



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

September 2023



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop

Stay focused on safety during harvest!



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

During harvest (and planting) season, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. The length of equipment keeps raising the height of equipment when you put it in the air, but the electric code and the standards under which our electric company operates do not coincide with the size of the

new equipment. When you get new equipment and it no longer fits under our electric lines, you will be required to pay to have those lines lifted or raised to pass under the lines without lowering your equipment.

Another invention is GPS with driverless tractors with auto-steering capabilities. Remember, although the GPS may be able to know when to turn at the end of each field and may even be programmed around certain things, we might forget about the power line crossing the field at some point and an aerial map does not always show those poles and wires very well.

Despite these advances, safety risks remain. It is imperative to contact us so that you do not put yourself or others in danger.

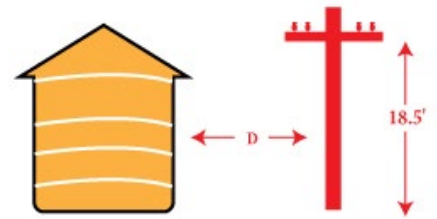
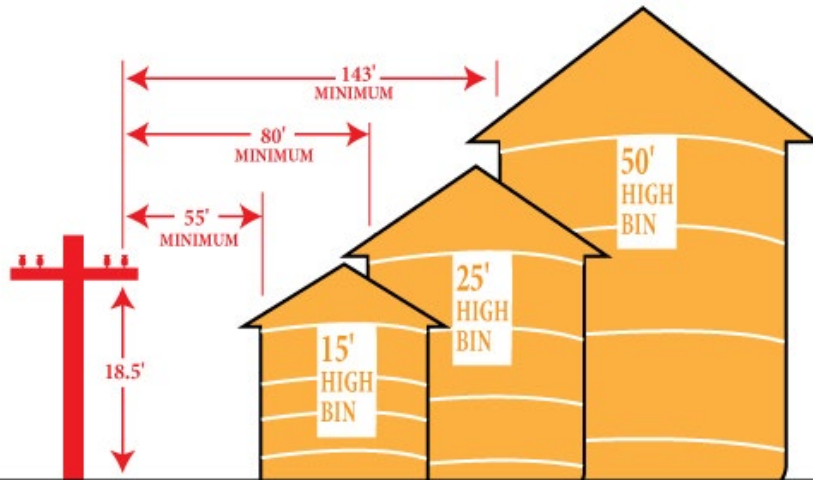
Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to remain focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action if necessary.

Regardless of technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Always keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment, such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- When you buy that new piece of equipment that may make time in the field shorter, always remember to set the extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- **If a power line is sagging or low, contact Hill County Electric at 1-800-332-1201.**

If your equipment does contact a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power. The only reason to exit equipment that has encountered overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY



Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

*Based on a typical power line vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY



Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.

If you must exit the machinery...

If you can safely drive away...

40 ft. radius safe distance

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

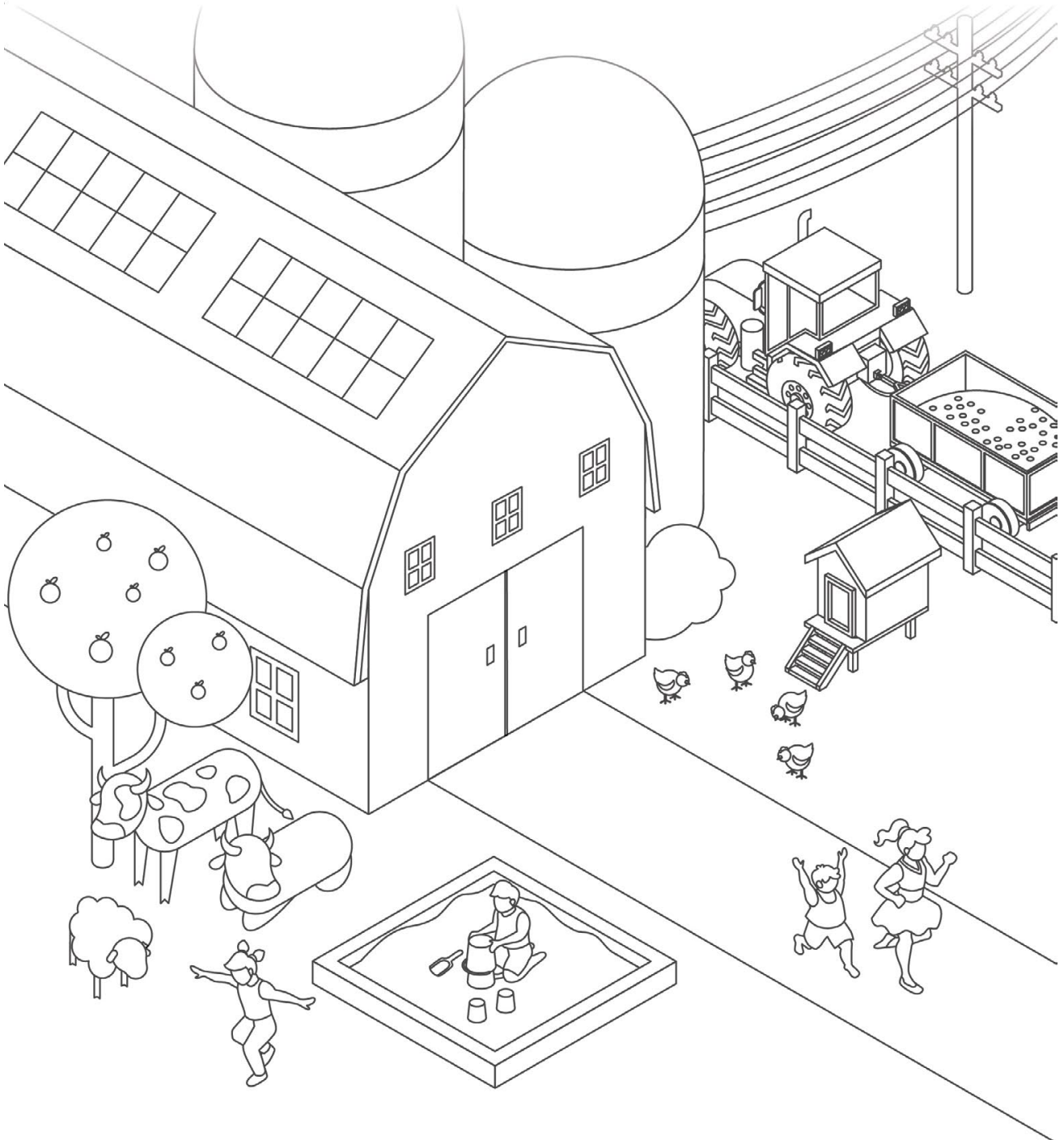
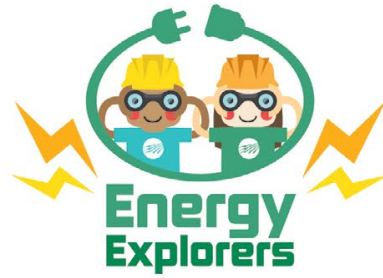
If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

National Farm Safety and Health Week

Farm Safety and Health Week is September 18-24!
Whether you live on a farm or in the city, always play it safe near power lines and other electrical equipment.



Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days.

Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's magazine.

*Denotes photo available on website

2005 Crestliner 1950 Sportfish*

Purchased new in 2009, one owner. Includes boat cover, 200-horsepower Mercury Motor, one 9.9 Mercury Kicker motor, a 24-volt trolling motor, and 2 depth finders. Many accessories included, call 406.262.4015 or see in person at 700 Cleveland Road.

In Search of Pickups and Parts

1949 to 1959 Chevrolet or GMC 1/2-ton pickup or just parts. Call 406.326.2287.

2016 Starweld Boat

18 Pro Merc 150 (20 hrs) Merc 9.9 kicker, minn-kota troll, 4 seats, ram mount rod holders, bimini top, travel cover, shorelander trailer. Asking \$32,000, call 406.566.2426.

980 Case 446 Tractor

1980 Case 446 tractor 2 cycle, 16hp, hydro with 48-inch mower. New battery, always stored inside, nice tires, set and paint. Call Mike at 406.374.2458.

Whole & Half Pork For Sale

Farm raised in Havre, processed at the Saco Pay and Save. Processing in June and October. Whole \$450 plus processing and half is \$250 plus processing. You receive approx. 150 lbs of meat per whole hog. I deliver processed meat locally and area between Saco and Havre on pickup day. Contact Twyla at 406.230.2281 (text or call).

Hunting Lease Wanted

Respectful, honest group of sportsmen seeking long-term yearly hunting lease for elk, deer and other game. We are willing to compensate a landowner well for premier hunting. We will work with landowner to manage game and allow period(s) for landowner and family to hunt. Contact David at 406.263.2133, serious inquiries only.

1979 CJ5 Jeep with winch

1979 CJ5 Jeep with winch, steel cab and roll bar. New tires, batter, starter, fuel pump and windshield. Runs good. Also and 1989 Dodge short box V8 auto. All original, great shape with seats and carpet in excellent shape. Very hard to find one like this, runs great. No rust, 87K, 2nd owner. 1980 Case 446 tractor with 46 inch mower and hydro, 16 hp. Good tires and paint, always inside, \$1,500. Call 406.350.1392.

1967 Ford F100

1967 Ford F100 4x4, 360, 4 speed, upgraded front and rear difs, power front disc brakes, very little rust, 2-inch front lift. New 235 8SR16 tires on new white spoke wheels. Runs great but leaks oil and water. Located in Stanford, asking \$10,000, call 406.566.2274.

Sanger Speedboat

Sanger Speedboat, asking \$6,000 or best offer. Call 406.378.2572.

Musical Instruments, Books and misc

Yamaha FG800 guitar and case, \$125.00. The Old West (Time-Life Books) 27-volume set plus Master index, \$150.00. Bamboo Lupaca pan flute, 21 pipes with case, \$110. Can text photos. Call 406.622.5093 or 406.231.0969.

Culvert For Sale

Galvanized steel culvert, 12" diameter, 14' long. Never used, \$225, call 406.547.2184.

Car Dolly

Heavy duty car dolly with new tires and wheels, Dexter axle, electric brakes, \$400. Call 406.547.2184.

1985 Ford F150

4x4 1985 Ford F150 4x4, 300-6, 4 speed, good body, very little rust, front dif bad, but have used one for replacement. Parked because of starter/solenoid issue 12 years ago. Asking \$5,000, call 406.566.2274.

1955 Ford 600 Series Tractor with Ford loader

Does not run but not seized, good tins. Asking \$1,500, call 406.566.2274.

Tires For Sale

Four 33x12.50R17 General Grabbers at 95% on black aluminum rims, 5x5.5 bolt pattern. Asking \$1,200, call 406.566.2274.

**Photos available on our website version of the Swap & Shop (www.itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop)*

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities 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 within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping.