



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 P.O. Box B
 1564 S. 1000 Rd, Council Grove, KS 66846
 620-767-5144
www.flinthillsrec.com

**FLINT HILLS RURAL
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

Flint Hills RECA

Charles Goeckel, General Manager

Board of Trustees

Roger Zimmerman

President

Duane Kaiser

Vice President

Duane Carlson

Secretary/Treasurer

Dale Andres

Trustee

Korby Effland

Trustee

Tim Miser

Trustee

Terry Olsen

Trustee

Shawn Potts

Trustee

Member Services

- ▶ ACH / Bank Draft Program
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Join Us for Flint Hills RECA's Annual Meeting on March 20

Join us at Flint Hill's 80th Annual Meeting and take part in the business of YOUR cooperative.

Dinner Served at **5:30 p.m.**
 Safety Demo at **6:30 p.m.**
 Meeting begins at **7 p.m.**

At the Herington Community Building in Herington

Members in attendance will enjoy:

- Registration Gifts
- Prize Drawings
- Co-op News
- Safety Demos

We hope to see you there!

Leo Hultgren won last year's annual meeting HDTV prize.

Promoting Safety at Chase County Elementary

Flint Hills RECA conducted an electrical safety demonstrations for fourth, fifth, sixth grade students, and teachers at Chase County Elementary's Kansas Day celebration activities.

Operations Manager **DAMIEN HEBERT** presented a safety table top display that demonstrated to the students how dangerous power lines can be. During the presentation, He-



Avery Beyer, Chase County Elementary student, tries on lineman safety gear.

bert discussed the following safety topics:

- ▶ Steps to stay safe after a vehicle collision with a power pole and how to keep everyone outside the vehicle safe;
- ▶ What to do if farm equipment contacts a power line;
- ▶ The dangers of climbing a tree close to power lines;
- ▶ The importance of keeping kites and remote-control toys away from power lines when playing; and
- ▶ When and how to call 911 to report an electrical emergency.

The students enjoyed trying on the lineman safety rubber gloves, safety sleeves and hard hat as Hebert explained how the equipment protects the linemen and why the equipment is necessary for linemen to do their job. Students asked Hebert great questions concerning power line safety, which showed their interest in learning all the safety rules.

Flint Hills RECA strives to pro-



Operations Manager Damien Hebert explains reason for safety gear to student, Micah Robinson.

mote electrical safety through awareness and educational presentations to help prevent electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Follow Flint Hills RECA on Facebook for more safety tips.

SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary co-ops, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-ops at other levels are organized in democratic manner.

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-op. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the co-op, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-op; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-op autonomy.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-op. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Mail-In Ballots Due March 10

Cast Your Vote for Board of Trustee Election

The Flint Hills RECA mail-in ballots were mailed to members on Feb. 13 for the 2018 election of the board of trustees. The new mail-in ballot voting process gives every member the opportunity to cast their vote by mail.

We hope the new voting process via mail-in ballots will provide members with an opportunity to participate in the democratic process at Flint Hills RECA.

Voting

The election of trustees shall be by mail-in ballot. Only those nominees selected by the nominating committee or nominated by petition shall appear on the mail-in ballot. The ballots were mailed to all active members the second week of February 2018. **All ballots must be returned to the Flint Hills RECA office by the March 10, 2018, deadline.**

Election Committee

The board selected an election committee, consisting of at least three qualified members of the cooperative. This committee is responsible for opening and counting all mail-in ballots during the ballot-opening meeting on March 14, 2018. The election committee will follow a confidential counting process, and the cooperative's legal counsel will be present at the counting meeting.

Annual Meeting

The voting results will be announced, along with other cooperative business, at Flint Hills RECA's 80th Annual Meeting on March 20, 2018 at the Herington Community Building. Annual meeting registration and meal will start at 5:30 p.m., followed by the business meeting. Voting results will also be posted in Flint Hills RECA's section of your April 2018 *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

Please note, there will be no voting for trustees at the annual meeting, so don't forget to cast your vote via the mail-in ballot.

Your vote for trustees is important. Flint Hills RECA is run by a democratically elected board of trustees. The board is given the privilege to serve because of your vote. The trustees you vote for are a part of your local communities and are committed to providing members with safe, reliable and affordable electric service.

For more information on the voting process, please call Flint Hills RECA at 620-767-5144 or visit our website, www.flinthillsrec.com, and click on the "Member Service" tab to view the cooperative's bylaws.

Please remember to cast your vote for the board of trustees election and return it on time to ensure your cooperative is in good hands for the future!

SPRING PLANTING Sow the Seeds of Safety this Season

Remember these safety tips when returning to the fields this spring.

- ▶ Electricity can arc or "jump" from the line to equipment, so keep equipment at least 10 feet from overhead lines.
 - ▶ Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds.
 - ▶ Designate preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.
 - ▶ Lower extensions, like planter arms or cultivators, to the lowest setting when moving loads.
 - ▶ Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
 - ▶ Even if using an auto-guidance system, stay focused on equipment location while in the field. Do not simply rely on the GPS system, and be ready to take action if needed.
 - ▶ Consider using a spotter to alert you if you come close to making contact. A spotter can see sagging wires that would not be visible on a GPS and provide additional verification that you can pass safely.
 - ▶ Before getting out of the cab, look up and double check the area around your machinery to make sure it is not in contact with overhead lines.
 - ▶ Know how to stay safe if equipment does make contact with power lines.
 - ▶ Managers should make sure full-time and seasonal workers are educated on these and other electric safety precautions.
- Learn more about farm safety at SafeElectricity.org

Mark Your Calendar

Annual Meeting March 20

Join us for Flint Hills RECA's 80th Annual Meeting on March 20, 2018, at the Herington Community Building. Registration and the meal will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Don't forget to call with your meal reservations!

March 2018

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31		

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard...especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- ▶ Maple
- ▶ Oak
- ▶ Spruce
- ▶ Pine
- ▶ Birch
- ▶ Sweetgum
- ▶ Linden

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

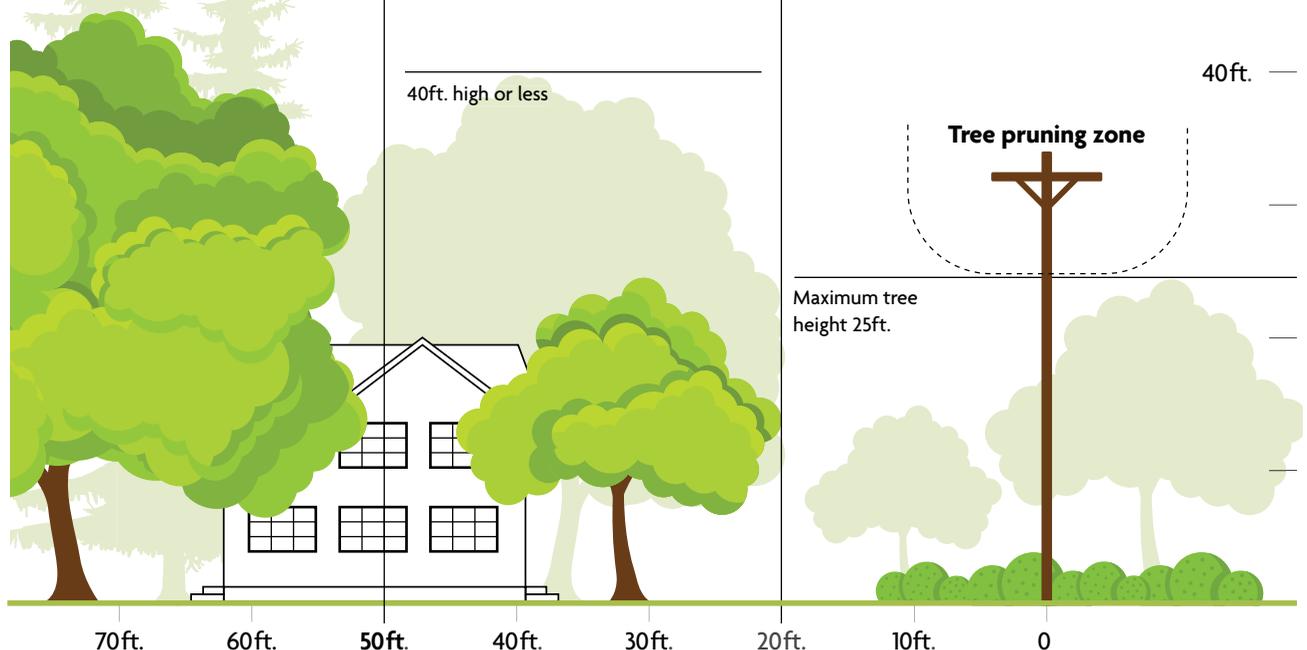
- ▶ Washington Hawthorn
- ▶ Goldenraintree
- ▶ Eastern Redbud
- ▶ American Arborvitae
- ▶ Dogwoods

SMALL TREES

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet, such as:

- ▶ Star Magnolia
- ▶ Crabapple
- ▶ Lilac

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.ArborDay.org.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association