

Look Up and Look Out

Be Aware of
Overhead
Power Lines

This **SPRING A BIG THREAT** to the safety of farmers – and one of the most avoidable – is making contact with overhead lines. Farmers and contractors are encouraged to always look up and look out for power lines. Contacting a power line is life threatening.

“Last fall there were more than a handful of incidents involving overhead lines and farmers,” said Jim Baisden, Manager of Consumers Energy’s Agricultural Services. “We want to do our best to prevent these type of incidents from occurring. The first step should be making sure you are at least 10 feet away from overhead lines while doing work on a farm.”

In the event equipment does contact overhead electric lines, Consumers Energy offers these **five important safety tips**:

1. Remain in the vehicle until help arrives.
2. Call 9-1-1 or Consumers Energy immediately at 800-477-5050.
3. Warn others to not come near the equipment.
4. If fire or other imminent danger forces you off the equipment: Jump clear without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time to avoid an electric shock. Land with your feet together and shuffle away, keeping both feet together and on the ground.
5. Never attempt to move any electric lines by yourself – wait for qualified utility personnel to help.

Additional safety resources to help keep agricultural workers and contractors safe can be found by accessing ConsumersEnergy.com/worksafe. This link contains free materials such as DVDs and workbooks that can be downloaded or requested to assist with sharing important electric and natural gas safety information with workers.

Are You on the Right Rate Plan?

TAKE TIME to make sure you are on the right energy plan that fits your personal and business needs.

ELECTRIC: If you are a small or medium business, you’re likely taking service between 120 to 600 volts, and if you are a big business you are taking service at 2,400 volts or greater. Time of use rates may also be a better choice for you.

NATURAL GAS:

- **GS-1** is best for annual use up to 1,000 Mcf
- **GS-2** is best for annual use from 1,000 Mcf to 10,000 Mcf
- **G2-3** is best for annual use greater than 10,000 Mcf

TIPS: Confirm you are on the correct residential or business rate by comparing the rate code on your bill with its rate description.

Learn more about electric and natural gas rates at ConsumersEnergy.com/ratesbiz.

If you’re still not sure if you are on the best rate, contact our Business Center at **800-805-0490**



Consumers Energy Announces Clean Energy Goal

CONSUMERS ENERGY recently announced it plans to meet Michigan's energy needs reducing carbon emissions by 80 percent and no longer using coal to generate electricity by 2040.

In addition, 40 percent of the energy we produce will come from renewable sources and energy storage by 2040.

"Our actions speak louder than words and we have a track record of doing more than is required," said Patti Poppe, President and CEO of Consumers Energy and CMS Energy.

"Our actions to date have reduced our carbon intensity by 38 percent, reduced our water usage by 35 percent and avoided over one million cubic yards of landfill disposal. We are still not satisfied. The goals announced today represent our further commitment to leave Michigan far better than we found it, because we live here, too."

The company also announced new 5-year environmental goals for Michigan water, waste and land, including:

- **WATER:** save 1 billion gallons of water;
- **WASTE:** reduce waste to landfills by 35 percent; and
- **LAND:** enhance, restore or protect 5,000 acres of land in Michigan

Consumers Energy is embracing a cleaner, leaner vision focused primarily on reducing energy use and adding additional renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar. The strategic roadmap for reaching its clean energy goal by 2040 will be published later this year when the company files its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Said Poppe: "We're proud and uniquely qualified to provide the strong leadership needed to protect our planet and our home state for decades to come."



At Your Service

Consumers Energy has launched an Agricultural website that addresses the energy needs of farmers around the state.

Visit ConsumersEnergy.com/farm

Consumers Energy | EMERGENCY | CONTACT US | ABOUT US | CONTACT US | PEOPLE | [Account Mgmt](#) | [Business Center](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Energy Efficiency](#) | [Products & Services](#) | [Smart Energy](#)

Agriculture Resources

We Know Our Way Around a Farm

We're Ready to Go to Work with You

Our Agricultural Services group is made up of energy experts who know their way around a farm. Now with the go to know your, working together, we can pinpoint your energy needs. We can do anything from identifying and resolving stray voltage problems to advocating for new services and expansions and providing a viewpoint on your equipment needs. We can even help lower the cost of installing a new irrigation system and lower the energy costs for grain elevators. Let's get to work together.

Energy Efficiency AG Program Sets Record

MICHIGAN FARMERS used energy efficiency incentives to save about \$1.7 million on energy costs in 2017. That's a record for Consumers Energy since it started its Energy Efficiency program in 2009.

"Our goal every year is to give back to farmers – both residential and commercial – as much as we can," said Hollie Whitmire, Agricultural Specialist for Energy Efficiency.

There are 43 agricultural-related incentives available through the Energy Efficiency program. There are more than 400 available for the whole program.

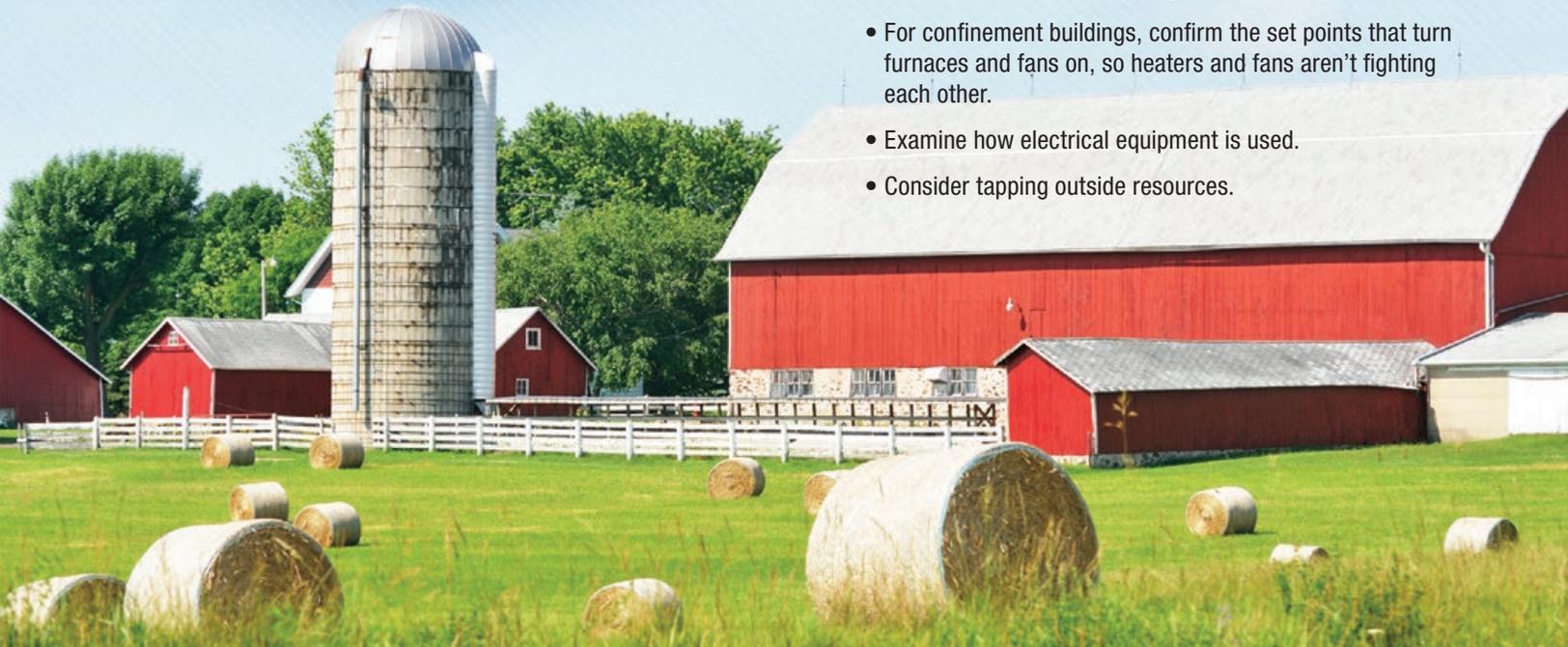
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- **VISIT:**
ConsumersEnergy.com/startsaving and click on "Special Programs" to learn more about our agricultural incentives.
- **CALL:**
877-607-0737
- **EMAIL:**
ConsumersEnergyBusinessSolutions@cmsenergy.com

Farm ENERGY SAVING TIPS

A FARM IS LIKE ANY OTHER BUSINESS – there are numerous ways to save money on energy costs. Here is a checklist of 12 ways by Cornandsoybeandigest.com:

- Review your tax reports on energy use and a year's worth of energy bills. Create a free online account at ConsumersEnergy.com and view past energy use.
- Replace air and fuel filters on tractors and pickups.
- Check belt tensions and keep fan housings and blades clean. Consumers Energy offers rebates and incentives on replacing variable speed drives on fans and pumps.
- Monitor tire inflation, tractor ballasting and wheel slippage.
- The big savings come from tillage decisions.
- Scrutinize pump electrical motors.
- Look for saving in any process where liquid or airflows are currently controlled with a valve or damper.
- Insulate pipes.
- Upgrade lighting systems. Consumers Energy offers rebates and incentives on LED lighting.
- For confinement buildings, confirm the set points that turn furnaces and fans on, so heaters and fans aren't fighting each other.
- Examine how electrical equipment is used.
- Consider tapping outside resources.





Count on Us®

Agricultural Services Department, P14-504
Consumers Energy
1945 W. Parnall Road
Jackson, MI 49201

Some of Our Services Include:



New farm service requests or upgrades



Free stray voltage electrical inspections



New natural gas service requests



Advising clients on equipment needs

For more information about agricultural services visit ConsumersEnergy.com/farm or call **800-252-8658**