

OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

November 2026 • *Owen Electric* • *A Touchstone Energy Cooperative*

A thankful farewell

Dear members,

As I write one of my final columns as president and CEO of Owen Electric Cooperative, I do so with a heart full of gratitude. After nearly four decades of service to this cooperative, I am retiring and beginning a new chapter in life. Being entrusted with leading Owen Electric has been the greatest professional privilege of my life. To every team member, colleague and friend I have made along the way, THANK YOU! You made this career extraordinary.

Looking back, I am humbled by the opportunity I have had to serve our members and communities. Owen Electric has always been more than an electric utility. It is a cooperative built on service, and every accomplishment we have achieved has been possible because of the support and trust of our member-owners.

I want to sincerely thank our board of directors, employees and, most importantly, you, our members. Your confidence, encouragement and commitment to our cooperative have made my career both meaningful and rewarding. It has been a privilege to work alongside dedicated employees whose professionalism and dedication embody the cooperative spirit every day.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I am especially reminded of how much we have to be thankful for. I am grateful for the friendships, partnerships and sense of community that have made Owen Electric such a special place throughout my career. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on our blessings, and serving this cooperative and its members has been among the greatest blessings of my life.



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I leave Owen Electric with great confidence in its future. The cooperative is strong, guided by talented leadership and dedicated employees who remain committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service. I will be cheering Owen Electric on from the sidelines and truly believe that the co-op's best days are ahead.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you for nearly 40 years. While I may be retiring, I will always be proud to be a part of the Owen Electric family.

I wish you and your loved ones a happy Thanksgiving and continued health, happiness and success in the years ahead.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,

President and CEO
Michael Cobb



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Committed to safety

September weather provided cooperative personnel the perfect opportunity to share safety tips throughout our communities. Below, Manager of Safety Cody Beckham presents a "Powertown" safety demonstration to a group of students at South Fork Christian Church in Verona. Demonstrations like these help educate the public on the hazards associated with electricity and the dangers presented by downed power lines due to storm activity.



PAM STEWART

Above, Beckham is accompanied by John Fitzgerald, meter technician/journeyman lineman, in September during Kentucky Farm Bureau's Ag Safety Fair in Gallatin County. The two brought the co-op's much larger safety trailer to demonstrate the impact of vegetation coming in contact with power lines.



KENNY COURTS

If you or your organization would like to schedule a safety demonstration in your community, visit owenelectric.com/request-safety-demonstration.







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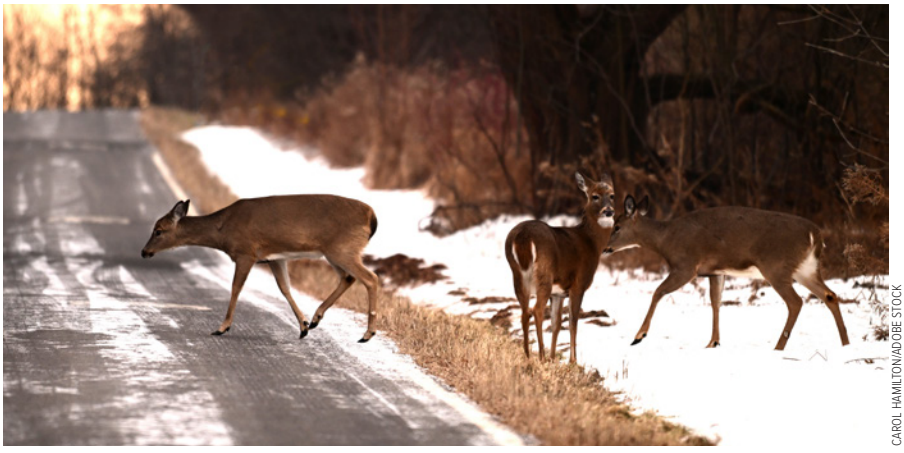
Deer season means more road hazards

While many of us know that the deer rut means modern hunting season is here, it also means an uptick in the likelihood you could see a deer on the roads. Deer mating season in Kentucky peaks this month, and you should be on high alert in rural areas while driving.

Nearly half of all wildlife-vehicle collisions in Kentucky happen in the last three months of the year. In November 2024, there were more than 700 wildlife collisions—the highest of any month—with some deaths and injuries involved.

Take a moment to pause when you're going to drive in the country and think about how you can avoid a deer collision.

- **STAY alert:** Don't get distracted, especially when driving in wooded areas. You're more likely to spot a deer around dawn and dusk, but be watchful at all times of the day.
- **SLOW down:** Drive slower in forested areas or zones with deer crossing signs. This will give you more time to react if you see a deer ahead.
- **SEE better:** Turn on bright headlights when there is no oncoming traffic to see farther down the road.
- **SCARE it:** A "deer in headlights" is a real thing. Deer tend to freeze or become motionless in the road when bright lights are approaching. If you spot a deer in the road, slow down, flash vehicle lights and honk the horn to scare it off the road.



CAROL HAMILTON/ADOBE STOCK

There is almost always more than one, as deer travel in small herds. When you see one, more are likely around.

Stay safe this November!



MOUNTAINS HUNTER/ADOBE STOCK

AIM HIGH

Hunt safely this season

Electric cooperatives ask hunters to be aware of electrical equipment and to be mindful when shooting near it. Mistakes can be costly and deadly.

- **Avoid shooting near utilities.** Never shoot in the direction of power lines, poles or substations.
- **Know your environment.** Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- **Recognize the risks.** Damage to electrical equipment presents the possibility of electrocution and fire.
- **Watch for hidden dangers**. Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- **Observe signage.** Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- **Avoid using utility structures.** Do not use utility poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity or for supporting deer stands.

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Strengthening our defenses

Modern technology continues to revolutionize how Owen Electric Cooperative serves our members more efficiently and reliably. But the technology that can improve the grid can also present new challenges. The co-op's data and systems are attractive targets for cybercriminals.

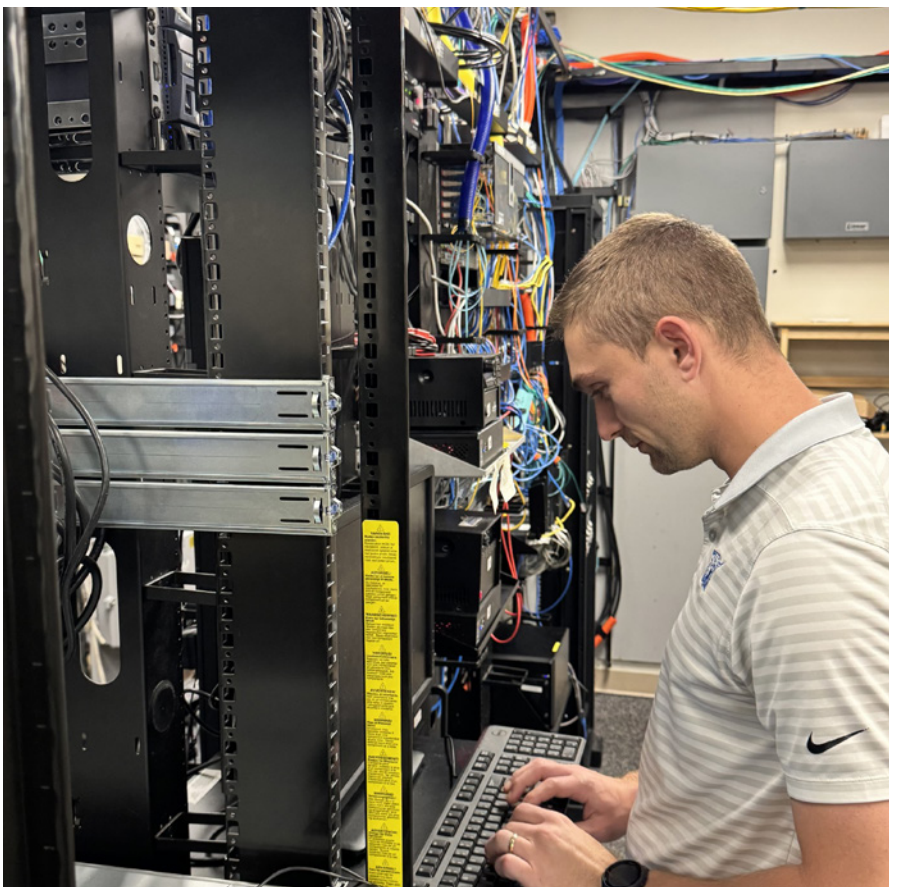
We're working every day to make sure our system and your data are safe from those who would try to cause harm.

Owen Electric is among the nation's nearly 900 electric cooperatives that are cooperating to strengthen our defenses against cyberthreats. We're fortifying our systems by sharing information and pooling our resources. When cooperatives work together, we can do better for our members.

On the local level, we are enhancing cybersecurity by:

- Self-assessing our infrastructure, processes and procedures to identify vulnerabilities.
- Investing in necessary hardware and software to provide adequate security.
- Educating staff on security threats, ranging from phishing to identity theft.
- Advising co-op leaders regarding potential threats and the security resources required for protection.

Utility cybersecurity is a constantly evolving challenge. We're working daily to improve our capabilities to protect Owen Electric's members and safeguard our system.



Blaine Forsee, IT system administrator, performs routine maintenance on critical systems. Photo: Mike Stafford