

Tips for Efficiency and Comfort *p. 3*

Co-op Tackles Right-of-Way Maintenance in Summer

Summer arrives this month, and with it come long sunny days, warm temperatures climbing toward the triple digits, and blossoming and leafing vegetation.

It is simply a fact of life in northeastern Oklahoma that not all of that green vegetation is beneficial or desirable.

Trees, brush and vines that grow in the co-op's right-of-way cause problems, no matter what the season.

That is why we take advantage of those long, sunny, warm days to aggressively battle that vegetation.

Beginning in the last half of June, contractors with Progressive Solutions will be spraying right-of-way. It is the safest, most economical, and most efficient way to maintain our right-of-way. They will begin near Ramona and Vera.

"The herbicide is in a four-gallon backpack, which gives each contractor a great deal of control on the amount and location of where he is spraying," explains VVEC Right-of-Way Coordinator Lon Lambert. "It just takes a tiny bit of herbicide to be effective, and the contractors are very selective where they apply it."

Lambert says the spray is a mixture of Accord XRT II and Tordon K, manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, and Arsenal, manufactured by BASF.

"Our crews selectively treat the low-growing brush under the electric lines, using these products that encourage the growth of grasses, flowering broad leaf plants, and other low-growing vegetation beneficial to wildlife, allowing the right-of-way to be reclaimed by the natural vegetation," he says. He explains the treated vegetation simply dies and crumbles in time.

Lambert adds the crews are licensed by the State of Oklahoma to perform this work, and are trained to safely apply the products according to manufacturer's instructions.

The Progressive Solution crews drive company vehicles which also indicate they are VVEC contract employees.

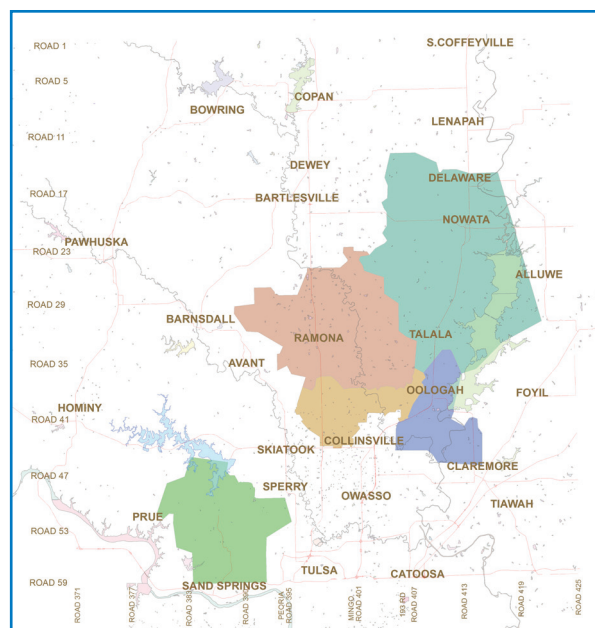
Crews can spray a total of about 80 miles a day. The herbicide is safe for humans, pets and livestock, but there won't be any spraying near crops, bees, vineyards, or when there are high winds.

"We are careful about spraying in sensitive areas," says Lambert. "And we are considerate of members' property such as the fences."

If you have questions about our right-of-way maintenance program, please call our Right-of-Way Coordinator Lon Lambert at 918-371-2584.



Contractors carry four-gallon backpacks (above) and use wands to apply the herbicide where it needs to go to treat growth and vegetation growing in the co-op's right-of-way. Areas served by the Ramona, Vera, Oologah, Green and Watova substations (below) are targeted for the herbicide-spraying program this summer.



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Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge \$20.20

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh \$0.0809/kWh

Over 2,000 kWh \$0.0860/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

50 Years of Winners Invited to Youth Tour Reunion

If you are one of the more than 140 former VVEC Youth Tour winners you will want to attend the 50-Year Youth Tour Reunion Celebration July 20 in Oklahoma City.

Since Youth Tour began in the 1960s, Oklahoma co-ops have sent more than 2,600 high school students to Washington, D. C. as winners of their Youth Tour programs. All of those winners and the chaperones, along with their families, are invited to the reunion. It is the first such reunion for Oklahoma Youth Tour participants.

The event is being held at the Sheraton Midwest City hotel at the Reed Conference Center. Plans call for a short program which includes NRECA's Youth Tour Director Randy Dwyer, a video of 50 years of Oklahoma Youth Tour photos, memorabilia on display, along with a photo booth and winners and chaperones renewing friendships and sharing memories.

A reception will be held that evening, and the hotel is offering to shuttle attendees back and forth to Bricktown for those who want to go.

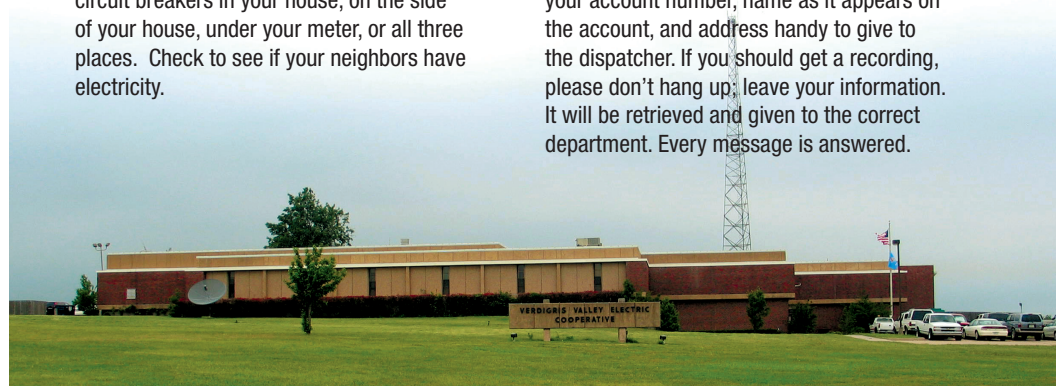
All Youth Tour alumni will get a reunion T-shirt also.

If you are interested in attending the reunion, you can register your attendance visiting the Oklahoma 50 Year Youth Tour Reunion group page on Facebook, or the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Web site at www.oaec.coop/member_services_and_training/?page=registration.

If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Dempsey (Spike Momma) at OAEC at (405) 478-1455.

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please don't hang up, leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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Add More Light When You Remodel Bathroom, Kitchen

Spring and summer are popular seasons for home improvement work. And as the economy picks up, more homeowners are sprucing up two rooms whose renovations they put off during leaner years: the kitchen and bathroom.

If you're updating the two most-used rooms in your home, include extra lighting in your designs.

As we age, additional lighting around the house becomes a must.

In the bathroom, place a light on the ceiling, over the shower and over the sink or on the sides of the mirror. Attach overhead lights to a dimmer switch, as they can cast shadows that make it hard to properly apply makeup.

In the kitchen, insist on an overhead light, and add more lights under cabinets to shine on countertops where you work with knives and prepare food. Install pendant lights over an island or large countertop both to add light and update the décor.

Lighting is too often overlooked during a remodeling project. But it's one of the most practical upgrades you can make to a bathroom or kitchen. 



Run Ceiling Fans to Stay Comfortable

Installing and running ceiling fans during the summer will make you feel cooler and more comfortable while you are in a room where one is operating.

Because the fans move the air, they create a subtle breeze that feels good when it blows across your skin.

So running a fan in an unoccupied room is a waste of energy. If nobody is there to feel the breeze, there's no reason to create it.

A ceiling fan doesn't cool the house; it just makes someone who is sitting or standing nearby feel cooler.

So turn off your fans when you leave a room, and flip them back on when you return.

A tip: Installing ceiling fans in rooms where your family spends the most time is a good investment in energy efficiency. When you run a ceiling fan, your comfort level will increase so much that you can turn the air conditioner thermostat up by 4 degrees without feeling any difference.

Pay • as • you • go

*New Pre-Pay Program
Coming This Summer*

Choose when to pay your electric bill. **Buy** electricity when it is convenient. **Monitor** your electric consumption.



When the weather gets hot, we head outdoors for sun and fun. Keep in mind some tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International to make sure everyone has a safe summer.

Water and electricity don't mix

Summer is the season for swimming and boating, and awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries. Water and electricity don't mix.

- Sailboats often have masts of 30 feet or more, which are dangerous when they come into contact with overhead power lines. Look up as you get close to shore, and stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Coming into contact with an energized power line causes serious and sometimes lethal electric shock.
- Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water, and never handle electrical items before you've dried off.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. These devices interrupt the flow of power when they sense a surge. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

Lightning and storms

Lightning strikes are fatal in 10 percent of victims, and 70 percent suffer serious long-term effects, according to the National Weather Service. Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover.

- If weather conditions indicate a storm, stay inside—away from doors and windows—or seek shelter in a low-lying area away from trees and any metal, including sheds, clotheslines, poles, and fences. If you're near water, stay as far away as possible.
- If you're in a group, spread out—don't stand close together.
- Indoors, unplug electronics before the storm arrives, and don't use corded phones.
- Avoid plumbing—sinks, bathtubs, faucets.
- Don't forget about your pets. Doghouses are not safe from lightning, and chained animals are easy targets.
- If your home is flooded during a storm, don't turn on appliances or electronics until given the okay by an electrician. If there's laying water, don't go inside. The water could be energized.

RECIPE

Healthy Coleslaw

- 1 head red cabbage, shredded**
- 2 lg. carrots, grated**
- 1 med. yellow onion, thinly sliced**
- 3/4 cup Greek yogurt**
- 2 Tbsp. low fat sour cream**
- 2 Tbsp. all natural honey**
- 2 Tbsp. white vinegar**
- 1 Tbsp. dry mustard powder**
- 1 tsp. Kosher salt**
- 1 tsp. fresh ground black pepper**

In a large mixing bowl place the shredded red cabbage, grated carrots and thinly sliced yellow onion. Stir gently to combine all ingredients together. Add remaining seven ingredients in medium-sized mixing bowl, and stir thoroughly until completely combined.

Place dressing on top of the vegetables and stir until every piece of vegetable is coated in dressing. Cover tightly and place in refrigerator to cool for 60 min. Remove from the fridge, take off cover and stir briefly before serving.

YIELD: 50 4-oz. servings.

