

# NEBRASKA

Magazine

NREA.org

September 2022

## YOUTH TOUR

A Trip of  
a Lifetime for  
a Group of  
Nebraska Students

### Inside:

• Driving Toward the Future • Keep Food Safe When the Power Goes Out • Be Safe Behind Farm Equipment

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Telling the story of  
Rural Nebraska

Volume 76  
Number 9  
September 2022



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Published monthly by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, 1244 K Street, Box 82048, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501, (402) 475-4988.

Advertising in the *Nebraska Magazine* does not imply endorsement for products by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association. Correspondence should be sent to Wayne Price, Editor, *Nebraska Magazine*, Box 82048, Lincoln, NE 68501.

The *Nebraska Magazine* is printed by the Aradius Group, 4700 F Street, Omaha, NE 68117. Form 3579 should be sent to *Nebraska Magazine*, Box 82048, Lincoln, NE 68501.

Periodicals postage paid at Lincoln, Neb. POSTMASTER: send address changes to *Nebraska Magazine*, 1244 K Street, Box 82048, Lincoln, NE 68501.

Publication numbers are USPS 071-630 and ISSN 0193-4937.

Subscriber Services: Cost of subscription for consumers of participating member-systems is \$2.14 per year (17.8 cents per month), plus periodicals postage paid from equity accruing to the consumer. For nonmembers, a subscription is \$10 per year or \$20 for three years, plus local and state tax. Single copy, \$2.50.

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Photograph by Nissan

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*The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery is one of the places visited during the NRECA Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. See the related article on Page 6. Cover photograph by Wayne Price*



Wayne Price

## Be On the Lookout for Copper Theft

Copper theft continues to be a problem for public power districts and electric cooperatives across Nebraska. The Electric Safety Foundation International (ESFI) estimates that there are more than 50,000 copper thefts from electrical utilities each year.

Copper is swiped from many places, including construction sites, warehouses, and abandoned homes. In some areas, crooks drag away entire air-conditioning units so that they can remove the copper tubing at their leisure.

But copper theft from utility poles and substations carries a particular concern. Copper energizes current-carrying conductors (wires) as well as playing a key role in grounding.

Substations—which contain expensive equipment for controlling the flow of electricity from high-voltage transmission lines to your home—must be grounded to the earth to prevent damage from lightning strikes and fault currents. When your rural electric utility grounds equipment in a substation, it makes an electrical connection to a buried network of wires, called a ground grid, that dissipates the excess charge safely over a wide area.

A substation or pole that's left ungrounded becomes a dangerous place. Sometimes the thieves touch or cut the wrong conductors, exposing themselves to lethally high voltages. Errant currents can damage electrical equipment, taking the substation or line “down” and interrupting power to consumers. The electricity can even endanger utility employees, causing injury or death. ESFI estimates about 35 Americans die each year because of copper or other metal theft.

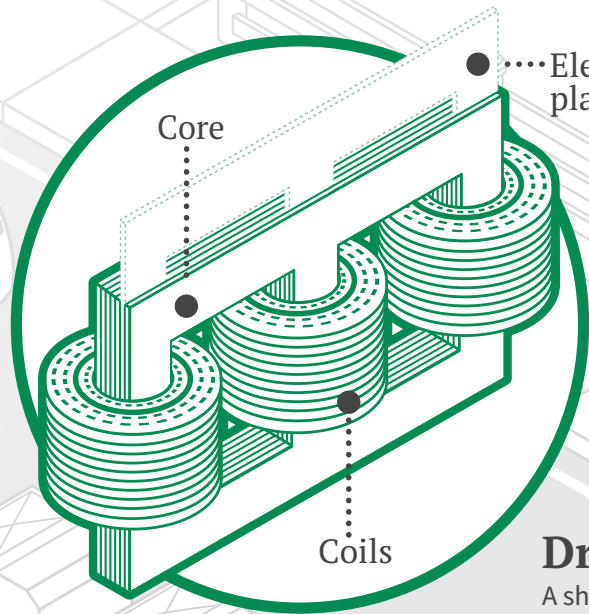
Your rural electric utility works with law enforcement agencies across the state to make them aware of the signs of potential copper theft and their personal safety when investigating these thefts. Some of the signs of copper theft to watch for include:

- Loose or broken wires;
- Broken utility pole attachments;
- Open gates at unattended substations or holes in the security fence;
- Burn marks on utility equipment; and
- Electrical arcing

Anyone who sees suspicious activity at electric substations is urged to contact their local law enforcement agency with a description of the individuals and vehicles involved. Under no circumstance should individuals attempt to apprehend the intruders.

# Trouble With Transformers

Months of constricted operations at electrical transformer factories caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have strangled inventory of these essential grid devices. Add to that spiking demand from new housing developments, scarcity of raw and finished materials, bottlenecks at shipping ports and a shortage of freight drivers, and it's a recipe for a long-term supply crunch. Here are some of the key drivers of the current national transformer shortage.



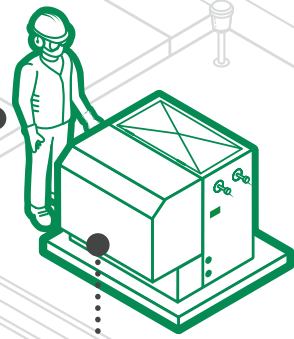
Core

••••• Electrical steel plates

Coils

## Labor Shortages

A tight labor market is causing difficulties in hiring and retaining factory worker and technicians.



## Electrical Steel

A global shortage of electrical steel, a key component in transformers, is slowing production.

## Driver Shortages

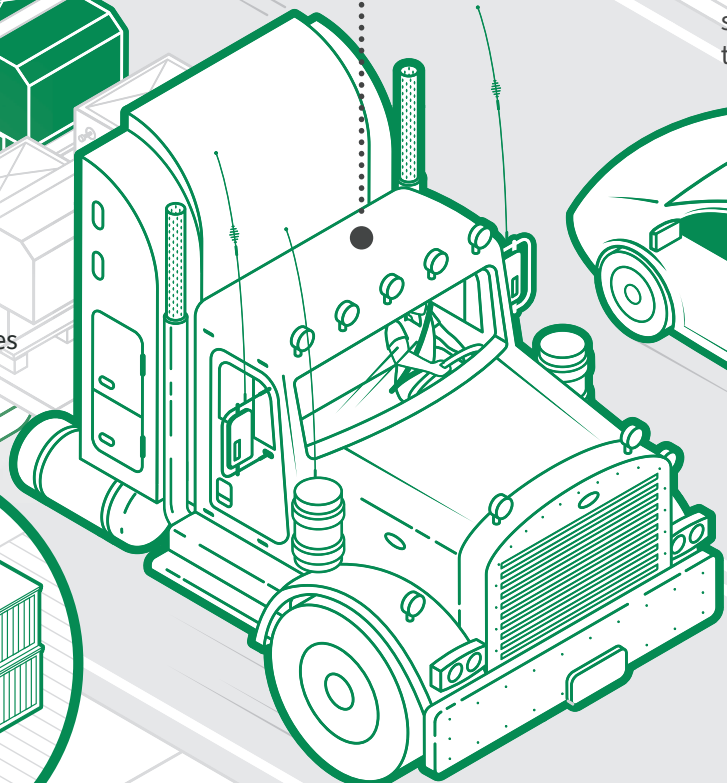
A shortage of truck drivers and warehouse workers is impeding deliveries of finished products.

## High Demand

Developments in growing areas of the country and summer storm prep are spiking the need for new transformers.

## Shipping Bottlenecks

Imports of components made overseas are being delayed by labor shortages at U.S. shipping ports.



## Electric Vehicles

Much of the world's tight supply of electrical steel is being absorbed by the booming EV market.

# A Trip of a Lifetime

In June, public power districts and electric cooperatives across the U.S. sent groups of high school students to Washington, D.C. for the 2022 National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. After a two year hiatus due to COVID-19 Nebraska sent 21 students and two chaperones, representing Nebraska public power districts and electric cooperatives.

While in D.C., Nebraska's Youth Tour delegation visited many of the major monuments and memorials, including the Washington, Lincoln, and Jefferson Memorials. They also spent time on Capitol Hill, meeting with Senator Deb Fischer and Congressman Adrian Smith.

The students were inspired by extraordinary exhibits found in the Smithsonian Museums, including the Hope Diamond and the Wright Brothers' 1903 Flyer. They also visited Gettysburg and Mount Vernon, as well as the National Holocaust Museum.

Youth Tour was born from a speech at the 1957 NRECA Annual Meeting by then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson. He was a longtime advocate of electric cooperatives, having lobbied for the creation of Pedernales Electric Cooperative in 1937 as a young politician in Texas.

"If one thing comes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," the future president said.

The Youth Tour experience provides students with a chance to see history come to life; the tour also gives them an opportunity to connect with other student leaders just like them from across the country.

Tucker Stagemeyer, of Page, Neb., was selected as Nebraska's Youth Leadership Council member. He was sponsored by



the North Central Public Power District.

"I was fortunate to be sponsored by my local power district, North Central PPD, and the NREA for a trip to DC that will truly never be forgotten," he said.

"Seeing our nation's capital is something that all Americans must see in their lifetime."

Stagemeyer said he was moved by walking on the marble and stone of iconic monuments such as Lincoln, Washington, and Jefferson.

"Whether it was speaking to a Vietnam veteran outside the Vietnam Memorial at night, or listening to the playing of taps while



*Students listen to a guide at Gettysburg National Military Park.*



*Youth Tour was the best experience ever!!!! My personal favorite was the Holocaust Museum and Mount Vernon. The food was amazing as well I got to try new things and discovered that I'm not a big fan of oysters. This was sure a trip I will never ever forget!!*

*Violet Schwager, Atkinson, Neb.*



*Through Youth Tour I was able to meet many outstanding people who will now be lifelong friends. I was able to experience many new things that I would never get the opportunity to do at home in Nebraska. It truly is an experience I will never forget.*

*We saw so many wonderful historical monuments and sites that it's hard to pick a favorite. But I would have to say my favorite was Gettysburg.*

*Aimee Merrill, Trenton, Neb.*

overlooking Arlington National Cemetery during the changing of the guard, I felt a deeper sense of patriotism than ever before,” he said.

Youth Tour is just one of the ways the Nebraska Rural Electric Association is investing in our future leaders.

Nebraska’s public power districts and electric co-ops do so much more than provide safe, reliable and affordable power—we are dedicated to improving the futures of students in our community because we know they are next in line to lead the way.

*Tucker Stagemeyer stands in front of the U.S. Capitol.*



**Continued on Page 8**

## From Page 7

*I really enjoyed our trip to Washington, D.C. It was an experience I will never forget. I had studied about many of the historic sites in my American history classes, but actually seeing them in person brought them to life. I liked learning more about our government and history of our nation. I am very thankful to the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District for providing me with this amazing opportunity.*

**Ashton Higgins, Neligh, Neb.**



*Going to Washington D.C was definitely the highlight of my summer. I learned a lot of great history and I experienced what it is like living in a big city. All the commuting on the metro was an experience itself, learning how the system works and seeing how many people use that every day to get to work. This trip impacted me very much because I will always remember a lot of the history I learned since I actually seen it with my own eyes and the great memories that I made, and also all the friends that I made. This trip was a once in a lifetime trip for me since I'm a farm boy and that I would encourage anyone to go on because you would be surprised how many kids from other states don't know where Nebraska is.*

**Cheve Lutz, Benkelman, Neb.**



*Albert Einstein told the world that time is relative, and though I'm no scientist, I can't help but agree. The trip may have only been 7 days, but the memories we created will last a lifetime. Our adventure featured a lot of firsts for me. Before we set off I had never been on a plane before, in fact I had never set foot in an airport. I was able to step foot on a battlefield for the first time, though it hasn't been used since the civil war. I was also able to meet our Nebraska senators first hand in the United States Capitol building.*

**Nathan Ertzner, Polk, Neb.**

*Above: Senator Deb Fischer speaks with the students at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center.*

*Top: The eternal flame at the tomb of President John F. Kennedy was popular with the students.*

*Bottom: The Nebraska Youth Tour students meet with Congressman Adrian Smith on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Photographs by James Dukesherer*



*I loved the trip, it was amazing to see the history I've always learned about! It has a different feel when you can see and touch and feel the energy of places and monuments. To see our nation's capital was a one in a million chance for me and I'm thankful for the journey.*

**Keegan Strohl, Taylor, Neb.**



## 2022 PARTICIPANTS

Levi Schiller, Cuming County PPD  
Treyton Hurlburt, Custer PPD  
Keegan Strohl, Custer PPD  
Kylee Edwards, Dawson PPD  
Ashton Higgins, Elkhorn RPPD  
Meghan Bishop, Midwest ECC  
Max Doherty, Midwest ECC  
Emma Jones, Midwest ECC  
Matthew Pochop, McCook PPD  
Aimee Merrill, McCook PPD  
Violet Schwager, Niobrara Valley EMC  
Isaak Hogeland, Norris PPD  
Tucker Stagemeyer, North Central PPD  
Jordyn Anderson, Northwest RPPD  
Jarhett Anderson, Northwest RPPD  
Gerhig Urkoski, Polk County RPPD  
Nathan Ertzner, Polk County RPPD  
Cheve Lutz, Southwest PPD  
Abigail Nielsen, Southwest PPD  
Jacksen Littrel, Southwest PPD  
Grant Walker, Southwest PPD

## YOUTH TOUR SIGHTS

- Gettysburg National Military Park
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Washington Monument
- Jefferson Memorial
- World War II Memorial
- FDR Memorial
- Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
- White House
- Holocaust Museum
- Ford's Theater
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Mount Vernon
- Iwo Jima Marine Corps Sunset Parade
- U.S. Capitol
- The National Mall
- Smithsonian Museums
- National Archives
- Union Station

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 **ELECTRIFY AND SAVE**

## REBATES HELP MAKE ANYTHING POSSIBLE

Akron Public Schools benefitted from our rebates and you can too! From simple projects like switching to LED lightbulbs, to bigger projects like installing an air-source heat pump, there are dozens of ways to save when you upgrade your home.

To learn more about rebates and incentives for electrification programs, contact your local co-op or public power district. Visit us at [www.tristate.coop/BE](http://www.tristate.coop/BE)



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Tri-State is a not-for-profit power supplier to cooperatives and public power districts in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming.



## AT TRI-STATE WE'RE DELIVERING MORE THAN JUST ELECTRICITY

Your local electric cooperative is more than just the power it brings to your home or business, it's a part of the community. When Akron High School needed new lighting at their baseball field they turned to their community co-op, Y-W Electric Association. Tri-State worked with with Y-W Electric to fund and install new LED lighting. The result was more energy efficient, cost-effective lights for the school and an improved experience for Akron's young athletes.

**Powering community, powering life. That's the cooperative difference.**  
Read the full story at [tristate.coop/underthelights](http://tristate.coop/underthelights)



# What's in your attic?

If you would like to reduce the cost to keep your home toasty and warm, ask yourself this question: "What's in my attic?"

Properly insulating your attic can be one of the best ways to reduce your energy bills. The good news is that attics are often one of the easiest places in a house to insulate. Moreover, purchasing adequate insulation is not that expensive!

Loose-fill or batt insulation is typically installed in an attic. Although installation costs may vary, loose-fill insulation is usually less expensive to install than batt insulation, and when installed properly, loose-fill insulation can also provide better coverage.

So how much is enough? First, you will need to determine the R-value of the insulation you currently have. The term R-value refers to the measurement of thermal resistance of the insulator. The higher the R-value, the more the insulator is resistant to heat. Building code for new home construction in Nebraska requires a minimum R-value of R-39 or R-48, depending on where you live in the state. To maximize the benefit of attic insulation the U.S. Department of

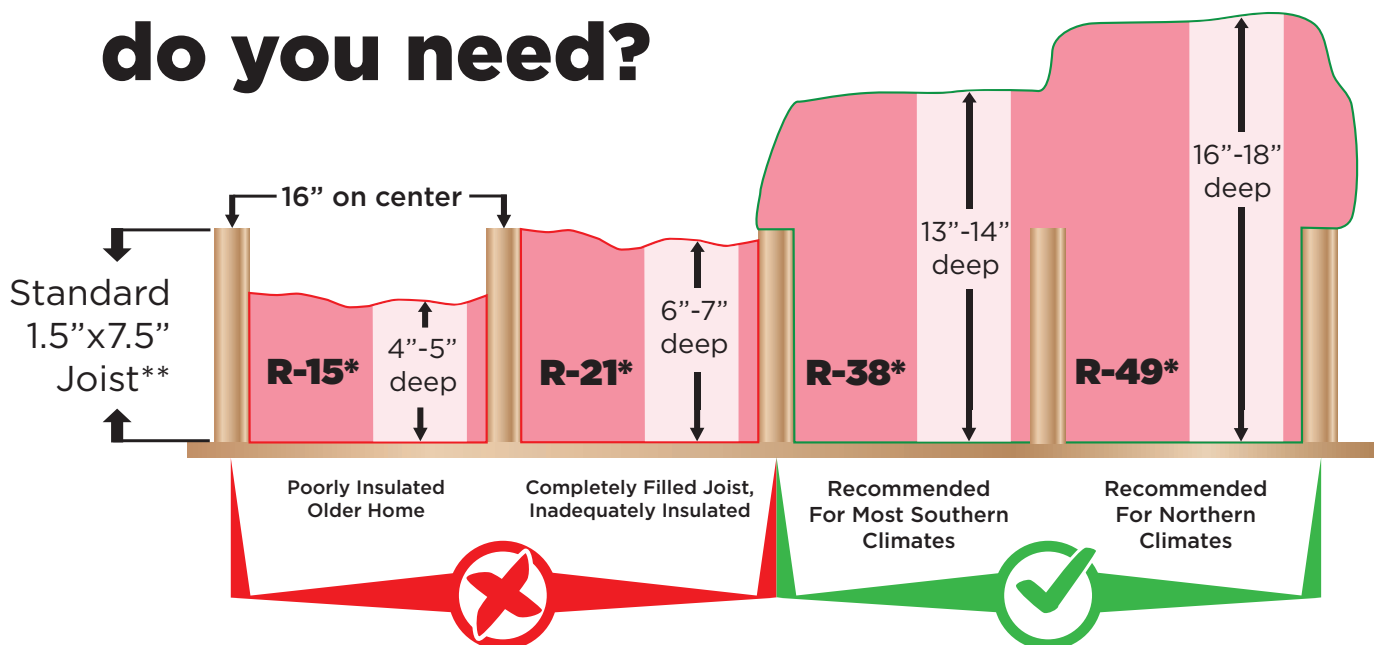
Energy recommends an R-value of R-60. Any amount higher brings little additional benefit.

The best way to find out if you have enough insulation is to measure. Using a measuring tape or yard stick, measure the thickness of insulation in several spots around your attic. Use these measurements to come up with an estimated average. Now, multiply that estimate by the R-value per inch for the type of insulation you have. Blown in loose cellulose, blown in fiberglass, and fiberglass batts usually have values of R-3.5, R-2.5 and R-3.2 per inch, respectively.

The next step is to prepare for your project. Some of the basic tools you will need are protective clothing, a dust respirator, gloves, goggles, full cover pants and shirt, and perhaps additional lighting. Obviously, you will also have to purchase all the insulation necessary to cover your attic. If you plan to use blown in insulation, check to see if your retailer provides a blower for you to borrow at no additional charge.

It is recommended that you lay out some temporary flooring across the joists in the attic to provide safe and easy access to all areas. Start blowing in the insulation at the outer edge of the attic space and work your way back to your attic access. When working on the edges, you need to ensure that you fill far enough to cover the

## How much insulation do you need?



\* Recommended Dept. of Energy attic insulation levels for commonly used fiberglass, mineral wool, and cellulose insulation assuming about R-3 per inch.

\*\* Standard joists are sold as 2"x8" but usually measure closer to 1.5"x7.5"

tops of the exterior walls. However, be careful not to block the flow of air through soffit and/or eave vents. Also, be sure not to insulate over light fixtures that are not rated I.C. (insulated ceiling) because it could cause a fire. It is usually helpful to have two people for the job – one operating the gun and the other loading insulation in the machine. Make sure to load slowly into the machine to avoid clogging it. After you have a proper layer of insulation in your attic, you can expect to see your energy bill drop!

If you primarily use electricity or a heat pump to meeting your heating requirements, check with your electric utility to see if you might be eligible for an EnergyWise Attic Insulation Incentive. This program may cover up to \$300 of the cost to upgrade the insulation in your attic!



## Be EnergyWise

Visit our booth at Husker Harvest Days to learn ways to manage your energy use, how to be safe around electricity, and receive a special giveaway. Stop by and see us in the Diversified Industries tent.



**Husker Harvest Days  
Sept. 13, 14, 15  
Grand Island, Neb**

## Customer Solutions Network

Nebraska's Rural Public Power Utilities  
providing energy related information and advice.

## Save the Date for the World Affairs Conference

Many issues that shape the quality of our lives have an international dimension. Global economic interdependence is now a reality that no nation can ignore. The development of appropriate environmental strategies, the resolution of regional conflicts, and the enhancement of human rights require a global perspective. The James E. Smith Conference on World Affairs is planned around a central theme, with this year's theme being For Better or Worse: Crossing the Line, and will be held at the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Campus on November 14-15, 2022.

The fundamental objectives of the World Affairs Conference is to introduce important global issues to students, local, statewide citizens, and beyond, expose conference participants to a variety of viewpoints from other countries, and promote global awareness.

The James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs serves as an opportunity to hear leaders' opinions in the global community and discuss current and pressing world issues. This conference is unique in the state of Nebraska. Through panel discussions, lectures, classroom presentations, and group activities, participants are exposed to various important issues and allowed to interact with distinguished guests worldwide. This year's keynote speaker is Sonia Nazario; she is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist whose stories have tackled some of this country's most intractable issues, including hunger, drug addiction, and immigration.

Given the geographic location of Nebraska in the center of the continental United States, this conference is, for many people, their best chance to interact with representatives of other cultures. All events are open to the public, and there is no admission charge. For more information, continue to check the website at [go.unk.edu/worldaffairs](http://go.unk.edu/worldaffairs) or call Joy Marshall at 402-614-5558.

# Driving Toward the Future



*Electric vehicle sales continue to climb. Ford introduced its now sold-out F-150 Lightning in April and is already taking orders for 2023. Photograph provided by Ford*

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, electric vehicle (EV) sales doubled from 2020 to 2021, reaching a record high of 608,000 sales. Sales of internal combustion engine vehicles grew by only 3% the same year.

The number of EVs on the road will continue to grow over the next five to 10 years, and many brands have pledged to convert to manufacturing only EVs within the next three to 12 years.

Part of this sales growth stems from more choices in the EV market. Today, more than 80 base models of sedans, SUVs and minivans are available. The number of automakers that are exclusively manufacturing plug-in vehicles is also increasing, from recognizable brands like Tesla to growing brands like Rivian, Polestar, Karma and Lucid. Ford introduced its now sold-out F-150 Lightning in April and is already taking orders for 2023.

While the EV market is growing, it has some challenges to overcome before broader adoption takes place. The upfront cost of an EV is more expensive than a comparable gas-powered vehicle, and many EVs are limited to a driving range of 250 miles on average—though there are exceptions. Some automakers offer EV models with ranges over 300 miles and a handful are approaching 400.

Ford, Hyundai, Kia and Nissan offer EV models that are priced around \$30,000, and available federal tax credits can bring the initial costs down considerably. EV range numbers are approaching those of a tank of gas, but EVs require more time to charge compared to a gas-powered vehicle's quick fill-up. Even at the fastest charging level, it takes approximately 20 minutes to charge 80% capacity. This makes EVs suitable for daily driving needs like commuting or running errands but less suitable for longer road trips.

Access to publicly available charging stations is not as plentiful or as geographically accessible as gas stations, which makes using an EV for an extended road trip less straightforward. However, The Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy have teamed up to offer grants to help states and local partners, including electric cooperatives, to develop a national charging network with EV chargers located every 50 miles on interstates. The goal is to place EV chargers where they make the most sense in terms of business or recreational activities. National parks, convenience stores and local businesses could be popular stops for EV charging.

Compared to a standard wall outlet, charging times can be shortened by using a Level 2 charger. Level 1 chargers are the standard charger that come with an EV and provide about 40 miles of range after eight hours of charging. Level 2 chargers provide about 25 miles per charging hour. They consume a lot of power over a short amount of time and require local electric infrastructure to support the increased energy load.

If you're considering a Level 2 charger, make sure your home's electrical system is in good shape and give your rural electric utility a heads up. This allows the utility to ensure the transformer in your neighborhood can safely and reliably provide power—and your neighbors will thank you.

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

- Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
- Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
- When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm



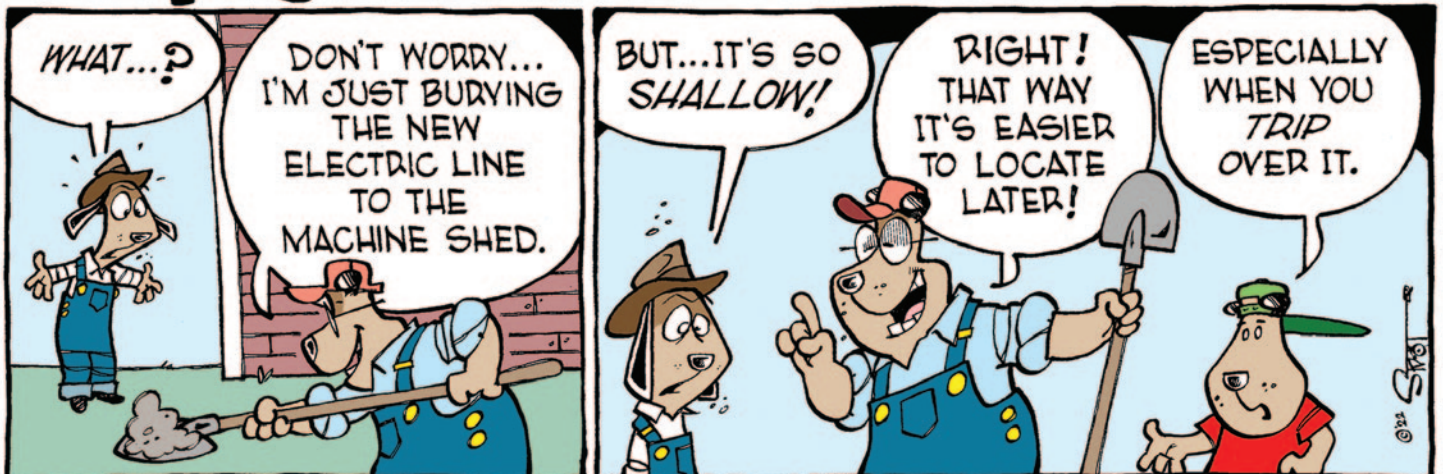
equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.

- Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
- Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
- Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment

is big and noisy.

- Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
  - Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
  - Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.
- These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all.

## Murphy





# A True American Classic! Get Morgan Silver Dollars by the Pound!

It's been more than 100 years since the last Morgan Silver Dollar was struck for circulation. The most revered, most-collected vintage U.S. Silver Dollars ever, the Morgan had a well-earned reputation as the coin that helped build the Wild West. Cowboys, ranchers, outlaws... they all preferred "hard currency" Morgan Silver Dollars in their saddle bags, to flimsy paper money favored by Easterners at the time.

These 90% Silver Dollars were minted from 1878 to 1904, then again in 1921. They came to be known by the name of their designer, George T. Morgan, and they were also nicknamed "cartwheels" because of their large weight and size.

## Fewer Than 15% of Morgans Still Exist

Sadly, coin experts estimate that fewer than 15% of all Morgan Silver Dollars ever minted still exist today, due to the ravages of time and to U.S. government legislation that authorized the melting of hundreds of millions of Morgan Silver Dollars for their fine silver.

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**Q** : I'm a firm believer that saving energy helps the environment as well as the pocketbook. So, how can I help others improve their energy savings at home?

**A** : Helping people feels good. Supporting community is sewn into the fabric of your rural electric utility.

On National Good Neighbor Day, which is September 28—or any day this month—join in the cooperative spirit and help your neighbors, friends and family save at home with these do-it-yourself energy-saving tips.

Tips range in physicality and cost, providing options based on your ability.

### **Change lightbulbs.**

Prioritize changing lights that are used the most, such as incandescent porch lights left on all night. LEDs use about 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Some neighbors can't climb step stools or ladders, so help them out if you are able. Be sure to check for overhead power lines when using ladders outside.

### **Swap the filter.**

Furnace filters should be checked regularly and replaced when they are dirty. Simply writing down the dimensions of the furnace filter can help your neighbor, who can pick up a pack of new ones in the store or order online.

If you find a really dirty furnace filter, don't remove it until you have a replacement. Operating your system without a filter allows dirt and dust in the system to go directly to the heating and cooling components, which can damage the system and necessitate costly repairs.

### **Open the dampers.**

Register dampers allow heated and cooled air to properly circulate throughout the home. If you have a central air heating or cooling system, dampers should be left open. The idea that closing registers saves energy is a common misconception. If furniture is on top of dampers, move it to a new permanent spot so it does not block air flow.

### **Remove the window AC**

By removing the unit before wintertime, the window can close properly. This prevents heat from escaping and wasting energy. It also keeps the room more comfortable. Window AC units are heavy and awkward. This project is best done with a buddy. Get that person to commit to helping put the unit back next spring.



### **Adjust the water heater.**

Check the water heater and set it to 120 degrees. Use a kitchen thermometer to test the water temperature. At the faucet nearest the water heater, turn only the hot water on and wait until it gets hot. Let the hot water run into a glass and place a kitchen thermometer in it. Wait until it registers the highest temperature. If the water heater is set too high, you can save energy by lowering the setting.

### **Keep outdoor units clear.**

Clean brush and debris from around the air conditioner or heat pump. If leaves or brush pile up around the outdoor unit of a heat pump or air-conditioning system, it can reduce the airflow, making the system work harder than it should. That uses more energy and can reduce the life of the unit.

### **Share energy-saving programs.**

Information is a great way to help, and it's free. Look into programs your electric utility offers and share that information with your neighbor. Don't forget to check the U.S. Department of Energy for federal tax credits for upgrades.

# The Amazing Telikin One Touch<sup>SM</sup> Computer

## The Smart, Easy Computer for Seniors!

- Easy One Touch Menu!

- Large Fonts 200% Zoom

- 100% US Support

- Large Print Keyboard



- Secure System No Viruses!

- Speech to Text You talk, It types!

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**One Touch Interface** - A single touch takes you to Email, Web, Video Chat, Contacts, Photos, Games and more.

**Large Fonts, 200% Zoom** – Easy to see easy to read.

**Secure System** – No one has ever downloaded a virus on Telikin.

**Voice Recognition** - No one likes to type. Telikin has Speech to Text. You talk, it types.

**Preloaded Software** - All programs are pre-loaded and set up. Nothing to download.

**100% US based support** – Talk to a real person who wants to help. Telikin has great ratings on BBB and Google!

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## Kid-Friendly Recipes to Power Through School Days

A menu of filling, delicious recipes is just what your family needs to make each school day a successful educational adventure. Satisfying lunch and dinner ideas can give loved ones the fuel they need while delicious desserts provide motivation for growing minds to get homework finished before enjoying a treat.

When weeks get hectic due to busy schedules, these recipes offer simple solutions to make cooking easier while limiting time spent in the kitchen. Start with a lunch that's as easy to make as it is to pack in a lunchbox and satisfy everyone's sweet tooth with a chocolatey favorite to round out the day.

These Cheeseburger Turnovers provide the energy little learners need to power through their afternoon lessons. One winning idea to make the week easier is to prep a full batch of these easily packable, kid-friendly handhelds Sunday night so you've got lunch ready for each day.

This S'mores Skillet starts with a sweet brownie base made with Domino Light Brown Sugar and is then infused and topped with traditional s'mores ingredients. Just combine in a skillet then bake – or grill for that familiar outdoor feel – until warm and gooey.

Keep your family full and energized each school day with more recipe ideas at [Culinary.net](http://Culinary.net).



### Cheeseburger Turnovers

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 tablespoon mustard
- 1 can flaky biscuits
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- dill pickle slices, halved
- 1 egg, beaten

Heat oven to 375 F.

In large skillet, cook ground beef and onion until beef is thoroughly cooked and onions are tender. Drain. Stir in ketchup and mustard.

Separate biscuit dough. On ungreased baking sheet, flatten biscuit dough to form 6-inch rounds. Spoon beef mixture onto one side of flattened dough. Sprinkle with cheese. Top with dill pickle half. Fold dough over filling.

With fork tines, press dough edges to seal. Cut two slits in top of dough to release steam. Repeat with remaining dough, beef mixture, cheese and pickles.

Brush each turnover with egg wash.

Bake 18-22 minutes, or until deep golden brown.



### S'mores Skillet

- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips, divided
- 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup Domino Light Brown Sugar
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup mini marshmallows, divided
- 6 graham crackers, roughly crumbled, divided

Preheat oven or grill to 350 F.

Place medium heat-proof bowl over medium saucepan simmering with water. Add butter, 1/4 cup chocolate chips and unsweetened chocolate; melt. Remove from heat and allow mixture to cool 15 minutes.

In small bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and salt.

In large bowl, mix eggs, sugar and vanilla. Add chocolate mixture and mix until well combined. Stir in flour mixture. Add 1/4 cup chocolate chips, 1/2 cup mini marshmallows and three graham crackers to batter.

Pour mixture into 8-inch skillet. Top with remaining mini marshmallows, chocolate chips and graham crackers. Grill or bake 10-12 minutes. Remove from grill. Cool 10 minutes and serve.

### Summer Skillet

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 medium zucchinis, sliced thin | 2 garlic cloves, minced    |
| 1 yellow squash, sliced thin    | 2 medium tomatoes, chopped |
| 1 tablespoon butter             | 1/2 onion, sliced          |
| 1 tablespoon olive oil          | 1/2 cup parmesan cheese    |
| 1 teaspoon fresh thyme          | Salt & Pepper, to taste    |

Add butter and olive oil to skillet over medium heat. Add onions, cook till translucent. Add garlic, zucchini, and yellow squash. Cook for 20 minutes. When done add tomatoes and stir and sprinkle with thyme. Top with parmesan cheese.

**Meribeth Kelsey, North Platte, Nebraska**

### Slow Cooker London Broil

- 2 lbs. flank steak
- 1 can (10.75 oz) condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can (10.75 oz) condensed tomato soup
- 1 package (1 oz) dry onion soup

Place meat in the bottom of the slow cooker. If necessary, slice meat to fit. In a medium bowl, mix together the mushroom and tomato soups. Pour over the beef. Sprinkle the dry onion soup over the top. Cover and cook on low for 8 – 10 hours.

**Ramona Teegerstrom, Stromsburg, Nebraska**

### Grandma's Candy Shop Bars

- 1 tube chocolate chip cookie dough
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 Butterfinger candy bar, crushed
- 1 Nestle Crunch candy bar, crushed
- 1 Baby Ruth candy bar, crushed

Press tube of chocolate chip cookie dough into a 9" X 13" pan. Bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees, then take out of oven and while still hot sprinkle chocolate chips and peanut butter on crust. Let set until shiny on top and smooth over crust. Top with crushed candy bars. I make this with my grandkids ages 4 to 14. The oldest granddaughter is now taking over and helping the younger ones make this. Very, very easy!

**Cindy Brandner, Norfolk, Nebraska**

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