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Contact Farmers' Electric Cooperative and start enjoying more of the best things in life, today.



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*A member of The FEC Companies*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**RURAL**  
MISSOURI

# A Monthly Publication of The FEC Companies

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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## FEC, Missouri cooperatives send crews to Mississippi

Twenty-seven Missouri electric cooperatives, including Farmers' Electric Cooperative, helped to restore power in Mississippi following the passage of the devastating hurricane Katrina. 201018

Fifty-four construction trucks and 121 linemen were dispatched to two rural electric cooperatives in Mississippi. Crews were helping Coast Electric Power Association in Bay St. Louis and Singing River Electric power Association in Lucedale, Miss. As of August 31 not a single meter was in operation at either system. 140327

FEC volunteers Nolan Parks, Aaron Wagers, Blaine Barnett and Jason Howe were the first four linemen to head south. Following a 10-day shift, they were replaced by Mike Epperson, Jack Boley, Warren Minnis and Ed Turbyfill. 274815

"Electric cooperatives have always offered assistance to neighboring systems and to other states in times of crisis," Said Dan Bryan, FEC CEO. "This is what being a part of an electric cooperative is all about...people helping people."

It is expected to take up to six weeks to restore power to the area.



FEC lineman, from left, Nolan Parks, Blaine Barnett, Jason Howe and Aaron Wagers are ready for the long trip to Mississippi.

## Harvest time can be dangerous if you fail to look for power lines

The annual harvest season can be dangerous for our friends in the agricultural world.

It is a time of long hours in the field with little rest. It is also a time that can be dangerous for farmers, in that tired workers may take shortcuts which can lead to potentially dangerous situations. 30078

For example, grain augers are

probably the most dangerous piece of farm equipment from the standpoint of your electric provider.

Failure to lower a grain auger before moving the equipment can place the auger into contact with power lines, leading a dangerous scenario that could prove fatal.

Unfortunately, many grain bins where augers are used are too close

to power lines. The power lines are in the area for purposes of providing energy for drying grain. A good idea would be to have those power lines installed underground and there would never be a problem involving contact between an auger and a power line. 270383

Have a safe harvest season.

### *Now is a great time to get a security light installed*

Daylight Savings Time is almost over for 2005 and now is the perfect time to get a new security light installed for the upcoming dark days of winter.

Security lights are just \$6.50 a month. Contact the office at 646-4281 or 1-800-279-0496.

## Candles still work

It was dark. It was very, very dark and people were uncertain, perhaps even leery. Coping was not in the vocabulary. Someone must do something...now.

Not too long ago several of us attended a luncheon meeting in downtown Kansas City. After driving for nearly two hours there were certain physical circumstances that needed to be taken care of. Upon entering the building where the midday activity would take place, we took a direct route to the room of comfort.

The door opened and behold the light switch didn't work. It was so dark you couldn't find the wall, not to mention anything else. Panic seemed to well within the souls of all of the people who had made the trek to attend the meeting.

Upon looking around, the fact that the entire building was without electricity became obviously clear. There were candles on the table. All out-

side doors were open and the people hosting the event were cautioning you to "Watch your step."

The real problem remained. How does one see where they are going once inside the rest room doors? Didn't anyone have an answer?

Being a farm boy growing up in an area where outages were almost as common as non-outage situations, I knew exactly what to do. I picked up one of the small candles on our table, carried it like a beacon in the night, to the rest room and placed it in a central location. The candle, working magnificently, cast just enough light for everyone to feel comfortable.

As we were finishing our meeting, the electricity was restored to the building and the audience broke into a round of applause. At last everyone felt comfortable. They could see again.

Thinking about this situation, I thought of the rural electric cooperatives and October being

by dan bryan, fec ceo



"Co-op Month," and what these cooperatives have brought to this great country. Where would we be without the electricity the cooperatives provide? What would our society be like? How would we find our way to, from and around restrooms?

It is good to know that candles still work. It is better to know the cooperatives work better than candles.

Enjoy "Co-op Month." Appreciate the service brought to you by your electric cooperative. I am proud to be a part of Farmers' Electric Cooperative. Since I can remember the "dark days" in rural America, I have an added appreciation for the cooperatives.

It is still good to know, however, wherever you live, in the event of a storm or an outage a candle can still give you a flicker of hope.