

September 2019

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## SREC Member Appreciation Celebration



In honor of Co-op Month and to say thank you to you, our members, please join us from 4 pm – 7 pm at one of our dinners. Members can enjoy a hamburger, brat, baked beans, cheesy potatoes, salad, fresh cheese curds, a dessert and a drink at our offices and learn more about your cooperative.

**Tuesday  
October 8**  
Lancaster Office

**Wednesday  
October 9**  
Gays Mills Office

**Thursday  
October 10**  
Darlington Office

- Focus on Energy will be available to share new lighting products and savings information
- SREC staff will be on hand to answer questions about SmartHub and other programs
- Linemen will be offering bucket rides
- Door prizes and giveaways
- 2020 calendars will be handed out to attendees



October is National  
Co-op Month.



Co-op lines are shaped by you,  
the members we serve right  
here in our local community.

## ***National Farm Safety Week*** ***September 15-21, 2019***

Each year since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety & Health Week. This recognition has been an annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council and has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the first document. The week continues to recognize the importance of protecting agriculture's most precious resource – its people

The 2019 theme “Shift Farm Safety into High Gear” is one that resonates and reminds us that it is everyone's responsibility to prioritize safety on the farm and the rural roadways of America. The 2017 data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 581 fatalities, which equals 23.0 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Scenic Rivers wants to remind everyone to take a moment to slow down and stay safe. We want our members and the communities we live in to be safe. Please practice good judgment when working around farm equipment or livestock, and when traveling our roadways near farm equipment.

Additionally, members may want to consider looking at their garage, shops or other work areas. Accidents can occur while repairs and maintenance tasks are being completed. Consider the following suggestions which could help to keep you safe.

- Organize your workshop so that everything has a designated place. Making sure items are secure and will not fall on anyone.
- Clean walkways to reduce trips and falls.
- Ensure any equipment you are working on is turned off, disconnected from the power source and that any moving parts have come to a complete stop. Engage any safety locks.
- Keep all guards and shields in place on power equipment.

- Use hand tools for their intended purposes.
- Equip your shop with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters to help prevent electrical shock.
- Make sure your shop is well lit. If it is heated, be sure it is properly vented and that any flammable liquids are stored properly.
- Wear proper clothing to protect yourself when you are performing repairs.

As a cooperative, which is owned by our members, we care about the safety and well being of each member. We all live in our wonderful rural communities and we mutually benefit when everyone succeeds and is safe. We encourage our members to stay safe and to watch out for our farmers as we start the fall harvest season.



**HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS**

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

*Source: Safe Electricity*

## Fun at UW River Falls for Youth Leadership Congress



SREC sponsored the following area students: Iris Boehm, Allison Ihm, Alex Downing, Destany Downing, Meg Katzung, Allie Cooley and Maddie Cooley who attended this 3 day leadership conference at UW River Falls. Students worked with other teens from across the state on team building challenges and much more. They were treated to an etiquette dinner, games, a job fair and a hypnotist. Along the way they learned more about electric cooperatives and how electricity makes it to their homes each day. SREC will be sponsoring students for the July 2020 conference. Be on the look out for more information, or call the office for more information.



**Congratulations to Maddie Cooley, 2019-2020 Youth Leadership Board member**



# PREPARED, NOT SCARED



National Preparedness Month 2019



Learn how to shut off utilities. Contact your local company if unsure.

#NatIPrep



Mi-Tech Services Inc will be finishing up testing poles in North Lancaster Township in Grant County and working on pole testing in Benton, New Diggings, Shullsburg, White Oak Springs, Monticello, and Seymour Townships in Lafayette County the month of September.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cookware Tip: Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be trimming and mowing on the Gays Mills south circuit the month of September along State Road 171, Hobbs Hollow Road and Kettle Hollow Road in Crawford County.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at [jgardner@srec.net](mailto:jgardner@srec.net) or call 800-236-2141 ext. 566.

## WATT'S HAPPENING

*Watt's Happening* is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

[www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)

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