



2021 Annual Meeting Recap

The 2021 Annual Meeting took place virtually on April 20th and was broadcast live on Zoom via SmartHub and on the radio at 99.7 FM and 105.9 FM.

The directors, nominating chair, management, and CEO Dan Carlisle, acting as parliamentarian, were present in-person for the meeting.

Members attending via Zoom participated in polls approving the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, the Official Notice of Meeting, and adjourning the meeting. Tony Hoff, marketing manager at Survey & Ballot Systems, reported via Zoom that 1,312 ballots were cast for the 2021 Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative election. He declared that the Cooperative reached a quorum with the number of ballots cast. In the Board of

Directors election, Nominating Committee Chair Wally Wiese announced that the Nominating Committee met on January 21st, 2021 to approve nominations for the Board of Directors election. Tony Hoff announced that incumbents Miles Kuschel and Tom Brichacek were re-elected for a three-year term. Tony Hoff also announced that the following three bylaw changes passed with majority vote:

- 1) *A proposal that adds a new bylaw provision to restrict the disclosure of member information.*
- 2) *A proposal that updates the bylaw provision establishing the timeline to be nominated to the directors election ballot.*
- 3) *A proposal that adds a new bylaw provision establishing an arbitration mechanism for dispute resolution.*

In his Chairman's report, Miles Kuschel spoke to the members about the Seven Cooperative Principles, the new headquarters, and highlights from 2020. Dan Carlisle, TWEC CEO, reported on the Cooperative's stable financial status and highlights from the Member Services, and Operations Departments. Jon Brekke, of Great River Energy (GRE), pre-recorded a video for members of Todd-Wadena about the closing of Coal Creek Station, future resource mix plans, and reliability. Dan thanked GRE for their donation to the Cooperative's Operation Round Up fund.

Miles Kuschel and Kallie Van De Venter, TWEC Communications Specialist, drew for prizes throughout the meeting. The winners are listed below.



\$100 Energy Credit drawing for members watching via Zoom:

Deanna Hillukka, Menahga
David Cardini, Sebeka
Sam Seaton, Verdale
Rickey Schwartz, Wadena
Jerald & Joanne Carpenter, Staples

\$25 Energy Credit

Thomas Lawrence, Menahga
Robert Horn, Wadena
Lyle Haraldson, Wadena
Kelvin P Maninga, Wadena
Barbara Scheller, Verdale
Bernard Tellers, Wadena
Elmer Ohlgren Estate, Menahga
Diane Gordon, Staples
Norbert Bueckers, Cushing
Mark Pierson, Wadena

\$25 Local Restaurant Gift Certificate

Schwartz Roller Rink, Wadena
Robert Hamann, Staples
John Keranen, Menahga
Peter Schmitz, Verdale
Alan Lorentz, Wadena
Carl Trager, Browerville
Dennis Reger, Wadena
Allan Lynk, Wadena
Randy Baron, Long Prairie
Miriam Nevala, Sebeka

Thank you to all our members who participated in our Annual Meeting, whether by Zoom or by tuning into the radio broadcast! We appreciate you!

Storm Safety

Each May, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative joins other electric cooperatives across the country in recognizing National Electrical Safety Month. It is also a convenient time to review ways to keep yourself and your family safe during the upcoming spring and summer storm season.

Severe storms often strike with little warning and have the potential to cause extended outages. As soon as the power goes out, be assured that Todd-Wadena crews are working diligently to restore electricity as quickly and safely as possible. While our employees are working to get the power back on, here are a few things you can do:

- ⚡ If you see a downed power line, always assume the line is energized and dangerous. Stay away from the line and warn others to do the same. Contact TWEC immediately if you come across a downed line or notice any other electrical safety hazard.
- ⚡ When severe weather is predicted, have your cell phone fully charged so you can communicate in the event of an outage.
- ⚡ Create an emergency kit that includes drinking water, food, supplies, flashlights, and extra batteries.
- ⚡ Familiarize yourself with how to check your home's breakers and fuses during a power outage.
- ⚡ Unplug appliances and electronics so they won't get damaged with power restoration.
- ⚡ Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. A freezer that is half full or full can keep food frozen 24 to 48 hours. Food can stay safe in an unopened refrigerator up to four hours.
- ⚡ If you have a generator, periodically test the unit to make sure it is working properly. As a reminder, never attempt to use a generator indoors. Generators must be placed outside, with three to four feet of clear space on every side to allow for proper ventilation.
- ⚡ Members who depend on electricity for medical reasons should develop a backup power plan.

At Todd-Wadena, we are committed to providing you with reliable electricity while keeping our employees, members, and the public safe year-round. Have a safe and enjoyable spring!

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO &
General Counsel

Board Minutes

Highlights from the March 31st, 2021, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle shared the proposed time schedule and agenda for the upcoming Strategic Planning session.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the February financials to the Board. Monthly kWh sales were 9.5 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 8 percent over budget. February's purchased power expense was 25 percent over budget. Tier is at (0.21) and Equity is 43.29.
- Matt Laughlin, with Brady Martz, presented the Auditor's Report. The presentation included auditor communications, independent auditor reports, a balance sheet overview, statement of margins, cash flow, and other notes. The Board accepted the 2020 Audit Report.
- Member Services Manager Allison Uselman gave an update on the status of the Aclara DRU project and the adjusted rebate for air source heat pumps; reported on the C&I control that occurred in February; and introduced the new member services representative.
- TWEC will soon have an interactive member lobby where people can view and try various electric-powered items before purchasing them from local retailers. The lobby will also include an informational corner showcasing all that the Cooperative has to offer.
- Updates were provided regarding TWEC's 2021 Annual Meeting which will be held virtually. Members have the option to submit questions ahead of time or ask questions live via the Zoom chat feature during the meeting.
- Operations Manager Todd Miller introduced the new apprentice lineworker and discussed the success of the new skills test process he added to the hiring process. TWEC was recently awarded the Minnesota Governor's Safety Award.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report. Financials are slowly starting to recover after the down month in January. GRE has allocated \$275,249 in capital credits to TWEC, and retired \$357,791 that will be paid to TWEC members at the end of this year.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel reported on relevant legislation. MREA has been pushing for the ECO bill to pass; it has made it past both committees and will be on the floor for action in the near future. Kuschel encouraged directors to reach out to their representatives to help get the bill passed.

TWEC Begins Receiver Change Out

Over the next five years, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) plans to change out all load management receiver units. Members enrolled in one or more of the Cooperative's load management programs will have their outdated Comverge unit replaced with a new [Aclara receiver](#).



These receivers are essential for TWEC's load management programs. They work by allowing the Cooperative to control energy usage for water heaters and heating systems during times of peak demand. In exchange for participating in the load management programs, members receive credits or lower electric rates. The Cooperative's ability to manage energy usage with these devices is made possible by the receiver wired on the outside of a member's home.

"By utilizing these programs, we are able to shave the peak of demand when energy is most expensive, thus giving our members great rates," explains Allison Uselman, Member and Energy Services Manager at TWEC. "These load management programs also played an important role during this February's polar vortex where shaving the peaks contributed to our system's reliability."

The Comverge units currently in place are no longer going to be supported in the future. As a result, TWEC is switching to the Aclara receiver. One of the major benefits of this change out is more reliable communication to

the unit. Unlike the Comverge units, which relied on radio frequency to send messages, the Aclara units utilize power lines to convey control messages to the receiver.

Another improvement with the Aclara receivers is the temperature rating of the box. In past polar vortex situations, TWEC encountered times when the relays would freeze in the receiver and members' controlled electric items would not turn on. This was especially problematic when it was 30 degrees below zero and the heat wasn't coming back on. The new Aclara units are rated to negative forty degrees.

There were also times when radio frequency was obstructed and the receivers missed the start or stop messaging affecting their efficacy. TWEC expects to see a large improvement in efficacy percentages once the receivers are switched over.

Todd-Wadena currently has approximately 5,000 Comverge units in the field with a scheduled end of life in January 2026. The Cooperative will start the change out process with [irrigators](#), and then begin working on residential change outs in September.



Receiver Change Out Project

During this project, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members should look for either **Greg Jacobson** or **Mike Orlando** working on the load management receiver change outs.



Greg Jacobson



Mike Orlando



Go Paperless & Get Five!

Enroll in paperless via SmartHub and receive a one-time **credit of \$5.00** to your TWEC account!

*New paperless enrollment only.
Offer ends December 31st, 2021.*

Set Up AutoPay & Get Five!

Save a trip to the mailbox and enroll in AutoPay. You'll receive a one-time **\$5.00 credit** to your TWEC account.

*New autopay enrollment only.
Offer ends June 1st, 2021.*



A/C Tune-up Rebate

Todd-Wadena offers a \$25 rebate for air conditioner and air source heat pump (ASHP) tune-ups! See if you qualify for this opportunity to keep your equipment running at top level!



Contact a local HVAC contractor and follow these steps to receive a \$25 rebate:

- 1) Hire the contractor (members qualify for a tune-up rebate every 2 years).
- 2) After completing the tune-up, have your contractor fill out the contractor portion of the coupon below.
- 3) Complete the member portion of the coupon.
- 4) Return the coupon to Todd-Wadena, along with a copy of the contractor invoice.

To qualify for the tune-up rebate:

- Tune-up must be completed where electricity is supplied by Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.
- The central air conditioner or ASHP must be in operating condition, over three years of age, and have not had a tune-up in the last two years.
- Rebate submittal must follow the guidelines as listed.
- Program is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Call TWEC to verify rebate status.
- Program is for tune-ups only; it does not cover the cost for repairs of the air conditioner or heat pump.

Member Information

Member name: _____
 Account number: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Contact phone number: _____
 Account number: _____

I certify that the items for which I am claiming a rebate are qualifying items and are installed at the address listed above and that this address represents a valid Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative account.

Member signature: _____

Mail to: Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative
 ATTN: Mary Williams
 P.O. Box 431
 Wadena, MN 56482

Contractor Information (to be filled out by HVAC tech)

Equipment brand: _____
 Model number: _____
 Serial number: _____
 Approximate age of unit (years): _____
 SEER rating: _____

I certify that I have completed the following on this unit:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean condenser coil | <input type="checkbox"/> Test all controls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check coolant level | <input type="checkbox"/> Check furnace filter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check coolant pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Check belt, if needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blow out drain lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Lube motor, if needed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visually inspect entire system | <input type="checkbox"/> Educate homeowner on system operation |

Contractor signature: _____
 Contractor company: _____



Yard Tool Rebates

Battery Powered Lawn Mower

\$50 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$100-\$400)
\$100 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$401 and up)

Lawn Care Equipment (battery powered)

Edger, Trimmer, Chainsaw, Pole Saw, or Leaf Blower

\$25 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$50-\$200)
\$50 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$201 and up)

Visit www.toddwadena.coop to view participating retailers list.

* Yard tools must be purchased at a participating retailer to be eligible for a rebate.

** Rebate is not to exceed 50% of purchase price.

*** Only one rebate per member per year on any yard tool purchased.



WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling** and **supplemental heating**, using **72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE INCREDIBLE REBATES WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING, ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!



Cold Climate Ducted Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$1,300
<i>Promo rebate paperwork must be submitted by July 31st, 2021</i>	

Ducted Air Source Heat Pumps	Regular Rebate
14.5 SEER	\$480
15 SEER	\$580
16 SEER	\$630
<i>Regular rebate paperwork must be submitted by December 31st, 2021</i>	

Rebates only apply to new systems purchased and QI installed. Visit www.toddwadana.coop to find a QI installer in your area.

Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump (minimum HSPF ≥ 9.0)	Regular Rebate ²	Promo Rebate ¹
Delivered fuels *	\$300	\$400
Electric heat **	\$500	\$600
¹ <i>Promo rebate paperwork must be submitted by July 31st, 2021</i>		
² <i>Regular rebate paperwork must be submitted by December 31st, 2021</i>		

** Member's main heat source is fuel oil, propane, or natural gas.
** Member's main heat source is electric.*

Rebates only apply to new systems purchased and installed during rebate time frame .

ASHP must be Energy Star Rated

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

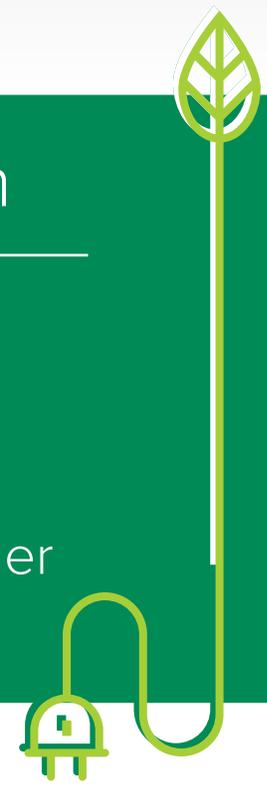
ENERGY WISE MN

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: www.energy.gov



A Heat Pump Built for Minnesota Winters and Summers

Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) have been used for many years in nearly all parts of the United States but until recently were not common in areas with extended periods of subfreezing temperatures. In recent years, cold-climate ASHP (*ccASHP*) technology has advanced so that it now offers a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions, including Minnesota.

A *ccASHP* can provide both efficient heating and cooling for homes. When properly installed, it can deliver up to three times more heat energy to a home than the electrical energy it consumes. This is possible because a heat pump moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do.

A project recently conducted by the *Center for Energy and Environment* found that the efficiency of the newest generation of *ccASHPs* can operate down to minus 13 degrees Fahrenheit. The efficiency of these technologies in moderate climates is also two to three times more efficient than standard electric heating systems.

Since heat pumps provide heating in the winter and cooling in the summer, consumers should be aware of at least two heat pump energy efficiency ratings. The *Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER)* measures cooling efficiency over the cooling season, while the *Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF)* measures heating efficiency over the heating season.

HSPF is a standardized rating used to compare energy efficiencies and is used by all heat pump manufacturers to indicate efficiency ratings. Like miles per gallon for your car, the higher the HSPF number, the more efficient the system.

Heat pumps, when properly installed, provide consumers with 100% of a home's heating needs down to temperatures as low as zero degrees, which is roughly 90% of all heating hours in Minnesota.

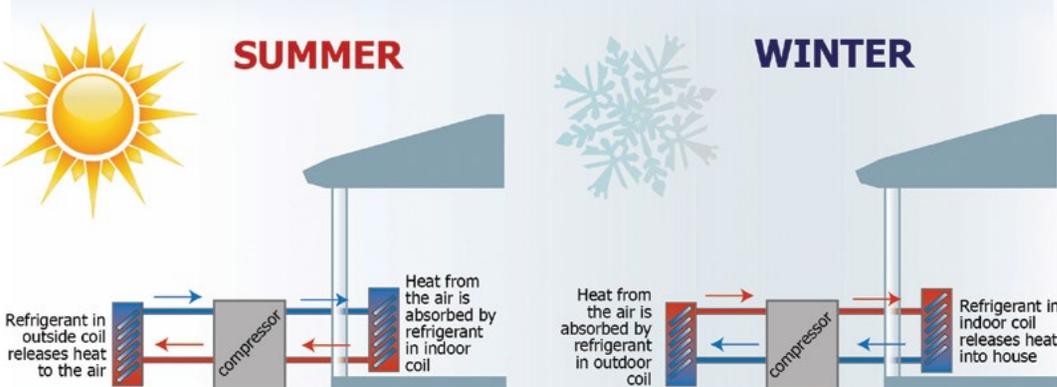
Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative provides a variety of incentives and programs for home and business owners looking to implement heat pump technologies. [See our special promotional rebate for ASHPs on page 5.](#)

Unclaimed Capital Credits

We're searching for these members. Sometimes, members move away and we can no longer reach them. These members should contact the Cooperative's office.

Michelelou Amador, *Staples MN*
Carrie/Richard Anderson, *Forest Lake MN*
Ethel Archambeau, *Duluth MN*
Bernie Baker, *Clarissa MN*
Christine Brandt, *Brainerd MN*
Willard Burgess, *Sauk Centre MN*
Chelsea/Scott Cooper, *Vergas MN*
Thomas Crawford, *Wadena MN*
Floyd Cunningham, *Eden Prairie MN*
Russell Dailey Jr, *Sebeko MN*
Roy/Kathleen Davey, *Parkers Prairie MN*
Janet Debe, *Bertha MN*
John Ernst, *Becker MN*
James Franklin, *Motley MN*
Betsy Finn, *Staples MN*
Gregory/Sherry Frisk, *Fort Myers FL*
Phillip Gould, *Long Prairie MN*
Leonard Graton, *Yuma CO*
Onni Haavisto, *Menahga MN*
Gordon/Rebecca Hall, *Fergus Falls MN*
Beverly Hansen, *Staples MN*
David Hartenstine, *Bertha MN*
Douglas/Carolyn Johnson, *Park Rapids MN*
Mona Kelley, *Pine City MN*
James Sr Kilbury, *Staples MN*
Gregory Kramer, *Sauk Rapids MN*
Matthew Krause, *Park Rapids MN*
Bruce Lehmann, *Reiles Acres ND*
Lee Lemm, *Staples MN*
Mark Lepper, *Menahga MN*
Dennis Lucas, *Motley MN*
Gordon/Rebecca Marjama, *Menahga MN*
David Martin, *Long Prairie MN*
Henry/Barbara Miller, *Bertha MN*
David Morris, *Newton IA*
Carol Motl, *Sauk Rapids MN*
Rosemary Mumm, *New York Mills MN*
Donna Niemeyer, *Saint Paul MN*
Lonnie/Barbara Noble, *Medina MN*
Susan Nohrenberg, *Two Harbors MN*
Sharon Olson, *New York Mills MN*
Ronald Pederson, *New York Mills MN*
Shale Perish, *Ely MN*
Michael Postel, *Motley MN*
Lou Rust, *New Albany IN*
John Shetler, *Neillsville WI*
Steven Stansberry, *Owatonna MN*
Roderick Stave, *Moorhead MN*
Charles Sullivan, *Clarissa MN*
Debra Swanson, *Glendale AZ*
Kevin Sweere, *Spicer MN*
Michael Tichy, *Staples MN*
Michael Tomsche, *Cold Spring MN*
Alvin Voges, *Randall MN*
Ervin Wickham, *Fosston MN*
John Wilson, *Staples MN*
Hydee Wright, *Wadena MN*

How an Air Source Heat Pump Works



Help us Welcome Kevin and Brayden to Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative!

Kevin Lupkes

Kevin started at TWEC on March 22nd as a Member Service Representative where he will be one of the first points of contact with our members on the phone and in person.

Kevin lives north of Wadena with his wife Tammy. They have two adult children, Kylie (Matthew) and Dawson, and two children at home, Kaylin and Lexie. He also has a grandson, James. He loves spending time with his family and the outdoors. He also enjoys barbecuing, hunting, and riding his motorcycle.



Brayden Gwiazdon

Brayden Gwiazdon grew up in Park Rapids and graduated from line school in Wadena in May of 2020. He completed 1,000 hours with Runestone Electric Association of Alexandria during the summer of 2020 and started a 1,000-hour apprenticeship with Todd-Wadena last fall. Brayden's first day as an apprentice lineworker was March 22nd. Brayden will be working on his bookwork, tests, and on-the-job training to achieve his journeyman status, which will take about four years to complete. In his free time Brayden enjoys hunting and fishing.



CO-OP STRONG



FRIDAY JULY 16

*11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Memorial Forest Park & Campground
825 Aspen Ave. SE
Menahga, MN 56464*

STOP BY AND SEE US FOR A GREAT LUNCH AND MEMBER GIVE-AWAY!

Central Applicators Will Begin Vegetation Management in May



Central Applicators will begin vegetation management in the form of mowing and spraying the circuits coming out of the *Orton* and *Thomastown* substations. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Central Applicators at (800) 642-6559 by May 10th.

SmartHub users still receiving a paper bill will be automatically switched to paperless on June 1st, 2021 and will receive a bill credit!

NOTICE: Members currently enrolled in SmartHub who are receiving an email bill along with a paper bill will be automatically enrolled in paperless billing, and will only receive the email bill, starting June 1st, 2021. If you do not want to go paperless, please contact Kallie at (218) 631-3120. Members who are automatically switched will see a one-time credit on their account of \$5.00. *If you choose to continue to receive paper bills you will not receive the credit.*

Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for
members and friends of



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

www.toddwadena.coop

Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm
Monday - Friday

Telephone: (218) 631-3120 or
(800) 321-8932

Email: todd-wad@toddwadena.coop

Address: 550 Ash Avenue NE
P.O. Box 431
Wadena, MN 56482

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Miles Kuschel, Chair
Tom Brichacek, Vice Chair
Marie Katterhagen, Secretary
Dale Adams, Treasurer
Michael Thorson, Director
Gene Kern, Director
Kristine Spadgenske, Director

Daniel Carlisle, President/CEO &
General Counsel

LOCAL ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Todd County:

Troy Bak (320) 760-1017

Wadena County:

Gary Zacharias (218) 631-1392

District 5 (Todd County):

Mark Hunter (320) 616-5574

District 6 (Wadena County):

Sheldon Monson (218) 689-3260

If your electric power goes out:

First, make sure the problem is not on your side. (Members may be billed for service calls if the problem is caused by their own equipment.) Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and by the meter pole. (Call us for help, if necessary.)

Second, check with your neighbors to see if they have power. Then call Todd-Wadena to report the problem. Give your name and account number. Then report any tree branches, twisted wires, broken poles, and whether or not your neighbors are also out of power.

Before digging call:

Gopher State One-Call
811 or (800) 252-1166

Find us on  

www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative
www.instagram.com/twec.coop

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

Printed on recycled paper.

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage

PAID
DPC

New Summer Office Hours

Our summer office hours will be 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, starting June 1st and going through September 3rd, 2021.

READER'S CONTEST

1. Familiarize yourself with how to check your home's _____ and fuses during a power outage.
2. Air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using _____% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.
3. Co-op Strong Lunch will be held on Friday, July 16th in _____.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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For your chance to be entered in a drawing to win a \$10 credit on your bill, correctly answer the questions and include with your TWEC bill. Mail to TWEC, P.O. Box 431, Wadena, MN 56482. Or email the answers to mbrservices@toddwadena.coop with the subject line "Reader's Contest". Be sure to include your name and TWEC service address. Entries must be received by May 25th.

Tammy Johnson of Staples was the winner of our April Reader's Contest.