



**JOEMC**

A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**SPOT LIGHT**

JOEMC Member Newsletter April 2019



## Lineman Appreciation Day is April 8

Every year, the second Monday in April marks Lineman Appreciation Day, a celebration of the vital role linemen play in keeping the lights on for co-op members. On this day, JOEMC and electric cooperatives across our state and nation recognize the skill, talent, and expertise of our linemen and thank them for their many contributions to our daily lives.

This past year was especially challenging for many cooperative linemen, as they worked tirelessly to help communities throughout North Carolina recover from the impacts of multiple hurricanes, as well as snow and ice. In a true demonstration of the cooperative spirit, crews from less-affected areas traveled to harder-hit regions to assist in restoring power as quickly as possible, often in very treacherous conditions.

“Our linemen are true heroes,” said Jeff Clark, CEO of JOEMC. “They are on the front-line of our co-op, and are critical to our efforts to serve our members and provide reliable power to our communities.”

On April 8 (or anytime during April), show your support and gratitude on the various social media platforms to our dedicated crews by using the hashtag #ThankaLineman! ▼

**Committed to the job.  
Committed to safety.  
Committed to you,  
our members.**

Lineman Appreciation Day  
April 8, 2019



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## JOEMC's Clark Named Chamber's Man of the Year

Co-op CEO Jeff Clark was recently recognized at the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce's Annual Membership Celebration as the 2018 Golden Eagle Man of the Year.

Mr. Clark received the award for demonstrating excellence in his profession, serving the chamber and other organizations he is involved in with integrity, and showing commitment to the betterment of the community.

"This is a great community. It is a hidden gem, and I'm humbled, and I'm honored to receive this award," Clark said. "It has been an honor to work alongside the people of this community to make it a better place to live."

When presenting the award to Mr. Clark, last year's recipient, Marine Federal Credit Union CEO Jeff Clark, noted "this year's honoree is one of those people who has a story that inspires others. He started at the bottom of his chosen profession with an entry-level, third shift job; 40 years later he has risen to the top of his profession because of his knowledge, talent, passion, and belief in teamwork." ▼



## Join ElecTel Today

JOEMC is partnering with ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union, another co-op like us, to provide a valuable member service.

Do you want to save energy while increasing your home's value? If so, JOEMC's partner ElecTel can help with their Energy Efficient Loan Program.

With this new partnership, JOEMC consumer-members are eligible to join ElecTel with a minimal membership deposit. Electel members may borrow\* up to \$35,000 for improvements, including new windows and doors, electric heat pumps, furnaces, air conditioners, generators, solar projects, water heaters, insulation, and ENERGY STAR® appliances.

ElecTel offers a full range of financial services including energy-efficiency loans to residential property owners of single-family homes and owner-occupied condominiums. The Energy Efficient Loan Program features:

- Low-interest loans to qualified applicants;
- Up to 100 percent financing of the purchase price, including taxes and installation costs;
- \$35,000 maximum loan limit.

You may join ElecTel Federal Credit Union online at [www.electelcc.org](http://www.electelcc.org) and then apply for loans or other financial services online. **For more information, contact ElecTel at 800-849-5600 or email [memberservices@electelfcu.coop](mailto:memberservices@electelfcu.coop).**



\*All loans are subject to approval. Your rate may vary and is determined by your credit qualifications, amount financed, collateral, and loan terms. All rates and terms are subject to change without notice.



## Satisfaction Survey

This spring, JOEMC will partner with TSE Services and Data Decisions Group to conduct member satisfaction surveys.

Member feedback will be collected via telephone interviews as well as online surveys. If JOEMC has your email address on file and you are one of the randomly selected participants, you will receive an email invitation to participate in the survey. Those members whose email address the cooperative does not have will be contacted by telephone to complete the survey.

Members may receive the email invitation or phone call between April and June asking for their participation. If contacted by telephone, the call will come from a 919 area code as JOEMC's partner is based in the Raleigh area.

The feedback you provide will help us gauge our performance in serving you, our consumer-members, and assist us in providing better service in the future. We encourage you to share your email address with us so you can potentially be contacted about completing a survey.

We appreciate your time and thank you for sharing your thoughts. ►

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## Five Ways to Spring into Energy Efficiency

Spring marks a perfect time of year to make your home more energy efficient. You can save energy and money this year with these five quick tips:

 **SEAL CRACKS AND GAPS AROUND YOUR HOME.** Check windows and exterior doors for drafts. Consider adding weather stripping around leaky doors and caulking window frames.

  **CHANGE FILTERS REGULARLY. CHANGE FURNACE AND AIR CONDITIONER FILTERS MONTHLY.** Dirty filters restrict airflow and reduce the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system by making it work harder on hot summer days.

   **CLEAN THE REFRIGERATOR INSIDE AND OUT.** Now is a good time to check the temperature settings on your refrigerator after you've given it a good wipe-down. Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency.

    **THINK SUNBLOCK.** By pulling down the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. By blocking the sun, your house will stay cooler and more comfortable.

     **ENJOY SPRING BREEZES.** Use a clothesline during warmer months and let sunlight and breezes dry clothes naturally. This will reduce your electric bill by not running a dryer and add a natural clean scent to your laundry. ▼



## Go Green this Earth Day...and Everyday

Earth Day is April 22, and "going green" is a lot easier than you might think! Making energy efficiency a priority will not only help save the environment, but might help save you money, as well! Here are a few simple things you can do to start...

1. Sign up for electronic billing to ditch the paper and receive your bill via email.
2. Pay your bill electronically using our online member service portal.
3. Install a smart programmable thermostat that maximizes your savings based on your habits.
4. Turn off lights when you leave the room.
5. Bring your reusable bags to the store when shopping. ►

Save energy. Save money.

## Spring Cleaning Delivers Safe, Reliable Power

Spring gives us a chance to thaw out after a chilly winter and many folks take advantage of longer daylight hours by doing a little spring cleaning and yard work.



The seasonal shift isn't all good news though. The rapid change from harsh, cold air to warmer temperatures can trigger severe weather. To protect our lines and keep power flowing safely to your home, JOEMC maintains our right-

of-ways. Think of it as spring cleaning for power lines.

Right-of-way (ROW) maintenance keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines. It's an important part of the service we provide to you, our consumer-members, for three reasons: safety, reliability, and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our employees and you, our members. Properly maintained ROW keeps our crews safe when they are restoring service and maintaining our system. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family safe. From making sure a child's tree house isn't near power lines to creating a safe environment while doing yard work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

Power lines are a constant part of our landscape; it's easy to forget they are around. We work hard to keep the area around our lines clear, but we need your help. Be alert this spring. Don't plant trees or tall vegetation under power lines, and keep an eye out for power lines when working in your yard.

If severe spring weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response time because trees are less of a threat. When trees do fall, crews can restore service quicker than they could with poorly maintained areas.

As an electric cooperative, JOEMC strives to keep costs affordable for you, our consumer-members. Maintaining our ROW is an important part of controlling costs. Fewer and shorter outages save money for everyone. When crews work in well-maintained areas, we can reduce risks for employees and equipment too—another way to keep costs low.

Safety, reliability, and cost...this is why we believe in ROW 'spring cleaning.' If we compromise on one of these areas, it impacts the others. At JOEMC, we simply aren't willing to compromise. Maintaining our ROW is a priority for your safety, comfort, and pocketbook.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



## Couscous with Dried Fruit & Pine Nuts

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup whole wheat couscous
- 2 tablespoons mixed dried fruit (your choice), diced
- 2 TBSP toasted pine nuts

### Directions:

Bring 1 cup water to a boil in a medium saucepan; add couscous and dried fruit. Remove saucepan from heat. Let stand, covered, 5 minutes. Fluff gently with fork and sprinkle with toasted pine nuts.

prep: 5 minutes  
cook: 5 minutes  
serves 4-6

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