



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

March 2026



1.877.394.7804

hcelectric.com

CEO Message

Field Safety: A Reminder That Lives Depend on It



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

Spring fieldwork is an important time across Montana's Hi-Line, but it is also one of the most dangerous seasons when it comes to electrical safety. At Hill County Electric, the safety of our members, employees, and communities is always our top priority.

Unfortunately, we were reminded last year just how serious these risks

can be. In a tragic incident involving a neighboring cooperative, a life was lost when a combine came into contact with a power line. This heartbreaking loss reinforces why following safety guidelines around power lines is so critical.

Staying Safe in the Field

We urge all members to take extra precautions when working around overhead power lines:

- Always be aware of power line locations before entering a field.
- Maintain a safe distance between equipment and overhead lines
- Use a spotter when moving tall equipment
- Never attempt to move or touch a power line
- If equipment contacts a power line, stay inside the cab if it is safe to do so and call for help immediately
- If contact is made and you must exit the equipment due to fire or another emergency, jump clear with both feet together and shuffle away - never step off normally.

Our Commitment to Safety

HCE works year-round to maintain and inspect our system, but safety is a shared responsibility. We ask all members to remain vigilant and take the time to follow established safety practices. No job, no field, and no piece of equipment is worth a life.

Please take a moment to talk with family members, employees, and hired help about electrical safety before heading into the field this season.

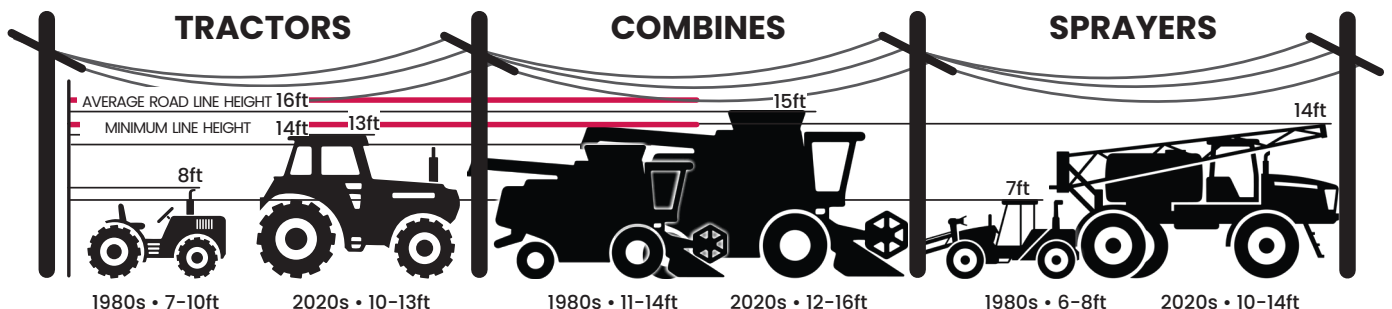
Always remember to stay safe.



Scan to watch
a safety
demonstration

Farm equipment continues to get larger and taller, while power line heights remain the same. This combination increases the risk of accidental contact, especially during planting, spraying, and harvesting. One moment of inattention can have permanent consequences.

Then vs. Now: Farm Equipment Heights



**NEW
EXPANDED
ELIGIBILITY!**



ANNUAL MEETING

LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIPS

NEW: STUDENTS OR PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE TO WIN



Must be a high school senior or college undergraduate student to be eligible.

HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC'S 81st ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

SAVE THE DATE

May 12th, 2026
Doors open at 11:30 AM
Lunch at 12:00 PM
Meeting at 1:00 PM

Located at the HCE Campus

The Annual Meeting will be held at 2121 US Hwy 2, Havre, MT

Congratulations to our Washington D.C. Youth Tour Winners!



Josie Stevenson, Trustee Leslie Smith, Brea Sattoriva

MARCH IS LADDER SAFETY MONTH

Six Basic Rules for Ladder Safety

- 1** ALWAYS look up for power lines before setting a ladder.
- 2** ALWAYS keep ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- 3** NEVER use metal ladders when working near electricity.
- 4** ALWAYS Set ladders on level, solid ground and secure them before
- 5** ALWAYS Maintain three points of contact and never overreach.
- 6** ALWAYS be safe, stay aware of potential hazards, and use common sense.



ALWAYS CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!

Why call 811

Calling 811 before you dig helps prevent injuries, service outages, and damage to underground utility lines. It is also the law.

When to call 811

Call 811 at least 2–3 business days before any digging project, no matter how small.

What happens next

After you call, underground utilities are marked with flags or paint so you know where it's safe to dig.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



**HAPPY WORK
ANNIVERSARY!**

ALAN!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
20 YEARS
OF SERVICE!

HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE 

Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members!

Visit www.hcelectric.com/swap-and-shop to view all listings or to submit/remove your own.

**Denotes photo available on website*

Anatolian Shepherd Karakachan Livestock Guardian Puppies*
Working lines. Males and females. Located in Columbus. (406) 290-3127

Side & front windows from a 1979 8ft topper
Windows slide. Make an offer. (406) 390-4493

735 7" Brandt Auger
Like new. \$5,000. (406) 945-2027.

Wanted: Hunting lease for elk and deer
Personal use, not a outfitter. Prefer annual lease but will consider options for shorter duration. (406) 932-5296.

New Aluminum Stall Horse Door + Hardware Kit System
Five horse door hardware kits with everything you need. \$2000 OBO. (406) 932-4391.

BOSCH 3-1/4" Planer Kit*
Barely used \$75. (406) 750-7894.

ISO Used 4-wheeler
With rack to mount sprayer, honda 250 or equivalent. (406) 899-9279.

Greenhouse Windows
Make offer. (406) 439-5456.

Two Horse Buggy Parts
Free. (406) 439-5456.

Morris Cultivator CP760
Great shape, 60' wide with harrows. \$7,500. (406) 262-4466.

Misc Tools
Van Norman Boring Bar & Accessories. Souix Valve Grinder & Hard Soft Facer. (406) 262-3058.

2022 Chevy G3500 Passenger Bus
Comes with a chair lift, seats 14, or 12 with 2 wheel chairs. \$20,000. (406) 932-5455.

1973 28' Red Dale 5th Wheel
Sleeps 4, full bath, kitchen etc. Great for hunters or bunk house. \$2,450. (406) 262-4466.

Birch Hutch
Lots of storage, bottom has 4 drawers and 4 cupboards, upper portion has glass front. Length 6 ft.- Height 7 ft. \$250.00. (406) 376-3135.

Hydraulic Rock Picker
\$1,750. (406) 670-9706.

Whole & Half Pork
Processing dates of July, August, and September 2026. Raised in Havre, MT processed at the Pay-N-Save in Saco. (406) 230-2281.

Free Dogs
1 English bulldog and 2 tea cup yorkies. (854) 737-3737.

Hundreds of free books and records
Big Sandy Cultural Center. 79200 U.S. Highway 87, Big Sandy. (406) 378-2514.

FlexCoil 2320 45' Airdrill
12" single shoot. Lots of new parts. (406) 390-3185.

Professional Chicken Cages
Accommodates 550 Hens. \$800 each. (406) 945-2027.

1 year old Border Collie
Started on sheep, too much energy. No fear. Will be great on cows. Has had 2 weeks professional training. Great with children and other dogs. \$950. (406) 374-2406.

2015 Polaris 1000XP
3,945 miles, 468 hrs. Handle bar & hand warmer, hard case lockable front rack, winch, 3/4 tread left, rear receiver, medium size trunk. \$7200. (406) 390-4077.

1993 Safari Motorhome For Sale
3430 Cummins, 8.3 turbo-charged, intercooled. Allison World

transmission with 6 speed and 2 overdrive gears. 98,600 miles. \$15,000. (406) 547-2184.

1993 Ford Explorer
Needs transmission, runs good, \$400. (406) 547-2184.

1996 Suburban
Needs motor, \$400. (406) 547-2184.

Targhee Registered Rams
Over 75+ years of genetics. Great longevity and will do their best for you and your flock! (406) 799-2379.

Small Square Wheat Straw Bales
30lb average - \$3 each. Located in Havre. Call (406) 230-2281.

Cajun electric smoker
With timer, thermostat, burns pellets. \$75, call (406) 547-2184.

Mini Washing Machine
Mini washing machine, capacity 1KA, B-Quick Bubbleator, portable, great for RV's or apartments. \$35.00. (406) 547-2184.

Water Tank
Estimated 350-500 Gallons. (717) 994-5076.

6 Lots with two buildings in Harlowton
Corner Lots on Central Ave, Harlowton, For Sale By Owner. (24,150 sq ft) with two buildings. Lots of space in a great location. \$350,000. (406) 350-1408.

Diamond Laser 3000 Glass Bandsaw
Asking \$220. Call 406-547-2437.

Round bale wool sacker gas motor
\$275 OBO. (406) 326-2287.

ISO Model T Car Body for Model T Frame
(406) 945-2027.

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Hill County Electric and Triangle Communications websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to members wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information and if approved, the ad will be published. It will stay online for 1 year unless you notify us to remove or change it. Ads will also appear in our newsletters (space permitting). Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's issue. We reserve the right to abbreviate ads.

Happy swapping and shopping!