PREMA

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

September 2019

PREMA

PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

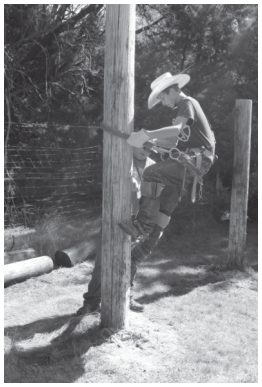
Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

Youth Energy Leadership Camp

The 2019 NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp was held July 8-12 in Halsey, NE. Chris Macy, PREMA Journeyman Lineman, attended for a second time as a counselor. Chris feels that this is a great opportunity for cooperative member's children as well as cooperative employee's children.

The camp focuses on how a cooperative works, starting with the campers voting in a Board of Directors and hiring a General Manager. The General Manager is then responsible for overseeing the rest of the camp activities. These activities include: bucket rides, learning to climb a pole and a demonstration with a high voltage trailer.

There are also field trips that take the campers to visit Gerald Gentleman Coal Plant and tour the Kingsley Dam and Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) hydro facility. There was a speaker that talked about NPPD's Cooper Nuclear Facility. Although, the campers weren't able to visit this site, they did have an opportunity to check it out on a Virtual Reality video.



At the end of camp three students are selected to represent Nebraska on a Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

PREMA sponsors students that are currently in 9-11th grades. Applications are available in March, for more information contact Allison at 308-762-1311 or allisong@prema.coop.

Power Pole Inspection To Begin In September

PREMA's 2019 ground line pole inspection will be in two different locations in our service area. The first area is going to be all lines serving north of Ellsworth and northwest of Bingham. The second area is all lines south of Lakeside ending in the Crescent Lake area. Global Utility Inspections from Fort Collins, Colorado has been contracted to do this work.

PLANNED POLE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The purpose of a planned pole inspection program is to reveal damaged poles caused by ag equipment, insects/rodents, or poles which are in the early stages of decay, so corrective action can be taken. The end result of this proactive inspection is to establish a continuing maintenance program extending the average service life of all poles on the system.

POLE DECAY

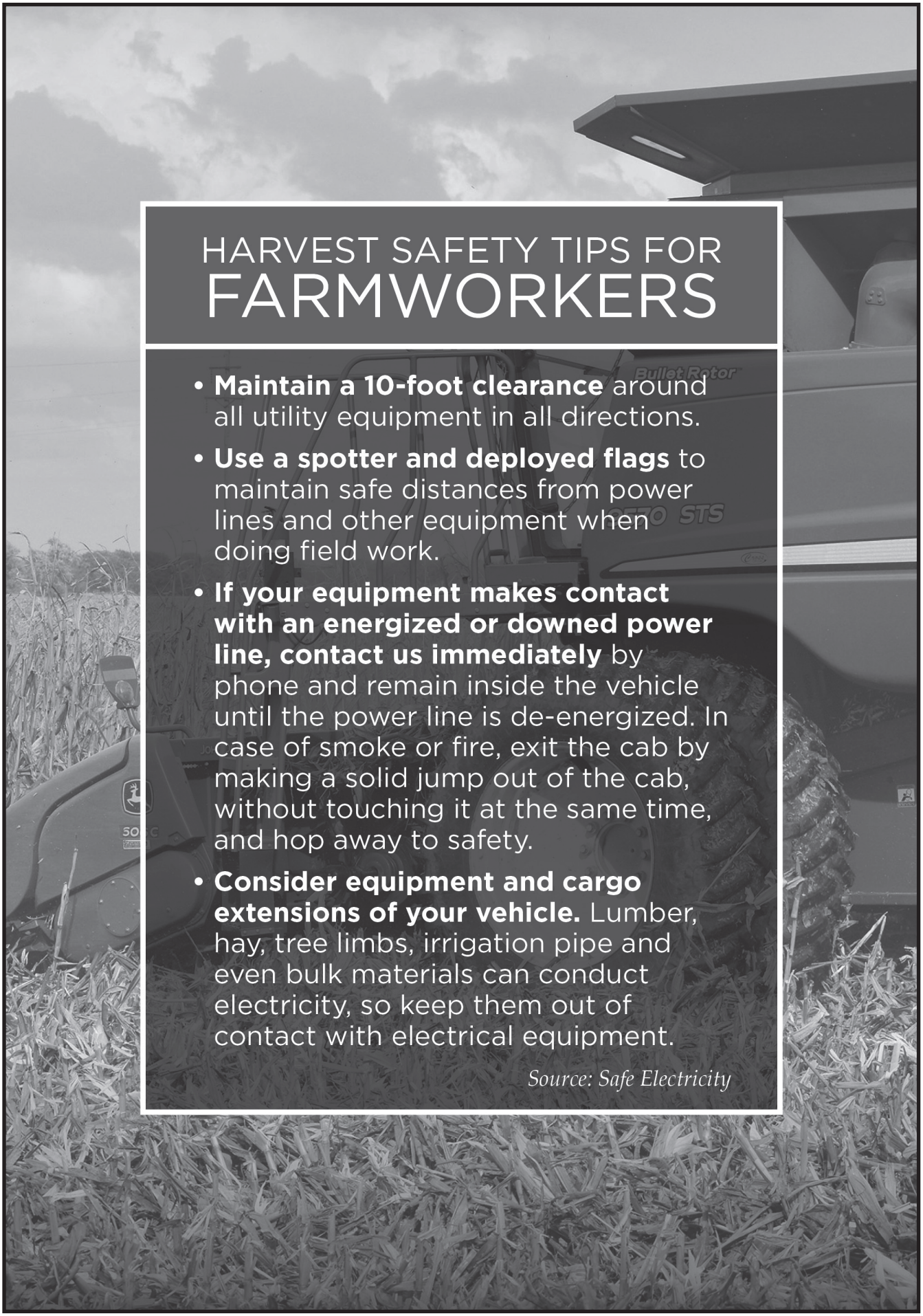
Decay of treated poles is usually a gradual deterioration caused by fungi and other low forms of plant life. Damage from insect/rodent attack (termites, ants and voles) is usually considered jointly with decay because preservative treatment of wood protects against both fungi and insects. In most cases, the decay of poles will be just below the ground line where the conditions of moisture, temperature and air are most favorable for growth of the fungi.

INSPECTION PROCESS

Our inspection process involves a visual inspection of each pole looking for mechanical damage, significant cracks, signs of insect activity or any other defect with the pole that may result in a pole failure and/or rejection. We will then complete a sound and bore test of the pole, where we expose the pole below the ground line, bore the pole at an angle on two different sides, determine the size of the decayed pocket below the ground line, if any, and sound the pole above ground line with a hammer looking for the decayed pocket to extend above the ground line.

GROUND LINE TREATMENT

All treated poles eventually lose resistance to decay. Ground line treatment with effective preservatives provides an economic extension of their physical life. Experience has shown that a well designed and implemented ground line inspection and maintenance program can significantly increase the service life of many poles.



HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cookware Tip: Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: energy.gov

Notes From Load Management

PREMA's irrigators have experienced a challenging irrigation season for 2019. Monthly kW peaks are below past years. Active control days have been less than previous years, but trends appear to be back to normal. All accounts can be controlled every day for the month of September. With crops being behind, we anticipate active control to continue to the middle of September. Load Management information is available by calling the office 308-762-1311 or email Tim Sherlock at tims@prema.coop.

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Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Morrill, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

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