

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

TheVoice

CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for April is \$0.00816/kilowatt-hour. This amounts to an additional \$8.16 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours. The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (or decrease) in power costs (over and above 7¢/kWh) charged to us by our wholesale power suppliers. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale costs, and is a flow-through on your electric bill.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Thank a Lineworker

Lineworker Appreciation Day is Friday, April 18

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause power outages.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers complete a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 122,400 jobs in 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau

of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

SAFETY COMES FIRST

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the U.S. BLS, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- ▶ Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.

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THANK AN OFFICE WORKER ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY

Administrative Professionals Day — sometimes referred to as National Secretaries Day — takes place on the last Wednesday of April each year. People have been celebrating administrative professionals for decades, since U.S. Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer proclaimed June as the first National Secretaries Week in 1952. Back then, secretaries were traditionally women, but the definition and roles of secretaries have changed significantly throughout history. Today, the term “secretary” isn’t widely used, and organizations in every sector of the modern economy instead honor all of their administrative professionals on this special day.

As with the cooperative linemen, your cooperative’s office personnel strive to do their best in helping members with billing and usage issues, payments, accounting and all other clerical aspects of your electric service.

Remember to Use Caution When Burning

Each spring, all across Caney Valley Electric's service territory, members prepare to burn pasture for the upcoming spring grass season.

Every spring Caney Valley Electric's employees witness damage being done to Caney Valley's poles and equipment by "controlled" burns. Please be aware that burning or even scorching a pole will compromise the integrity of the structure.

Power poles are treated

with a protective coating that prevents moisture from entering the core of the pole and causing deterioration. If a pole is scorched or blackened, the protective coating is damaged. Though it may appear as just a discoloration or slight burn, this is, in fact, damage to the pole. This will significantly shorten the life of a power pole. This pole may then become a hazard and could cause an outage.

Caney Valley once again reminds members to plan your burning before you begin. It is much cheaper to prevent a

pole from catching fire than to pay for a new pole. Members will be held liable for the replacement cost of pole(s) and/or equipment due to fire damage. This cost may vary from \$1,000 to more than \$2,000 depending on the structure of the pole and equipment. It only takes a little extra effort to prevent pole damage and help control costs for you and your cooperative.

Burning of pastures and ditches does not have to result in the burning/scorching of power poles. If there are power poles in the area to be burned, clear the vegetation/weeds at least four feet around the base of the pole and wet the base of the pole with water before beginning to burn.

If the fire does get away from you and a pole becomes engulfed in flames, immediately call the fire department and Caney Valley Electric. Do not spray water close to the conductors! Water and electricity do not mix! This may cause a short circuit. You and/or the firefighters could be in the path of that current and serious injury or death may result.

Report any fire-damaged pole to Caney Valley Electric immediately. Not reporting the damage may cause a serious accident to happen later.

A pole that has been burned through is likely to fall over. This can leave the energized lines about a foot off the ground. If a person comes into contact with the line, they most likely will be seriously burned, or even killed. This carelessness could cost a life.



Make safety a priority and take special considerations when burning near electric utility lines.

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP CAMP

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in July: **JAYLON HARRIS** and **SHYANN SQUIRES**, both of Cedar Vale, and **EDWARD METCALF**, of Grenola. **CLANCY CUMMINGS** and **KASE KILL**, both of Howard, were selected by their peers last summer to return this year as ambassadors.

They will join other high school students from Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and Oklahoma for a weeklong opportunity to improve leadership skills, learn about electrification, cooperatives, energy problems, safety and interpersonal communications.



Clancy Cummings
Camp Ambassador



Kase Kill
Camp Ambassador



Jaylon Harris



ShyAnn Squires



Edward Metcalf

Thank a Lineworker *Continued from page 12A* ▶

- ▶ Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- ▶ Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- ▶ Install power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- ▶ Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- ▶ Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- ▶ Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles,

they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.

Your cooperative linemen take pride in doing their best to provide you the most reliable electric service possible.

ALLEN A. ZADOROZNY, MANAGER

Annual Right-of-Way Herbicide Spraying



Craig Lampson
Line Superintendent

As part of the cooperative's ongoing program to control harmful vegetation near our power lines, we have contracted with Poor Boy Tree Service Inc. of Fairplay, Missouri, to apply

herbicide along our rights-of-way in 2025. Lines off our Burden, Tisdale and Silverdale substations are scheduled to be covered over the next few months. This includes parts of Cowley County including rural areas around Alanta, Burden, Cambridge and west of Dexter.

Poor Boy's two-man crews will be applying high-volume foliar spray herbicide directly to small trees, saplings and harmful re-growth that has occurred since the lines were cleared by tree cutting. They will be using the minimum amount of herbicide judged to be effective and will be targeting specific plants that pose a hazard to the electric system. You should expect to see their pickup and/or ATV with spray

equipment working along the rights-of-way under Caney Valley's electric lines.

Caney Valley Electric will be sending out letters to known landowners or members where we propose to treat our rights-of-way. Please, **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, OR IF YOU DO NOT WANT US TO SPRAY ON YOUR PROPERTY, YOU NEED TO CONTACT US SO WE CAN DESIGNATE IT AS "DO NOT SPRAY" FOR OUR CONTRACTOR'S CREWS.** The letter may be the only notice you receive before we start.

Trees continue to pose the greatest physical obstacle to providing economical and reliable electric power to the consumers on Caney Valley's system. The problems caused by trees and the costs of controlling them are born by all of our members collectively. We appreciate your support of the cooperative's efforts to reduce tree-related problems in a fair and cost-effective manner. If you have any questions about our spraying or line clearing activities, please call us at 800-310-8911 or 620-758-2262.

CRAIG LAMPSON
LINE SUPERINTENDENT

UNDERSTANDING COOPERATIVE DEBT

Why does the co-op borrow money and incur debt?

Like all electric co-ops, Caney Valley borrows money to fund system improvements and capital items, the large expenses that we don't have cash on hand to pay for. Financing shares the expenses with both current and future members who will benefit from the investment. It would be unfair for current members to pay high electric rates to fund all capital improvements to avoid debt.

It's important to understand how financing works for electric cooperatives. We work with an engineer to create a four-year work plan to maintain, repair and upgrade our infrastructure. Our current four-year work plan is \$6,283,000. Caney Valley must buy the materials and do the work. When a project is completed, the work must be inspected and approved by an engineer. Then the co-op applies to the lender for reimbursement of the expenses. We must cash-flow the expense, then receive reimbursement after the work is complete.

If we paid for all system improvements and investments to avoid incurring debt, the current work plan would cost current members \$1,200 per meter. That is a lot of extra money to ask members to pay. Future members would benefit from the investment without sharing in the cost.

While most people believe it is always preferable to avoid debt if possible, that concept is not always true given the nature of operating a public utility. Oftentimes, borrowing money for long-term (35 years or more) investments is preferable than recovering all of the costs of the investment from the members through rates.

Employee Spotlight

We are going to “spotlight” our employees as space allows, to help our members learn a little bit about our employees.

MONTANA JOHNSON was hired April 2007 as an apprentice lineman, finished his training and was promoted to journeyman and then to AMI/GIS systems coordinator. He left the cooperative in 2019 to pursue other work, but then returned in December 2021 as the systems operations manager.



Montana Johnson

Montana enjoys mostly everything about his job, especially the different challenges that come along new every day. In his free time he enjoys hunting and fishing — pretty much anything outdoors — and traveling with his family.

Nondiscrimination STATEMENT

The Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is a recipient of federal financial assistance from Rural Development, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Help Keep Our Work Crews Safe

Slow down and move over when approaching workers on the road. Lives depend on it!

TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Don't fall for a power restoration rip-off. Some scammers will contact you and offer to restore power quickly or in a preferential order if you make an immediate payment. These scams typically occur after major storms or disasters that cause widespread outages. We will never request or require payment to restore power after a natural disaster or storm.

SOURCE: UTILITIES UNITED AGAINST SCAMS

OUTAGES FOR FEBRUARY 2025 Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
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There were only a few small outages for February.

JANUARY OPERATING STATISTICS

For Month Ending	Jan. 2024	Jan 2025	For Month Ending	Jan. 2024	Jan 2025	For Month Ending	Jan. 2024	Jan 2025
Meters Billed	5,178	5,181	Total Revenue	\$ 770,420	\$ 807,060	Other Expenses	\$ 300	\$ 1,128
kWh Purchased	6,658,731	6,704,463	Purchased Power	\$ 492,730	\$ 496,915	Operating Margins	\$ (113,174)	\$ (163,820)
Cost Per kWh Purchased	0.07389	0.07398	Operating Expenses	\$ 271,012	\$ 350,147	Non-Operating Margins	\$ 10,051	\$ 7,588
kWh Sold	4,953,515	5,158,385	Depreciation Expenses	\$ 75,077	\$ 77,543	Total Working Margins	\$ (103,122)	\$ (156,232)
			Interest Expenses	\$ 44,475	\$ 45,147	Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (103,122)	\$ (156,232)