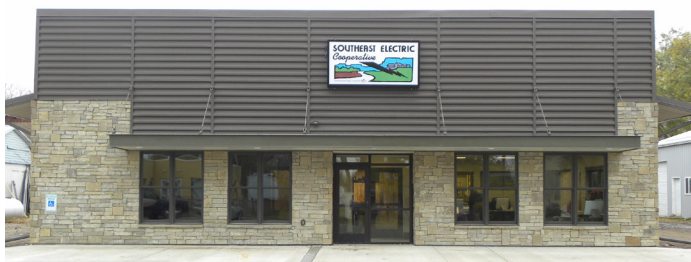


SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative



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Green thumb? Not me


By **VICKI FIX** | Member Services

I have decided that a green thumb skips a generation. I remember growing up and spending my summers in the garden munching on fresh carrots, popping a fresh tomato in my mouth or stealing peas before Mom harvested them. Our garden was beautiful, flower beds were lush, and our house was full of healthy green plants. My mom still has a plentiful garden, and her house is full of plants, some of which outgrow the house.

Me, on the other hand, I cannot

even grow a weed. I have one house plant that I have kept alive for almost three years. I call it a “holiday cactus” because it bloomed from Thanksgiving to Easter! My family and friends were shocked. I have dear friends who gift me plants, and I have begun to ask if they could be a foster plant parent for me and I will visit the plant on occasion. My mom apparently still has hope as she just bought me a beautiful planter with succulents in it. I reminded her of my plant growing disability, but she was insistent because it was “on sale.”

The next generation is my son. He can grow anything. He has a healthy green garden. He has several plants in his office that flourish. He loves to garden and starts plants in his basement during early spring. His rows are neat and tidy, he is diligent about watering and weeding, and hopefully he will also share the fruits of his labor.

So, for this not-so-green thumb, I have lovely artificial plants from Walmart that I seem to be able to keep alive. However, they do require dusting, which is also not one of my fortes. 

BE CAREFUL OUT ON THE FARM AND RANCH

THERE are all types of precautions ranchers and farmers take to stay safe. Electrical hazards, however, can sometimes be overlooked since electricity is not seen or heard, and overhead powerlines can become part of the landscape.

Here are some electrical safety tips to implement on your farm or ranch:

- In general, look for exposed energized parts and unguarded electrical equipment that could become energized unexpectedly.
- Be careful when operating water tanks with electric pumps.
- Inspect electrical fencing regularly



to ensure that everything is tight and secure, and that no parts are frayed. A sagging fence not only means that animals could escape, but it can also create electrical issues.

- Ensure your electric fence is well

supported. A lack of support can cause it to sag.

- Make sure electric fencing is visible by using electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.
- Cap posts, especially metal T-posts, to prevent an animal (or human) from becoming impaled.
- Be aware of overhead powerlines when moving bales of hay.
- Do not store hay bales under powerlines.
- Be aware that tarps that cover hay can come loose and blow in heavy winds, sometimes causing an outage if

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Montana's First Lady visits Ekalaka library

AS children are heading back to school Montana's first lady, Susan Gianforte, has announced the state-wide launch of the Imagination Library of Montana in partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The partnership will assist programs already in place, while also expanding programs statewide to every zip code in Montana. Through the partnership, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will provide a free book each month to any Montana child, ages 0 to 5 years old, who is registered with the organization.

"Literacy is critical for our kids and their development. When parents read to their kids or when a child reads, it engages them, it fires their imagination, and sparks their curiosity," First Lady Susan Gianforte said. "I'm proud of the partnership we've developed with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and local organizations throughout Montana. Working together, we'll make sure all our youngest kids have access to reading resources so they can dream, grow and reach their full potential."

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has



From left: Susan Gianforte, Montana's First Lady; Pat Kalstrom, Ekalaka Public Library; Rogue Spring and Calgary Spring.

become the pre-eminent early childhood book-gifting program in the world. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has gifted more than 200 million free books in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and The Republic

of Ireland. This is achieved through funding shared by The Dollywood Foundation and Local Program Partners. The Imagination Library mails more than 2 million high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to enrolled children from birth to age five.

Dolly envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading and inspiring children to Dream More, Learn More, Care More and Be More. "I'm so excited to be launching my Imagination Library statewide in Montana!" Dolly Parton stated. "I want to send my very special thanks to First Lady Susan Gianforte for her partnership in making this amazing gift available to children and families across the state."

Mrs. Gianforte visited Ekalaka on June 14, to promote the program. Southeast Electric Cooperative and Ekalaka Public Schools have been program partners with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library since May of 2021. We currently cover seven zip codes and have 43 children receiving a free book each month. For more information, or to register your child, please visit www.seecoop.com or imaginationlibrary.com.

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the tarp gets too close or contacts a powerline.

- When using a generator and double-throw switch, make sure they are in good working order and up to code.
- Always be aware of overhead powerline locations and use a spotter when working close to lines or poles.
- Follow safe digging procedures; call 8-1-1 to have underground utilities marked before breaking ground.

To learn more about electrical safety on the ranch or farm or in general, visit SafeElectricity.org. RM



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

HELP US!

The following members of Southeast Electric Cooperative have unclaimed capital credits.

Any help locating them is appreciated.

Call 406-775-8762 or email info@seecoop.com

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