

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

November 2025



PIERCE PEPIN

COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A Tuckman Energy Cooperative

CAMP NAWAKWA REVIVING A CAMP, RENEWING A MISSION

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE POWER

PREP NOW FOR WINTER SAVINGS

KIDS AND CRITTERS





THANKFUL FOR OUR FARMERS

Nate Boettcher, President and CEO

As I've been driving around our service area these past few weeks, it's clear that fall harvest is in full swing. This season has been a good one for crops - ample rainfall, warm but not extreme temperatures, and few damaging storms. Watching the combines roll and seeing fields full of corn and soy beans, I'm reminded of the incredible mix of technology, expertise, and sheer effort it takes to put food on our tables. The men and women who prepare the soil, care for their animals, and keep our food system running often don't receive the recognition they deserve. This November, I want to take a moment to simply say thank you.

At the same time, I am aware that agriculture often sparks numerous discussions and diverse viewpoints. Concerns about water quality, land use, and the scale of modern farming are real and deserve to be heard. However, it's also important to acknowledge that agriculture remains the backbone of our local economy. Farms support jobs, sustain businesses, and make productive use of our land. When farmers explore new opportunities, whether it's renewable energy through solar arrays or innovative manure management with biogas facilities, they often face criticism from multiple directions. These conversations can become challenging,

and at times, it can feel like our farmers are stuck in a no-win situation.

I recently attended a conference where colleagues from South Dakota shared how their dairy farms are growing in scale. They explained that expansion isn't just a choice, but a matter of economic survival — farms can't operate the way they did in the

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1960s and 1970s. Interestingly, many of these expansions include on-site digesters and biogas systems that not only handle waste but also generate renewable energy. I've observed the same trend in Iowa, and right here in Pierce County, one of the first local biogas facilities is set to open soon. It's an encouraging example of how agriculture can adapt, create jobs, and contribute to new sources of energy.

Questions of growth and change

aren't limited to agriculture. Just recently, a data center was proposed in Dunn County. Data centers, like farms, are part of the future economy and critical to our national infrastructure. Yet, as with farms, the project sparked strong reactions. Understandably, people worry about impacts, but dismissing those who choose to participate as only caring about money or themselves overlooks the potential benefits for the broader community. Our own data center has shown how these facilities can complement the grid, support reliability, and prepare us for the future.

I don't claim to have all the answers. But I do believe our communities will be stronger if we can focus less on saying "no" and more on asking, "What would it take to get to yes?" Agriculture, energy, and technology are all intertwined in shaping our future, and progress will only come if we work together to find solutions.

This Thanksgiving, I am deeply grateful for our farmers, for the veterans who have served, and for all of you, our members, who make this community what it is. Let's continue to support one another, seek common ground, and ensure the opportunities ahead strengthen both our farms and our future. *(Parts of this were edited using AI tools backed by a data center)*



Happy Thanksgiving

Office Closed: Nov. 27 & 28

We wish you a safe and joyous holiday with family and friends!

Report Electrical Outages: SmartHub or 800-927-5705
Report Internet Outages: 715-350-7033



Cyber Monday made simple.

No lines, no lags, just lightning-fast shopping.

SWIFTCURRENT CONNECT

More info: <https://swiftcurrent.coop>

WATT A DAY! EV RIDE & DRIVE RECAP

We kicked off National Co-op Month with an EV Ride & Drive, plus Cookout event on September 30. Almost 100 members and guests attended. They enjoyed test drives in many different makes and models of EVs, as well as a picnic supper served by PPCS staff. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this such a fun event!



YOU Get the Credit



PPCS refunds over \$200,000 to members

The PPCS board of directors has authorized the distribution of approximately \$200,000 in capital credit refunds of each member's allocations from 2003 - 2024. The capital credits from 2003 will be retired in full, with the remaining retirement to be distributed to members over all remaining years. The refund amount is based on each member's share of electrical costs and purchases during those years. Members receiving a refund of \$100 or less will receive it as a credit on their energy bills issued in late November and early December. Everyone else will receive a refund by check.

One of the many benefits of belonging to an electric cooperative is that you are an owner. Unlike investor-owned utilities whose profits belong to the shareholders, in a co-op, any excess revenues (margins) over expenses belong to our members and are allocated back to you in proportion to your total electrical purchases for the year. These are called capital credits. Over time, capital credits are refunded to members based on the cooperative's financial condition as determined by your board of directors.

Money back — that's the power of co-op membership!

NEED HELP WITH YOUR ENERGY BILL?

Our Commitment to Community program offers additional help to PPCS members who qualify for energy assistance through the county where they reside. Program assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't delay if you need help. To get started, contact your county's Department of Human Services.

Pierce, Pepin & St. Croix Counties..... 715-598-4750
Buffalo County..... 608-685-4412

Meeting Your Payment Obligation

Please contact us if you are having trouble paying your monthly energy bill. We are happy to work with you, but please contact our office to arrange a payment agreement.

WALLIN RECEIVES LIVE BETTER® COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) is proud to announce that Andrea Wallin of Spring Valley has been named the recipient of the Live Better® Community Service Award. This award honors individuals in the communities PPCS serves who exemplify a spirit of cooperation and service, making a lasting impact on the lives of others. Andrea Wallin demonstrates how one person's dedication can help strengthen and uplift our communities.

Wallin's impact on the Spring Valley area is far-reaching. She and her family foster dogs through Coco's Heart Dog Rescue, helping more than 30 dogs find forever homes. As secretary for the Friends of the Spring Valley Public Library, Inc., she has helped organize numerous successful fundraising events. In 2023, she stepped into the role of director of the Spring Valley Community Food Pantry. Under her leadership, the pantry experienced tremendous growth and was recognized as the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year by the Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, Wallin joined

Staying Put, Inc. as the client-volunteer coordinator, helping seniors and adults with disabilities maintain independence. "Each of these organizations has become very important to me and given me the opportunity to serve various populations within the Spring Valley Community," says Wallin. "I have met wonderful people along the way and am so fortunate to call them some of my dearest friends."

Wallin's commitment to service is also deeply personal. "Volunteering served as an outlet for me when my dad was diagnosed with cancer and undergoing aggressive treatment," she shared. "It allowed me a space to step away from our struggles and help others who needed a bit of a helping hand."

Beyond her formal roles, Wallin is a familiar face at benefits, golf outings, and fundraisers for other local nonprofits. "I hold a very special place in my heart for the Spring Valley Community Cancer Fund and the Spring Valley Area Ambulance — I will forever be grateful for all they did for my dad and our family." Wallin also participates in Spring Valley Village Board



Andrea Wallin receives Live Better® Community Service Award at a Friends of the Spring Valley Public Library, Inc. meeting.

meetings and committees, encouraging civic engagement in the community. Friends and neighbors describe her as a dedicated mom, loyal friend, and incredibly active community member.

The Live Better® Community Service Award reflects PPCS' mission of powering not only homes and businesses, but also the people and organizations that drive positive change. By recognizing community champions like Wallin, PPCS hopes to inspire others to give back, support one another, and continue building a brighter future for Western Wisconsin.

LOAD MANAGEMENT TEST FOR DUAL FUEL ELECTRIC HEATING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Load management receivers for dual-fuel electric heating systems will be tested on Wednesday, November 19, from 6:55 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The test will ensure our load management system works properly before the winter heating season begins. Examples of dual-fuel heating systems include electric resistance heat, air-source heat pumps, and ground-source heat pumps.

This load control test is performed before the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to validate backup heating systems function properly. During the test, backup heating systems should operate while the dual-fuel electric heat is cycled off if your home's heating system is actively in use.

This test will not affect other controlled loads such as electric water heaters, electric thermal storage (ETS) heat,

agricultural or commercial loads, or electric vehicle chargers, which may be controlled under routine load management procedures.

Before the test, participants in the load management program with dual-fuel heating systems will receive postcards. If you have questions about the program, please contact our Energy Innovation team.



PREPARING FOR THE BIG HUNT: LOOK OUT FOR POWER LINES

As hunting season approaches, excitement builds for time outdoors. But before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your preparation checklist.

Power lines and utility equipment are often out of sight — and out of mind — especially in wooded or rural areas. Ignoring them can lead to serious injuries or even death.

Keep these tips in mind to stay safe and avoid costly or dangerous incidents:

- **Scout the area.** Before hunting, take the time to scout your area during daylight hours. Look for power lines, poles, and electrical equipment. Note their locations to avoid them later.
- **Power safely.** If you're using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, don't use it inside a cabin or RV, or in a confined area. Make sure it's used outdoors where there is plenty of ventilation.
- **Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment.** Never fire near or toward poles, lines, substations, or transformers. A stray bullet could knock down a line, interrupt power, or create a deadly hazard.
- **Keep your distance.** Always stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines, poles, and other



electrical infrastructure when setting up or taking down tree stands.

- **Never climb a utility pole.** Even if it looks like the perfect vantage point, don't do it. Poles carry high voltage lines and climbing them can be deadly.
- **Don't use utility poles for support.** Tree stands or blinds should never be attached to or supported by power poles or electrical equipment.



Left: PPCS Lineman Aaron Langer and his daughter Lennon with his 2024 buck. Right: PPCS Master Electrician Ryan Meyer and son Preston, ready for a safe hunt.

Know the danger of downed lines

If you come across a downed power line or damaged electrical equipment, stay at least 50 feet away, even if it doesn't appear to be live. Power lines can still carry electricity when on the ground, posing a risk of shock or electrocution. Call 911 or your utility right away to help prevent a dangerous situation.

Whether you're a seasoned hunter or heading out for the first time, staying aware of your surroundings could save your life.

Source: SafeElectricity.org



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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