



## GM'S REPORT

# Bring your voice to the table

There is an old saying: "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is a candid reminder of what can happen when we overlook the importance of voting.

When you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, but you're also allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all Firelands Electric Cooperative members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22. While 2020 began as a very active political year, disruptions brought on by COVID-19 altered the campaign plans of many candidates. They also dramatically reduced overall access to voter registration forms through department of motor vehicle offices, public libraries, and schools.

Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote or helping to encourage those in our community to vote, there are many ways to get involved.

### Your vision, your vote

While local elections may not be as exciting as the presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like at the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community and, more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board, or an electric co-op

board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Firelands Electric board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the cooperative and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.



Dan McNaul  
GENERAL MANAGER

### Staying in sync with the community

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees and staff, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. Firelands Electric's board members provide their perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state, and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues that are on the ballot, and get out there and vote!

Register to vote, find your elected officials, or request an absentee ballot at [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop).





SAFETY

# SEASON FOR SAFETY

After months of hard work, farmers across the country are getting ready for their annual fall harvest. They are making plans, monitoring the weather, and preparing equipment. Harvest time is also the perfect season to review farm electrical safety.

According to the National Ag Safety Database, over 60 farm workers are killed each year in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment. Hundreds more are injured. But with just a few precautions, hazardous situations can be avoided.

One of the most important steps that farm workers can take is to simply be aware of their surroundings. As people get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the harvest, it's easy to forget about overhead power lines. Farm machinery is susceptible to hitting power lines because of its size, height, and extensions. To help ensure their safety, make sure that all farm workers follow one general rule — always keep farm machinery at least ten feet away from electrical equipment and power lines.



When operating farm machinery, it's also a good idea to keep these electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter to look out for power lines when operating large machinery. Do not let the spotter touch the equipment while it is anywhere near power lines.
- Look up and use care when raising and lowering augers, the bed of grain trucks, or any other equipment around power lines.

- Remember, nonmetallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes, and hay can still conduct electricity, depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- Know where and how to shut off the power in case of an emergency.
- Use only qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- Have any underground equipment located by the utility company before digging or working a new field.

Farm workers should also know what to do if machinery does come in contact with a power line. Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until utility crews say it is safe to do so.

If a power line is energized and a worker touches the machinery and the ground, their body becomes a path and electrocution can occur. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the area nearby can still be energized. For this reason, stay inside the vehicle unless there is a fire.

If you must exit the equipment, jump off with your feet together and do not touch the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, keeping your feet together, hop or shuffle to safety as you leave the area.

Once you get at least 35 feet away from the equipment, do not attempt to get back on or even touch the machinery. Some electrocutions have occurred after the operator dismounts and then tries to get back on the equipment.

It is very important that all farm workers know about potential electrical hazards. Armed with the proper training and procedures, they can avoid injury this harvest season.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

# FARMING FOR EFFICIENCY



When we talk about farm buildings, such as barns and workshops, the word “efficiency” doesn’t necessarily come to mind. Making certain improvements to these structures, however, can increase energy efficiency, saving money on your farm’s utility bills.

Use these tips to help improve the efficiency of an existing farm building:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak, and in warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building three to six degrees.

- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a two-degree temperature increase for every one-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which can keep harmful bacteria and insects at bay.

Firelands Electric also offers rebates to cooperative members with agricultural businesses who purchase certain pieces of equipment. The chart below outlines the six rebates available. For questions regarding agriculture rebates or general farm efficiency inquiries, contact Firelands Electric Cooperative’s energy advisor at 1-800-533-8658 or email [members@firelandsec.com](mailto:members@firelandsec.com).

## FIRELANDS ELECTRIC CO-OP AGRICULTURE REBATES

Available to agricultural business facilities only. All equipment must be new. Rebates cover the purchase price of equipment only (labor and installation are not included). A member may purchase any combination of the six types of equipment listed. The rebate cannot exceed 50% of equipment cost, and the maximum rebate per agricultural business is \$5,000. A detailed invoice must be submitted and a co-op visit is required to verify installation.

Engine block heater with timer	\$20 per heater
High volume low-speed fans	\$30 per foot of fan diameter
VSD vacuum pump	\$40 per HP
VSD milk transfer pump	\$40 per HP
Well-water milk pre-cooler system	\$500 per unit
Swine farrowing heat mat	\$50 single mat; \$75 double mat

*For additional information and specifications for each type of equipment, please contact the cooperative’s energy advisor at 1-800-533-8658.*



## YOUTH PROGRAMS



Education helps shape the leaders of tomorrow. That's why Firelands Electric includes it as one of our seven core principles. The A Team is a cooperative program designed to encourage students in their pursuit of academic excellence. Students in grades 6–8 are invited to participate and be recognized for their hard work and dedication to education.

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Winners of July drawing receive iTunes gift card



**Owen Moffett**  
*Loudonville Middle School  
Son of Josh and Hannah Moffett*



**Zurina Immel**  
*Norwalk Middle School  
Daughter of Justin and Brooke Immel*

**Send us your grade card and win!**  
**The next drawing will be held on Dec. 10.**

### How you can win

Students in grades 6–8 who have a minimum of three A's on their most recent report card and whose parents or guardians are members of Firelands Electric Cooperative are eligible to apply. A copy of the report card should be submitted by mail to Attn: The A Team, Firelands Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 32, New London, OH 44851. Report cards may also be emailed to [members@firelandsec.com](mailto:members@firelandsec.com).

Be sure to include the student's name, age, school, grade, address, phone number, parents' name(s), and email address on your entry.

Complete program details are also available at [www.firelandsec.com/content/team](http://www.firelandsec.com/content/team).



**Evan Benfer**  
*Monroeville Middle School  
Son of Scott Benfer and  
Jessica Benfer*

## EMPLOYEE NEWS

# SHELLEY MAGYAR CELEBRATES 15-YEAR MILESTONE

Firelands Electric congratulates Human Resources Coordinator Shelley Magyar, who marks her 15th anniversary with the cooperative this month. Shelley started at the cooperative in 2005 as an administrative assistant and was promoted to her current position in November 2006.

As human resources coordinator, Shelley oversees employee benefit administration, organizes safety training, manages OSHA documentation, and handles recruiting and new employee onboarding. Shelley also serves as the coordinator for Firelands Electric's Operation Round Up, where she assists the People's Fund Board with organizational duties, correspondence, and recordkeeping.

"I like the challenge and variety of tasks associated with my job," Shelley says. "And I've met and worked with some incredible people during my career with the cooperative."

"Shelley is a key part of our management team," General Manager Dan McNaul says. "She is always ready for the next challenge and has an amazing ability to uncover and understand important issues and then quickly offer solid solutions."

During her time at Firelands Electric, Shelley has continued her education. She received her Master of Business Administration in public administration and human resources from the University of Findlay in 2006.

Shelley lives in the Norwalk area and serves as a chair on the Huron County Safety Council. In her spare time, she enjoys photography, kayaking, and traveling, as well as visiting amusement parks in and around the state of Ohio.



Shelley Magyar  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
COORDINATOR

### Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.



Incandescent  
100 watts / 1,600 lumens



LED  
14 – 20 watts / 1,600 lumens

*Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.*

Happy Labor Day!

The Firelands Electric Cooperative  
office will be closed on

**Monday, Sept. 7**

As always, emergency service is  
available 24/7 by calling  
1-800-533-8658.



## COOPERATIVE CONTESTS

# “X” MARKS THE SPOT TO SAVINGS

Firelands Electric Cooperative wants to help our members put a few extra dollars in their pockets with our newest contest.

We often talk about how small changes can make a difference in your energy use and on your monthly electric bill. Completing our Energy Efficiency Treasure Hunt will help you do just that — and if you submit your completed form, you could also win a \$25 bill credit!

### Official rules

- Complete the eight steps below and fill in your answers on the “map” shown on the next page.
- Be sure to answer all of the questions, including those in the Contact Information section.
- Mail your completed entry to: Treasure Hunt, Firelands Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 32, New London, OH 44851.
- You may also complete your entry form online at [www.firelandsec.com/content/contests](http://www.firelandsec.com/content/contests).
- Entries must be received by 4 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14.
- All members of Firelands Electric Co-op are eligible to enter. Limit of one submission per physical address.
- All completed entries will have their name put into a drawing for a chance to win a \$25 bill credit.
- **BONUS: Include a photo of one of your “discoveries” and get an extra entry in the drawing!**

## DISCOVER SAVINGS WITH THIS EIGHT-STEP TREASURE HUNT

1. **When was the last time you changed the filter on your furnace?** If it's been more than a month, you could be increasing your system's energy use by as much as 15%.
2. **Do you have your programmable thermostat set to raise (summer) or lower (winter) the temperature at night or when you are at work?** If changed for an eight-hour period, you can achieve an energy savings of 1% for every degree of change.
3. **How many non-LED bulbs are you still using?** Each incandescent bulb you change to an LED can save you \$3 to \$5 per year.
4. **How many large appliances — refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, or dishwashers — do you have that are over ten years old?** Purchasing a new ENERGY STAR-certified model can save you \$40 to \$100 per year. Plus, Firelands Electric members may qualify for rebates on their new purchases.
5. **Are the coils on your fridge clogged with dirt or debris?** Dirty coils make your appliance work harder to keep food cool, which wastes energy and can take a toll on your fridge's compressor.
6. **Check all of the outside doors. Under how many doors can you feel the outside air moving into your home?** A 1/4-inch gap beneath your door lets in as much air as punching a 4-inch-square hole in your wall.
7. **What is the temperature set at on your water heater?** If it's over 120 degrees, you run the risk of scalding and can waste \$40 to \$60 in energy costs.
8. **How many TVs, computers, game consoles, cable boxes, and charging cords do you have plugged in?** Most electronic devices pull energy even when they are off. Known as “phantom load,” these items can cost you an extra \$100 per year. Plug these items into a power strip and switch it off when not in use.

# Energy Efficiency Treasure Hunt

⑧

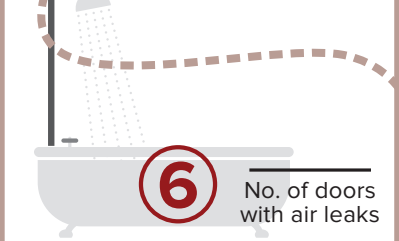
No. of "phantom" appliances

X



X ⑦

Temperature of water heater



⑥

No. of doors with air leaks

③

X

No. of non-LED bulbs



X

②

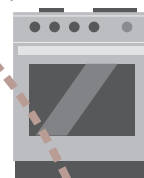
Is thermostat programmed?



④

X

No. of older appliances



⑤

Are fridge coils clean?



X

①

Date of last filter change

X



**Firelands  
Electric**  
COOPERATIVE  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please complete the information below and mail your entry to: Treasure Hunt, Firelands Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 32, New London, OH 44851. You may also complete your form online at [www.firelandsec.com/content/contests](http://www.firelandsec.com/content/contests).

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



## COOPERATIVE UPDATE

# BOARD MEETING *highlights*

*Firelands Electric Cooperative's board of trustees met June 23 and covered the following items:*

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 61 membership applications for approval by the board.
- Director of Operations Don Englet reviewed recent activities and projects in the operations department.
- The board reviewed and approved a report from a safety meeting held May 27, which included pole top and bucket rescue qualification for the co-op's linemen.
- General Manager Dan McNaul reviewed the virtual annual meeting held on June 20. The board discussed options for the 2021 annual meeting, but no decision was made.
- The board discussed the current coronavirus pandemic situation in Ohio. McNaul advised that procedures for nonpayment of electric bills would resume on July 13.
- McNaul reviewed the outage report for May, including those resulting from the recent windstorm.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the May financials and reported on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- McNaul reviewed the status of the 2020 tree trimming program.
- Following discussion, the board cast ballots for officers for the coming year. Dan Schloemer was elected president, Bruce Leimbach vice president, and Carl Ayers secretary/treasurer.
- Director of Communications and Technology Andrea Gravenhorst reported on recent activities involving the member services and IT departments.

Firelands Electric Co-op is democratically controlled and governed by local people committed to policies that result in a safe and reliable electric system, fair rates, financial responsibility, and superior member service.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22. If you would like to attend the next scheduled meeting, please contact the Firelands Electric office at 1-800-533-8658.

### FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

#### OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-800-533-8658

#### OFFICE

103 Industrial Drive  
P.O. Box 32  
New London, OH 44851  
419-929-1571

#### OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
[www.firelandsec.com](http://www.firelandsec.com)



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dan Schloemer  
President, District 1

Bruce Leimbach  
Vice President, District 4

Carl Ayers  
Secretary/Treasurer, District 5

W.E. Anderson  
District 8

Tom Lucha  
District 3

Gene Lamoreaux  
District 2

John Martin  
District 9

Kevin Reidy  
District 6

Rob Turk  
District 7

### GENERAL MANAGER

Dan McNaul

#### HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:  
[members@firelandsec.com](mailto:members@firelandsec.com)

**Firelands**  
**Electric**  
**COOPERATIVE**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 