

Powering our communities

Co-op history informs our future

As America celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence this year, many of us have history on our minds. You can see some of that on display in this issue of *Kentucky Living* as we look at historical travel destinations across the state, from ancient caves to important sites in military history, bourbon, horse racing and more.

There's so much to explore in our state's heritage—and in Fleming-Mason Energy's history, too. We take great pride in our deep roots and our legacy of service. But the true power of history is its ability to shape the future.

Electric cooperatives were built to bring reliable electric power to every home—no matter the challenges. The community members who built our cooperative knew how important electricity would be for farms, businesses and homes. They understood that power had to be safe, reliable and cost-effective to truly make a difference.

Providing power to our community is a responsibility that we take personally. When outside interests propose changes that could threaten reliability and drive up costs, electric cooperatives are the first to speak up in Frankfort and in Washington, D.C., advocating

for commonsense solutions to ensure the power keeps flowing at a price consumer-members can afford.

Fleming-Mason Energy is truly part of the communities we serve. That historical connection grows more important every day as new opportunities and challenges emerge for our area. Because we are locally owned and operated, and guided by a board that you elect, we are directly tied to the well-being of our community. And like all of Kentucky's electric cooperatives, we advocate for our consumer-members in a way that sets us apart from other utilities.

We continually look for ways to serve you better. For example, after weeks of punishing cold weather in January and February, Kentucky co-ops, including Fleming-Mason Energy, backed a measure in the General Assembly to help levelize energy bills. Passed unanimously, with leadership from members of the Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperatives Caucus, the Fuel Surcharge Stability Act enables utilities to spread out over time the cost of fuel spikes that happen during peak usage.

From artificial intelligence to smart devices, electricity powers more of our lives than ever before. In this fast-paced environment, we are proud to be your



Since the beginning of rural electrification in the 1930s, Kentucky's electric cooperatives have been consumer advocates, dedicated to improving the quality of life in our communities.

trusted power partner and to advocate on your behalf.

Our history at Fleming-Mason Energy is not a set of past accomplishments that we take for granted. It's an expression of our commitment to you—both now and in the future.



Brandon Hunt
PRESIDENT & CEO

At your service, 24/7

Should you experience an electric outage, cooperative employees are standing by to respond 24/7. To report an outage, call 1-800-464-3144.

Contact us:

In Fleming County:

(606) 845-2661

Other Counties:

(800) 464-3144

Hours:

7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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Warning or watch?

Know your tornado terms

We're entering peak tornado season. Kentucky averages around 21 tornado touch downs each year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. While nobody wants to think about a damaging storm hitting near your home or neighborhood, your family's safety could depend on knowing what to do when severe weather looms.

BE ALERT

When a storm's brewing, do you know when it's serious? The National Weather Service has three primary alerts. Knowing what each means is crucial to your safety.

- **Tornado watch:** Be prepared. Weather conditions are right for tornadoes to form. Identify your safe place and be ready to act quickly if the watch is upgraded to a warning. Monitor local weather forecasts or NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed.
- **Tornado warning:** Take action. A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is danger to life and property. Immediately move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.
- **Tornado emergency:** Seek shelter now! This is the highest alert level. It is issued when a violent tornado has touched down in the watch area with catastrophic damage confirmed. Immediately seek refuge in the nearest safe location possible. If you are in a vehicle and see a tornado approaching, do not try to outrun it; shelter in place.

When a severe storm is forecast, check Fleming-Mason Energy's Outage Center at www.outage.fme.coop for information on how to prepare for potential outages and resources for staying safe and informed.



The people behind the power

April 13 is National Lineworker Appreciation Day

Weathering the storm is just another day on the job for Fleming-Mason Energy lineworkers. On April 13, National Lineworker Appreciation Day, we pause to celebrate these individuals who are committed to keeping the power on, maintaining the grid and improving our energy infrastructure to better serve the our members.

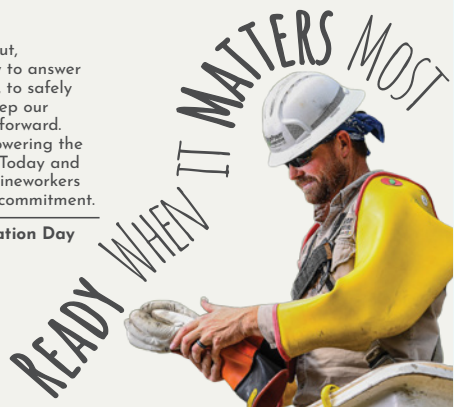
On the average blue-sky day, our line teams support daily member needs or pursue projects that help to strengthen the grid to improve its reliability and resiliency.

Lineworkers also perform the work they're best known for: dependably restoring power when nature dishes out harsh weather that damages the system. Through severe storms, lightning, wind, ice, extreme heat and cold, they faithfully perform the critical hands-on work necessary to keep the power flowing.

"Being a lineworker isn't the job for everyone, but we're certainly glad it is the chosen profession of a select few," says Brandon Hunt, the co-op's president and CEO. "Whether it's the everyday work of efficiently delivering power or going head-to-head with storms and emergencies, we know the co-op

When the lights go out, lineworkers are ready to answer the call, day or night, to safely restore power and keep our communities moving forward. They take pride in powering the places we call home. Today and every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 13, 2026



NRECA

can depend on them to deliver safe and reliable service."

The individuals who make up the Fleming-Mason Energy line team are responsible for constructing, operating and maintaining equipment and more than 3,500 miles of power lines in the co-op's service area.

Protect eyes and ears during spring cleanup

Spring has sprung. With it comes the return of yard work for many Fleming-Mason Energy members. Dustin Skaggs, the co-op's safety coordinator, provides these tips for protecting eyesight and hearing while sprucing up the lawn.

EYES

- Wear safety glasses or goggles. Choose eyewear that creates a seal around the eyes to protect against projectiles and debris dislodged by power equipment or splashes from chemicals. Replace eye protection that is torn or cracked.
- Clear debris first. Before mowing, walk the lawn and remove rocks, sticks and other hazards that could become dangerous projectiles.

- Handle chemicals safely. Add a mask to eye protection when spraying chemicals. Point nozzles away from yourself and others.

EARS

- Wear earplugs or earmuffs. Power equipment can create damaging noise, so use properly fitted ear protectors to significantly reduce sound levels. Opt for Bluetooth-capable electronic protectors if you need to listen for calls or want to enjoy music while working.
- Choose electric tools. Battery-powered equipment is significantly quieter than gas-powered models.
- Take breaks. Step away from noise

every 30-60 minutes for 10 minutes to let ears recover.

- Maintain equipment. Well-maintained tools (sharpened blades, good mufflers) are quieter.

Take precautions to protect your eyesight and hearing while making the most out of the mild Kentucky spring weather.



DAVID ZINEVICH/SHUTTERSTOCK

Powering change

Electric cooperatives throughout Kentucky and around the nation are marking 90 years of service this year. Can you imagine life without electricity? After electricity had come to Kentucky's cities, a group of farmers took their spirit of cooperation and formed several of Kentucky's electric cooperatives.

Today electricity is such a fundamental part of our daily lives that we often take it for granted. We shouldn't. Today's modern electric grid is the backbone of civilization, powering modern living, staying connected to the world, modern medicine and everything between.

Let's consider the conveniences and innovations that transformed rural homes and businesses which were

brought about by the widespread adoption of electricity in the 20th century.

Dim light cast by a flame, fueled by wood or kerosene has become very efficient LED light powered from a distant, invisible energy source.

Many used to suffer cold in the winter and heat in the summer heat without convenient heat or air conditioning, but today, we enjoy a nice indoor temperature and humidity 24 hours a day.

Basic everyday tasks back then were difficult, like doing laundry and cooking food on a potbelly stove. Now we simply push a button to start a machine that completes the chore in minutes.

Having a few books, or reading a newspaper kept the family informed



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and entertained prior to rural electricity. Now we need only a few keystrokes on the screen in our pocket to learn almost anything.

Information traveled by the speed of horse and buggy or motor car before electricity. Now we communicate instantly with one or millions of people anywhere in the world by countless methods—and even seeing them while we talk.

There are countless thousands more examples. But modern life wouldn't be possible without electric power.

GIVE CREWS LOTS OF ROOM It's the law

**National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 20-24.
Be mindful of lineworkers on the job.**

- **Work zones also include utility crews who work along the roadsides** to build, repair and maintain the highway of electric power lines.
- When motorists see the orange work zone warning signs and vehicles with flashing amber lights, **they should slow down and prepare for the zone ahead.**
- **Kentucky law requires motorists to approach cautiously and change lanes away from the emergency vehicles if they can do so safely.** If not, they should reduce their speed to 10 mph under the posted speed limit and proceed with caution.



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