Message from CEO/General Manager Clint Gardner

We are all thankful for our co-op’s lineworkers and the long hours they dedicate to ensuring affordable and reliable power is available around the clock. With this demanding work, safety is always the first priority because, in some cases, there are no second chances to get the job done right.

Now we have another important tool to keep our utility workers safe: Texas’ “move over/slow down” law. When you see a utility vehicle parked on the side of the road with its amber (or amber and blue) lights flashing, help us keep our lineworkers safe by moving over a lane, if you safely can, or slowing down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit.

When you move over, you’re giving workers the room they need to safely complete their jobs for you and other members.

We’ve all been careful to keep an eye out for police, firefighters and other first responders who are on the scene of an accident. Now, with the new law in place, drivers should treat utility workers just as they do other first responders. After all, they are among those who move toward trouble, not away from it, to keep all of us safer.

The last thing they need to be worrying about when they are taking care of our business is a careless motorist. Common sense tells us to just move over. Now, as of September 1, the power of the law stands behind this important rule.

If you are driving on a two-lane road and you do not have an extra lane to move into, the law says you should slow down by 20 mph. A slower-moving vehicle is a safer vehicle. And keep in mind—significant fines give this law teeth.

After all, there is no price that can recoup a lost life. There’s no need to ask questions or wonder what they’re up to. Just move over.

Some Quick Tips for Thanksgiving Savings

Turn down the thermostat. With a full house and a hot kitchen, your house will be too steamy at its usual setting.

Replace your lightbulbs with LED bulbs. Your guests won’t notice a difference in lighting, but you’ll see a difference in your energy bill.

Don’t just stuff the turkey—stuff the oven. As long as your oven will be running all day, make the most of it by cooking several dishes at once. A variation of 25 degrees in either direction from the recommended cooking temperature will still produce the desired result in most cases.

Cook at least one dish from start to finish in the microwave. Microwaves are faster than the oven and use about one-third the electricity.

Keep cleanup easy. Load the dishwasher completely full. With a mountain of dinner plates, using the dishwasher will be more efficient than hand-washing.

Don’t rush to put leftovers in the refrigerator, which will work harder to cool off hot foods. Let leftovers cool slightly on the counter.
STRAIGHT SHOOTING ON Safety

Texans love to hunt. There’s suspense and excitement and escape from the daily routine. Here are the “Ten Commandments” of shooting safety:

Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.
Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.
Be sure of your target.
Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.
Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.
Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition with care.
Control your emotions when using weapons.
Wear hearing and eye protection.
Don’t consume alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms or bows.
Never use electrical insulators and transformers as targets.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative encourages you to always practice safety.

“Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.”
—W.T. Purkiser, author

Our offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28–29, in observance of Thanksgiving.