



# Electric Line Newsletter

## Fall Farm and Barn Safety

As a farmer, your life depends on the sanctity of your farm. A mishap of any size could cost major profits. By being conscious of the hazards that can occur around your farm and barns, you can save time, stress, and money.

There are a bevy of potential dangers that could leave your farm at risk. To begin, heat lamps and space heaters can create deadly fires. Keep the heaters a safe distance from anything that can catch fire. Ensure that your heaters are in a safe, stable location.

Extension cords can become overloaded and overheat. The cords get hot during usage, and could potentially create and spread fires. Much like extension cords, light bulbs get hot and can create fires when caught with dust, dirt, and cobwebs. Clear the surrounding area from your light bulbs to keep fires from breaking out.

To keep your barn safer, ensure that your barn is a smoke free zone with a clear exit strategy. Make sure that everyone on the farm knows the plan in case a fire breaks out, and teach all members to use fire extinguishers.

Safety always comes first, and by following these tips, you can safely keep your farm up and running.

## Contact Us

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*When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!*



Lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun; topping out at 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. It has been a relatively quiet year for storms in the state of Wisconsin, but that does not mean we're safe from lightning, tornados, and flooding.

Wisconsin's storm season is usually May through July, and now that it is September, we have made it out relatively unscathed. It could have something to do with our late winter, after we got bombarded by a blizzard in April. Or, it could just be an off year. Nevertheless, you should keep your guard up.

Storms and tornados can be unpredictable. Once the right conditions come around, chaos can break loose. That is why it is important to have a plan in place to properly respond and react to storms when they hit.

When storms are incoming, it is best to ensure that all of your windows are closed, pets are inside, and decorations are either brought inside or tied down. You do not want to lose decorations, and you most certainly do not want to ruin the inside of your home or car!



The next step is to ensure that your storm safety kit has all the proper items, and head to the basement (or a room without windows). A battery operated radio, food, water, blankets, pillows, necessary medications, and a flashlight are all mandatory when dealing with a storm. This kit will keep you comfortable and safe when the power goes out, or when a serious storm is in bound. Another smart resource is a portable charger for phones, computers, and other small appliances.

The next step is to just wait. If power goes out, you can call your local cooperative at (715) 677-2211. Our crew will do everything they can to restore your power in a timely manner. Aside from that, keep your radio tuned to a local weather station, stay inside, and stay safe.

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## *Basic and Professional Audits*

Curious as to why your electric bill is so high? Have you been trying to conserve energy, but to no avail? Are you sick and tired of trying to make changes, but seeing no results?

If that sounds like you, then Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has an audit that can help you find the source of your high rates.

On our website, <http://www.cwecoop.com/content/energy-audits>, we offer audits and questionnaires that you can fill out and return to the cooperative. Both will help you assess the potential areas of concern in your home without having to pay a dime. After submitting the forms, our trained staff will review them and assist you in understanding why your bill is so high, and what you can do about it.

This basic audit is free of charge.

Additionally, we have partnered with a state certified auditor who can perform comprehensive audits to accurately assess if your home has specific areas of heat loss, lacking insulation, and a host of other diagnoses.

The auditor will provide a report detailing specific needs that must be addressed in your home.

The cost of the professional audit is \$350.00, which the cooperative will reimburse if you complete three of the auditors suggested measures. \$150 for the first, and \$100 for the second and third. Each member of the cooperative qualifies for one audit every five years.

Many citizens live with their high electric bills without knowing that something can be done to change it.

Basic and professional audits are two ways to further your ability to lower your electric bill.

Stop wishing and start doing!

