



NCEC Apprentice Completes Hotline Training

NAVARRO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE would like to congratulate Blake Maddox on completing the Hotline 1 course of the co-op’s lineworker apprenticeship program September 15.

In this class, Maddox was trained in safe and approved procedures for working on energized conductors and how to use the proper amount of rubber cover-up material and personal protective equipment to work safely on and around high-voltage lines.


The apprenticeship program takes five years to complete. Maddox will continue to learn through on-the-job and classroom training to eventually become a lineworker at NCEC, where he will do his part to provide reliable and affordable electrical service to the cooperative’s members. ■

Squash Bake

- 2½ cups cooked, mashed butternut or acorn squash
- ¼ cup plus ⅓ cup butter, softened and divided use
- 2 beaten eggs
- ½ cup milk
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped Texas pecans
- ⅓ cup flour

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix squash, ¼ cup butter, eggs, milk and spices and spread into a casserole dish. Mix remaining ⅓ cup butter, brown sugar, pecans and flour together and sprinkle over squash mixture.
2. Bake 40 minutes or until lightly browned and hot.

SERVES 6

 Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.

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NCEC Operation Round Up

Third quarter 2022 grants approved

Organization/Agency	Grant
Essential Foundation Inc.	\$3,000
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	\$3,000
Mildred Gifted and Talented	\$1,500
T and S Ministries	\$800
Waxahachie Little Pantry	\$2,000
Total	\$10,300





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Co-ops Appreciate, Employ Veterans

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BELIEVE that hiring and caring for veterans and military spouses strengthens our work and our communities. This Veterans Day—November 11—Navarro County Electric Cooperative thanks those who have served our country and wants to spread the news that electric cooperatives need veterans to help power rural Texas.

Electric co-ops are nonprofit, community-focused organizations that deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to their member-owners. Unlike investor-owned utilities, co-ops are owned by those they serve and prioritize members' interests—not profits—above all else. This fundamental difference shapes every decision made by electric co-ops and provides employees with a unifying sense of purpose.

No matter which branch of the military you served with, there are three areas in which America's electric cooperatives can resonate with you as a veteran. Co-ops are:

Mission-driven: Our purpose is to power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives. This enables every co-op employee to perform their duties with a unified sense of purpose.

Using advanced technology: From cybersecurity and broadband to the many facets of beneficial electrification and turning data into actionable insights, technology plays a major role in operating electric cooperatives.

Operating in challenging circumstances: To power 20 million households, America's electric cooperatives work diligently to maintain service for their members no matter what challenging circumstances arise. Co-ops continue to do all they can to keep the lights on throughout hurricane season, during ice storms and floods, and amid global health and economic crises.

A wide variety of skills are required to keep operations running smoothly. Veterans can put their skills to work in jobs such as construction, equipment operation, engineering, customer service, communications, human resources, software analysis, cybersecurity and more.

Check out job listings at careers.electric.coop to explore career opportunities at electric co-ops across the U.S. ■

Navarro County Electric Cooperative

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24/7

Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL

(903) 874-7411

TOLL-FREE

1-800-771-9095

ABOUT NAVARRO COUNTY EC

NCEC owns and maintains more than 3,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 12,000 members in Ellis, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and Navarro counties.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online at navarroec.com
- Through the SmartHub app
- By phone at 1-855-385-9975
(Phone payments are not accepted on the NCEC office line.)

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

NCEC provides *Texas Co-op Power* and TexasCoopPower.com to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

VISIT US ONLINE

navarroec.com



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/navarro



PERRY GERENDAY | ISTOCK.COM

Prepare Your Heater for Winter Use

WINTER IS KNOCKING at the door, so now is the time to make sure your heating system is up to the task.

The Department of Energy's heating equipment checklist can help ensure your system is in the best condition to efficiently heat your home before winter's chill settles in.

Chores To Do Yourself

Replace air filters regularly. Inspect, clean or change air filters once a month or as needed to prevent energy cost increases or potential equipment damage.

Check for obstructions. Make sure vents, radiators and baseboard heaters are clear of obstructions like furniture so air can flow freely.

Check the fuel. If you have a propane furnace, make sure your fuel tank is full and ready to go.

Clean the heat exchanger. Remove dirt, soot and corrosion from the system and clean the heat exchanger to maintain heating levels.

Avoid fire hazards. Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries or units if needed.

Test the System

If air vents emit a high-pitched sound, it usually (but not always) indicates a lack of return air. When the system needs to pull more air, the pressure and velocity of air moving through it increases, making for noisy vents.

Vents also might make a rattling or flapping sound, usually due to debris in the duct. A rattling sound coming from the furnace itself might mean a part has come loose and is moving

around inside, while squeals or shrieks can indicate a bad belt. A metal-against-metal scraping sound can mean that part of the blower system is coming loose.

If you smell gas, burning, or an electrical or musty odor coming from the furnace area, it could be something as simple as an air filter that needs changing or as serious as a gas leak.

If the furnace is not heating, or not reaching the temperature on the thermostat, it could be one of several culprits.

These issues are all best addressed by a professional.

Tasks for a Pro

Inspect equipment. Make sure all connections, gas pressure, burner combustion and heat exchangers are working properly. Check electrical terminals, and clean or tighten connections if necessary. If your equipment isn't working, it could be a fire hazard or cause the system to operate less efficiently.

Remove blockages. Inspect ducts, filters, blowers and indoor coils for dirt and other obstructions. Duct leaks are common and contribute to poor heating throughout the whole home. Holes, gaps and other damage can result in wasted heat, which leads to frustration and higher bills.

Lubricate motors. Parts that lack lubrication cause friction in motors, increasing the amount of energy used and causing equipment to wear out quickly.

While you're at it, get your cooling systems ready for winter. If you have window units, remove them and store them to eliminate air leaks. If you have a condensing unit, clean off debris and dirt to discourage rusting. ■

5 Ways To Prepare Your Home for Winter

COLD WEATHER, ICE and snow can do real damage to your home if you don't take the time to prepare it before winter arrives. These five tips will help you winterize your home and make it more comfortable.

Insulate windows. Reducing drafts can lower your home's energy costs by up to 20% per year. Some inexpensive items you can get at the hardware store are V-seal weatherstripping to use along window sashes, rope caulk, shrink film and draft stoppers.

Trim tree branches. Any tree limbs or branches hanging over your home should be cut back to at least 3 feet away from your house.

Inspect and repair the fireplace. In addition to your own visual inspection, you may want to have a chimney sweep or other expert inspect your chimney, inside and out. Check that the roof flashing is tight against the chimney.

Check and repair the roof. Do a visual inspection from the ground with binoculars, or hire a roof inspector. Check for cracked caulk or rust spots on flashing; shingles that are buckling, curling, blistering, missing or broken; cracked rubber boots around vent pipes; and masses of moss and lichen, which may indicate the roof is decaying underneath.

Clear out and repair gutters and downspouts. Clogged rain gutters or downspouts can damage your home's foundation or cause ice dams. Also make sure the gutters aren't sagging and trapping water, and tighten gutter hangers and downspout brackets. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday,
November 6
Set clocks back 1 hour.

Election Day

Tuesday,
November 8

Veterans Day

Friday,
November 11

Thanksgiving

Thursday,
November 24
Our offices will be closed November 24–25 for the holiday.