

A message for graduates: Dream bigger

This month, seniors at Fleming County High School will pick up diplomas and step into the future. Congratulations to each of you from all of us at Fleming-Mason Energy. It's been a pleasure to play a role in your education through programs like Washington Youth Tour and annual meeting scholarships.

But our commitment to you doesn't end after the graduation speeches and the celebrations are finished. We've been committed to you since you became a member. While you were growing up, learning about life in our community, we were always thinking ahead and creating opportunities for your next steps in life.

Along with providing reliable, competitively-priced and sustainable electricity, our mission includes fostering economic development—the foundation on which successful communities are built. How does that benefit you? Simply put, it means the place where you grew up can also be a desirable home for a lifetime.

Our unique position as an electric cooperative allows us to play a crucial role in economic development initiatives that create pathways to prosperity for local graduates. For instance, we stimulate local economic growth by investing in electrical infrastructure upgrades and expansions that ensure a reliable power supply for existing businesses as well as attracting new businesses to the area. We also provide technical assistance and resources to help those who dream of starting and growing their own businesses.

As one of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, Fleming-Mason Energy is part of a collaborative approach to bring new, high-demand business investment to this region.



Through a variety of strategies, we're helping this region put its best foot forward to land good-paying, in-demand jobs. So far, these efforts have attracted \$12.6 billion in business investment and created 18,000 new jobs.

These are jobs the class of 2026—you can help fill. Whether your next steps include post-secondary education, career training or a direct track to the workplace, we want this community to be where you can put down roots and thrive—a place where you can always dream bigger.

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 (800) 464-3144.

Brandon Hunt
PRESIDENT & CEO



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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Smart moves

Integrated technology features that simplify life and lower energy use are the top new home trends for 2026, according to an annual survey conducted by online real estate broker Redfin. But these “smart moves” don’t have to be limited to new construction.

They’re just as valuable as an energy-efficiency upgrade for an existing home.

To change how energy is used and saved in your home, prioritize installing:

- **Smart thermostat.** Since heating and cooling represents nearly half of the average home’s electric bill, precision control can save energy and money. Plus, Fleming-Mason Energy offers a \$100 rebate for qualifying, Wi-Fi enabled thermostats when you sign up for our SimpleSaver program. You can also earn \$20 per year in bill credits. Visit www.simplesaver.coop for details.
- **Smart light controls.** Using automated dimmers, motion sensors and programmable schedules can multiply the energy savings achieved with LED lights.
- **Smart appliances.** When it’s time to replace a major appliance, take a good

Planning to make some energy efficiency upgrades to your home?



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look at smart refrigerators, clothes washers and dishwashers. They provide the best energy use possible without impacting performance.

- **Smart plugs.** These devices provide remote control and scheduling ability to turn off nonsmart appliances when not in use, thus saving power.

If you’re thinking of making some smart moves, contact Fleming-Mason Energy at (800) 464-3144 to learn about incentives that can help pay for some smart technology upgrades.

2026 FLEMING-MASON ENERGY ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Fleming-Mason Energy Headquarters

1449 Elizaville Rd., Flemingsburg

Drive-thru Registration: 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Business Meeting: 11 a.m.

 Fleming-Mason Energy

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Shop local with Co-op Connections to support small businesses

Small businesses are vital to Kentucky and play an important role in shaping local communities and keeping them economically strong. Locally owned retail and service providers represent the vast majority of the commonwealth's business landscape.

Fleming-Mason Energy's commercial members include many independent stores and family-run shops. May is National Small Business Month, an opportunity to recognize their contributions to the community. Make a plan to shop locally. Take a Saturday and go

browse all your local shops.

Don't leave home without your Co-op Connections card. Fleming-Mason Energy members can show support for area businesses while also saving money by flashing your Co-op Connections card or mobile app at participating locations. The free discount program is a members-only benefit offering savings of up to 85% on hundreds of everyday expenses, including pharmacy and health services.

Members not yet connected to this savings program can begin receiving Co-op Connections discounts



TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

immediately. Visit connections.coop to download the mobile app and find a full list of participating retailers and available discounts.

Remember basic tractor safety

The most critical farm tool is the tractor. For about a century now, the tractor, starting with those early Farmalls and Fordsons, has been an integral part of everyday farming.

But tractors can be dangerous, and according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, they're also the most common cause of deadly farm accidents.

Over the years, many farmers, farm workers and others living on or visiting farms, have been killed or seriously injured falling from moving tractors, run over by tractors, or crushed when a tractor rolls sideways or backward.

Remember, the only safe place to sit on a tractor is in the driver's seat. An unexpected bump or quick turn can easily throw an extra rider from a tractor, resulting in serious injury. So, please do not ask for rides on tractors or other farm equipment.

Jumping from a tractor can also be dangerous even when the tractor is not in operation. Muddy boots or loose



KENTUCKY'S TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

clothing can cause the jump to go wrong and lead to injury.

Most tractors, old or new, have a power take-off shaft sticking out at the back. It is used to transfer power to another piece of machinery. It spins at speeds of 9 to 15 rotations per second. Most tractors are equipped with a special shield to cover the PTO shaft. If this safety shield is missing, anyone who comes close to the rear of the tractor is in danger.

If the rear wheels cannot rotate to

move the tractor forward, the front will end rise up, and in less than a second, the tractor will turn over.

TYPICAL CAUSES OF A REARWARD TRACTOR TURNOVER ARE:

- The tractor is stuck in mud or snow.
- Chains, boards or other devices prevent wheels from turning.
- The tractor is climbing a hill that is too steep.
- The clutch is released too quickly in a low gear with the engine running at a high speed.
- A load is hitched above the drawbar of the tractor.

SIDeways TRACTOR ROLLOVERS CAN HAPPEN WHEN:

- The tractor is driven on a hillside that is too steep.
- The front-end loader is too high for a given load on a hill or when turning.
- The tractor is driven too close to the edge of a roadside ditch or slope.

Cooperatives to support Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Games

For 15 years, Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives proudly sponsored the Special Olympics Kentucky Summer Games.

An estimated 1,200 athletes and hundreds of coaches and family members will participate during the 2026 Special Olympics State Summer Games at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.

This year's games take place from June 5-7. The Summer Games include competitions in track and field, soccer, bocce and rhythmic gymnastics.

Last year, more than 120 cooperative employees and families volunteered for the event. Athletes and attendees will be treated to tethered hot air balloon rides,

courtesy of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives during the early morning (weather permitting).

"We are proud to help make the Special Olympics State Summer Games possible and to make it an unforgettable day for the athletes," says Lori Ulrich, marketing and public relations manager. "We are inspired by their courage and compassion, and we are proud to support them and the communities we serve."

The State Summer Games are Special Olympics Kentucky's largest competition of the year. This will be the 31st year of competition at Eastern Kentucky University. Each athlete qualifies



TIM WEBB

through participation at a regional or area-level event.

For more information, please contact: Lori Ulrich at lulrich@fme.coop or go to www.soky.org.

Protect yourself from burns and bites

If gardening, backyard barbecues, camping and outdoor sports are on your summertime agenda, remember to stock up on sunscreen and bug spray. University of Kentucky HealthCare shares these skin protection recommendations for being safe while enjoying outdoor activities.

DON'T LET THE BUGS BITE

Outdoor activities can quickly turn into a feeding frenzy for insects, so take these precautions:

- **Use insect repellent.** EPA-registered insect repellents that contain DEET provide protection against mosquitoes, ticks and other bugs. Other repellents protect against mosquitoes but may not be effective against ticks or other bugs.
- **Apply sunscreen first.** Allow the sunscreen to dry before applying

repellent. Don't use products that contain both sunscreen and repellent. Don't spray repellent on the skin under clothing.

- **Cover exposed skin.** Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks and a hat. The shirt should be tucked into the pants, and pants into socks, for maximum protection.

PREVENT BURNS

To protect your skin from the sun's damaging rays:

- **Make sunscreen application a daily routine.** Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen that has an SPF of 15 at a minimum. Reapply every two hours when you're outside, and even more frequently if you're swimming or sweating.



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- **Seek shade.** Avoid unnecessary exposure to sun.
- **Dress to protect.** Wear a wide-brimmed hat, UV-protective clothing and sunglasses designed to block both UVA and UVB rays.
- **Watch the clock.** Avoid being outside at the brightest time of day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.