

To safely provide reliable power and high-quality service to our cooperative members in an efficient and cost-effective manner.



OCTOBER 2026

the Circuit



Manager's Comments by Jayson Bishop

Another growing season has come and gone. The past 12 months have been dry in our area so we saw significantly more irrigation usage than normal in the spring and above-average usage through the summer.

For years, Midwest has worked to get our rates to track as close to our expenses as possible. For Residential and Small Commercial accounts, that has meant recovering more of our fixed costs through the Facility Charge. That helps ensure each account is paying for its share of the infrastructure that needs to be installed and maintained to provide you with the reliable power you expect.

Irrigation and Large Commercial accounts also have a Facility Charge but they also see a Demand Charge to help match their rates to the rate charged to Midwest by Tri-State, our primary power provider. Facility Charges and Demand Charges lead to more of the cost of service being recovered "up front" which helps keep Midwest in a financially sound position. But that also allows us to sell the energy (kilowatt-hours) closer to a pass-through cost. In high-usage years like this one, the longer hours of pumping don't make the bill add up quite as fast as we only need to cover our costs at that point. And, as a cooperative, Midwest is not trying to make any extra margins (profits) than what we need to cover our costs and keep Midwest in good shape financially. Any margins that we do make are returned to you – the owners of Midwest – in the form of Capital Credits. But we'd rather not have to collect that money from you in the first place.

As our community enters harvest season, Midwest also transitions into planning for next year. This means the development of our annual budget and ten-year financial forecast. As our cost of power is 65-70% of all expenses each year, budgeting for our power bill is the largest driver of our rates. Tri-State has notified us of a rate increase for 2027 that will be about 6.5%. That is slightly less than their original projection but is still unfortunate to face larger increases two years in a row. As our largest expense, Midwest has little choice but to pass that increase along to our members. However, Midwest will do what we can to hold the line on other costs while still providing quality power and service to all of you.

Follow us on Facebook  & Instagram 
www.midwestecc.com
E-mail: mecc@midwestecc.com
Call us 24 hours a day 308-352-4356
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30-4:00

We're updating our Mobile App

October 15, 2026

If you currently use facial recognition to login, you will have to recreate your login.





Fall Festival Popcorn Balls

Ingredients

- 1/2 C popcorn, unpopped
- 1 10 oz bag miniature marshmallows
- 1 stick butter
- 1/2 C M & M candies Reese's pieces, candy corn and peanuts are also great to use.

Instructions

- Pop the popcorn and add popcorn to a large mixing bowl.
- In a large Dutch oven, add butter and melt slowly on a low temperature.
- When butter is completely melted, pour in marshmallows and stir continually until all are melted and smooth.
- Pour the marshmallow mixture over the popcorn and gently stir with a rubber or silicone scraper to coat. Make sure that the mixture is cool enough to not melt the candy when added so that they don't lose color in the mixture.
- Place parchment paper on baking sheets or the counter where you want to place the popcorn balls to harden.
- With non stick cooking spray on your hands, begin to scoop out one half cup at a time and form into balls gently, pressing the mixture together.
- When shaped, place the popcorn balls onto the parchment paper to sit at room temperature until they completely cool and set.
- These should be kept at room temperature after wrapping and should still stay fresh for up to 5 days, depending on your humidity level. Serve in a cute and festive way!

Increase Your SAFETY YIELD During Harvest

Especially during the busy harvest season, help 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.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.

- Always lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.

- Never try to move or raise a power line for clearance; instead call us.

If your equipment does come in contact with 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.

For more information about electrical safety, including farming-related safety tips, visit:



Midwest Electric Board of Directors

President - Shawn Turner	Vice-President - Nick Hanson	Secretary - Gavin McClintock
Treasurer - Vance McCoy	Assistant Secretary/Treas. - Dennis Hutt	Mark McConnell
Chris Cornelius	Brad Harms	Brent Nelson

Midwest Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.