

JUNE 2023

Coweta-Fayette **EMC**

# POWERLINES

## CFEMC apprentice linemen compete in the 2023 Georgia Lineman's Rodeo

A NEWSLETTER FROM COWETA-FAYETTE EMC



Pictured above: CFEMC's Noah Watson competing in the 2023 Georgia Lineman's Rodeo. Pictured right: Lineworker apprentices and journeymen from across the state participate in the opening ceremony for the 2023 Georgia Lineman's Rodeo.

Five apprentice linemen from Coweta-Fayette EMC (CFEMC) competed in the 2023 Georgia Lineman's Rodeo on Saturday, May 6 at Camp John Hope in Fort Valley, Georgia.

Hosted by the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo Association, the event draws lineworker apprentices and journeymen from across the state and the Southeast to compete in a series of events testing their skills and knowledge on the field.

CFEMC's Fred Baskin, Collin Burger, Conner Godwin, Logan Martinez, and Noah Watson competed in the apprentice division competition, which was comprised of a hurt man rescue, an overhead service connect, and two mystery events. During the competition, their goal was to finish the events as quickly as possible with the least amount of point deductions.

**"This competition allowed our apprentices the opportunity to improve their skills while reinforcing safe work practices," said CFEMC Safety Coordinator Greg Perry. "The preparation requires a great deal of practice and dedication, and ultimately builds stronger linemen," said Perry.**

During the weeks leading up to the competition, the apprentices worked with CFEMC Journeyman Zack Kent, who served as their lineman's rodeo coach, and CFEMC Safety Coordinator Greg Perry to prepare to demonstrate the skills needed to perform as a lineman.

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The event is held each year to recognize lineworkers and maintain a focus on safety, training, and safe work practices in the electric utility industry.

**"We're proud to acknowledge the hard work and determination of our apprentices," said CEO Chris Stephens. "They represented CFEMC well in the competition, and they had tremendous support from fellow employees, family, and friends."**



There were 126 apprentice linemen throughout Georgia that participated in the event.

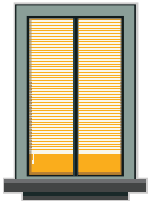
For more information and official results from the 2023 Georgia Lineman's Rodeo, visit [garodeo.com](http://garodeo.com).



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# Summer Energy Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!

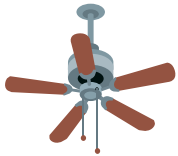


## NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.

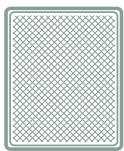


Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



## LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.

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## The President's Message



**Chris Stephens, CEO**

Providing reliable power to you is and will always be a top priority for Coweta-Fayette EMC. These days, power reliability seems to be making news now more than ever.

As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery and even lawn equipment, additional pressures are being placed on our nation's electric grid.

With summer storm season upon us, I thought it would be a good time to tell you about measures we are taking to ensure you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

Let me be the first to say I love trees and the charm they add to our communities, and I am sure you do too. While trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages.

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose the risk of coming into contact with power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive vegetation management program diminishes the chances of contact and also reduces the chance of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a proactive vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't typically fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to promote reliability.

CFEMC has a proactive vegetation management program, and we strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. A ROW area is the land an EMC uses to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables CFEMC to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the flow of electricity to your home or business. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide safe and reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area.

Vegetation management is an essential tool for ensuring power reliability and minimizing the risk of outages. As they become available, we will continue to explore more innovative ways by using additional technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment.

As you know, CFEMC is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we work diligently to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.