

# With Safety and Service for All.

We salute those who keep  
us in power.



## **NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY: APRIL 9** **SHOW YOUR SUPPORT: #ThankALineman**

Farmers Electric Cooperative honors the hardworking people who often work around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect our members' safety. We thank all power linemen for the services they perform, going above and beyond to restore power to our communities. Remember, your power works because they do!



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Lives on the line.



by **MARK STUBBS**  
General Manager

We take time every year to thank the extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Farmers Electric Cooperative's service territory contains more than 5,100 miles of line, which is maintained by some of the most talented lineworkers in the business.

Without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff every day to keep your electric co-op running smoothly—but on April 9, National Lineman Appreciation Day—we're honoring our lineworkers, who regularly place themselves in challenging and often dangerous situations so that our lives can be brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged equipment and maintain critical infrastructure. Without their hard work and commitment to a difficult job, our co-op and our communities would not thrive.

No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do the line crews.

Perhaps you have seen them working in their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. Linemen work around the clock near high voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in Farmers EC's service area. In addition to aiding members in our own service territory, our lineworkers are willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county, or state is in need after a major outage occurs. Several Texas co-ops came to the aid of others who suffered severe outages due to winter storms over the past few months. Our lineworkers are brave, committed, selfless, and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—who light our lives.

**Remember, your power works because they do!**  
**Show your support online: #ThankALineman**



# April Showers Bring More Than May Flowers

Spring is the favorite season of many Texans—but when April showers turn into storms, they can be accompanied by dangerous conditions. Lightning kills an average of 93 Americans and injures 300 more every year, and flash floods result in 140 fatalities, according to the National Weather Service.

Thunderstorms are most likely to happen in the spring and summer months during afternoon and evening hours—but they

can occur year-round and at all hours. Flash flood waves move at incredible speeds and can tear out trees and destroy buildings; walls of water can reach 20 feet or much more. Flash flooding deaths often occur at night and when victims are caught in cars.

Below are some safety tips to follow—regardless of the type of weather emergency—during this beautiful, but sometimes stormy, time of year.

## Power Outage Tips

Before you call Farmers Electric Cooperative to report an outage, make sure you haven't blown a fuse or tripped a breaker. Look outside to see if your neighbors' lights are off.

When you call, tell the dispatcher if you heard any unusual sounds or can see any downed wires in the neighborhood.

Keep emergency numbers handy. Add your Farmers EC number to the list. Keep a copy of the list in every vehicle, too.

Monitor updates about widespread power outages via social media updates on your cellphone.

Always consider downed power lines to be deadly. Don't go near them and don't let anyone else near them. Report the situation to Farmers EC immediately.

Keep plenty of flashlights in your house, preferably one on each floor. Make sure the batteries are fresh and easy to access. Keep a light in each vehicle, too.

Have a battery-powered radio in your home, and keep fresh batteries at the ready. Have one or more power banks charged and accessible so that you can keep a cellphone charged during an outage. A working cellphone can keep you connected and informed when everything else goes dark.

Keep the refrigerator door closed, and open it only when absolutely necessary. Food will keep for several hours in a closed, unpowered refrigerator and up to two days in the freezer if the door stays shut.

If you use a generator during a power outage, remember that improper hookup can create serious problems in safety and service. The proper transfer switch is extremely important. Please contact Farmers EC well before an emergency for information on installing and using standby generators.

## Lightning Safety Tips

If you are caught outside, do not stand under tall objects. Go to a low place, such as a ravine

or ditch. If you are in a group in the open, stay several yards apart from each other.

Avoid water and metal, including tractors and other metal equipment or vehicles. If you are caught on a level field far from shelter and you feel your hair stand on end, lightning may be about to strike you. Drop to your knees and bend forward, putting your hands on your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.

## Flooding Safety Tips

If time permits after a flood warning is issued, take essential items to safe ground. Move to high ground immediately, before the escape route is cut off.

Do not drive through flooded areas. A car can easily be carried away by just 2 feet of water, and nearly half of all flood fatalities occur in vehicles. If your vehicle stalls in a flooded area, abandon it and seek higher ground.

If your home is flooded, keep the power turned off until the water has been removed and the electrical system inspected.

## EMERGENCY WEBSITES

The following websites can help you stay informed, connected and prepared before, during, and after a tornado:

### National Weather Service:

[nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/tornadoes](https://nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/tornadoes)

### Red Cross:

[redcross.org/prepare/disaster/tornado](https://redcross.org/prepare/disaster/tornado)

### Federal Emergency Management Agency:

[ready.gov/tornadoes](https://ready.gov/tornadoes)

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

[emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/index.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/index.asp)

## WEATHER APPS



### Nixle

Collects and distributes weather advisories from more than 5,000 public safety agencies.



### American Red Cross Tornado

Find step-by-step instructions, live tornado warnings and a map, and an "I'm Safe" button for family and friends.



### American Red Cross First Aid

Offers safety tips for natural disasters. All info is downloaded within the app, allowing 911 calls from the app.

# Odds & Ends

Fair, festival, class or show—share your community event with us and we'll help you get the word out with the Farmers EC Community Calendar.

**SEND TO: [event@FarmersElectric.coop](mailto:event@FarmersElectric.coop)**



## ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

# 2018 Farmers EC Scholarships

Each year, Farmers EC awards \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding high school seniors. The scholarships can be applied toward tuition, housing, meal plans, and/or books at a college, university, or technical school of the student's choice.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Parent or guardian must be a member of Farmers Electric Cooperative at their principal residence.
- Student must be currently enrolled as a high school senior.
- Student must be planning to attend a college, university, or technical school as a full-time student in the fall of year for which the scholarship is applied.
- Student must have at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

**2018 Scholarship Application deadline: April 6, 2018.**

**Download an application at: [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop)**



## RECIPE

# Honey Cheese Bacon Chicken

This recipe won the Five Ingredients or Fewer contest in September 2015.

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- ½ Dijon or creole mustard
- ¾ cup honey
- ¼ teaspoon lemon pepper, or more to taste
- 4 slices bacon, cut in half
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella or provolone cheese

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Apply cooking spray to a metal baking dish. Pound chicken breast halves to an even thickness.
2. Mix together honey, mustard, and lemon pepper in a small dish. Place the breast halves in baking dish and drizzle evenly with the honey mustard mixture.
3. Bake chicken 25 minutes, then top each breast half with 2 bacon pieces and increase oven heat to 400. Continue baking about 7–8 minutes.
4. Top with cheese and bake another 3 minutes or until chicken juices run clear, bacon is crisp, and cheese is bubbly. Serve with brown or white rice.

## April Dates

**Easter** - Sun 1st  
**Earth Day** - Sun 22nd

## Did you know?

Enough sunlight reaches Earth's surface every minute to satisfy the world's energy demands for an entire year.

## Power Tip

Warmer weather is here! Use energy-efficient window treatments or coverings, such as blinds, shades, or films, to reduce heat gain in your home. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.