



BIG COUNTRY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Membergram



Employee Appreciation Day: Full of Flavors & Fun

Last month, we celebrated Employee & Lineman Appreciation Day with a flavorful affair filled with friendly competition and sweet victories. Robert Pippin clinched first place in the chili cookoff, followed by Noe Arce, last year's winner, and Andrew Porter. In the dessert competition, Amanda Weaver's sweet treat stole the show, with Sarah McLen and John VanMater taking second and third place, respectively.

Adding to the excitement, employees participated in a spirited cornhole tournament, showcasing their tossing skills. The day was topped off with a scavenger hunt to electrify the spirit of teamwork!



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May 2024

Wildfire Preparation & Safety Tips

1. Know your evacuation route and practice with family and pets.
2. Create a fire-resistant zone (30 ft. from your house) free of leaves, debris or flammable materials.
3. Purchase a water hose that can reach your entire property.
4. Use a battery powered radio for local updates.
5. Make a list of essentials and store them all in one location.
6. If you plan a non-mandatory evacuation, shut off natural gas, propane or fuel supplies before leaving.
7. Pay attention to air quality alerts.
8. Wait for local authorities' approval before returning home.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov





Committed to Community

For complete information about our Operation Round Up program or to opt out of participation, visit bigcountry.coop/operation-round-up.

What is Operation Round Up?

The Operation Round Up program is supported by BCEC members whose electric bills are “Rounded Up” to the nearest dollar. The “Round Up” amounts fund Operation Round Up for distribution to individuals and organizations with demonstrated financial need in the counties we serve: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton.

Every penny stays right here at home!

Who can apply to Operation Round Up?

- Local organizations or programs that provide vital community services, such as food banks, shelters, medical and health needs, rescue organizations, educational projects, childcare programs, and other community needs.
- Families and individuals with demonstrated financial need due to life-altering circumstances.

The next deadline for applications is at 5:30 p.m. on May 21, 2024.



Golden Spread EC Gives Back to Local VFDs

Big Country EC and the Community Involvement Committee (CIC) of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. are giving back to local communities with a donation of \$9,120 to 16 volunteer fire departments, including the Anson Volunteer Fire Department.

Arron Duniven, Field Engineering Coordinator with BCEC presented the donation to Lieutenant Robert Patterson, Captain Clyde Patterson, and Firefighter Bryce Basham at the Anson VFD firehouse.

“At Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, prioritizing the well-being of our Members’ and their communities is paramount,” Brennan Umsted, CIC Chairperson, said. “We believe that few organizations embody this commitment as well as our local volunteer fire departments.”

The Anson VFD is currently raising funds to purchase extrication and fire department maintenance battery operated tools.

The volunteer fire departments receiving donations this year are Anson, Balko Fire & Rescue, Bovina, Burkett, City of Howardwick, East Concho, Eldorado, Gruver, Happy, Hawley, Hedley, Morton, New Deal, O’Donnell, Texline and Whiteface.

“The men and women who serve on volunteer fire departments across our 16 Member service territories selflessly donate their time, talents, and resources to ensure that our communities are safe,” Umsted said. “I’m proud to be a part of a cooperative that prioritizes this kind of community investment,” said Umsted.

BCEC is a Member of Golden Spread, a generation and transmission organization with a total of 16 Member cooperatives. Golden Spread purchases and supplies power to Big Country Electric Cooperative for its member-consumers and follows one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, Concern for Community.

The Golden Spread Board of Directors entrusts to the CIC an annual budget, which is used to benefit the territories served by its 16 Members. Activities and organizations are selected by the CIC and supported by Golden Spread employees. Additionally, over \$15,000 in employee donations support volunteer fire departments and senior nutrition programs in its Members’ service territories throughout the year.

For more information about Golden Spread Electric Cooperative and its community efforts, visit www.gsec.coop/community-involvement-committee.

Agricultural Tax Exemptions - In order to claim an exemption from Texas sales and use taxes on electricity and other items used in agricultural and timber operations, you are required to provide us with a registration number on Texas Agriculture Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification Form 01-924. All water wells should be exempt if used for irrigation or watering livestock. The Texas Comptroller’s Office issues the registration number and those wanting to claim the exemption must fill out an application. Registration numbers must be renewed every four years. Applicants can request a paper application to mail in by calling 1-800-252-5555 or download a copy from the comptroller’s website, www.getreadytexas.org. The generic exemption certificate, Form 01-339, cannot be used to claim the agricultural exemption. Accounts that do not have the new required form on file will be subject to taxation.

Commercial Tax Exemption Records - A completed and signed exemption form is required for each commercial tax exempt account. Accounts that do not have current exemptions on file will be changed to taxable accounts. Any refunds for taxes must be claimed from the State of Texas. Thank you for your help.

Capital Credits Update: Your Piece of the Cooperative Pie

As a member of Big Country Electric Cooperative (BCEC), you're part of a unique organization where community and cooperation form the backbone of operations. One of the distinctive benefits of being a cooperative member is the allocation of capital credits.

Capital credits represent the margins or profits earned by BCEC in excess of operating expenses. Unlike investor-owned utilities, where profits go to shareholders, electric cooperatives like BCEC operate on a not-for-profit basis. This means that any excess revenue, after covering expenses, is allocated back to the cooperative's members in the form of capital credits.

The allocation of capital credits is typically based on the amount of electricity a member purchases from BCEC. The more electricity you use, the larger your allocation of capital credits is likely to be. At BCEC, the FIFO/LIFO (first in, first out/last in, first out) method has been chosen by the board of directors to ensure that both long-term and new cooperative members benefit from membership.

Once capital credits are allocated to members, they are retained by BCEC as equity capital to help finance infrastructure improvements, maintenance, and other capital expenditures. This reinvestment strengthens the cooperative and ensures reliable service for all members.

Each year, the cooperative's board of directors determine the portion of the allocated capital that may be retired and returned to members. **In March, the board voted to retire 20% of the 2023 assignable margins, totaling \$1,781,672. 80% of the total will be applied to outstanding capital credits retirements for 1993, 1994, and a portion of 1995, while 20% will be applied to 2023.**

2023 Capital Credits Allocation Notices were mailed to members in late April. Retirement checks for eligible accounts in the above-mentioned years will be mailed by the end of this month.

Capital credits exemplify Cooperative Principle #3: Members' Economic Participation. At BCEC, all cooperative members invest in their cooperative, ensuring that people, not shareholders, benefit from the co-op's profits.

BCEC Accepting Bids

Interested in a 24-foot, 2021 Icon Deckover trailer in like new condition?

Mail your sealed bid by May 30th to:

Big Country Electric Co-op
C/O Jakob Clawson
P.O. Box 518
Roby, TX 79543

(Minimum bid is \$5,000.)

TIRE AND LOADING INFORMATION
RENSEIGNEMENTS SUR LES PNEUS ET LE CHARGEMENT

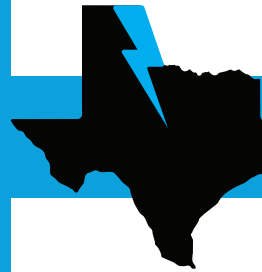
The weight of cargo should never exceed 4431 kg or 9769 lbs. / Le poids du chargement ne doit jamais dépasser

TIRE PNEU	SIZE DIMENSIONS	COLD TIRE PRESSURE PRESSION DES PNEUS A FROID	SEE OWNER'S MANUAL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VOIR LE MANUEL DE L'USAGER POUR PLUS DE RENSEIGNEMENTS
FRONT AVANT	235/80R16	551 KPA / 80 PSI	
REAR ARRIERE	235/80R16	551 KPA / 80 PSI	
SPARE DE SECOURS	NONE	NONE	

7PE1H242XMS000770

MANUFACTURED BY / FABRIQUE PAR: ICON TRAILERS
GVWR/PNEV 6350 KG (14000 LB)
GAWR (EACH AXLE)/PNBE (CHAQUE ESSIEU) 3175 KG (7000 LB)
TTRES/PNEU 235/80R16 RIMS/JANTE 16X6

THIS VEHICLE COMPLIES TO ALL APPLICABLE U.S. FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE. / CE VEHICULE EST CONFORME A TOUTES LES NORMES QUI LUI SONT APPLICABLES EN VERTU DU REGLEMENT AUTOMOBILES DU CANADA EN VIGUEUR A LA DATE DE SA FABRICATION.
V.I.N./N.I.V.: 7PE1H242XMS000770 TYPE/TYPE: TRA/REM



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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 7:30-12:00, 1:00-5:30

Friday: 7:30-11:30

Contact Us

Toll Free: 1-888-662-2232

Roby: (325) 776-2244

Stamford: (325) 773-3684

Snyder: (325) 573-3161

Report Outages

Please **call** your local BCEC office to report power outages.



We're Mobile!



Access your BCEC account anytime with SmartHub! Download the app for your mobile device today by visiting www.bigcountry.coop or searching for SmartHub in the app store.

Ask about our partnerships with:



Rural Development Assistance Available Through BCEC
BCEC is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc. has a limited amount of funds available for low-interest loans to qualified applicants to stimulate rural development. Applicant does not have to be a member of Big Country Electric Cooperative. Please contact Sarah McLen at smclen@bigcountry.coop for details.



now what's below.
Call before you dig.

Call 811 at least 2 working days before you dig.
Visit www.texas811.org for more information.



Cooper Caswell



Laney Stansell

Academic Scholarship Recipients

A big congratulations to Cooper Caswell (Ira High School) and Laney Stansell (Borden County High School) for winning our 2024 \$4,000 Academic Scholarships! Best of luck to all area seniors.

Career Day at Snyder Primary

Big Country EC employees Shane Wiseman, John VanMater, Cesar Torres, Tyler Martin, and Mike Snead recently shared their expertise and enthusiasm at Snyder Primary's Career Day, captivating young minds with insights into their professions. Emphasizing the importance of pursuing dreams, the team inspired students to aim high.

Participation in events like Career Day underscores BCEC's commitment to education and community engagement, enabling us to invest in the future and inspire the next generation.

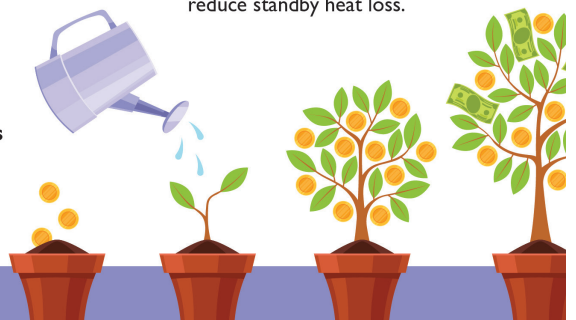


5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

- 1. Raise your thermostat.**
The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.
- 2. Install window coverings**
like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

- 3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.
- 4. Run ceiling fans** for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.
- 5. Lower your water heater thermostat** to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy