



MESSAGE  
FROM  
PRESIDENT/  
CEO

RYAN  
BARTLETT

## Powered by People: Celebrating Labor Day

**E**ACH SEPTEMBER, we celebrate Labor Day, a nationwide tribute to the contributions American workers make to the strength and prosperity of our country.

Labor is defined as an expenditure of physical or mental effort, especially when difficult or compulsory. The employees of Taylor Electric Cooperative know that definition well.

When the lights go off—whether due to thunderstorms, wildfires or ice storms—our lineworkers leave their families to work tirelessly in harsh and dangerous conditions to restore your power. Other employees handle phone calls and dispatch crews to get electricity flowing to your home as quickly and safely as possible.

When the weather gets rough and the calls come in, employees who were safe at home often call in to see if there's anything they can do to help.

Our employees do this because they care about what they do. They care about the membership—their own friends, family and neighbors. And nothing is more important than making sure that every member is safe and sound—with the power humming—even during inclement weather.

And it's not just when the lights are off that our employees work hard. Their dedication is evident every day.

Our lineworkers go through extensive training to ensure their safety and that of their fellow crew members. Along with our office staff, they maintain our system, ensuring you have a reliable flow of power. Taylor EC is always here to educate you about the dangers of electricity, and through Texas Co-op Power and other avenues, we pass along tips to help keep you safe and save you money by making energy-conscious decisions.

We don't just do this because it's our job. We do it because we care about you, our members, who are our friends, family and neighbors.

Today I want to ask you to thank a co-op worker if you see one. Thank them for their

commitment, their talent, their hard work and their service to the membership of this cooperative. After all, even though our offices will be closed September 7 for Labor Day, if your power goes out, we'll be on our way to fix it, holiday or not.

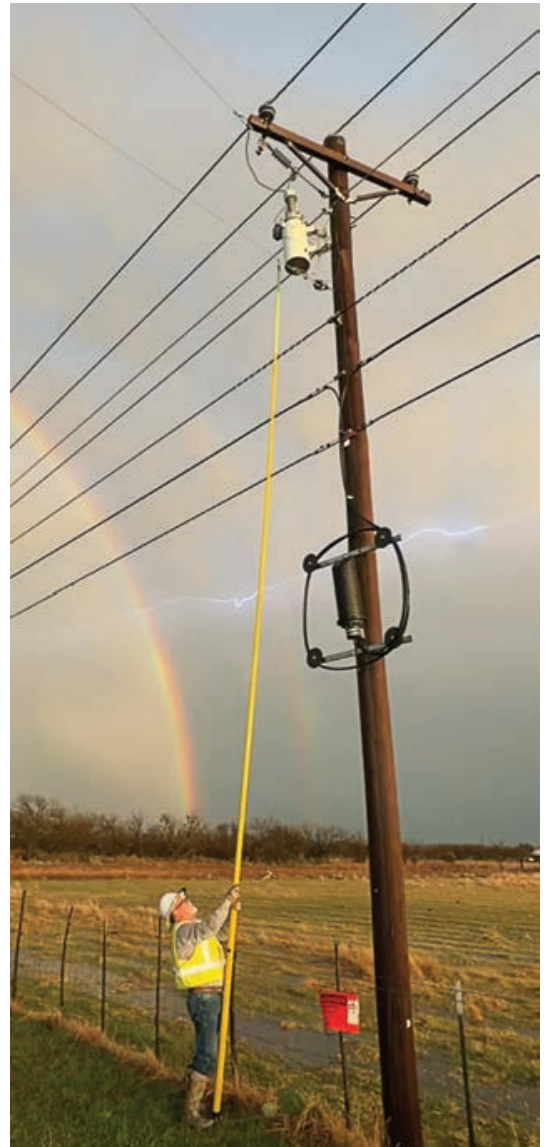


PHOTO BY: RODNEY RUSSELL, TAYLOR EC



**TAYLOR**  
—ELECTRIC—  
COOPERATIVE

# THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES



## MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



**THE THIRD COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE**, “Members’ Economic Participation,” states that members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. Unlike investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives operate on a not-for-profit basis. Any margins remaining after operating expenses are allocated back to members as capital credits, reflecting each member’s patronage of the cooperative.

At Taylor Electric Cooperative, this principle is demonstrated through the cooperative’s commitment to returning margins to the members who helped generate them. Rather than distributing profits to outside shareholders, Taylor Electric allocates excess revenues to members’ capital credit accounts based on the amount of electricity they purchase throughout the year. As the cooperative’s financial condition allows, the Board of Directors approves the retirement and return of capital credits, putting money back into the hands of the members who own the cooperative.

Members’ economic participation extends beyond capital credits. Dollars paid by members are reinvested into maintaining and improving the electric system, expanding infrastructure, investing in technology, and ensuring reliable service throughout Taylor Electric’s 11-county service territory. These investments strengthen the cooperative while helping meet the growing needs of the rural communities it serves.

Because Taylor Electric is owned by its members—not outside investors—every financial decision is made with the long-term interests of the membership in mind. Through responsible stewardship of member resources and the return of capital credits, Taylor Electric continues to uphold the Third Cooperative Principle and demonstrate the value of cooperative ownership. To learn more about the Seven Cooperative Principles and how Taylor Electric puts them into action, visit [TaylorElectric.com](http://TaylorElectric.com).

## Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

226 County Road 287, Merkel, TX 79536

P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536

**Phone** (325) 793-8500

**Web** [taylorelectric.com](http://taylorelectric.com)

### President/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

### Board of Directors

Cecil Davis, Board Chairman, Zone 1

Kathryn Rainey, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 3

David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2

Craig Bessent, Zone 1

Garland Carter, Zone 2

Richard Petree, At-Large

Gay Simmons, Zone 3

**24/7**

## Outage Hotline

For information and  
to report outages,  
please call us.

**LOCAL**

(325) 793-8500

### HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

#### ONLINE

[taylorelectric.com](http://taylorelectric.com)

#### TAYLOR ELECTRIC APP

Available on your Apple or Android device.

#### BY PHONE

(325) 793-8500. Payments credited immediately.

#### IN PERSON

**Hours** Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

**Merkel** 226 CR 287, Merkel 79536

**Abilene** 7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Payments credited immediately.

#### DROP BOX

**Merkel** office near the entrance of the building.

**Abilene** office next to the first door on the left.

Payments credited next business day.

#### NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2024, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

#### VISIT US ONLINE

[taylorelectric.com](http://taylorelectric.com)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/taylor](http://TexasCoopPower.com/taylor)

# SERVICE ANNIVERSARY September 2026

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## KEYS TO A SAFE HARVEST

National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 21–25, and Taylor Electric Cooperative would like to use the opportunity to remind members that preparation and awareness are the keys to a safe harvest.

Harvest time is one of the busiest times of the year for farmers—and among the most dangerous. We encourage farm managers to share the following information before taking to the fields to keep themselves, other farmworkers and their families safe from farm-related electrical accidents.

Start every morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will be near power lines and devise a plan to keep assigned workers safe. Even if clearance was safe last year, something as simple as soil buildup could make it hazardous this year.

Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions at all times. Even if you don't make direct contact with a line, electricity can arc.

As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember, even nonmetallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay can conduct electricity.

Use care when raising augers or the beds of grain trucks. It can be difficult to estimate distance—especially in a mirror—and sometimes a power line is

closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay a safe distance away from power lines.

Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them, even if you're only moving a few yards.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting modern tractors, which are larger with higher antennas.

Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call the cooperative to repair them.

Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.

Use qualified electricians to make repairs on any electrical systems.

If you're on a piece of equipment that makes contact with a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off, you could become the electricity's path to ground and receive a fatal shock. Call 911 and Taylor EC. Wait until cooperative workers have de-energized the line and confirmed that it's safe for you to exit.

If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of it with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keeping your feet together can help prevent you from getting shocked.

## Kyle Haspel, 10 years CONSTRUCTION & ENERGY SERVICES MANAGER

# Hunt Safely This Season

With the arrival of dove season, Taylor Electric Cooperative encourages members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Shooting electrical infrastructure is dangerous, and can cause power outages.

**KEEP CLEAR OF ELECTRICAL** equipment, and don't shoot at or near power lines or insulators.

**BE VIGILANT IN WOODED** areas where power lines may not be as visible.

**NEVER PLACE DECOYS ON** power lines or other utility equipment.

**DON'T SHOOT AT BIRDS** perched on electrical wires.

Every year, members experience power and internet service interruptions when shotgun pellets hit electric and fiber cables.

Keep these safety tips in mind when enjoying the great outdoors.

**DON'T USE ELECTRICAL** poles or towers to support shooting equipment or transformer boxes to steady a shot.

**KNOW THE EFFECTIVE** range of your gun, and always identify your target before putting your finger on the trigger.

**NEVER SHOOT AT SOUND** or movement—assume it's another hunter until you can clearly see an animal.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Labor Day

Monday,  
September 7

Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

### Patriot Day

Friday,  
September 11

### National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday,  
September 15

### Autumn Begins

Tuesday,  
September 22

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