

# NEWS



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## Manager's Message:

# Committed to a Co-op Culture for All

Over the years, you've heard me expound on why and how Tri-County EMC is different – because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including Tri-County EMC, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

### Equal Access for All

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. Tri-County EMC was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and consumer-members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

**J. Michael Davis**

General Manager



By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

We know members of our community have different needs and perspectives, and we welcome diverse views on all issues under consideration by the co-op. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect the needs of all corners of our community.

### Inclusion

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Tri-County EMC was founded, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize that today's co-op members expect more, and my pledge to you – the members we proudly serve – is to promote a cooperative culture of inclusion, diversity and equity for all.



## Daylight Savings Time Begins—March 14, 2021

When you set your clocks ahead an hour for Daylight Savings Time on **Sunday, March 14**, remember also to check your heating and cooling system filters and change them if they are dirty. Dirty filters slow down air flow and make the system work harder – wasting energy and money. Additionally, a clean filter prevents dust and dirt buildup, which can prevent expensive repairs or early system failure. This is also a good time to change the direction of your ceiling fans to counter-clockwise to push cool air through your home. To add to your safety, it is a good time to change your batteries in your smoke alarms. Smoke alarms save lives.



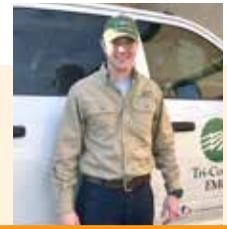
Landon Stroud



Lance Wise



Seth Johnson



Jarred Pennington

## Tri-County EMC Welcomes New Employees

**A**t the core of Tri-County EMC are the many employees that keep the power moving through the lines. Rain or shine, snow and wind, they face it all. Tri-County EMC is proud to announce the addition of four new employees: Landon Stroud, Lance Wise and Seth Johnson as the newest apprentice linemen, and Jarred Pennington as an apprentice tree trimmer.

Stroud holds a certification in 3rd Class Electric Line Technology from Nash Community College. Prior to his employment at Tri-County EMC, Stroud worked with C-PHASE services as an equipment operator.

Wise holds a certification in 3rd Class Electric Line Technology from Nash Community College. Prior to his employment at Tri-County EMC, Wise worked with The Garden Turf and Landscape as a crew leader.

Johnson holds a certification in 3rd Class Electric Line Technology from Nash Community College. Prior to his employment at Tri-County EMC, Johnson worked with Price Brother's Farming as an equipment operator.

Pennington holds a degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne Community College. Prior to his employment with Tri-County EMC, Pennington worked with the Wayne County Sheriff's office as an ACE team member.

## Save The Date

**Thursday, May 14, 2021**

### Tri-County EMC Scholarship Golf Tournament

- ➔ 8:00 AM and 1:30 PM Shotgun Starts
- ➔ Lunch Provided
- ➔ Southern Wayne Country Club
- ➔ Mount Olive, NC

Tri-County EMC employees will host its Scholarship Golf Tournament on Friday, May 14, 2021, at Southern Wayne Country Club in Mount Olive, North Carolina. We invite members and friends of Tri-County EMC to join us for a morning or afternoon of fun and fellowship to benefit the Employee-Funded Scholarship Program.

The tournament will offer two start times, either morning or afternoon, with lunch catered for all players. Team entries will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Individuals are also welcomed to participate. Individual participants will be assigned to a 4-player team. There will be cash prizes for the winners.

If you are unable to play golf with us this year, please consider being a Hole Sponsor.

Money raised through this event will be used to award college scholarships to high school seniors.

Tri-County EMC's employees appreciate your assistance with this benefit, and believe that it is important to enhance the education of our youth who will be the future leaders of our communities.

Registration deadline is May 7, 2021. To obtain a registration form and hole sponsor form, or if you have questions, please contact Mike Wood ([michael.wood@tcemc.com](mailto:michael.wood@tcemc.com)), Deidra Grantham ([deidra.grantham@tcemc.com](mailto:deidra.grantham@tcemc.com)) or Mike Davis ([michael.davis@tcemc.com](mailto:michael.davis@tcemc.com)) at 800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.



# Celebrating Agricultural Partnerships

**Electric cooperatives like Tri-County EMC were founded by farmers, and we continue to work closely with our state's agricultural industry to build a brighter future for our rural communities. National Ag Day is March 23, but we are thankful every day to serve our agricultural members by helping them save money, improve efficiency and achieve sustainability goals.**

**I**t was with this in mind that Tri-County EMC and the rest of North Carolina's electric cooperatives recently developed a new initiative called BEST Solutions, which offers a wide range of customized electric tools and technologies related to Beneficial Electrification (BE) and Sustainable Technologies (ST) that can meet the needs of agricultural, commercial and industrial businesses.

New electric technologies are emerging rapidly and are making processes, devices and equipment cheaper, smarter and cleaner than ever. Using electricity instead of fossil fuels—what we call beneficial electrification—can yield benefits that include cost savings, higher productivity and reduced emissions. Examples include electric irrigation, electric equipment like forklifts and transportation refrigeration units and indoor agriculture.

Sustainable technologies are also growing in popularity as many farms and businesses strive to meet clean energy goals, and we can apply our expertise and resources to help you adopt the right technologies to meet your needs. Increased demand for

low-carbon energy sources and a decline in the cost of solar and energy technologies are creating more options for businesses interested in utilizing diverse power sources. Potential sustainable technology solutions include solar power and energy storage devices, microgrids that integrate renewable and conventional generation sources, and Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) programs.

All these technologies and solutions play a part in achieving our vision of a Brighter Future for the people, businesses and communities we serve. This vision includes a voluntary goal of reducing our carbon emissions by 50 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050, along with a continued commitment to delivering reliable, affordable electricity, investing in innovative solutions and technologies, and enriching our local communities.

Thank you again to our farmers and agricultural members for the vital ways you support our daily lives. We are proud to serve you and look forward to continuing to partner with you to enhance your operations and our communities.

## **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:** *National Agriculture Day Photo Contest*

To Celebrate National Ag Day on March 23, 2021, we are asking members to submit your best agriculture photo. Winners will receive a cash prize \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place, \$100 for third place and \$50 for fourth place.

### **RULES:**

- One entry per household.
- Must be member of Tri-County EMC.
- Include your name, mailing address and phone number.
- Emailed photos accepted only.

### **CONTEST TIMELINE:**

- **February 8:** Contest opens for submissions.
- **March 12:** Submission deadline. After the closing date for submissions, on March 12 at 5 p.m., ten (10) finalists will be selected for the contest.
- **March 15-19:** If your photo is selected as a finalist, it will be posted on Tri-County EMC's Facebook page members/community will vote for the winning photos.
- **March 19:** Deadline for voting on Facebook at 4 p.m.
- **March 23:** Winners published on National Agriculture Day

### **SEND TO:**

- [deidra.grantham@tcemc.com](mailto:deidra.grantham@tcemc.com)  
(emailed photos accepted only)

*If you have questions, you may contact Deidra Grantham, manager of marketing and communications, at 919-735-2611 ext. 621 or [deidra.grantham@tcemc.com](mailto:deidra.grantham@tcemc.com).*



## Attention Students! Scholarship Deadline Drawing Near

**T**ri-County EMC has scholarship opportunities available for students in our service area. Non-traditional students are eligible for a scholarship in the amount of \$400. Scholarships of \$500 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who pursue a four-year degree and scholarships of \$250 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors pursuing a two-year degree.

Applications may be obtained at the high school guidance counselor offices of Southern Wayne, Charles B. Aycock, Rosewood, Spring Creek, Eastern Wayne, Wayne School of Engineering, Wayne Early College, North Duplin, East Duplin, Duplin Early College, James Kenan, North Lenoir or South Lenoir, or at [tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com). Applications must be received or postmarked by March 31, 2021.



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



**Tri-County Electric  
Membership Corporation**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

#### Mission Statement:

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

**We are here to serve you 24 hours a day,  
7 days a week and 365 days a year.**

#### For Outages or Emergencies:

919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

[tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com)

**J. Michael Davis**  
General Manager

#### Management Staff

**Kenneth E. Davis, Jr., CPA**  
Manager, Finance & Administration

**Robert B. Kornegay**  
Manager, Member Services

**Deidra Grantham, Editor**  
Manager, Marketing and Communications

**Tony Grantham, P. E.**  
Manager, Engineering

**Michael Wood**  
Manager, Operations

**Tamah Hughes**  
Manager, Information Technology

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**Worth Overman**

**Brandy Rouse**

#### Employee of the month



**Steve Mason**

Steve Mason is one of 51 employees ready to serve you. He has worked with Tri-County EMC since April 7, 2014, and serves as a member services representative for the cooperative. Steve, his wife, Rena, and daughter reside in Mount Olive.