



MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD

By Tim Holtan, CEO

Almost 60 years ago, NRECA established our political action committee (PAC) to support political candidates who recognize the vital role of electric cooperatives in their local communities. And for nearly six decades, our PAC has done just that. Today, nearly 35,000 donors contribute to our PAC, and it continues to support political candidates who support issues important to electric co-ops.

America's Electric Cooperatives PAC is non-partisan, advocating for policies and legislation supporting our electric co-ops. By contributing to the PAC, you can help make a difference in shaping the future of America's electric co-ops and the communities we serve.

Your PAC contribution builds on our collective strength, which is grounded in the relationships among local electric

co-ops, the communities they serve, and the candidates seeking to represent them. Join the thousands of co-op leaders who value political engagement and the role it plays in our collective success. For as little as \$2.08 per month, you can be sure your voice is heard in Washington, D.C. For more information on how to join, simply visit www.cooperative.com/pacdonation or contact Riverland Energy Cooperative at 800-411-9115.

Through these efforts, candidates and elected officials trust us at a time when trust is a scarce commodity in Washington. They know electric co-ops are invested and engaged in the communities they serve. Through our continued collective advocacy, our reputation in Washington will be enhanced for years to come.

National Voter Registration Day is September 17!

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY!



OCTOBER 1, 2024 | 4 p.m.–7 p.m.
ONALASKA OMNI CENTER



- Free meal to include hotdogs or brats
- Entertainment:
 - Balloons by Kevin
 - Face Painting
 - MadLee Band
- Free Registration Gift
- Chance to Win Electric Bill Credits
- Kids Activities and Prizes
- Bucket Trucks and Other Equipment
- Co-op Information

High School Juniors



Co-op Youth Ambassador Leadership Program

Riverland Energy Cooperative encourages high school juniors interested in learning about cooperatives, enhancing leadership skills, gaining personal growth, and working with others to apply to become a Cooperative Youth Ambassador!

This program focuses on the cooperative business model, electrical safety, career options, renewable and sustainable energy, teamwork and leadership!



- Perks of this program:**
- Attend leadership conference
 - Meet new people
 - Teamwork with other students
 - Earn a trip to Washington D.C.
 - Lunch provided at all meetings
 - Get paid per diem and mileage for attending

To Apply: Must be a junior in high school the 2024-2025 school year.

Apply online at:
www.riverlandenergy.com or ask your guidance counselor.

Questions:
Email jlien@riverlandenergy.com

Deadline to apply:
October 1, 2024



HARVEST SAFETY:

FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK IS SEPTEMBER 15–21

As the busy harvest season is picking up, Riverland Energy wants to remind farmers and members of the importance of staying safe when operating farm equipment around power lines. While you may be around familiar areas on or off the farm, we can overlook where the power lines overhead may be located. Failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

Awareness of your surroundings—around, above, and below—and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it’s imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment’s location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground powerlines, defective wiring in farm buildings, and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used. If you plan to install new grain bins or you’re concerned about the proximity of power lines to existing grain bins, contact Riverland Energy Cooperative at 800-411-9115.

To ensure a safer harvest season, SafeElectricity.org recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- **Exercise caution near power lines.** Be careful when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- **Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines.** Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- **Lower equipment extensions, portable augers, or elevators before moving or transporting equipment.** Do not raise equipment such as

ladders, poles, or rods into power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes, and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty, or dirty.

- **Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path.** Doing so could result in electric shock or death.
- **Avoid using metal poles inside bins.** Don’t use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside or around bins.
- **Hire qualified electricians.** Ensure that qualified electricians handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. However, if it happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

1. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: POWERING OUR COMMUNITIES

If you have been to our Holmen office recently, you would have seen the area landscape changing significantly!

On August 2, Xetex celebrated its 40th anniversary by holding a groundbreaking ceremony for employees and members

of the community. Xetex is a company that designs and manufactures energy recovery ventilation and air-handling systems for industrial and commercial buildings.

Xetex has been serving commercial and industrial markets since 1984. They plan to build a new manufacturing facility to meet customer demands as well as create additional jobs in the community. This facility will be located right across the street from our Holmen office.

“Xetex will be a great addition to our community, and we welcome them as a new Riverland Energy member,” said Tim Holtan, CEO of Riverland Energy Cooperative.

Xetex plans to open its new facility in July 2025.



ENTER OUR PHOTO CONTEST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$25 BILL CREDIT

Congratulations to Tatia Hurlburt for getting the most votes for our July photo contest. Submit your best photo and encourage your friends to vote! The photo receiving the most votes will win a \$25 electric bill credit and will be printed in our magazine, along with a few other favorites. By entering, you will also be entered into a drawing for a \$250 electric bill credit taking place in September.

The September theme is **Best of Fall**. Photos can be submitted through September 25. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit and vote.




Tim Holtan, CEO

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • www.riverlandenergy.com



Riverland Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Arcadia Office

N28988 State Road 93,
P.O. Box 277,
Arcadia, WI 54612

Holmen Office

1800 Granary St.
Holmen, WI 54636

Outages & Emergencies

Call 1-800-927-6206
24 hours a day

Office Hours

Arcadia: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Holmen: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

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