



LINeworker APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 9, 2018

When the lights go out, it's their time to shine.

Message from the President

Committed to our local communities

From Falmouth to Berea and all the places in between, Blue Grass Energy is making life better, the cooperative way in the communities along our power lines. Founded because rural neighbors had a collective need for access to electricity,

the cooperative business you own continues a legacy of neighbors helping neighbors through economic development and social initiatives.

We are committed to developing our communities by helping to bring new jobs to our areas. Every day, your cooperative employees and leaders are leading the charge for economic development in the 23 counties we serve to ensure the future prosperity of our local economy.

Blue Grass Energy is involved in a variety of initiatives that spur economic growth and opportunity for people in this region. We partner with other cooperatives, as well as state and local agencies, to promote Kentucky products, services and available real estate to companies interested in relocating or expanding in our local communities.

We also offer energy programs and energy audits to help local businesses



Michael I. Williams
President & CEO

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The effects of the emerald ash borer

The emerald ash borer (EAB) has been wreaking havoc on ash trees in North America for 16 years. First noticed in southeast Michigan in 2002, the beetle has slowly migrated its way into 30 states. In 2009, the beetle began its entry into Kentucky and subsequently Blue Grass Energy's service territory. Frankfort and Lawrenceburg were the first in our area to see the ash trees start to die off. We now find ash trees infested with the EAB across our entire service area. In the last few years, we have been feeling its effects more and more.



Above, the S-shaped galleries left by the emerald ash borer larvae under the bark of ash trees. Below, clockwise from top right: The D-shaped exit holes left by the EAB. To prevent a potential outage, Wright Tree Service clears a stand of dead ash trees. Dead ash trees near electric pole and line near Scott's Ferry Road. Photos: Aaron Duncan

The EAB is so aggressive that ash trees can die within one to three years after the first appearance of symptoms. Sadly, we now have thousands of dead ash trees within our service area.

Adult beetles emerge from May to July, and will feed on ash leaves. The female beetles will lay eggs along the bark surface. When the eggs hatch within 7-10 days, the larvae will bore its way beneath the bark to feed on the outer part of the sapwood. The larvae will leave S-shaped galleries which cut off the flow of nutrients to the tree. This is when the tree will begin to show signs of



will be felt for years to come

decline. The larvae remain in the tree through winter and emerge in the late spring as a small, green beetle, exiting the bark through small, D-shaped holes.

Once the tree has shown signs of being infected, it can die off very quickly. It then becomes brittle, resulting in a very serious hazard for property owners and utilities. Most storms with moderate wind can result in ash trees breaking along the trunk and falling, causing power outages. Even ash trees outside of the rights-of-way are a serious threat. We are now experiencing the effects of dying ash trees, and they are causing a significant increase in our total outage time.

To address this growing issue, we have a designated tree service crew that identifies hazardous trees that could potentially strike the line and interrupt electric service. This crew also provides the service of trimming and/or cutting the trees as necessary. Our vegetation management personnel are evaluating the dead ash trees and debris ahead of the designated crew as well. We are also responding to member reports of hazardous trees and including those in our work plan.

For more information on the EAB, visit Kentucky's Office of the State Entomologist at www.uky.edu/Ag/NurseryInspection.

Aaron Duncan
Right-of-Way Manager



Left, Wright Tree Service crew clears ash trees close to a three-phase primary line. Right, a fallen, dead ash tree in Woodford County. Photos: Aaron Duncan

The entire state of Kentucky is under a federal quarantine to restrict the movement of ash products including nursery stock, logs, lumber, wood chips and firewood. Movement of quarantined material is regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

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as a service to our members.

Rachel Settles, Editor



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.

President's message (continued)

operate at their most efficient. Learn more about how we are working to bring new jobs and investments to our local communities at www.dataispower.org.

In addition to economic development, your cooperative plays a role in supporting a variety of projects, events and programs aimed at improving the lives of others.

Each year, we adopt a charity that also helps in making life better for our members. Last year, we partnered with Make-A-Wish and our employees raised \$18,490 to help make wishes come true. This year, we are supporting the American Cancer Society.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our members. Thank you for all you do for the community through your co-op membership.

Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with the American Cancer Society.



Helping to reduce your risk for cancer and getting regular cancer screening tests to find cancer early can give you the best chances for staying well and living a long life.

\$4.6
BILLION

Amount invested in cancer research since 1946.

6.3
MILLION

Number of free rides to treatment provided for cancer patients.

2.1
MILLION

Number of cancer deaths averted since 1991.

781
THOUSAND

Number of screenings contributed to underserved communities since 2011.

Visit cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345 to learn more
about reducing your risk of cancer.