



Battle River POWER COOP

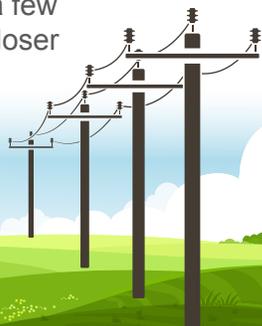
MEMBER OWNED • COMMUNITY POWERED



Stay Safe Around Powerlines and Poles

Every harvest season brings both excitement and challenges for farmers. However, recent incidents involving power poles, lines, and farm equipment have underscored the urgent need for safety awareness during this critical time. To ensure a safe and productive harvest, it's crucial to prioritize safety around power infrastructure. To the right are some essential tips to keep in mind.

A successful harvest hinges on the safety of everyone involved. Power poles and lines pose significant risks, but by identifying hazards, maintaining safe distances, using spotters, and following safety measures, you can protect lives and property during harvest. Remember to prioritize your safety above a few more inches closer to the power pole!



Identify Hazards:

Before you start, map out the locations of power poles and overhead lines on your farm. Knowing where these hazards are situated will help you plan your operations safely.

Maintain Safe Distances:

Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines with voltages up to 50,000 volts. For lines with higher voltages, maintain a 20-foot clearance. Be mindful of equipment height changes, like raised booms or buckets, and ensure they stay within safe distances.

Use a Spotter:

When operating tall equipment or carrying loads that could contact power lines, have a spotter assist you. They can help you navigate safely and ensure you maintain the necessary clearance.

Contact Utilities:

If you need to work near power lines or you need to move high equipment under a power line, contact Battle River Power Coop. We can offer guidance for your safety.

Mark Hazard Areas:

Use flags, signs, or markers to clearly indicate areas with power lines. This visual communication serves as a constant reminder to exercise caution.

Succession Planning for Your Business

Succession planning for farms is crucial for the long-term sustainability and success of agricultural businesses, especially as many family farms transition from one generation to the next. Here are five key strategies for effective succession planning in the context of farming:

1. Start Early and Communicate Openly:

Begin the succession planning process as early as possible. It often takes several years to ensure a seamless transition.

Open and transparent communication among family members and stakeholders is essential. Discuss your intentions, expectations, and goals for the farm's future openly and honestly. Encourage family members to voice their aspirations and concerns.

2. Identify and Develop Successors:

Identify potential successors within the family or among farm employees. Consider their skills, knowledge, and commitment to the farm's values and vision.

Provide training and mentorship to develop the necessary skills and knowledge. This may involve formal education, on-farm experience, or a combination of both.

3. Create a Comprehensive Succession Plan:

Develop a detailed succession plan that outlines the transfer of assets, management responsibilities, and decision-making authority. This plan should address financial, legal, and tax considerations.

Consider hiring professionals such as lawyers, accountants, and financial advisors with expertise in farm succession planning to assist in creating a robust plan.

4. Fairness and Equity:

Ensure that the succession plan is fair and equitable among all family members, even those not directly involved in the farm's operation. This can help prevent conflicts and maintain family harmony.

Consider mechanisms such as trusts, buy-sell agreements, or life insurance to provide for non-farming heirs while allowing the farming successor to retain control of the operation.

5. Continuity and Transition Management:

Plan for the transition of management responsibilities gradually. This can involve the current owner(s) stepping back slowly as the successor gains experience and confidence.

Establish contingency plans in case of unexpected events, such as illness or disability, to ensure the farm can continue to operate smoothly.

Remember that every farm succession plan will be unique and should be tailored to the specific circumstances and goals of the family and the farm. Regularly review and update the plan as circumstances change, and involve all relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process to create a sustainable and harmonious transition for your farm's future.



New MVP Business



Battle River Power Coop is proud to support local businesses through our Member Value Program (MVP)!

This month's MVP business spotlight is Shirgor Enterprises in Bruderheim.

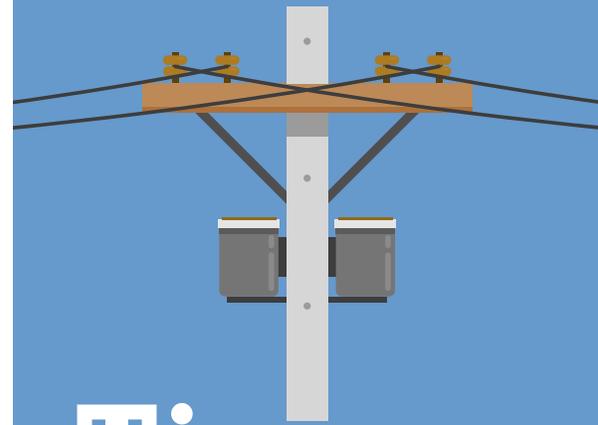
Shirgor Enterprises offers 10% off equipment rentals to members who show their MVP Card.

Visit them today and make sure to mention you are a member of Battle River Power Coop!

Thank you to all the businesses who have offered savings to our members! Keep an eye on our website under Community as we continue to add businesses as they join.

The Changing of the Seasons Comes With... *Wildlife!*

When driving on the roads, please remember to stay vigilant and watch for any wildlife in the ditches and attempting to cross the road.



Tips from the Line

Harvest Time Is Here!

Make sure to check the height of your equipment to ensure you can cross safely under power lines.

If the height of your load is more than 4.15 meters, it's considered "over height" and you'll need to get a permit from Alberta Transportation.

If the height of your load is more than 4.15 meters, give us a call at 1.877.428.3972. We'll help plan the safest and most efficient route.

Message from the Board of Directors

The safety of our community and our valued members is our top priority at Battle River Power Coop. We are deeply concerned about the increased number of incidents involving power poles and power lines during this year's harvest season. These incidents have not only resulted in property damage but also posed significant risks to the safety of farmers and their families.

Harvest season is a time of great importance and hard work for our agricultural community, and we understand the urgency to complete the tasks at hand. However, the recent incidents highlight the pressing need for increased awareness and adherence to safety protocols when working near our power infrastructure.

Our cooperative is committed to promoting safety, and we would like to emphasize some key points to prevent future accidents:

- 1. Maintain Safe Distances:** We urge all farmers and equipment operators to maintain safe distances from power lines. Respect the minimum clearance requirements, as outlined in safety guidelines.
- 2. Contact Us:** If your harvest operations require you to work in proximity to power lines, please reach out to Battle River Power Coop. Our team can provide guidance and, when necessary, take steps to ensure your safety by de-energizing or insulating the lines.
- 3. Educate and Train:** Training and education are vital. Ensure that all members of your farm team are well-informed about power line safety. Knowledge is the first step toward preventing accidents.

4. Emergency Procedures: Have clear and well-communicated emergency procedures in place for accidental contact with power lines. Every member of your team should know how to respond promptly and safely in such situations.

5. Reporting Incidents: If any incidents involving power poles or lines occur, please report them immediately to Battle River Power Coop. Timely reporting helps us take appropriate actions to prevent future occurrences.

We are committed to working closely with our members to enhance safety practices and minimize the risks associated with our power infrastructure. By working together and prioritizing safety, we can ensure that every harvest season is not only productive but also accident-free.

Let's remember that safety is a collective responsibility, and we are here to support you every step of the way. Your safety is our utmost concern, and we look forward to a safe and more successful harvest season next year.



REGULATED RATE OPTION



The RRO may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a 'regulated' rate, rather it is a default rate. If you do not have an energy contract, then you are on the RRO.

For September 2023, the RRO is priced at \$0.23884 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed blue bill. For October 2023, the REA monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.14685. Detailed information on the monthly RRO is available on: www.brpower.coop.

Members are free to purchase natural gas services or electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta). *Code of Conduct Regulation: Advertising Section 7(1).*

BATTLE RIVER POWER COOP IS AVAILABLE FOR POWER TROUBLE CALLS 24/7/365 CALL TOLL-FREE: 1.877.428.3972

