

# SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative



PO BOX 369, EKALAKA, MT 59324 • PH 406-775-8762 • WWW.SEECOOP.COM

# MARCH MADNESS? SPRING HAS SPRUNG?

## Be mindful around powerlines with farm equipment

Column by **JAKE HAMMEL** | *Operations Manager*

**S**PRING, summer, fall and winter are busy times for our farmers and ranchers. Whether they are planting, haying, spraying or harvesting, farmers have a lot to think about, however make sure paying for a power pole by striking it with your equipment is not on the list. The extra few feet of farm ground around the pole are not worth the cost of repairs so keep a wide area between equipment and the pole. When patrolling line, we notice many of the cooperative's powerlines have plow marks inches away from the pole. This does not leave any room for error, and many poles have been hit.

With the increased size of equipment now available, the chance of snagging a power pole or line goes up as well. We have many lines that were built when the equipment was much smaller. We are making an effort to change to taller poles, but we cannot get everywhere quickly. Please remember to always check to make sure your new equipment can safely go under the powerline. You may have been going under that line for 30 years, but your new equipment hasn't.

Stacking hay under a powerline is hazardous. We all need to stack that hay one bale higher, which can get close to the line. When getting to that top bale a small mistake can cause the bucket to snag the powerline, damaging or bringing it down on top of the haystack, potentially causing a haystack fire and damage to the tractor or its occupants.

Powerlines are dangerous, and one mistake could be the only mistake you get to make. If you hit a powerline, please do not leave the vehicle. It is impossible to tell if the line may



still be energized without proper tools. Please stay where you know you are safe. Call Southeast Electric Cooperative any time, day or night, and a crew will make sure the power is off before you exit the vehicle. Electricity is deadly and can stay energized in certain conditions.

Southeast Electric's mission is to provide safe, reliable electricity. Please be incredibly careful around the powerline. A wide berth from powerlines will keep you safe and keep the power on. RM



## SECO maintains medical alert list for those with special equipment

**S****SOUTHEAST** Electric Cooperative maintains a medical alert list for member households with individuals who depend on electricity-powered medical equipment. If you or someone in your home depends on a feeding machine, heart monitor, oxygen machine or nebulizer, call Southeast Electric at 406-775-8762 or 1-888-485-8762. We will need the name and phone number of the contact person, and the type of medical equipment. In the event of a planned or expected outage due to severe weather, Southeast Electric will make every effort to contact the individuals on the medical alert list and let them know they should plan to make arrangements for backup power or to relocate temporarily.



## DON'T FORGET

SMARTHUB the on-line bill payment system is now available. It is convenient and easy!

# 'In like a Lion - Out like a Lamb'

Weather lore: Not so accurate, but fun

**W****ATHER** folklore is as colorful as our imagination. March always used to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb, or it is supposed to. While many weather predictions are based on careful observations and turn out to be accurate, others are merely rhymes or beliefs of the people who came before us. So, is this one any different?

Our ancestors believed in balance. They often believed that bad spirits could adversely affect the weather, so they were cautious as to what they did or did not do in certain situations. Those beliefs often included ideas that there should be a balance in weather and life. So, if a month came in bad (roaring like a lion), it should go out good and calm (docile, like a lamb).

March can be a toss-up. We can see warm spring-like temperatures or

late-season snowstorms. We can only hope that if March starts off stormy it will end on a calm note, but the key word is hope. However, this saying seems to be simply a rhyme rather than a true weather predictor.

Some other weather lore includes:

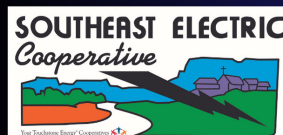
- A dry March and a wet May; Fill barns and bays with corn and hay.
- As it rains in March, so it rains in June.
- March winds and April showers, Bring forth May flowers.
- So many mists in March you see, so many frosts in May will be.
- If a thick fog occurs, rain will fall 90 days later.

Check out [www.farmersalmanac.com/the-truth-behind-in-like-a-lion-out-like-a-lamb](http://www.farmersalmanac.com/the-truth-behind-in-like-a-lion-out-like-a-lamb). RM

## COMMUNICATION IS

### CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION BENEFITS YOU IN MULTIPLE WAYS.

- Faster outage reporting and response
- Timely alert about planned outages and other important updates
- Smoother customer service interaction



Call us at 406-775-8762  
or email [info@secoop.com](mailto:info@secoop.com)



### NEW CELL NUMBER? NO MORE LAND LINE?

Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date.