



# Line Items

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## LOCAL COUPLE LEARNS MORE ABOUT COOPERATIVES AT NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE



*Luke and Susannah Lanier*

Excelsior EMC recently sent Luke and Susannah Lanier to the annual Georgia Cooperative Council Couples Conference. The conference is a three-day event where couples across the state visit the North Georgia Mountains and learn more about the impact of cooperatives at the local, state and national level.

This year's couples travelled to The Ridges Resort and Marina in Hiawassee on August 9-11 for a weekend of fun, fellowship and learning. Excelsior

EMC is proud to send couples to the conference because there they enjoy a relaxing getaway and learn about the work and impact of financial, telephone and electric membership cooperatives in the state.

All of the conference activities and sessions are aimed at helping enhance the communication and leadership skills of attending couples. The positive, friendly environment fosters dialogue between the couples and local EMC leaders.

Throughout the weekend, couples participated in short, educational sessions that were led by Georgia EMC, Pineland Telephone, AgGeorgia Farm Credit and AgSouth Farm Credit. The cooperative sessions placed a special focus on the seven cooperative principles that apply to all business cooperatives which include voluntary and open membership, democratic membership control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education and training for members, cooperation between co-ops and concern for local communities.

Luke and Susannah and other attendees were not only able to learn from presentations, but also from firsthand experience. The group travelled to Young Harris on Saturday to visit Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and tour the facilities to see how a local EMC functions. "It's a pleasure to share my own experience while helping to educate others about the benefits of the cooperative business model and introducing them personally to the unique cooperation found among fellow cooperatives," says Byron McCombs of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC. "Cooperatives exemplify perfectly what can be accomplished by working together for the benefit of all."

The 2019 Cooperative Council Couples Conference was made possible by the generous support from the electric cooperatives of Georgia and the Georgia Cooperative Council.

The Georgia Cooperative Council is a statewide, nonprofit cooperative association whose membership is composed of farm supply, financial, electric, telephone, marketing and service cooperatives. The Council membership includes approximately 50 cooperatives.



*Pictured above are the couples from around the state that attended this year's Georgia Cooperative Council Couples Conference.*

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BRONSON BRAGDON  
Editor

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## Between the Lines

by  
**Greg Proctor**  
President/CEO

## BE PREPARED BEFORE THE STORM

Fall is my favorite time of the year. Cooler temperatures, the change in seasons, blue sky, colorful leaves, and fewer outages all add up to less stress. But with three hurricanes in the last three years, fall has delivered plenty of stress. September is National Preparedness Month, so what better time to plan ahead and reduce some of your stress, than now.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything--food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).

### Preparedness Actions and Items

Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries). Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current. Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV. Organize emergency supplies together in an easily accessible location. Fully charge all cell phones, spare batteries, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely. Consider using LED Christmas lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs - including on your property.

### Power in planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Check our Outage Map and Facebook page to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information. Act today, because there is power in planning.



Every Member Counts



*Pictured above is Bobby Edenfield early in his career as an Excelsior EMC Serviceman.*



*Howard Porter (Left), Manager, Member Services, congratulates Bobby Edenfield on his retirement after having completed 33 years of service to the Cooperative.*

# BOBBY EDENFIELD RETIREES

Bobby Edenfield began his career at Excelsior EMC on October 21, 1986 as a Serviceman/Lineman. In October of 2014 he was promoted to Lead Lineman where he served until his retirement.

Bobby retired on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 after having provided the Cooperative with over 33 years of dedicated service.

We will surely miss Bobby's thoughtfulness, humor, and willingness to help with any task at hand.

*Bobby, we wish you all  
the best in your retirement.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

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Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

*Source: energy.gov*



## APPLIANCE SATURATION SURVEYS TO BE EMAILED



Excelsior EMC will be conducting a residential consumer survey this fall. The purpose of this study is to collect information that we need to plan for the future. A sample of our consumers will be randomly selected to participate. Your input in the survey is very important to us, so please consider completing the questionnaire if you receive one of these emails. We know your time is valuable, and we appreciate your effort to participate in this study.

# HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

*Source: Safe Electricity*

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