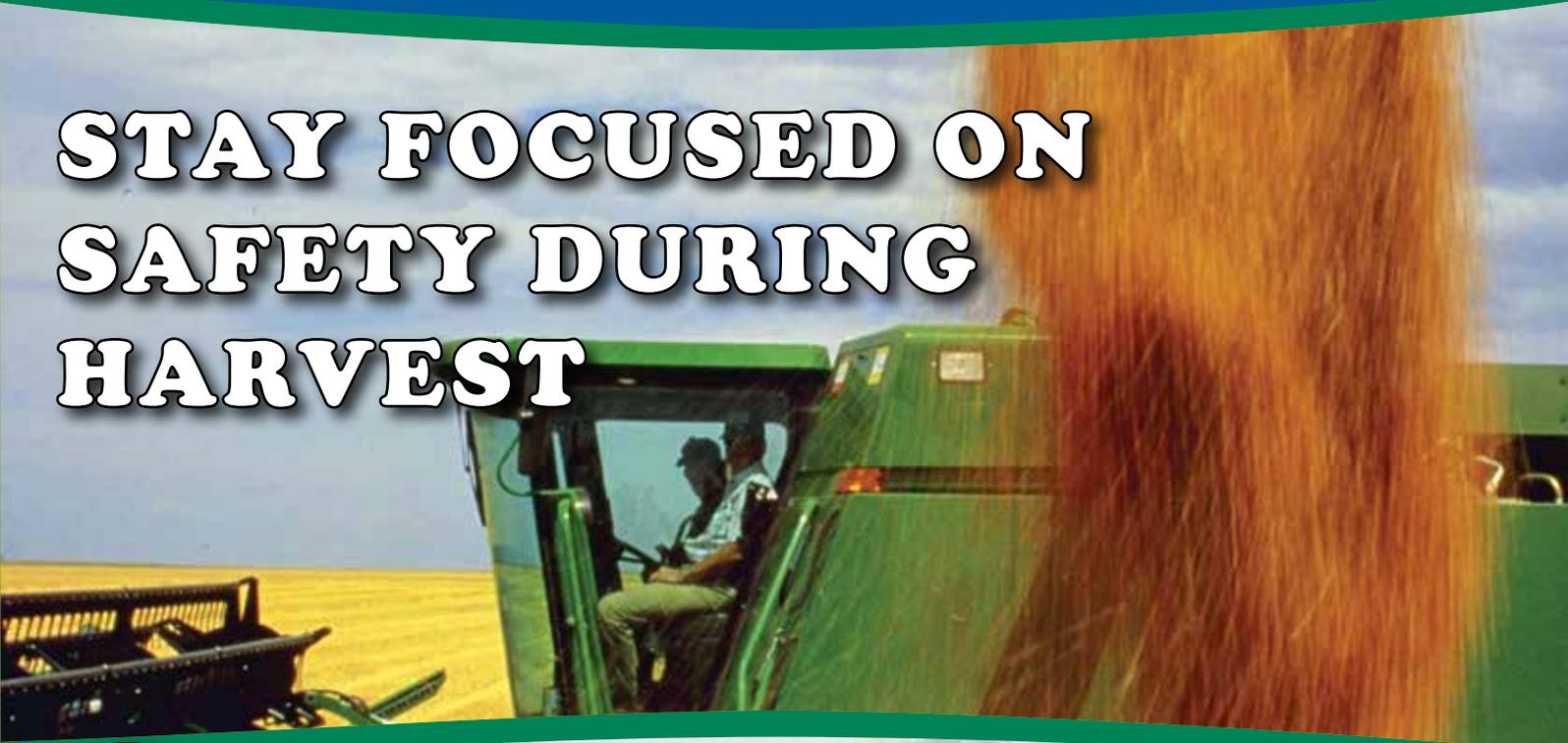




STAY FOCUSED ON SAFETY DURING HARVEST



During harvest season, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. Yet despite these advances, safety risks remain. To help farmers stay out of harm's way, Safe Electricity shares tips for a safe harvest.

"One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness," explains Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Safe Electricity program. "It's important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can

help reduce accidents."

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Regardless the technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.

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DID YOU KNOW

Did you know you can reduce heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home?

CLOSED



Big Horn REA will be closed Monday, September 5, 2016, in observance of Labor Day.

Using Energy Efficient Window Treatments

A recent study by two federal agencies used rigorous science and analysis to dissect window-covering choices—how you use them, where you install them and whether they really save energy. These days, every penny counts, which is why Big Horn REA always recommends finding ways to be energy efficient around the house.

Windows account for 25 to 40 percent of annual heating and cooling costs, especially in older homes. Blinds, shades, films and drapes are all good options to consider if old or inefficient windows can't be replaced.

According to a joint government and industry research effort (including the U.S. Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Window Covering Manufacturers Association), window coverings—blinds, shades, curtains and awnings—could save significant amounts of energy at a relatively low cost to the consumer. Researchers next want to quantify how much energy consumer households could save based on the dominant types of window coverings used, in which climate zones people live and how U.S. households currently operate their window treatments. In the meantime, you may want to give your window treatments a second look when it comes to cooling, heating and comfort in your home.

It's important to remember that location, placement and materials are key.

Windows facing west let in the hottest light and need the most coverage, while windows facing south are the most important natural light source and only need light coverage.

Drapery. Drapes can be beautiful and practical when hung in homes located in colder climates. During the day, make sure drapes and shades are open to catch free solar heat. Close them at night to keep the heat inside.

Shades. Shades—pleated or cellular, quilted roller and dual—are one of the simplest product choices for insulating rooms. But depending on the material, some are more energy efficient than others. In the summer, lower shades on sunlit windows. Shades on the south side of a house should be raised in the winter during the day, then lowered at night.

Interior blinds. Interior blinds work better to reduce summer heat gain than winter heat loss. Consider installing two treatments at a window—blinds and drapes—for added insulation or coverage. Remember that west-facing windows let in the hottest light and need the most coverage; south-facing windows are

the most important natural light source and need only light coverage.

Window film. Residential window film can be high-end, permanent and professionally installed. There are also options for DIYers and those who want an inexpensive and temporary window covering to keep cold air out. Window coverings come in a kit. Plastic shrink film is applied to the indoor window frame with double-stick tape, and then heated with a hair dryer to shrink the film and remove any wrinkles.

With these and other carefully selected window treatments, you can reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer – keeping your house comfortable and your energy bills lower.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider insulating your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 24 to 45 percent and save you about 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$20.

Source: energy.gov

STAY FOCUSED ON SAFETY Continued from Page 1

- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.

- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.

- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

- If a power line is sagging or low, contact Big Horn REA.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

The Energy Education Council is a non-profit membership organization providing consumer safety and energy efficiency materials to more than 400 co-ops.



WINDOW COVERINGS: UNCOVERED. DID YOU KNOW?

- Nationwide, more than 60 percent of all window coverings are blinds, with 27 percent of households installing metal or vinyl horizontal ones. They are followed by curtains (19 percent), shades (17 percent) and shutters (2 percent).

- People rarely adjust their window coverings. About half stay closed at all times, with between 75 and 84 percent remaining in the same position throughout the day, depending on the season (winter or summer) or time of week (weekday or weekend).

- Renters and homeowners make different choices. Products like vinyl and metal horizontal blinds and vertical blinds are more common in rental housing than in owner-occupied homes, where wood and faux-wood blinds and windows without coverings are more common.

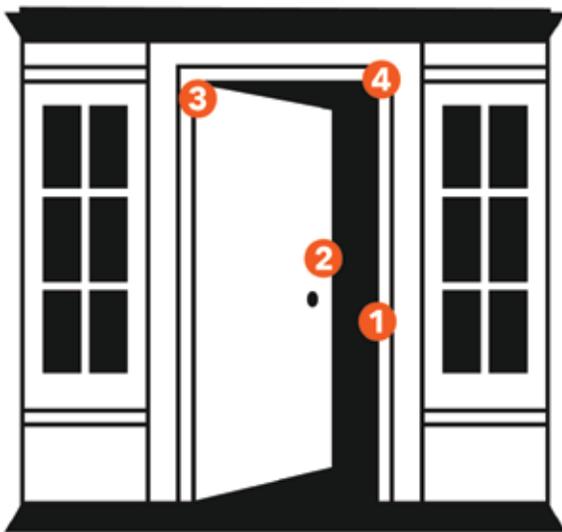


Weather Stripping

WEATHER STRIPPING DOORS

Capturing Energy Savings by Sealing Air Leaks

Save energy and seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors. How do you know if you need to weather strip? If you can see any amount of light between the door frame and the floor, weather stripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste. This DIY energy-saving project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the type of materials selected. The most common weather stripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal, or a combination of materials may also be used.



1 CLEANING SURFACES - Clean the door and door jamb to be weather stripped. For best results, weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces above 20°F.



2 MEASURING DOOR & DOOR JAMBS - To ensure greater accuracy, measure your space twice before cutting the material. It is best to plan for one continuous strip for each side of the door and door jamb.



3 CUTTING FOAM - Cut long pieces of self-adhesive weather stripping material (foam, vinyl, etc.) for each side of the door jamb and door.



4 APPLYING WEATHER STRIPPING - Peel back the self-adhesive foam. Apply one continuous strip of material snugly along each side. Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners and is pressed firmly onto the door and door jamb. The material should compress tightly between the door and door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

SOURCE: Department of Energy

HIGHLIGHTS

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After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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