

Jefferson Energy Linemen Compete in Statewide Competition

(Wrens, May 7, 2008) – Two teams of local Jefferson Energy linemen and four apprentices competed in the 14th Annual Georgia Linemen’s Rodeo on Saturday May 3rd at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry.

During the day-long competition, the linemen showcased many of the skills they rely on to restore electricity, often under grueling conditions such as stifling heat, cold, and torrential rain.

“Our guys are among the best in the business and they’re dedicated to their profession,” said Kenneth Cook, President and CEO of Jefferson Energy Cooperative. “We’re very proud of our rodeo team and all they’ve accomplished,” he adds.

In a profession where mistakes can lead to serious injury or even death, skill, safety, and speed are crucial. During the event, the linemen competed in the following categories: 12 KV Post Insulator Change, Three-Phase Insulator Change, Four KV Cut-out Installation and Jumper Removal, and a simulated rescue of an injured line worker from atop a 40-foot pole, all while racing against the clock.

Jefferson Energy’s Senior team (those aged 45 and older) took home third place in their division. The Journeyman team (the highest qualified line worker division) made a good showing as well with a 38th place overall. Mr. Cook says, “Although we didn’t take the top prize, our guys did their best and are to be commended for their efforts.” The four apprentices (those in their first four years of linemen training) not only competed in climbing events, but had written exams as well.

The Georgia Lineman’s Rodeo Association is a partnership of Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, the Electric Cities of Georgia, and others. Its purpose is to conduct an annual Georgia Lineman’s Rodeo and focus on electric safety, training and safe work practices.