

## Cooperative Principle 6

Discover the seven principles that guide the way we do business.

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Choctaw Electric hosts innovative safety training for first responders.

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Co-op gross receipts tax benefits local school systems.

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For members of **Choctaw Electric Cooperative**

JUNE 2024

# CEC *inside your* co-op



Right: Ron and Marcia DaVee are the owners of Soper-based DaVee Bees.

## Agritourism in southeast Oklahoma

### DaVee Bees is making Soper sweeter, one jar of honey at a time

In 2019, Ron and Marcia DaVee embarked on an unexpected venture that would soon become the sweetest chapter of their lives. With Ron retired from social work and Marcia retired from Choctaw Electric Cooperative, they had settled into a peaceful life surrounded by pecan and fruit trees on their Soper acreage. Little did they know, a visit from Ron's uncle would change everything.

Arriving from Miami with two swarms of bees, Ron's uncle, a seasoned beekeeper, introduced them to the world of beekeeping. The DaVeEs quickly discovered that beekeeping is more than harvesting honey; it's a full-time commitment. Ron became the diligent caretaker of their buzzing companions, checking on them several times a day despite occasional stings. "You find out quick

if you're meant to be a beekeeper," he says with a chuckle, pointing to the evidence of recent bee encounters on his forearms.

Their apiary flourished, doubling in size by the second season and now boasting twelve thriving colonies. Marcia, allergic to bees but undeterred, took charge of honey processing. With the help of family, including sister-in-law Karla Clifton and nieces Kate and Kallie, along with friends and neighbors, they turned their home into a bustling honey production hub, even drawing assistance from the local science teacher.

Labor Day weekend is a hive of activity as they process their liquid gold. The dark, late-season honey offers robust flavors and abundant antioxidants. It is this quality that has earned

them first place at the Tulsa State Fair three years running.

Beekeeping hasn't been without its challenges. Despite living in an area rich in plant life, they've had to supplement their bees' food during dry summer months, planting clover seed and providing sugar water. "If you take care of your bees, it's hard to make money," Marcia says.

Amid the hard work and occasional setbacks, the DaVeEs have found joy in the rhythm of their apiary. Now five years into their adventure, they're elbow deep in honey and loving every sweet moment.

To learn more about DaVee Bees contact Marcia at 580-345-2821 or Ron at 580-372-3850. 🍯

MANAGER'S REPORT



## Cooperative Principle 6

### Cooperation Among Cooperatives

BY KOONEY DUNCAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**A**s we continue our ongoing series, exploring the fundamental principles that guide as a cooperative, I will highlight the sixth and penultimate principle: Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

As a cooperative, cooperation is key to all we do. Through joint efforts and resource sharing, cooperatives enhance the quality of services we provide to

our members. This principle embodies the spirit of collaboration, locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally.

At Choctaw Electric, our commitment to cooperation is evidenced by our participation in mutual aid agreements. Mutual aid empowers co-ops to help each other in times of exceptional need. Whether it's grappling with power outages in the aftermath of a severe storm or facing other unforeseen challenges, cooperatives stand ready to support one another.

In recent years, Choctaw Electric has extended mutual aid to our

neighbors in Louisiana in the aftermath of hurricanes. Conversely, we've experienced the generosity of mutual aid, as evidenced by the assistance we received after the 2022 Idabel tornado. Such reciprocal acts of support are a pillar of the cooperative business model, showcasing our commitment to community welfare and collective resilience.

**"Whether it's grappling with power outages in the aftermath of a severe storm or facing other unforeseen challenges, cooperatives stand ready to support one another."**

Choctaw Electric has also participated in international electrification projects in Guatemala, bringing first-time electricity to residents, thereby raising their quality of life. During these projects, Okla-

ma linemen have worked with line crews from other states, including Colorado and Arkansas. Coordinated by NRECA International, these projects are an example of cooperation on an international level.

As a member-owner of Choctaw Electric, I hope you're proud to know that your co-op strives to exemplify cooperation in all that we do. 🌱

## Choctaw Electric Cooperative

*Serving members in Choctaw, Pushmataha, Atoka, McCurtain, Bryan and LeFlore counties.*

Monday-Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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**[www.choctawelectric.net](http://www.choctawelectric.net)**



**24 Hour Outage Hotline**  
**800-780-6486**

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**Lucky Acct #29436000** If this is your account number, please contact CEC by the 5th of the month to claim your **\$25 bill credit**. Unclaimed bill credits roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100. To claim your credit, please call 800-780-6486, ext. 241.





## Choctaw Electric gets ‘Wired Up for Safety’

Electrical accidents in the U.S. result in nearly 4,000 injuries each year, many of which could be prevented with increased awareness. Recognizing this need, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) created the ‘Wired Up for Safety’ campaign, an initiative aimed at promoting electrical safety across the state.

On May 9, Choctaw Electric hosted a Wired Up for Safety event at the cooperative headquarters in Hugo. The day, focused on first-responder education and safety, unfolded with a simulated accident scenario, illustrating the dangers of downed power lines. Local paramedics, fire rescue teams and law enforcement officers responded to the staged incident. Following the simulation, a dialogue took place between co-op safety personnel and first responders, fostering mutual understanding and offering valuable insights for improved emergency responses.

“It’s always good to get together with first responders to help provide a better understanding of our system when they are responding,” Choctaw Electric CEO Kooney Duncan says. “If we can do anything to better educate and help with their response, that’s an extreme positive.”

Witnessing the simulation’s realistic portrayal of potential hazards left a profound impression on co-op linemen and dispatch personnel, who appreciated the hands-on approach to safety training. In addition to participants, observers from OAEC, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the Choctaw Nation attended. “We got rave reviews from everyone involved,” Jia Johnson, CEC director of public relations says. “They said it was one of the best educational exercises they had done in quite some time.”

Anna Politano, OAEC director of public relations, spearheaded the statewide Wired Up for Safety campaign and attended CEC’s event. “We appreciate Choctaw Electric’s commitment to instill the critical message of electrical safety in their local first responders, emergency personnel and law enforcement agencies. The event was a demonstration of how much Choctaw Electric genuinely cares for their communities and for all they serve.”

Looking ahead, CEC plans to build upon the event’s success with future initiatives aimed at community awareness and education. ⚡



### Summer peak hours

A summer peak alert may be called between June 20 and September 9, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. We will announce peak alerts on our Facebook page, via the SmartHub app and on the radio. Please help us reduce electricity use during peak hours as it helps keep our cost stable.



### Buddy Ball postponed

The Buddy Ball kickoff game has been rescheduled for September 14, 2024. We hope to see you there!

# Supporting local schools

Co-op tax dollars contribute more than \$1.9 million to education


As not-for-profit businesses, electric co-ops are taxed differently than for-profit businesses. According to Oklahoma statutes, in lieu of ad valorem tax, electric co-ops pay a 2% gross receipts tax on revenue at both the wholesale and retail levels. 95% percent of the money collected from co-op members goes directly to local schools. The remaining 5% is retained by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to cover administrative costs associated with collecting and distributing funds.

In 2023, Choctaw Electric gross receipts tax provided \$1,908,255 to 27 school districts. Gross receipts tax disbursements are determined by the number of miles of co-op power line within a district. The chart below shows tax disbursements to local schools in 2023 from Choctaw Electric and our power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. <sup>¢</sup>


School	CEC	WFEC	Total
Lane	\$38,115.87	\$60,670.89	\$98,786.76
Bennington	\$2,428.03	\$32,712.84	\$35,140.87
Boswell	\$26,704.70	\$43,553.71	\$70,258.41
Ft Towson	\$62,882.91	\$137,888.41	\$200,771.32
Soper	\$42,284.61	\$32,294.41	\$74,579.02
Hugo	\$103,943.24	\$72,082.35	\$176,025.59
Whitesboro	\$2,876.09	\$0	\$2,876.09
Forest Grove	\$20,586.80	\$29,898.01	\$50,484.81
Lukfata	\$20,495.99	\$14,682.75	\$35,178.74
Glover	\$17,095.08	\$0	\$17,095.08
Denison	\$15,016.26	\$27,691.78	\$42,708.04
Holly Creek	\$18,215.24	\$15,329.39	\$33,544.63
Idabel	\$44,034.51	\$18,448.52	\$62,483.03
Haworth	\$82,382.33	\$2,966.97	\$85,349.30
Valliant	\$63,662.55	\$84,178.51	\$147,841.06
Eagletown	\$27,020.12	\$798.79	\$27,818.91
Smithville	\$58,520.81	\$0	\$58,520.81
Wright City	\$29,403.73	\$0	\$29,403.73
Battiest	\$73,284.00	\$13,579.63	\$86,863.63
Broken Bow	\$100,652.34	\$88,971.32	\$189,623.66
Nashoba	\$22,723.55	\$304.32	\$23,027.87
Rattan	\$87,769.11	\$34,766.91	\$122,536.02
Clayton	\$18,129.05	\$0	\$18,129.05
Antlers	\$110,674.03	\$67,137.41	\$177,811.44
Moyers	\$36,072.28	\$0	\$36,072.28
Hodgen	\$0	\$5,325.33	\$5,325.33
Tuskahoma	\$0	\$456.48	\$456.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,124,973.23</b>	<b>\$783,738.73</b>	<b>\$1,908,711.96</b>

# VACATION EFFICIENCY


Headed out of town? Follow these tips to save while you're away.




Adjust thermostat to 76 degrees.




Close curtains or blinds.




Unplug unnecessary appliances & devices.



Turn water heater off.




Turn off lights and fans.



Set one or two lights on a timer.



Replace air filters.



Stock the fridge & freezer with water.

## 2024 Annual Meeting Vendor Booth Reservation Form

Saturday, September 28, 2024  
McCurtain County Fairgrounds

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Products to be displayed/sold: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of booth spaces: \_\_\_\_\_

Booth spaces are available first come, first serve. Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs and electrical cords.

Deadline to reserve booth: September 20, 2024

Send booth reservation form to:  
Jia Johnson, Choctaw Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743