

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



November 2024

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Local couple learns more about cooperatives at conference sponsored by Rayle EMC

Ryan and Jourdan Taylor of Lincolnton were selected by Rayle EMC to represent the cooperative at the annual Georgia Cooperative Council's Couples Conference. The three-day event gives couples across the state the opportunity to visit the plains of South Georgia to learn more about the cooperative business model and the positive impact of co-ops at the local, state and national levels.

"As a co-op, we strive to not only provide our members with reliable electricity, but to also build leaders in our community by providing educational experiences and opportunities to network," says Tony Griffin, General Manager of Rayle EMC. "Sending couples to the Georgia Co-op Council Couples Conference each year is a way we contribute to that goal."

This year's group traveled to the historic Windsor Hotel in Americus, Aug. 23-25, for a weekend of fun, fellowship and learning. Throughout the weekend, couples participated in short, educational sessions that were led by Georgia EMC, Pineland Telephone, AgGeorgia Farm Credit and AgSouth Farm Credit. The cooperative sessions placed a special focus on the seven cooperative principles that apply to all business cooperatives, which include voluntary and open membership, democratic membership control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education and training for members, cooperation between co-ops and concern for local communities.

These sessions made couples aware of the benefits of cooperatives, noted the differences of co-ops from other



Ryan and Jourdan Taylor

businesses and explained how those differences are beneficial for communities. The positive, small-group sessions fostered open dialogue between attendees, allowing them to network with each other.

Attending couples were not only able to learn from presentations, but also from firsthand experience. The group traveled to Sumter EMC headquarters in Americus for informational sessions and to tour the facilities to see how a local EMC functions.

Couples left the conference with the motivation to strengthen their relationship with their local co-ops and

step up as leaders in their own co-ops and communities.

"It's a pleasure to share my own EMC experience while helping to educate others about the benefits of the cooperative business model," says Byron McCombs, longtime EMC employee and retiree, currently serving as president of the Georgia Cooperative Council. "Cooperatives exemplify perfectly what can be accomplished by working together for the benefit of all."

The 2024 Cooperative Council Couples Conference was made possible by the generous support from the electric cooperatives of Georgia and the Georgia Cooperative Council.

The Georgia Cooperative Council is a statewide, nonprofit cooperative association whose membership is composed of farm supply, financial, electric, telephone, marketing and service cooperatives. The Council membership includes approximately 50 cooperatives.

Right-of-way program keeps you connected

The first time many people encounter the term “right of way” is in a driver’s manual or on a driver’s license test. It brings to mind something you have (or yield) when you’re behind the wheel of a motor vehicle.

But in the electric co-op world, “right of way” (ROW) takes on an important alternate meaning. It refers to the corridor or path an electric line follows, either along a road or through the woods.

Trees and branches that are downed by storms are a primary cause of power outages. Co-ops across Georgia have developed aggressive right-of-way maintenance programs, routinely trimming vegetation near power lines that could become a problem. Storms still may bring down branches or trees, but the trimmed-back vegetation is far enough from power lines that it is much less likely to fall across them.

“A good right-of-way program reduces outages a lot,” says Harry Reeves, Georgia EMC’s Vice President of Training, Education and Safety. “It also makes troubleshooting a lot easier.”

Trees along a utility ROW increase the possibility of power outages and blinks. They also can delay power

restoration after storms because fallen trees and debris must be cleared before crews can gain access to damaged poles or lines.

Large trees around utility rights of way pose a safety hazard by providing children an opportunity to play near power lines. Power lines can carry up to 14,400 volts, and an energized tree branch is extremely dangerous—even deadly. When a tree limb comes in contact with a power line, someone touching or climbing the tree could be shocked or even electrocuted. It also can produce a spark, which can start a fire, especially if the area is very dry.

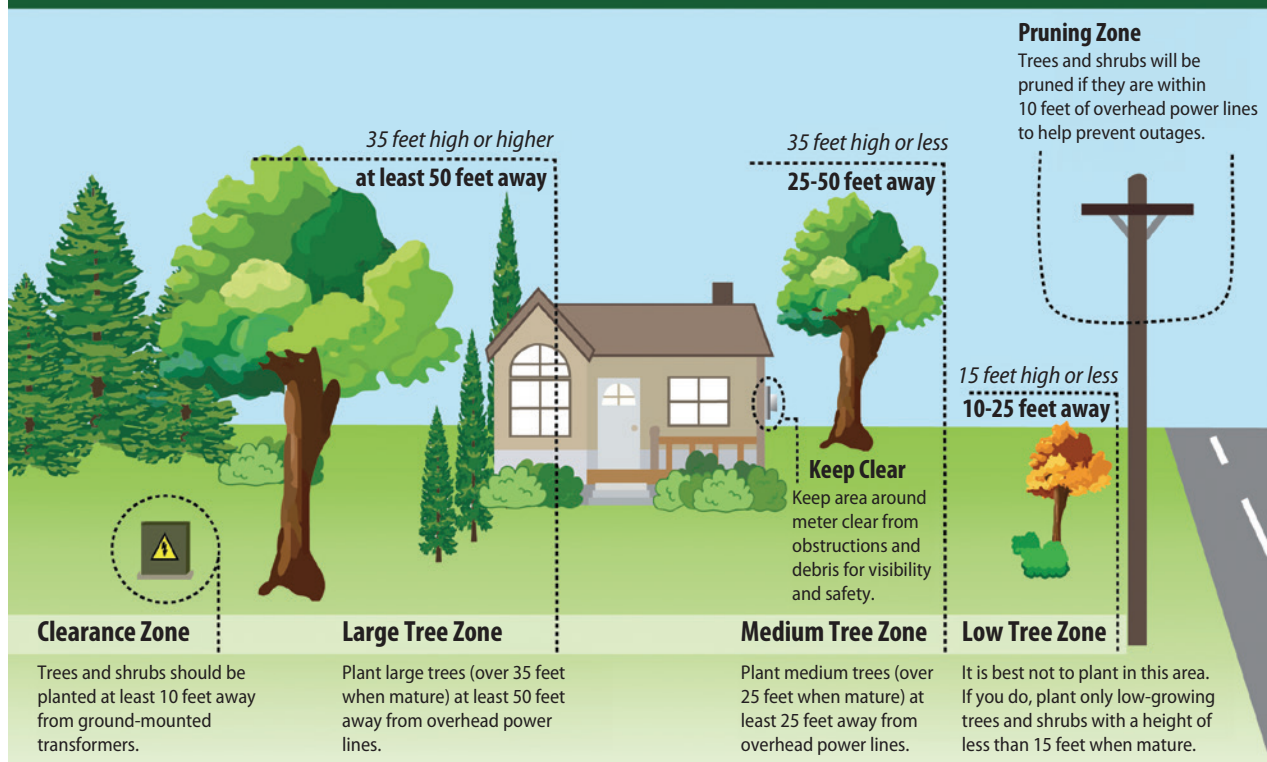
Each electric cooperative member agrees in the membership application to grant the cooperative a right-of-way easement, giving permission to cut and keep clear all trees within a set distance of primary power lines, secondary and service lines.

The distance allowed for clearing vegetation varies by co-op, from 15 feet to 30 feet on each side of a primary power line, says Rayle EMC Manager Tony Griffin. The clearing cycle ranges from five to seven years. Some

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RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE!

Before planting new trees to improve the look of your yard, you will need to keep a few things in mind.

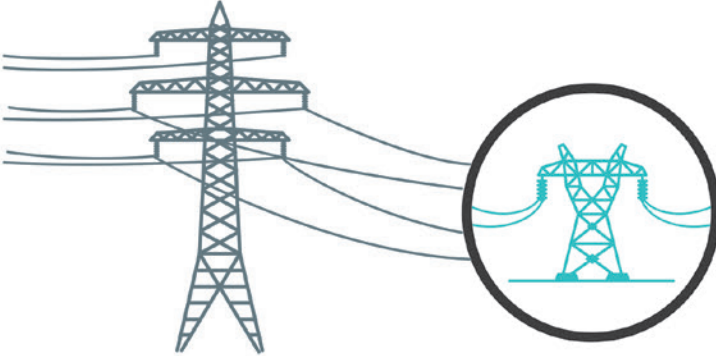


The steps to restoring power



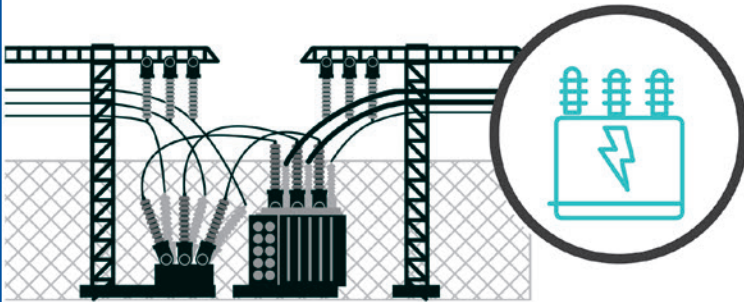
1. Report outage

Report an outage by calling your local Rayle EMC office, the toll-free outage reporting number at 1-844-744-7849, or text your outage to us using TEXTPOWER. We are prepared to take your calls, but remember: A major outage can affect thousands of members, so we appreciate your patience.



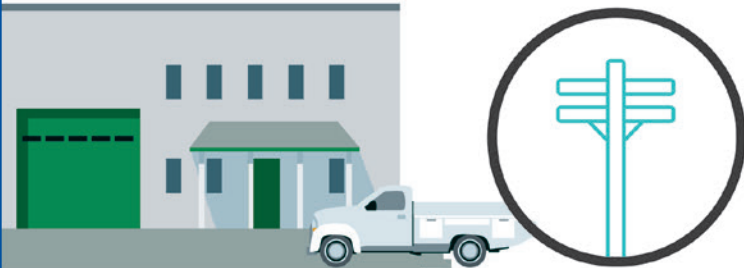
2. High-voltage transmission lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but they can be damaged in severe storms. When damaged, these lines must be repaired first.



3. Distribution substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people. If the power can be corrected at the substation, power may be restored to many members.



4. Main distribution lines

If the problem can't be isolated at the substation, main distribution supply lines are checked next. These lines deliver electricity to large groups of members in communities or housing developments.



5. Individual homes and businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

Recipe of the Month

Savory Stuffed Baked Apples

- 4 large Honeycrisp or Gala apples
- 1/4 cup lemon juice, preferably fresh
- 1/4 cup pecan or vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup onion, diced
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 1/2 cup mushrooms, finely diced
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 1 cup spinach, chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1-1/2 teaspoons poultry seasoning, divided
- 1/2 pound ground turkey or chicken
- 1 egg
- 1-1/2 cups chicken broth or apple cider

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Slice tops off apples and remove cores. Using a small ice cream scoop or melon baller, scoop apple out, leaving about 1/2-inch-thick shell, including skin. Dice the scooped-out apple pieces for the filling; you should have about 1 cup. In a large bowl, combine lemon juice and enough water to cover apples. Place whole and diced apples in lemon water with a plate or bowl on top to keep apples submerged.

Heat oil in a skillet over medium heat. Cook onion and

celery until they begin to soften.

Add mushrooms, garlic, spinach and 1 cup of diced apples to pan.

Cook until spinach wilts. Season with

salt and pepper,

to taste, and 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning. Let mixture cool.

In a medium bowl, mix ground turkey or chicken with remaining 1/2 teaspoon poultry seasoning, egg, and salt and pepper, to taste. Combine thoroughly. Add cooled vegetable mixture, mixing until evenly incorporated.

Remove cored apples from water and allow to drain. Fill apples with turkey or chicken mixture, mounding to overfill. Place apples in an ovenproof dish. Pour chicken broth or apple cider in bottom of dish, cover with aluminum foil and place in oven. Bake until internal temperature reaches 165 degrees. Depending on the size of apples, this should take 60-75 minutes. Allow to rest 5-10 minutes and serve warm. *Serves 4.*



GEORGIA GROWN



Right-of-way program, *Continued from page 22B*

co-ops use their own employees to do right-of-way work, while others hire contract crews.

Proper clearing consists of removing trees, mowing underbrush, controlling vegetation growth and trimming limbs that extend into the right of way.

Many times, trees that are outside of the allowed cutting area of the ROW are responsible for outages. The trees and/or tree limbs are not within the ROW, but the

trees are tall enough to strike the wires when they fall.

If you believe that a tree on your property poses a threat to a power line, call Rayle EMC. If it is determined that the tree is a danger and could strike the wires in falling, it could be removed at no cost to you.

In addition, when planting a tree in your yard, keep in mind the tree's size at maturity. The larger the full-grown tree will be, the farther it needs to be from a power line.