

SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to Oklahoma Living



LINEMAN APPRECIATION

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

On April 10, 2023, Southwest Rural Electric will honor the hard-working men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

“Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve,” said CEO Jeff Simpson. “They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. Our linemen, as well as linemen across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition.”

SWRE invites members to take a moment to thank a lineworker for the work they do. Use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the men and women who light our lives.

SWRE LINEMEN

- James Auldridge** - District Lineman
- David Ball** - District Lineman
- Kelby Boyd** - Journeyman Lineman
- Justin Faulkner** - Apprentice Lineman
- Calvin Flood** - Warehouse Coordinator
- Austin Huff** - Construction Foreman
- Justin Marsh** - District Lineman
- Jim McPherson** - Project Manager
- Justin Nash** - Journeyman Lineman
- Jeremiah Overman** - Journeyman Lineman
- Rick Risinger** - Staking Technician/Lineman
- Chris Schreiner** - Apprentice Lineman
- Cory Schur** - Apprentice Lineman
- Gerald Simpson** - District Lineman
- James Stephens** - Journeyman Lineman
- Tyler Weathers** - Apprentice Lineman
- Mike Wolfe** - Operations Manager

SUSTAINING A RELIABLE ELECTRIC SYSTEM



Jeff Simpson, CEO

// We've all heard the phrase, 'Don't put all your eggs in one basket.' This popular adage is often used in conversation or a story when someone is about to do something foolish or risky. If they heed this advice, it means they did not commit to 'one basket,' but instead hedged their bets with multiple options.

This strategy is how I describe SWRE's power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative's (WFEC), common sense approach to the current energy transition. We know that consumer interest in renewable energy continues to grow. We've seen this trend in Oklahoma and Texas.

Recent innovations and advances in renewable energy technologies have led to sharp decreases in costs, making renewables more feasible, accessible and scalable. Over the last few years, WFEC has adjusted our fuel mix by utilizing more renewables, and today, 31% of our fuel mix is comprised of renewable energy, the majority of which is wind.*

Nationally, there is increasing reliance on renewable energy sources at the same time that we're seeing fossil fuel plants taken off-line, often ahead of schedule. Additionally, we're seeing more pressure on the electric grid due to the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events and rising electricity demand.

COMPETING PRESSURES

So how do we reconcile these challenges of grid pressure and a changing fuel mix? Solar and wind energy are certainly beneficial for the environment, but they are limited resources because the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. Our primary responsibility is to provide electricity 24/7 to you and our community. To do this, we need reliable sources of power that will meet all the peaks and valleys of on-demand energy in our connected world.

So where are we netting out? That's where our familiar adage comes into play. While utilization of renewables is increasing, we still need to incorporate other forms of energy in the mix to ensure reliable

service. Remember, solar and wind are intermittent power sources. This fact coupled with the growing demand for renewables creates its own challenges.

That's why we spread our eggs into multiple baskets. There is great value in maintaining a diverse mix of fuel sources—fossil fuels and renewables to ensure reliability, resiliency and meet the growing demand for electricity.

Reliability also means repairing and replacing utility equipment to prevent wear-and-tear, ensuring our equipment can withstand severe weather. We are laser-focused on providing SWRE members with reliable, affordable energy. That's why fuel diversity—or placing our eggs in multiple baskets—is essential to reliability.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Lowering the overall carbon footprint in this country means we're going to electrify more and more of our economy. Solar and wind power are an important part of a broader energy portfolio, but they are not available 24/7. In today's ever-connected world, people need power around the clock.

As our nation increasingly depends on electricity to power the economy, WFEC is working to anticipate, plan and respond to market trends and policy shifts. That's how SWRE can power your home and our economy, while continuing to serve as your local energy provider. //

**Data from WFEC's 2021 Annual Report published in April 2022*

TEC ANNOUNCES ALLIANCE WITH SOUTHWEST RURAL ELECTRIC

AUSTIN, Texas - Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC) leadership has announced a new sole source alliance with Southwest Rural Electric Association (SWRE). Headquartered in Tipton, Oklahoma, SWRE services over 6,000 square miles across southwest Oklahoma and north central Texas.

Founded in 1937, SWRE's service area includes 3,103 miles of power line and 7,610 active members. Owned by the people it serves, SWRE is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. "At SWRE we put our members' satisfaction first. The alliance with TEC helps us streamline the supply chain allowing SWRE to continue offering the same dependable service we have for the past 86 years," said Jeff Simpson, chief executive officer of Southwest Rural Electric Association.

"We are excited about working more closely with Southwest Rural Electric Association," said Johnny Andrews, chief operating officer of TEC Manufacturing & Distribution Services. "Their track record for quality, reliable service and delivering electric power to users across Texas and Oklahoma is well known. We are proud to support them in their mission to keep the lights on for their members."

Establishing alliances with co-ops around the state is a major priority for TEC. "Offering total supply chain services gives TEC the ability to help cooperatives plan and manage their inventory as well as the uncertainty associated with long lead times and inventory challenges in today's world," said Johnny Andrews. "That's why TEC works so hard to expand our network of alliances."

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as six degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: *Energy.gov*



Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April is National Safe Digging Month.

Trading Post

FREE classified non-commercial ad submissions are available for SWRE members only. Submissions must include the account holder's name and account number to be eligible. Ads are also posted on SWRE.com/Trading-Post.

Send your ad to the marketing department by mail, e-mail or phone!

MAIL: P.O. Box 310, Tipton, OK 73570

E-MAIL: marketing@swre.com

PHONE: 1-800-256-7973



**WE'RE
PROUD TO
POWER YOU.**



HONEY BALSAMIC BRUSSELS SPROUTS

INGREDIENTS:

2 ½ lb. Brussels sprouts	2 cloves garlic, minced
1/3 cup olive oil	1 tsp. red pepper chili flakes
1 ½ tsp. kosher salt, divided	3 Tbsp. butter, unsalted
1/3 cup honey	
1/3 cup balsamic vinegar	<i>garnish: green onions and lemon zest</i>
1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard	

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F and set a baking sheet to the side.
2. Trim the ends of the Brussels sprouts and then cut in half. Remove any flimsy leaves if necessary.
3. Toss Brussels sprouts in a large bowl with olive oil, 1 tsp. salt and black pepper until lightly and evenly coated.
4. Arrange Brussels sprouts, cut side down, on a baking sheet (use 2 baking sheets if needed if Brussels seem crowded). Roast in oven for ~20 minutes. They should be tender and deeply golden. Be sure not to flip Brussels while roasting.
5. Meanwhile make the honey balsamic sauce. Heat honey in a saucepan over medium-high heat until it begins to bubble, about 1-2 minutes.
6. Remove from heat and add in balsamic, Dijon, garlic, chili flakes, and the remaining ½ tsp. salt.
7. Return to medium-low heat, add the butter and cook until sauce thickens, about 5 additional minutes.
8. Spoon glaze over roasted Brussels and toss to coat or serve sauce on the side. Garnish Brussels with lemon zest and green onions, if desired. Enjoy!

Source: You can find this recipe by Tawnie at <https://krollskorner.com/recipes/sides/honey-balsamic-brussels-sprouts/>.

Southwest Rural Electric

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