



COMMON *Ground*

NEMAHA-MARSHALL ELECTRIC CO-OP ASSN., INC.

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 Nemaha-Marshall Electric
Cooperative Association, Inc.

COINCIDENT PEAK



SEPT. 12
AT HOUR
ENDING 5 P.M.

FROM THE MANAGER

Holiday Lighting 101

As the November days grow shorter and twilight arrives a little earlier each evening, we are gently nudged indoors where the right lighting can transform our homes into cozy, welcoming sanctuaries.

Lighting is something most of us don't think much about — until it's wrong. Maybe the living room feels too dim for reading, or the kitchen lights cast an odd yellow glow. We often grab whatever bulb or fixture looks good without considering how it will actually perform in the space. But with a little planning, you can make your home brighter, cozier and more energy efficient.

WATTS VS. LUMENS

When you're shopping for lightbulbs, it's easy to focus on watts, but watts only measure how much energy a bulb uses. When it comes to brightness, what

really matters is the lumen count. Lumens measure the actual light output. For example, an 800-lumen bulb emits approximately the same amount of light as a traditional 60-watt incandescent bulb. (You've likely replaced all incandescent bulbs with long-lasting, energy-efficient LEDs, but if not — it's time to make the switch!)

A helpful rule of thumb: Higher lumens mean brighter light, while lower watts mean less energy consumed. Remember to check wattage ratings for fixtures and only install bulbs that meet the fixture's wattage safety requirements.



Kathleen O'Brien

Continued on page 12C ▶



SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the 2026 Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on **FEB. 17, 2026**, at the American Legion Building in Axtell. We can't wait to see you there!

OUTAGES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred.

Date	Location	Substation	Number of Consumers	Outage Cause
Aug. 23	22-3-09-06	Ease Axtell	3	Jumper Off Transformer
Aug. 24	24-3-10-10	Snipe Creek	0	Vehicle Hit and Broke Pole
Aug. 30	35-4-14-09	Goff	161	Breaker Tripped
Sept. 1	22-5-12-01	Goff	44	Tree In Line
Sept. 7	12-6-13-08	Goff	57	Animal Tripped Breaker
Sept. 7	24-1-10-10	East Axtell	1	Vehicle Tore Down Wires
Sept. 8	21-3-07-14	Marysville	6	Fuse Tap Tripped
Sept. 15	12-6-13-09	Goff	23	Fuse Tap Tripped
Sept. 16	04-6-11-05	Centralia	37	Vehicle Hit Pole

As you can see in our outage report, we have had a significant number of vehicle accidents involving our power lines. If you are in an accident involving a power line, do not get out of your vehicle.

- ▶ Call 911, notify the operator you are in an accident involving power lines.
- ▶ Wait inside your vehicle until emergency personnel and an electric utility lineman arrives.
- ▶ Our lineman will deenergize the power lines and provide confirmation that it is safe to exit your vehicle.
- ▶ Exit your vehicle safely.

IF YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE DUE TO IMMINENT DANGER:

- ▶ Open your vehicle door.
- ▶ Jump from the vehicle without touching any other part of the vehicle and land with both feet at the same time.
- ▶ Hop or shuffle at least 50 feet away from the site of the accident.
- ▶ Call 911 and notify them of the accident, including that power lines are involved.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

The Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint-filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and

TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- ▶ **MAIL:** U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- ▶ **FAX:** 202-690-7442; or
- ▶ **EMAIL:** program.intake@usda.gov.

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Holiday Lighting Continued from page 12A ▶

COLOR TEMPERATURE AND CONSISTENCY

Lightbulbs also vary in color temperature, which ranges from warm yellow to cool white or even bluish tones. This detail often gets overlooked until you replace one bulb and notice the new light doesn't quite match the others. If mismatched tones drive you crazy, consider buying and installing bulbs of the same brand and wattage in a room at the same time. That way, the look stays consistent, and you won't be stuck hunting for a perfect match later.

DIMMERS AND SWITCHES

Installing dimmers instead of standard on/off switches can be a game changer. Dimmers give you more control over brightness, help save energy and create a more comfortable atmosphere. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so double-check labels before buying.

While you're thinking about switches, consider whether you have enough of them — and in the right places. A light you can only turn off from one end of a hallway quickly becomes annoying. For new installations or upgrades, it's best to hire a licensed electrician to ensure everything is wired safely and efficiently.

FIXTURES: FORM MEETS FUNCTION

Bulbs are only part of the equation — fixtures matter too. Each type serves a purpose. Ambient lighting, like sconces or glass-covered ceiling fixtures, provides general illumination. Task lighting, like pendants, desk lamps or track lighting, focuses light where you need it most.

When choosing a fixture, think beyond looks. Ask yourself: Does this light provide the right amount of brightness for the

space? A beautiful chandelier might look perfect over the dining table, but it leaves the rest of the room too dim. Alternatively, an oversized fixture could flood the room with more light than you need, wasting both energy and money.

SMART LIGHTING: ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEETS CONVENIENCE

Smart lighting adds another layer of control for illuminating your home. But the real magic is convenience. With smart bulbs, you can adjust brightness, set schedules or even change colors — all from your phone or a voice assistant like Alexa or Google Assistant. Want the lights to dim automatically for movie night? Or to turn on before you get home? Smart bulbs make it easy.

Smart lighting also lets you personalize your space. You can go classic with warm white tones or experiment with colors to set the mood — anything from a soft glow for winding down to vibrant hues for a party. Remember, smart bulbs still rely on power from your wall switch, which needs to stay in the "on" position for remote controls to work. If you prefer using a physical switch, consider pairing smart bulbs with a smart light switch. Many of today's smart switches also feature motion detectors, adding an extra level of efficiency and convenience.







Good lighting doesn't just make your home look better — it makes it feel better too. With a little planning, you can create spaces that are welcoming, functional and energy efficient. Whether you stick to traditional bulbs and fixtures or explore the flexibility of smart lighting, thoughtful choices today will brighten your home for years to come.

As we prepare to gather round our tables in gratitude for family, friends and the comforts of home, we are also reminded to thank those who have served our country — with Veterans Day and Thanksgiving both offering moments to reflect and appreciate. This season, let's shine a little light on the things that truly matter.

HOME LIGHTING GUIDE

SOURCES: HOME DEPOT, ALCON LIGHTING

Here are home lighting recommendations — other bulb, fixture and room options may also be available.

	 LIVING ROOM	 KITCHEN	 DINING ROOM	 BEDROOM	 BATHROOM	 PORCH/HOME ENTRY
RECOMMENDED LUMENS	15-30 per sq. ft. 150 sq. ft. room 2,250-4,500 LUMENS	30-40 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 3,000-4,000 LUMENS	10-20 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 1,000-2,000 LUMENS	10-20 per sq. ft. 120 sq. ft. room 1,200-2,400 LUMENS	50-80 per sq. ft. 60 sq. ft. room 3,000-4,000 LUMENS	100-200 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. entry 10,000-20,800 LUMENS
FIXTURE TYPES	Ceiling fixtures, can lighting, lamps/ accent lighting	Recessed ceiling lights or flush mounts	Pendant or chandelier fixture	Ceiling fixtures or recessed lighting	Over-vanity fixtures and/or recessed lighting	Wall lanterns, ceiling mount and/or floodlights
TIPS	Use smart bulbs to adjust color temp and control remotely.	Smart switches control zones (dining vs. prep), while undercabinet motion lights provide late-night illumination.	Smart, dimmable bulbs allow various levels of brightness for ambiance.	Motion sensors are great options for nighttime use.	Cool LED bulbs provide brighter light for shaving, applying makeup, etc.	Motion-activated flood lights and/or smart outdoor bulbs are energy efficient and boost home security.

NOW AVAILABLE!

2026 Youth Program Applications

MAKE YOUR MARK!
JUNE 13-19, 2026
COORDINATED BY
KEC
KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.
A Topeka Area Electric Cooperative

MAKE YOUR OWN PATH
COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP
JULY 10-16, 2026
COORDINATED BY
KEC
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A Topeka Area Electric Cooperative
CYLC

DEADLINE FOR THE 2026 PROGRAM IS FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2025.

Nemaha-Marshall invests in our youth with opportunities designed to raise awareness of rural electric issues and facilitate growth in personal interactions, with the goal of creating thought leaders who can effectively communicate our rural message in all aspects of life. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp experiences are all-expenses-paid and will truly be experiences of a lifetime for area youth.

For more information, contact your high school counselor, FFA sponsor, or call the Nemaha-Marshall office at 785-736-2345.

Any high school junior attending school in the Nemaha-Marshall territory is eligible.

Deadline for the 2026 program is Friday, Dec. 12, 2025.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle. SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV

