all evening, and raffle items will be drawn at 7:30 p.m. You do not need to be present to win a raffle item. Raffle tickets are one for \$10 or 11 for \$100. Everyone receives a door prize ticket at the event.

Veterans Day Luncheon and Tribute to Our Veterans, November 10, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. By donation only.

For more information about Comanche County events, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233 or comanchechamberinfo@gmail.com.

Copperas Cove

Fall-O-Ween Festival, October 26. A full night of trick-or-treating, kids zone, food trucks, a costume contest and much more. For more information, contact Ashley Wilson at awilson@copperascovetx.gov or (254) 542-2719.

For information on Copperas Cove events, call (254) 547-7571 or email chamber@copperascove.com.

Gatesville

Market Days, second Saturday of each month, October 12, in the parking lot of the Historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36.

Country Music Hall of Fame, October 18, 7–9 p.m., City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St. Stage show features various singers, musicians and music styles.

Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Asso-

ciation Fall Rendezvous, October 18–19, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

Hidden Gem Harvest Festival, October 26, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. Nonprofit organization Hidden Gem Family Center hosts this celebration of the harvest season with a family event featuring a pet costume contest, baking competition, bingo, face painting, axe throwing and vendors. For more information, call (254) 216-3160.

Boozar, October 26, 6–8 p.m., 620 E. Main St. Candy, games, costume contest and more. Free family fun for everyone.

Whipp Farm's Gun Show, November 2, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., and November 3, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. Admission \$7. For more information, contact Charles Montgomery at (817) 929-1816 or whipp.events@gmail.com.

Texas Sheep Dog Association State Championship Finals, November 5–9, Swindall Ranch. The public is invited, and there is no charge for admission. Bring your lawn chairs. For more information, call Linda Spindor, TSDA secretary, at (972) 841-5638.

For information about Gatesville events, see visitgatesvilletx.com or email gatesvillecoc@gmail.com.

Goldthwaite

Mills County Historical Museum, Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., 1119 Fisher St. Free.

Goldthwaite Theatre, 1206 Fisher St. For information on upcoming events, call (325) 451-1811 or visit goldthwaitetheatre.org.

Prairie Experience, October 5, 5–10 p.m., Texas Botanical Gardens and Native American Interpretive Center pavilion, 1219 Fisher St. For more information, call (325) 648-2750.

Hunters Appreciation Chili Lunch, November 2, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Goldthwaite Pavilion, 1014 Third St. Chili lunch for purchase. Featuring vendors, music and free beer. Gun, bow, big ticket and kids raffle tickets can be purchased online at goldthwaiteareachamber.com or at the Goldthwaite Area Chamber of Commerce, 1219 Fisher St.

Holiday Bazaar, November 16, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Civic Center. More than 30 vendors

of mostly handcrafted items. No admission charge. For more information, call (325) 998-8610 or (325) 948-3214.

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit goldthwaiteareachamber.com, call the Goldthwaite Area Chamber of Commerce at (325) 648-3619 or email gcc@centex.net.

Hamilton

Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Highway 36. For information on upcoming events, visit circletarena.net/calendar or call (254) 386-3559.

Market in the Park, October 12, 9 a.m.–noon, J.L. Hamilton Plaza (next to Kunkel Chiropractic). To sign up, contact Kayla Schraub at mainstreet@hamiltontx.com or (254) 784-5610.

National Night Out, October 1.

Halloween Around the Square, October 31, downtown.

Anvil Shoot, November 11, 5 a.m., American Legion Post 222, 412 N. U.S. Highway 281. Everyone who wants to light the fuse to shoot an anvil can do so until the gunpowder is gone. Post 222 will serve a free breakfast of sausage, biscuits and gravy, milk, orange juice, and coffee.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com or All Things Hamilton on Facebook, call (254) 386-3216, or email hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com.

Hico

Choctoberfest, October 5. Sponsored by Wiseman House Chocolates. For information, call (254) 796-2499.

Downtown Trick-or-Treat, October 25.

Billy the Kid Film Festival, November 1–3.

Holiday Open House, November 16, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., downtown. Participating businesses will have treats, door prizes and special discounts.

For more information about Hico events, contact the Hico Chamber of Commerce at (254) 434-1249 or chamberhicotx@gmail.com.

Lampasas

Lampasas County Farmers Market and Crafts, Saturdays, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., Court-house Square.

State Championship BBQ Cook-off, October 11–12, 580 Sports Complex, 2351 FM 580 W. Music by the Western Playboys on Saturday night, \$10 general admission. Sponsored by the Lampasas County Area

Go Texan. For more information, contact Craig Groves at (512) 667-8005.

Boots & Blazers Ball, October 12. Featuring Suede, Austin's premier variety cover band. Hosted by Lampasas Association for the Arts. For information, email laftainfo@gmail.com.

Reverse Raffle, October 19, 5:30 p.m., Lampasas County Show Barn. Sponsored by the Lampasas County Livestock Association.

Squared Silly, October 26, 5-7:30 p.m., Courtyard Square. Fun and free event for the whole family. Activities include a hayride, costume contest, not-so-scary haunted house, bounce houses and many more family-friendly games. For information, email info@visionlampasas.org or call (512) 556-5172.

Hunters Welcome, November 11, 9:30 a.m.-3p.m., Lampasas H-E-B.

Courtyard Square Association Garage Sale, November 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Courtyard Square.

For more information about Lampasas County events, contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce at (512) 556-5172 or lampasaschamber@sbcglobal.net or visit lampasaschamber.org.

Lometa

Farmer's Market; October 4, November 1; West Railway. For more information, email Jennifer Wisian at jmwisian@gmail.com or visit lometachamber.com.

Yoga and Mimosas; October 5, November 2; 10-11 a.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend,

18727 W. FM 580. For more information, call (325) 628-3433 or email info@fiestawinery.com.

Fourteenth Anniversary Celebration, October 19, 6 p.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580. Featuring music by Kristen Gibbs. For more information, call (325) 628-3433 or email info@fiestawinery.com.

Lometa Community Theater's Radio Play, late October TBA. In partnership with Lampasas Radio. For more information, email Jennifer Wisian at jmwisian@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at Lometa Community Theater.

Hunter's Welcome, November 2. Sponsored by the Lometa Chamber of Commerce. For more information, email Jennifer Wisian at jmwisian@gmail.com or visit lometachamber.com.

Lampasas County Friends of the Night Sky Stargazing, November 2, 6:30 p.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W FM 580. For more information, call (325) 628-3433 or email info@fiestawinery.com.

Holiday Wine and Food Pairing Class, November 15, 6:30 p.m., Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580. For more information, call (325) 628-3433 or email info@fiestawinery.com.

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass; October 5, November 2; doors open at 7 a.m.; Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183. Free admission. Come join others to pick or just to listen. Jam rooms for all levels. Open mic opportunities begin at 10 a.m. Sign up upon

arrival. The kitchen opens at 11 a.m., home cooking and desserts, cash only. Proceeds benefit the Pearl Community Center. For RV spaces, call Connie at (254) 223-0621. For more information, follow us on Facebook at Pearl Community Center Texas or visit pearlbluegrassjam.org.

Pearl Book Cottage; October 5, November 2; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Junk-in-your-trunk and farmers market outside of the book cottage. Vendor booths are \$5. Books and resale items will be available inside the building. For information, call Kay Pruett at (254) 865-5864 or Linda Ray at (254) 865-9282.

Pearl Fall Main Street Festival, October 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Pearl Country Church, 6795 FM 183. Live music, silent auction, cake walk and fish fry. All donations go to support the Disaster Relief Fund. For more information, call or text James McPherrin at (254) 394-2998.

San Saba

San Saba County Fall Festival, October 26, noon-4 p.m., Risien Park, U.S. Highway 190. Games, food, music, vendors, costume contest, bouncy houses and much more.

For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 372-5141 or visit sansabachamber.org or sansabatexas.com.

Star

Star Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fish Fry, November 9, 5:30 p.m., Star Volunteer Fire Department, Highway 84. Donations are appreciated.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative welcomes your local event submissions.

If you have any events that you would like listed in the Community Calendar, please contact Donna Harris. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. The calendar is published monthly and contains events scheduled in the month of publication and the following month. HCEC reserves the right to edit and exclude events based on space available and other considerations. We do not certify the accuracy or reliability of any information posted in any listing in this Community Calendar. Please contact the event source directly to confirm event details. Email donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop; write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531; or call 1-800-595-3401.



**Hidden Gem Harvest Festival
October 26
GATESVILLE**

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