Caution during harvest

Each year, about 25 outages occur in Kenergy’s service area because farm equipment makes contact with power lines, guy wires or utility poles.

Hundreds of people on the line suffer power outages while repairs are made, but most importantly, these accidents create hazardous conditions. When a power line goes down, it puts the public at risk.

Downed lines don’t hiss, spark or dance. Assume all downed lines are energized and stay at least 20 feet away.

Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the utility to fix it. Don’t do it yourself.

In farm equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with automatic steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Regardless of what technology is used on the farm, keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines. A driver’s vantage point from the cab may not be sufficient.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- 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 the utility.

If your tractor, combine or other equipment makes contact with 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 come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Still keeping feet together, hop to safety.

Excerpts were taken from Safeelectricity.org.

Bobby Hayden, a Kenergy employee, cooks hotdogs on a grill at the Owensboro office for Member Appreciation Day in 2015.

Kenergy celebrates Member Appreciation Day

Mark your calendars for Friday, Oct. 7.

Kenergy will host its annual Member Appreciation Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day at the co-op’s six offices, which are located in Henderson, Owensboro, Hanson, Hartford, Hawesville and Marion.

The co-op will serve hotdogs, chips, cookies and drinks for lunch.

A Dell laptop will be given away at each office. Members may register once only on the day of the event.

Energy-efficient light bulbs will be given away, too.

“We enjoy celebrating Member Appreciation Day at Kenergy,” said Jeff Hohn, President and CEO. “It’s a great opportunity for us to demonstrate the value of membership and to thank members for their patronage.”

Few original country stores still exist in Kenergy’s service area. We’re on the road again at Cagey’s in Beals, Page 2.
If you are a fisherman who tests his luck in the Spottsville dam area, you may want to check out Cagey’s General Store, which is about a two-minute drive from the local boat dock.

Cagey’s is off the beaten path and can go unnoticed.

The store sits in the heart of Beals, just north of the railroad tracks. It’s the only business on this house-lined stretch of highway that intersects U.S. Highway 60 near the east end of the Spottsville Bridge approach.

Of particular interest to sportsmen, Cagey’s sells gasoline, bait, fishing weights, lures, ice and, according to its patrons, the best sandwiches around these parts.

Larry Connor, an Owensboro resident who works at a metal fabrication shop across the Green River in Spottsville, jokes that he keeps Cagey’s phone number on speed dial. On work days, his usual lunch is a can of soda pop, a bag of chips and a sandwich — often bologna.

“I buy lunch here every day,” Connor said. “They have the best sandwiches.”

Call-in orders keep owner Dusty Billings and a staff member hopping. Most the clientele come from Beals and nearby Reed and Spottsville.

But it’s not just a local crowd, she said. “Some people come from Indiana for our stromboli, pizza and cheeseburgers. They are our best sellers.”

The menu also features bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches.

Cagey’s in Beals was built in 1935. It still contains the original pressed tin ceiling tiles and hardwood floors. The store opens at 6 a.m. seven days a week, and with its proximity to fishing holes on the Green River, Cagey’s is a favorite place to buy bait and sandwiches.

Example, if your electric bill is $82.73, we will round it to $83. The difference of 27 cents becomes a donation to help low-income members.
IN THE KITCHEN

Dusty Billings worked at Cagey’s General Store for several years before buying the business along with her husband Spencer Billings more than a year ago.

Poppy Seed Chicken
By Leslye Krampe of Henderson

2 packages Ritz Crackers (crumbled)
3-4 boneless chicken breasts (cooked and shredded) or 2 large cans of cooked white meat chicken
2 cans Cream of Chicken soup
2 tablespoons poppy seed
1 1/2 sticks butter
8 oz. sour cream

1st bowl
Melt butter, combine poppy seed and crumbled crackers & mix

2nd bowl
Combine chicken, sour cream and cream of chicken soup

Cover the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch pan with 1/2 cracker mixture. Pour in chicken mixture and top with remaining crackers. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until brown & bubbly.

for $3 and grilled cheese for $2.
Fifteen meats and cheeses — including roast beef, ham, turkey, old-fashioned loaf, liver loaf and pickle-'n'-pimento loaf — are sold by the pound, along with an assortment of kitchen staples. Sugar, soda pop and ice are ever-popular food items.
If guests don’t need eggs, minnows or night crawlers, they can buy Frisbees, mini monster trucks, two-cycle motor oil and crayons, among a variety of other things.
Cagey’s was built in 1935 and has been known by other names, such as Wanda’s and Simmons’. The store’s original hardwood floor and pressed-tin ceiling remain intact, adding loads of charm.
Marilyn Monroe posters on one wall draw the eye upward while Kentucky fish charts hang on the opposite side of the store.
One wall at the front of the store — near dine-in tables where farmers and CSX workers sometimes gather over cups of coffee or a quick lunch — is wallpapered with patrons’ photos and newspaper clippings of historic floods. In the past, Beals was known for its tendency to flood.
On April 13, Dusty Billings and her husband Spencer Billings celebrated their first year of owning this piece of local history. The store’s Facebook page shows Spencer Billings cooking chili over an open fire in a black burgoo kettle. He stirred it with a traditional wooden paddle.
The chili was free to all Cagey’s guests that day. Kids were treated to free balloons and bubbles.
Cagey’s is open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. during summer months. The store opens early to accommodate the farming and fishing crowd.
Starting in November, Cagey’s hours reduce by one hour to 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
If guests want to call in a sandwich order, they should dial 270.827.5935. The store’s Facebook page offers a menu.
How prepared are you to spend two or three days without all essential services, including electricity? We recommend every Kenergy home and business should be prepared to spend at least 72 hours without services. Make a survival kit with water, nonperishable food, some cash, batteries, flashlight and other items. Go to kenergycorp.com for more details.

As of Aug. 1, more than 400 members had signed up for Operation Roundup, a new program to assist Kenergy’s low-income members. Thank you, members!

Don’t call 911 for outages

If your home is without electrical service, it is not considered an emergency.

Therefore, you should never call 911 to turn in an outage.

Your county’s emergency dispatch must answer every call. When you call 911 to turn in an outage, it takes up valuable phone lines that are needed for people suffering heart attacks or involved in auto accidents.

For that reason, you could be endangering someone else’s life when you call 911 to turn in an outage.

If you have an outage, call Kenergy at 1.800.844.4832. Or enroll in the co-op’s outage texting option. Information for texting in outages can be found at kenergy-corp.com.

Kenergy’s 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegates visited Washington, D.C., in June. The co-op’s delegates are Jesslyn Watson, left, Cara Daniels, Jacob Howard, Shelby Hite, Olivia Warren and Rachel Thomas.

TOGETHERWESAVE

Hot Winter Tip
Using a programmable thermostat, you can automatically turn down your heat at night or when you are not at home.

Cool Summer Tip
In the summer, you can save money by automatically turning your air-conditioning up at night or when you are at work.

Featuring Discounts

The Cup Cakery, Owensboro
10% Off Gourmet Cupcakes

Painting with a Twist, Owensboro
10% Off Next Class...

Studio Slant, Owensboro
$5 Off Public Class… & 10% Off...

S&S Earthscapes LLC, Owensboro
5% Off Labor

The Willow Tree, Owensboro
10% Off One Regular Priced Item...

Gordon’s True Value Hardware, Philpot
Buy 1 Key Get 1 Key Free

For more details and offerings, visit kenergycorp.com or pick up a list at any Kenergy office.