



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

SEPTEMBER 2019

*The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation*

**Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnall**

## Be Prepared Before A Storm

**I**t's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything—food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan now so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. Follow the suggestions below to prepare for storms before they hit:

### **Preparedness Actions and Items**

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).

- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and a battery-powered radio.

- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

### **With advance warning**

If a severe storm such as a hurricane is expected with high winds and sustained rain, you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home. Shutter windows and securely close exterior doors. Fully charge all cell phones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

### **During a prolonged outage**

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.



During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered radios to listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Keep away from windows.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property.

### **Power in planning**

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings.

The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. For more information, visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).

# Farmers can ensure a safe harvest

**D**uring harvest season, many farmers reap the benefits of advanced agricultural technology. With the help of GPS auto-steer devices, farmers can reduce driver error and maximize productivity. Yet despite these advances, safety risks remain. In recognition of National Farm Safety and Health Week (Sept. 15-21), Safe Electricity shares tips for a safe harvest.

GPS with auto-guidance provides farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field, which can assist in crop planning, mapmaking, navigation and machinery guidance. During harvest, this technology allows drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the harvest equipment maneuvers itself through the field. Farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even in low light, which enhances productivity.

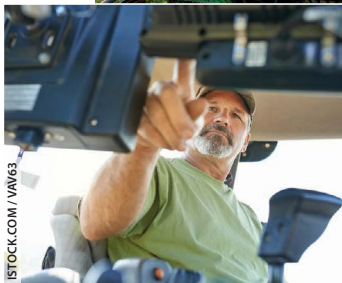
“One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness,” says Molly Hall, executive director of the Safe Electricity program. “It’s important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents.”

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles that are not correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to be aware of the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action, if necessary.

Regardless of the technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.



*Even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.*

- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment around power lines, such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads

to prevent contact with overhead lines. Always position grain augers horizontally before moving them.

- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your electric cooperative.

If equipment does touch a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that touches overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. If this happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop away from the area to safety.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [safeelectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org).

*Safe Electricity, based in Springfield, Ill., is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a nonprofit organization that educates the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.*





*John Bridges*



*Luke Watts*

## Young leaders learn about cooperatives

Cooperatives across the state, including Altamaha EMC, recently hosted the 31st annual Georgia Cooperative Council Youth Leadership Conference at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington. Luke Watts and John Bridges represented Altamaha EMC at the conference. They joined 49 other teens who gathered July 15-19 to build and enhance their leadership skills and learn about cooperatives and the role they play in communities across the state.

“We feel a responsibility to teach these future community leaders the principles upon which cooperatives were founded and operate today and how co-ops differ from other business models,” says Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC Manager of Marketing and Communications.

Watts and Bridges are students at Toombs County High School. Their FFA advisor recommended them to participate in the conference. To be eligible to attend the Youth Leadership Conference, students must exhibit leadership potential, complete at least their freshman year of high school, apply as a first-time attendee and attend as a guest of their local cooperative.

The 2019 Cooperative Youth Conference was sponsored by the Georgia Cooperative Council and included teen participants from the Tennessee and Virginia Cooperative Councils as well.

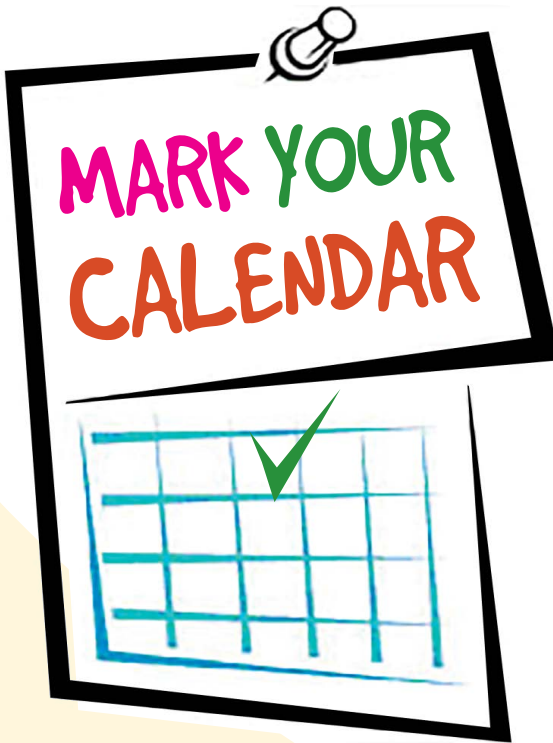
## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Cookware Tip:** Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

*Source: [energy.gov](https://energy.gov)*



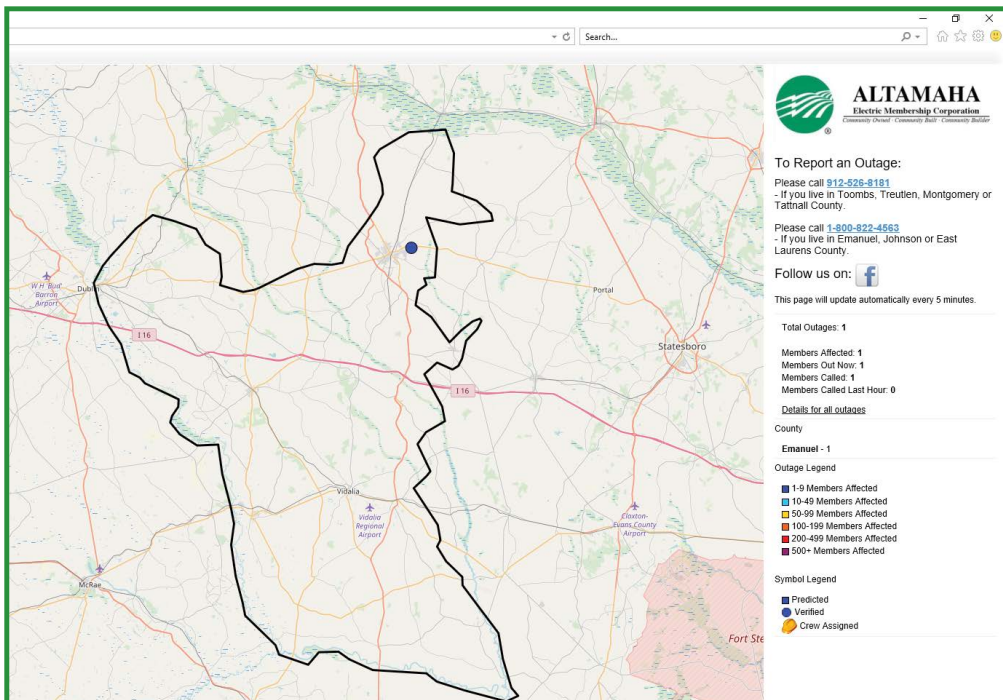
# 2019 Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars for our 2019 Annual Meeting of the Members on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 2:30 PM at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. All members are invited to attend.

In addition to the annual financial reports, election of three seats on the Board of Directors and the general business session, many prizes will be given away. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on November 6th.



## Outage Map Now Available

At Altamaha EMC we continually work towards improving our service to you, our valued members. We are pleased to announce that you can now view outages using our new outage map system. The outage map can be viewed on our website at [www.altamahaemc.com](http://www.altamahaemc.com) or from our mobile app.

Always report all power outages by calling 912-526-8181. Stay away from downed power lines.



# *Member* **RECIPES**



## **Frozen Fruit Salad**

### **Ingredients:**

- 1 can Eagle Brand condensed milk
- 1 large tub Cool Whip
- 1 large can crushed pineapple (drained)
- 2 cups chopped frozen strawberries
- 2 cups chopped frozen peaches
- 1 cup chopped seedless grapes
- 3 sliced bananas
- 1 cup chopped pecans

### **Directions:**

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Pour into a mould pan or loaf pans. If you prefer, you can leave it in the mixing bowl. Freeze overnight. Turn pan or bowl upside down on a plate. Slice and serve.

***-From the kitchen of  
Sandra Whitaker***

Each month, our newsletter features recipes submitted by our members. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Altamaha EMC service area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to: Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC, P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436. Each month, a recipe will be selected for publication. The member who submitted the featured recipe will be given a \$10 credit on their next Altamaha EMC bill. Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Plugged In* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.