

What's Happening

March 14
Daylight Saving
Time Begins
Spring Ahead

March 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 23
National AG Day
The National AG Day program and the Agriculture Council of America was started in 1973. The Agriculture Council of America is an organization composed of leaders in the agriculture, food and fiber communities dedicated to increasing public awareness of agriculture's vital role in our society.

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With Planting Season Just Around the Corner, Farm Safety Takes Center Stage

As farmers and other land owners are well-aware, many dangers are present on their property as they sometimes work very long, laborious hours. Rock Energy Cooperative wants to remind farmers that from time to time accidents related to power and electricity do happen, unfortunately, but in most cases they can be prevented.

Especially during the busy harvest season, take these following steps to decrease the chances of an electrical-related incident:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Visually inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance. The lines may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least 50 feet away; call 9-1-1 to have the operator dispatch the utility.
- Always lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line has fallen on the ground, do not drive over it or attempt to move it.
- If your equipment does hit a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.
- Remember, non-metallic materials (such as tree limbs, ropes and hay) can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust/dirt accumulation.
- Every day, map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines. When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.



Annual Meeting Scheduled to Take Place in September

The Rock Energy Cooperative 85th Annual Meeting has been scheduled to take place on Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, at the Eclipse Center in Beloit, WI.

However, please note that the event date is subject to change pending any unforeseen COVID-related mandates.

Taking into consideration the health and well-being of our members, this year's event will be a business meeting only, expected to last around 30-45 minutes. No dinner will be served, nor scholarships presented. There will be no guest speakers or kids' activities as well. Attending parties should be limited to two people maximum per membership

(yourself and one other person) in order to allow for social distancing. Every attendee should bring a mask with them to the event (masks may be required).

At this year's annual meeting, members will elect directors in districts 1, 3, and 5. All directors are elected at-large, so you can vote in all three districts. More details about upcoming board elections will be included in future REC correspondence.

More information about the annual meeting will be released in upcoming issues of the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News magazine, as well as the REC Newsletter and through email.



Pictured above, Rock Energy CEO Shane Larson addresses the audience at last year's annual meeting.

Why are the Flames on my Gas Stove Orange?

If you noticed that your gas range has a yellow or an orange flame instead of the standard blue flame with a yellow tip in the center of the flame, it might be due to the following factors:

WARNING: Before working on any appliance, make sure that all power (electricity) and utilities (water and gas) have been turned off and/or disconnected on the appliance.

1) Make sure the burners are clean and placed correctly. If you have an orange or yellow burner flame on your gas range make sure the burner portholes are clean and free of debris. Spillovers and cooking grease can block these openings which can affect the flame color. Make sure the burner holes and igniter are clean and free from any debris. Use an old toothbrush to clean these areas. If you take the burners apart to clean them, make sure you place them back in their proper position. This can also affect the flame color on your range.

2) Do you have the proper orifices for your burners?

Be sure you are using the proper orifices depending on whether your range uses liquid propane (LP) or natural gas. Was your range converted from one energy source to another? Along with the orifices, make sure that the gas pressure regulator valve was changed over and the brass orifice that supplies the bake/burner was adjusted. Other adjustments might need to be made depending on your range. Consult your user's manual for more information.

3) Turn off your humidifier. As strange as it may sound, humidifiers seem to turn gas range flames from blue to orange. Turn off your humidifier to see if this makes a difference in your stove's flame appearance.

Please note that it's very rare for a discolored flame to be the result of natural gas quality.

The danger of orange or yellow flames

Orange or yellow flames, or sooty flames, could also mean you have incomplete combustion happening, which could lead to carbon monoxide buildup in your home. There might be an air-gas mixture problem, or a problem with the gas pressure to the appliance. If you suspect this, turn off the gas supply to your appliance and leave your home. Contact a qualified gas technician or fire department to check it out.

Remember, you can't see or smell carbon monoxide, so it's important to have carbon monoxide alarms placed throughout your home.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

IN THE KITCHEN

Your kitchen can yield big energy savings. Check the refrigerator door for a tight fit. Run only full dishwasher loads. Use the microwave rather than oven to reheat food and make small meals. Unplug small appliances when not in use — many draw power even when turned off.

