

Questions & Answers

1. What year was Swisher Electric Cooperative formed? 1939 How many serve on Swisher Electric's board of directors? 7 Name at least two of them. Directors are Jeff Harrell, Dwain Strange, Mace Middleton, Jimmy Burson, Brad Sharp, Zeke Frost, Rank Cogdell. General Manager is Dwain Tipton.

2. How many counties does Swisher Electric serve? Name them please.

Swisher Electric serves all or part of 6 counties, including Armstrong, Briscoe, Castro, Hale, Swisher, and Randall

3. How many meters does Swisher Electric Cooperative serve? How many miles of line does it operate?

Swisher Electric serves approximately 7,989 meters with 1,468 members. Miles of line energized is 3,714 miles including 145 miles of transmission line with 17 substation facilities.

4. Is Swisher Electric Cooperative owned by the government?

No. It is owned by its members.

5. What is a cooperative?

It is a business enterprise which is jointly owned and equally controlled by those who use it. It is a form of business more interested in service to people than making dollars, though it must, of course, take in enough money to pay its way.

6. What is the major goal of Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc. and other rural electric cooperatives?

To provide dependable electric service at the lowest possible price consistent with sound business practices.

7. These are Seven Cooperative Principles. Be able to explain one of them and tell why you think it is important.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership – Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
2. Democratic Member Control – Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.
3. Member's Economic Participation – Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.
4. Autonomy and Independence – Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Information and Training - Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives – Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.
7. Concern for Community – While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

8. Who inspired the creation of Youth Tour?

In 1957, when Texas U.S. Senator Lyndon B. Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he challenged people to send their youth to the capital to, “actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

9. Who is Willie Wiredhand?



Willie Wiredhand (©NRECA) is the longtime friendly face and spokesplug of rural electric cooperatives nationwide. Adopted and copyrighted in 1951 by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Willie’s last name is one of the original nicknames for rural electric cooperatives: “wiredhand” (because electricity brought to rural America by co-ops in the 1930s and 40s was the never-tiring, always available hired hand to help the nation’s farmers.) Willie — with his light-socket head, wire body and electrical plug for his bottom and legs — is now considered an icon among many of corporate advertising characters. Willie’s ‘birthday’ is October 30, 1951

10. What is Government-in-Action Youth Tour?

It is an all-expense-paid trip for qualifying high school students from rural areas served by electric cooperatives. Local electric cooperatives sponsor area students, and Texas Electric Cooperatives and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association organize the Youth Tour.