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Former Board Member Floyd Harrell Passes Away

ALONG THE LINE

Longtime board director, Mr. Floyd Harrell, passed away on Thursday, October 2, 2014. Mr. Floyd joined the board of directors on October 13, 1983, and served as Treasurer for many years. He was dedicated to making decisions that were fair and equitable for the membership as a whole, and he held the employees of the Cooperative in the highest regard. His unique personality and uncanny wit will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Floyd was an astute businessman and farmer. He founded Harrell and Owens Farm and he served in many capacities on other boards throughout the area. He served as a board member at Tarboro Savings & Loan, Wachovia Bank, NC Peanut Growers Association, Parkway Ag and Edgecombe Cotton Growers.

Mr. Floyd had a very common-sense approach when it came to making business decisions, and his appointment to the many boards he was involved in gives a good indication of how intuitive he was when it came to making the right decision. As a board member for Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Mr. Floyd provided direction and leadership that has kept the Cooperative ranked among the top in the nation. He believed that employees should be equipped with the necessary tools to perform their jobs efficiently and safely, and he supported the Cooperative's vision to employ state-of-the-art technology to further improve the reliability of service.



Mr. Floyd Harrell passed away on October 2, 2014. He was a great asset to the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC board and his many contributions will be sorely missed.

Mr. Floyd Harrell's contributions to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be missed. He was a faithful and devoted board member throughout his tenure, and our prayers and condolences go out to his family.

Call Before You Dig

North Carolina 811
www.nc811.org

Do you have a digging project in your near future? If so, please call **811** and speak with a representative to schedule a locate for underground facilities. You can also contact Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to locate our underground electric lines by calling **(252) 823-2171**. It is a good idea to mark where you plan to dig with white paint or flags so the utility locators know the exact area of your excavation.

Detached Ductwork Can Lead to High Bills this Winter

When was the last time that you ventured into your homes crawl-space or attic to inspect your HVAC system's ductwork? If it has been a while, then it would be a good idea to slip on some old work clothes and have a peek at the condition of the ductwork in these seldom seen areas.

Ductwork should be inspected twice a year; once before you turn on your cooling system in the summer and once more before you begin using your heating system. Ducts often fall or become detached due to improper installation techniques. Mastic sealant is the only thing that should be used to seal ducts to register boots and plenum connections. HVAC or duct tape should NOT be used. Over a period of

time, these tapes will lose their adhesive properties allowing ductwork to fall down in the homes crawl-space or attic. When

this happens, all you are doing is dumping conditioned air, that you paid good money for, under your home or in the attic!

So, take a few minutes and survey your ductwork before it cost you high energy bills this winter.



Your ductwork should be sealed with mastic at all connections and seams to ensure conditioned air leakage is kept to a minimum.

What Is Your Thermostat Temperature Set On?



What temperature you set your thermostat on can have a huge impact on your energy consumption during the winter and summer months. Energy experts recommend a setting of 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter. A savings between 1% and 3% could be realized for every degree you set your thermostat closer to these recommended temperatures. The fan setting on your thermostat should be set to AUTO, and remember to change your return filters regularly.



USED POLES FOR SALE

Occasionally the Cooperative has used poles for sale.

During our normal workplan efforts and diverse situations, poles are removed or replaced and made available for sale upon signing a liability release form and paying the handling fee. Customers must load and haul the poles themselves.

The Cooperative does make an effort to prioritize the sale of used poles on a first-come first-serve basis for member community projects or individual needs. However, sales to non-member community projects or individual needs are available.

If you are interested in purchasing used poles or further details please contact Tim Crisp, Materials Coordinator, at (252) 641-9511. Hours of operation for used pole purchases is Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28, in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, placed in the night deposit box, online at www.ememc.com or by calling 1-855-356-6358.

To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

LINES FROM THE C.E.O.

EPA Rule "Waters of the United States"

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC believes it is important to keep our membership informed regarding critical legislation and/or regulation. Overreaching legislation and regulation can place an unwarranted burden on citizens across the country. The EPA's interpretation of the Clean Water Act's definition of a "navigable waterway" is a prime example of how unnecessary regulation can be detrimental to landowners across our country.

In an attempt to expand its control over more private land, the EPA has proposed even stricter regulations regarding "navigable waters". These proposed regulations were recently introduced by the EPA despite the Supreme Court ruling twice in recent years that federal environmental officials had misinterpreted its Clean Water Act powers. In a 2001 case (*SWANCC v. U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers*), the Court ruled that federal officials could not use the "migratory bird rule" to assert jurisdiction over isolated bodies of water. In a 2006 case (*Rapanos v. United States*), the Court ruled that federal officials could not prohibit a private landowner from filling sand in an isolated wetland. In both cases, the Court emphasized that federal officials must show how the body of water in question meets the Clean Water Act's definition of "navigable water", which triggers federal jurisdiction.

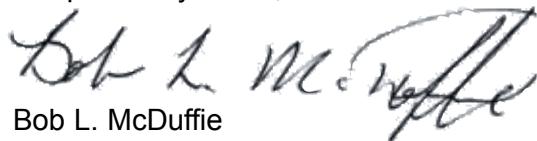
The EPA's newly proposed rule expands its definition of what qualifies as navigable waterways to small ditches, ponds and water holes even if they are not navigable or connected to physically navigable bodies of water. If the EPA is allowed to implement this proposed rule, private landowners and farmers could lose the freedom to farm and maintain their land in a responsible manner. Expanded permitting and reporting requirements would increase the cost for farmers, and it would simply make conducting business more complicated and intrusive.

The Waters of the United States proposed rule is simply not appropriate because it incorrectly interprets decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court, it is inconsistent with Congressional intent and it encroaches on state sovereignty. One other major concern regarding the proposed rule is that roadside, irrigation, storm water and farm ditches become jurisdictional tributaries under the Clean Water Act.

It's time that we use some common sense and rely on the laws that are already in place to protect our water ways for current and future generations. However, that doesn't mean it is necessary to implement new regulations that restrict private landowners from managing their land effectively. Please take time to review the EPA State and National Maps of Waters and Wetlands at <http://science.house.gov/epa-maps-state-2013> to see how this proposed regulation could impact your land. You can also visit the following link to learn more about the proposed rule: <http://www2.epa.gov/uswaters/documents-related-proposed-definition-waters-united-states-under-clean-water-act>.



Cooperatively Yours,



Bob L. McDuffie

Customer Appreciation Day Honors Our Members and Co-op Month

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC treated members to a hot dog lunch and ice cream on October 7 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The co-op holds Customer Appreciation Day every year in October to honor our members and to recognize October as Co-op Month. We want our members to know we are different than other for-profit electric utilities. As a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, we are working in our members best interest to keep electricity reliable, safe and affordable.



Members of the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Volunteer Action Committee serve members on Customer Appreciation Day.

Know Your Surroundings When Operating Farm Equipment

As farmers prepare to begin harvesting their crops, it is important to put safety first.

Long hours on the farm can lead to sleep deprivation which can in turn cause careless accidents. Follow these guidelines for a safe harvest this year:

- Make sure anyone that operates farm machinery is properly trained and physically able to do so.
- Keep bystanders away from equipment when in use. Shut down equipment, turn off engine and wait for all moving parts to stop before allowing someone to approach the area.
- Make sure all safety guards and shields are in place.
- Use reflective signs on farm equipment to indicate slow moving vehicles.
- Keep a fully charged fire extinguisher on each piece of equipment.

- Avoid low-hanging power lines and guy wires.
- Watch for approaching traffic when moving farm equipment from the field to the highways.
- Identify moving parts such as pinch points, shear points, wrap points, crush points, pull-in-areas, and throw areas on each piece of equipment.

Keep Your Pet Safe

Household pets are not immune to electrical injury; they are curious little creatures, and just as you protect your children from electrical hazards, you should protect your pets. Pets don't understand the difference between chewing on something like a shoe and chewing on a cord or even an electrical appliance. Pets may also inadvertently cause electrical hazards in your home, but the following tips will help eliminate the chances of an electrical accident involving your pet:

- Be sure to keep electrical cords away from your pets. If you have difficulty keeping your pets from chewing on cords, you may have to paint the cords with a bitter tasting polish or wrap them in a plastic sleeve.
- Keep lamps away from play areas for pets and children. Some bulbs, especially halogen bulbs, can get extremely hot, and if accidentally knocked over can become a fire hazard.
- If your pet lives outdoors, be sure to bring them inside or provide a safe place for them to stay in during storms. Dogs on chains are more susceptible to a lightning strike.
- Pets have a tendency to nap near electronics that produce heat, like warm computer equipment. Break this habit immediately.
- Pets should be kept away from all electrical connections.
- Keep all electrical devices a safe distance from water sources. Your pet may accidentally knock electrical devices over, creating a dangerous situation.

Be a proactive pet owner. Create a hazard-free home for your furry friend.

ALONG THE LINE

www.ememc.com

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