



SEPTEMBER 2021

# THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION



## TIPS FOR A SAFE HARVEST

By Abby Berry - NRECA's Straight Talk

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers.

In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- 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 electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately 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), and hop away to safety.

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Editor - Yolanda Hruska

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## HAPPY LABOR DAY

### DID YOU KNOW? Three facts about Labor Day

-  Oregon was the first state to make Labor Day a legal holiday in 1887
-  President Grover Cleveland & the US Congress made Labor Day a national holiday in 1894
-  Over the past 35 years, the share of American workers who belong to labor unions has fallen by about half.

Source: [officeholidays.com/holidays/labor-day](http://officeholidays.com/holidays/labor-day)

Icon: [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)

## LUCKY DRAWING

Congratulations to Ray and Pat Jenks, our July "Lucky Winners"!

The Jenks' have received a \$50.00 credit on their account. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid the \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 16th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please contact us, 308-254-5871/800-261-7114, or visit [wheatbelt.com](http://wheatbelt.com) and select the Customer Engagement page for details on payment options.

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## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

We are never too young or too old to learn about electrical safety.

Wheat Belt PPD is dedicated to our communities, and we are available to visit local schools, home school events, community and civic organizations and work place safety meetings to perform safety demonstrations. All of our presentations are free and can be customized to include a variety of topics for different age groups.

Area public power districts and cooperatives share a 7,200V high-voltage demonstration trailer, and we also have a 120V low-voltage table-top model.



The exercises are conducted by Wheat Belt linemen to demonstrate the danger of energized power lines.



- Learn the hazards of downed power lines
- Learn the difference between conductors and insulators
- Learn what dangers occur when various, everyday objects touch a power line.
  - \* Various farm equipment
  - \* Ladders
  - \* Hot dog (simulating human body)
  - \* Car tire (simulating any vehicle)

Every three years, we host a Safety Fair for Fourth and Fifth grade students in our service territory. This event is a coordinated effort of approximately ten organizations throughout the area providing 20-minute safety awareness and injury prevention related sessions. We look forward to our upcoming fair, scheduled for May 6, 2022.

Please call us, 308-254-5871, for more info or to schedule a demo.

**SAFETY IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY! STAY SAFE!**

**Creekside**  
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## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: energy.gov



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When practicing farm safety, consider all equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Photo Credit: Lance Cheung, USDA

- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.

**GURLEY NIGHT OUT**  
**THURSDAY \* SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 \* 5-7 PM**

GURLEY FIRE HALL - GURLEY COMMUNITY HALL  
 Variety of vendors - Free ice cream  
 SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 Bake sale and sand art activity for the kids  
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**7am-4pm \* Monday-Friday \* 1400 Jackson St., Sidney NE**  
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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Liz Skov Joins Wheat Belt as Accountant



Wheat Belt welcomes Liz Skov to our team and we are happy to introduce her to our customers.

Prior to joining Wheat Belt, Liz had been employed with Lashley Land & Recreational as bookkeeper and most recently, as Operations Manager. Liz joined us in April 2021.

Liz, a native of Sutherland, Nebraska, has obtained a Legal Assistant Associate's Degree and a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. She and her husband, Chris, (and six cats) enjoy their home in Hershey, Nebraska. They have one daughter, Jessica of Kearney and a 6-year old granddaughter who lives with her adoptive parents.

So far, she likes everything about her job! In her spare time, Liz enjoys reading. She said one thing that would surprise us is...she was a queen...NE limousine queen in high school.

**9TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN HARVEST FESTIVAL!**  
**October 23, 2021 \* 4:00-9:00 pm**  
**Sunol Community Center**

\* Plinko \* Cake & Dessert Walk \* Bean Bag Toss \*  
 \* Jail House \* Skeleton Ring Toss \*  
 \* Haunted House \* Craft Corner \* Silent Auction \*

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• Shocks and Struts	• Wheels

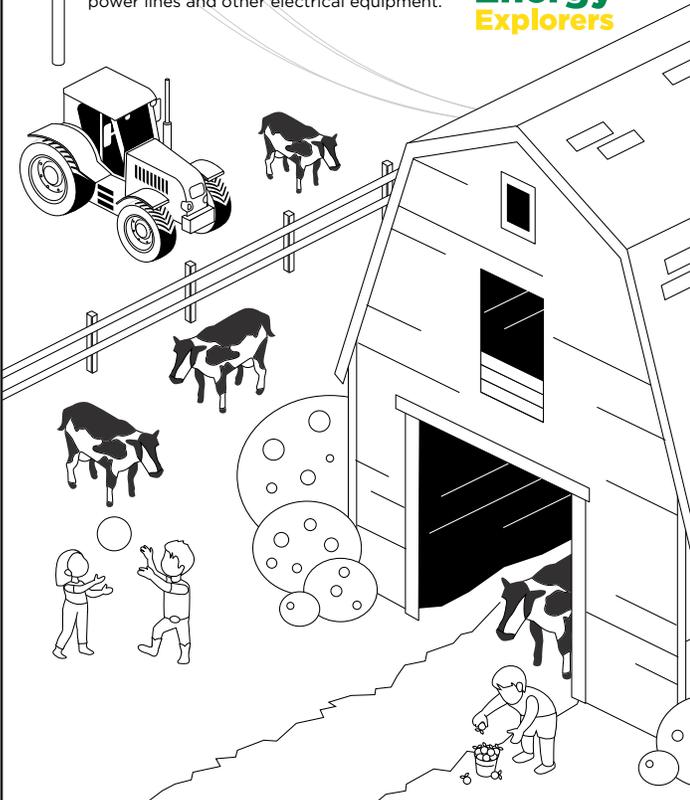
Most Major Brand Tires  
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**1744 Illinois**  
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## Farm Safety Coloring Sheet

Farm Health and Safety Week is September 19-25! Whether you live on a farm or in the city, always remember to avoid playing near power lines and other electrical equipment.



### \*\*REBATES\*\*

As part of our commitment to our customers, Wheat Belt & Tri-State, our power supplier, offer a Beneficial Electrification & Efficiency Products Program. Our program issues rebates to customers for purchasing and installing energy efficient products. Call us or visit [wheatbelt.com/energy-efficiency-rebates](http://wheatbelt.com/energy-efficiency-rebates) for more information.



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