

# What's Good for the Members Is Good for the Cooperative



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO DEBRA COLE

A **UNIQUE BUSINESS MODEL** keeps electric cooperatives effective and vital. Co-ops have operated in the United States for more than 80 years, and during that time, the basic model hasn't changed. Because HILCO Electric Cooperative is a nonprofit, member-owned organization—operating in the fashion of its forefathers—it can focus on keeping costs down and providing exceptional service.

For us at HILCO EC, those goals involve minimizing expenses and maintaining a quality system that delivers the kind of service members expect and deserve.

For you, the member-owners of this organization, keeping the cost of electricity down can be achieved through energy conservation. Factors that affect the level of your energy consumption include the energy efficiency of your home, the number and type of electric appliances used and your household's lifestyle. As a conscientious co-op member, you can direct your attention to these three areas to minimize your consumption.

**1. Energy Efficiency:** The type of home you live in plays a major role in determining how much electricity is used. Smaller homes with less than the recommended insulation, inefficient heating and cooling systems, inefficient appliances, and leaky doors and windows might use more energy than a larger, more energy-efficient home. Weatherstripping and caulking are inexpensive ways to stop air leaks, and installation is a task you can do yourself.

It's also important to have your heating and cooling system serviced by a qualified professional to make sure it's in top working order. Don't forget to change the filters at least monthly while the system's in use.

**2. Quantity and Type of Electric Appliances:** It's especially important to make sure that appliances—including air-cooling and heating systems—have high energy-efficiency ratings. As computers and other electronic appliances have become a greater part of household life, their presence adds to the demand for energy. Without thinking about the increased energy use, families might add TVs, video game systems and computers to the home; over time, the total of those additions can drive up power demand. The newest technologies and devices can make our lives easier, but part of the cost involves the electricity necessary to keep them running.

**3. Lifestyle and Energy Use:** If you're "hot natured," you might run the air conditioner frequently. If that's the case, be aware that your choice has an impact on your electric bill. Similarly, having a lot of people running in and out of the house, leaving doors open; taking long, hot showers or baths; and leaving lights or appliances on when not in use—all of these contribute to demand for kilowatt-hours. Even with HILCO EC's low cost per kWh, consuming more power means creating a higher electric bill.

HILCO EC strives to make sure members have all the power they need and to control costs as much as possible, but your choices and habits play a big role in your electric bill each month. For more tips on how to manage your electric use, visit [hilco.coop](http://hilco.coop).



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph Tedesco, President, *District 4*  
Bill Allen, Vice President, *District 5*  
Janet Smith, Secretary-Treasurer,  
*District 7*  
Leroy Huff, *District 1*  
Margaret Hill, *District 2*  
George Thiess, *District 6*  
Ron Roberts, *District 3*

Operating in Dallas, Ellis, Hill, Johnson  
and McLennan counties

### GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Debra A. Cole

### COOPERATIVE OFFICES

#### Itasca Headquarters

115 E. Main St. • P.O. Box 127  
Itasca, TX 76055  
(254) 687-2331  
1-800-338-6425

#### Midlothian

300A Silken Crossing  
Midlothian, TX 76065  
(972) 723-2900

#### Whitney

4581 FM 933  
Whitney, TX 76692  
(254) 694-5237  
1-888-850-6551



## CONTACT US

For information during office hours  
and outages after hours:

### CALL US

**(254) 687-2331** local or  
**1-800-338-6425** toll-free

### EMAIL

[hilco@hilco.coop](mailto:hilco@hilco.coop)

### FIND US ON THE WEB

[hilco.coop](http://hilco.coop)



## SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 29

### Member Appreciation Picnic and Annual Business Meeting

Waxahachie Civic Center

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Barbecue dinner at 6 p.m. with the business meeting following

Look for your registration card in this issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.



## HAPPY Labor Day

HILCO EC will be closed  
Monday, September 5, in  
observance of Labor Day.

As always, crews will be on standby  
in the event of an outage.

## SEPTEMBER Bulletin

### September 23–24

**Hillsboro**

25th Annual Cotton Pickin' Fair

### September 2–4

**Waxahachie**

Gun & Knife Show. Waxahachie Civic Center

### September 10

**Red Oak**

Founder's Day at Watkins Park in Red Oak. Parade, entertainment, games, live bands, vendors and food. (972) 617-0906 for information

### September 30

**Midlothian**

12th Annual Midlothian ISD Education Foundation Golf Tournament. 1 p.m. shotgun start. For more information, visit [misdefgolf.org](http://misdefgolf.org).

## BILLING SCHEDULE

Payments are due by close of business at 5 p.m. on the due date.

**CYCLE 1**

Billing Date ..... September 6  
Due Date ..... September 22

**CYCLE 2**

Billing Date ..... September 13  
Due Date ..... September 29

**CYCLE 3**

Billing Date ..... September 20  
Due Date ..... October 6

**CYCLE 13**

Billing Date ..... September 21  
Due Date ..... October 6

**CYCLE 4**

Billing Date ..... September 27  
Due Date ..... October 13



# Climbing to the Top

**ELEVEN LINEMEN FROM HILCO ELECTRIC** braved the heat at the 20th Annual Texas Lineman's Rodeo at Nolte Island Park in Sequin to showcase the unique skills they rely on to keep the lights going.

The Texas Lineman's Rodeo Association reported record attendance this year, with more than 124 apprentices and 40 journeyman teams participating. The events mirror the day-to-day work done in their profession, such as hurtman rescue, pole climbing, insulator changeout and more. The events are judged on speed, execution and safety—with most of the emphasis placed on accurate execution and safety.

HILCO teams worked hard, and competition was stiff. But as always, they did not disappoint. HILCO Apprentice Briar Helms walked away with a third-place trophy for his outstanding performance in the obstacle pole event. HILCO Underground Contractor Greg Miller placed first in the cook-off for his brisket and was the overall winner of the barbecue cook-off. 68955103

Despite 2016 being a tough year, HILCO is ready to come back strong next year!

"The cooperative is very proud of each of the participants and how they competed," said HILCO General Manager Debbie Cole.

Participating linemen this year were the journeyman team of Lance Henkleman, Kane Montgomery and Brandon Hightower; the journeyman team of Chris Brown, Michael Grisham and Clayton Thompson; and apprentices John Prescott, Briar Helms, Toby Amerson, Michael Zamzow and Derek Allen.

Visit HILCO's Facebook page to check out more pictures from the event.



# Insulate Attic Stairway Hatch

**DO YOU HAVE A DOOR IN YOUR CEILING** that covers the pull-down stairway leading to the attic? Have you ever thought about how much air escapes around the edges of that opening?

In many homes, the poorly insulated and leaky attic stairs hatch provides an opportunity to improve comfort and save energy and money. You can seal and insulate the opening by building an insulated cover box, or purchasing a kit or prebuilt box.

Savings depend on energy cost and airtightness of the new cover box, and can be significant if there are open gaps in the existing stairway hatch.

Treat the attic stairs access as you would an opening to the outdoors. Regardless of the type of insulation you use for your attic access, it is important to thoroughly seal the opening.

Before beginning the project, consider the requirements carefully to decide whether you're comfortable taking on the job of designing, building and installing your own attic stairs cover box. Research commercially available options with these requirements in mind if you decide to purchase a prebuilt box or a kit. Several varieties of prebuilt covers can be found at home improvement and building supply stores.

## If you decide to take on the project yourself, follow these basic steps:

1. Carefully measure the inside and outside dimensions of the opening as well as the height requirements of your attic stairs so you can accurately determine the materials you need or the required size of a kit or prebuilt cover box.
2. Construct the cover box by cutting rigid foam panels and assembling them into a box using adhesive, tape, nails, screws or a combination. Remember to adjust the dimensions as needed to accommodate the measurements of your attic opening.
3. Attach blanket insulation to the attic side of the cover box with adhesive and wrap it with building wrap or another air barrier. This will prevent air movement in the insulation from degrading its R-value. The box should rest squarely on top of the attic stairs frame or on the wood stops installed to support it.

To optimize savings and comfort, the attic stairway cover box must be durable enough to withstand repeated openings and closings; have an R-value similar to the rest of the attic insulation; and provide an air seal.

For diagrams and more information on building your own insulating box to seal the attic hatch, visit [energy.gov/energysaver](http://energy.gov/energysaver).

**Block air leaks and conserve energy by insulating the attic stairs.**



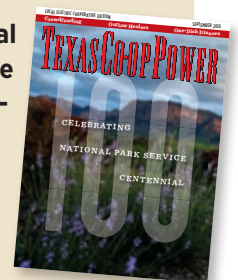
## Power Tip

Consider insulating your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25–45 percent and save you about 4–9 percent in water heating costs. You can find precut jackets or blankets available from around \$20.

## Win a \$50 Bill Credit!

As you're reading your *Texas Co-op Power*, look for the "hidden" account

number in the local HILCO pages in the center of the magazine. If it's YOUR electric account number, call us before the end of September—you have won a \$50 credit on your HILCO electric bill!



**(254) 687-2331**

or

**1-800-338-6425**

**To all HILCO Electric Cooperative members:**

Each year, we provide financial information to you. The following graphs and financial information are provided so that you can see where your cooperative stands financially. The financials are reviewed annually by an independent auditing firm. The auditing firm has indicated that the figures contained are an accurate accounting of the cooperative's assets, liabilities and equity.

HILCO staff and the board of directors are committed to continuing to promote the growth of the cooperative while offering reliable and affordable electric service.

Thank you for the privilege of serving our members. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

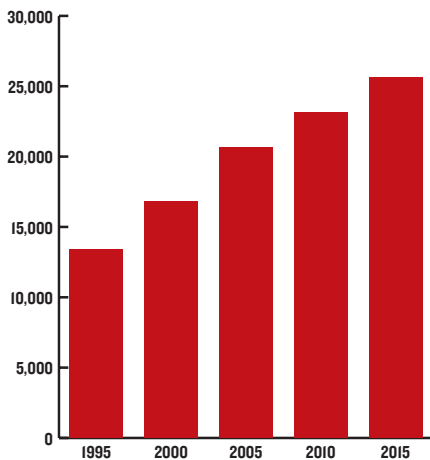
Best regards,

*Debra Cole*

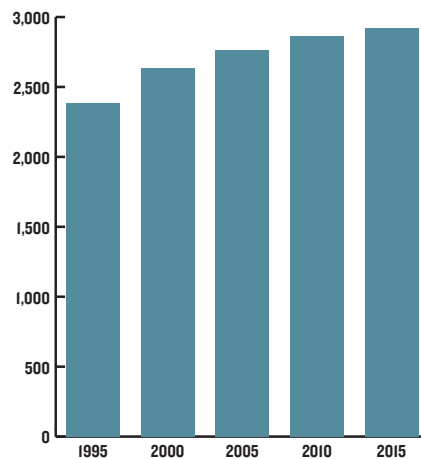
**DEBRA COLE**

*General Manager/CEO*

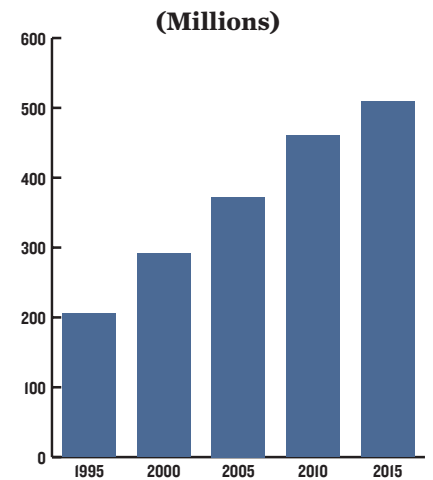
**Meter Growth**



**Miles of Line**

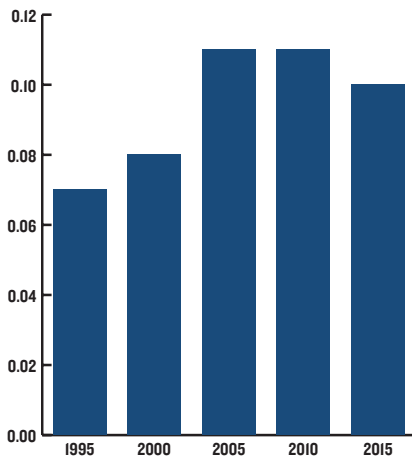


**Total KWh Sold**



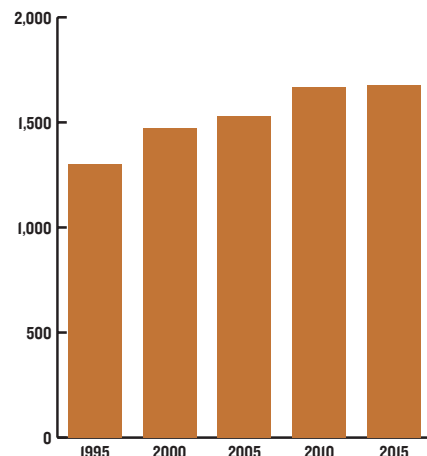
**Average Cost per KWh**

(Cents)



**Average Monthly Usage**

(Residential KWh)







**WHERE YOUR CO-OP'S  
OPERATING DOLLAR  
CAME FROM:**

<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>—Residential—</b>	
74.14%	74.07%
<b>—Commercial—</b>	
24.88%	24.93%
<b>—Public and Other—</b>	
0.98%	1.00%

**AND HOW IT WAS SPENT:**

<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>—Total Power Cost—</b>	
64.66%	68.32%
<b>—Total Operations—</b>	
18.66%	16.34%
<b>—Depreciation—</b>	
8.65%	8.06%
<b>—Interest and Other Margins—</b>	
8.03%	7.28%

**Balance Sheet**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>WHAT WE OWN (Assets)</b>		
Net utility plant.....	\$109,126,597	\$105,815,720
Other investments.....	36,561,540	35,452,426
Cash and temporary cash investments.....	433,285	659,679
Accounts receivable.....	2,152,514	3,026,116
Material and supplies.....	70,063	117,541
Other current and accrued assets.....	490,969	396,308
Deferred charges.....	<u>2,761,169</u>	<u>3,146,762</u>
Total assets.....	\$151,596,137	\$148,614,552
<b>WHAT WE OWE (Liabilities and Equities)</b>		
Membership fees, patronage capital and other equity.....	\$ 65,790,560	\$ 62,023,317
Long-term debt.....	70,265,364	73,674,283
Accounts payable.....	5,199,387	4,523,393
Consumer advance deposits.....	1,452,373	1,471,927
Other current and accrued liabilities.....	7,916,706	6,023,933
Deferred credits.....	<u>971,747</u>	<u>897,699</u>
Total liabilities and equities.....	\$151,596,137	\$148,614,552

**Income Statement (Year Ended December 31)**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>WHAT WE TOOK IN (Revenues)</b>		
Sales of electric power.....	\$53,097,370	\$57,961,790
<b>WHAT WE PAID OUT (Expenses)</b>		
Purchased power.....	\$32,383,647	\$37,748,715
Operations and maintenance.....	3,805,402	3,715,179
Consumer information and accounts.....	2,848,763	2,801,342
Administration and general expenses.....	2,691,785	2,514,807
Depreciation.....	4,331,845	4,455,185
Interest.....	3,364,046	3,419,165
Other.....	<u>659,944</u>	<u>606,430</u>
Total expenses.....	\$50,085,432	\$55,260,823
Net operating margins.....	\$ 3,011,938	\$ 2,700,967
Interest income.....	223,234	194,775
Capital credits and other nonoperating income.....	<u>1,768,474</u>	<u>2,513,984</u>
Net margins.....	\$ 5,003,646	\$ 5,409,726

**Member Statistics (Year Ended December 31)**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
KWh purchased.....	541,353,508	525,978,718
Average number receiving service.....	25,270	24,592
KWh sold.....	509,132,264	502,492,828
Miles of line.....	2,922	2,907

# Think Outside the Range

**IT'S BEEN A LONG, HOT SUMMER**, and there's still a while to go before Texas sees cooler fall temperatures. For at least another month, nobody wants to stand over a hot stove or oven to prepare a good meal.

The good news is that a little creativity can make the rest of the kitchen pull its weight. Smaller countertop appliances—toaster ovens, microwaves, slow cookers and more—are capable of making the dishes usually cooked on the stove or in the oven, without adding extra heat.

**Slow cookers** are a great alternative for making one-dish wonders. They allow you to put in all the ingredients for a dish in the morning, turn the cooker on for the day and come home to a finished meal in the evening.

You can even consult a slow-cooker cookbook to learn how to make surprising things in them, like bread, yogurt and desserts.

**Electric pressure cookers** have more safety measures in place than the stovetop sort, and most of them can take the place of slow cookers and rice cookers. Some models can even cut out stovetop steps, like browning meat, with a sauté function. Pressure cookers are also good for quick steaming, and that includes things you would normally boil or bake.

Using an electric pressure cooker is generally easy once you learn the various release methods—natural, quick and 10- or 5-minute—and their correct applications.

**Rice cookers** make cooking rice effortless and are good for steaming and for cooking other grains, such as quinoa. With the help of a cookbook, rice cookers can make entire one-pot meals, or quick versions of complicated dishes.

**Pressure cookers take the heat out of summertime meal preparation.**



VENUSPHOTO | ISTOCK.COM

**A steaming tray or basket** is essential in many pressure and rice cooker recipes. A lot of rice cookers come with steaming baskets, but also they can be bought separately.

**A good toaster oven** can do much of the work of a full-sized oven, such as roasting vegetables or baking casseroles and cobblers.

**Microwave ovens** can do a lot more than heat up your leftovers. Microwaves work by spinning water molecules, which means they steam things easily. Also, they can melt chocolates and cheeses more easily than a double boiler or an oven, with a lot less excess heat.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH



CAELMI | ISTOCK.COM

## Pecan Praline Crunch

- 1 box (12 ounces) cereal squares of your choice
- 2 cups pecan pieces
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ teaspoon baking soda

1. Heat oven to 250 degrees. Mix cereal and nuts and set aside.
2. Mix syrup, sugar and butter in microwavable bowl and microwave for 1½ minutes. Stir and microwave another 30 seconds to 1 minute or until boiling.
3. Add vanilla and baking soda, and stir to combine.
4. Pour syrup mixture over cereal mixture until well coated. Spread on large cookie sheet. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes.
5. When done, pour onto waxed paper and allow to cool. Store in resealable containers.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at **TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**

# Spotlight on Savings

The Co-op Connections card is another benefit of being a HILCO member. This **FREE** card delivers discounts from local and national businesses, as well as savings on prescriptions and other health-care services.



## Save money at these featured local businesses with your Co-op Connections card!

### 4-C Stables

Equine boarding, lessons, training, sales  
1355 Ovilla Road  
Waxahachie  
(972) 814-3988  
10% discount on services

### 1st Choice Professional Service

(972) 310-5070  
fcp176@yahoo.com  
15% discount on home or office interior/  
exterior cleaning

### Ellis County BBQ

700 Silken Crossing, Ste. 300  
Midlothian  
(972) 775-7500  
10% discount on food, excludes alcohol/  
sales tax, dine-in only

### Gaines 3 HVAC

HVAC service  
Midlothian  
(972) 523-9922  
m.gaines31@yahoo.com  
15% discount

### Highway 6 Truck Rental

1210 N. Ave. G  
Clifton  
(254) 675-2318  
10% discount on boxes and supplies

### Hubbard City Cafe

600 N. Magnolia Ave.  
Hubbard  
(254) 576-2323  
Free tea or coffee with meal purchase

### Kountry K9 Designs

Pet grooming  
Waxahachie  
(972) 268-4385  
mb@kountryk-9designs.com  
10% discount; not valid with other offers

### Nextlink Broadband

Internet service provider  
Email a request to sales@team.nxlink.com  
to validate coverage; include contact info  
and address  
(817) 769-6058  
\$10 discount on any published rate plan

### Main Florist

215 E. Elm St.  
Hillsboro  
(254) 582-2900  
15% discount on on Wednesdays  
10% discount on all other days

### Party Guy 2 U

Mobile game/party service serving Hills-  
boro, Itasca and surrounding areas  
(254) 707-0421  
10% discount on 2-hour weekday  
M-T party

### Pho 287 Restaurant

1001 E. Main St., Ste. A  
Midlothian  
(972) 775-7980  
10% discount

### Rising Sun Hibachi Grill

402 E. Main St.  
Midlothian  
(972) 775-6063  
10% discount

### Specialty Photography

165 N. Armstrong Road  
Venus  
(972) 877-4778  
\$25 coupon towards next portrait session

### Tucker Lumber Co.

218 S. Bois D'arc St.  
Hillsboro  
(254) 582-5301  
10% discount on all Valspar paint

### Tucker Lumber Co.

4453 FM 933  
Whitney  
(254) 694-2121  
10% discount on all Valspar paint

Check out additional card benefits and deals at [connections.coop](http://connections.coop). To request a replacement card at no charge, contact Jill Huggins at [jhuggins@hilco.coop](mailto:jhuggins@hilco.coop) or 1-800-338-6425, ext. 1142.