Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
www.toddwadena.coop
August 2025

2025 MEMBER APPRECIATION

Pancake Supper

Date	**Wednesday, August 27th**
Time	**4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**
Location	**TWEC Headquarters**
Food	**Pancakes & Sausage**

All members are invited to join us for our annual member appreciation *Pancake Supper* on Wednesday, August 27th from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative headquarters.

- Bounce House & Kids Activities
- Electrical Safety Demonstrations

2025 Youth Tour Recap

By Iva Hinson

I can't believe I've already been to Washington, D.C. and back! It feels like yesterday when I received the call that I was chosen to attend this year's Youth Tour. I was beyond excited and grateful for such an amazing opportunity. Going in, I was extremely nervous about everything; I didn't know if I could step out of my comfort zone and make friends, I wasn't sure if I felt qualified enough to attend, and I really hoped that I would have fun while still learning many new things. *Guess what?* I made a lot of new friends from all over the country, I didn't even feel underqualified around anyone, and I had so much fun while still learning so many new things! I believe that I will forever hold this trip close to me because it definitely impacted my life with the people I met, the things I learned, and the many firsts I experienced.

The day we flew to Washington, D.C., we met at a hotel for a little orientation.

(Youth Tour continued on page 3)

Watch Out This Harvest: Safety Starts in the Field

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

As the days get shorter and the fields begin to turn golden, harvest season kicks into high gear across Todd and Wadena counties. For many of our members, this time of year means long hours in the field, operating heavy machinery, and pushing through fatigue to get the crop out before the weather turns. At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, we know the hard work that goes into every harvest—and we also know how important it is to make safety a top priority during this busy season.

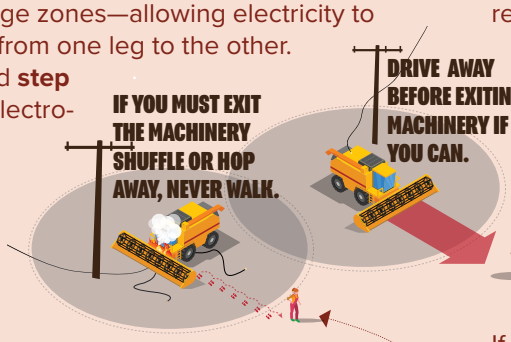
Each year, accidents involving farm equipment and electricity occur—and many are preventable. Please take a moment to review the safety tips below and share them with family members and employees helping out on the farm.

1) Stay Clear of Power Lines—and Know What to Do If You Hit One

Large equipment such as combines, grain augers, and sprayers are taller than ever. Before moving equipment, especially when raising augers or lifting booms, always look up and know where the power lines are. Maintain at least **10 feet of clearance** from overhead lines in all directions.

If you come into contact with a power line while in your tractor or combine, **stay inside the cab**, call 911, and wait for help. Only exit if there's a fire, and even then—**jump clear** without touching the equipment and the ground at the same time.

This is where **step potential** becomes important. When a power line touches equipment or the ground, it can energize the surrounding soil in a ripple-like pattern. The closer to the contact point, the higher the voltage. If a person walks away from the energized equipment, their feet may touch two different voltage zones—allowing electricity to travel through the body from one leg to the other. This phenomenon, called **step potential**, can result in electrocution or serious injury.



TO STAY SAFE:

- → **Never walk away** from equipment that has hit a power line.
- → If you **must exit** due to fire, jump clear with your feet together and **hop or shuffle away, without lifting your feet**, keeping both feet in contact with the ground to avoid step potential.

2) Be Careful Around Grain Bins and Augers

Grain bins are often located near power lines, creating a serious risk during filling and maintenance. Always lower augers and extensions before transport, and never set up grain handling equipment underneath overhead lines.

Keep in mind that electric lines can sag over time or appear lower when it's hot or humid—don't assume they are safely out of the way. Maintain at least **10 feet of clearance** from overhead lines in all directions.

3) Slow Down Around Poles and Guy Wires

Tight field entrances, narrow rural roads, and late-night work can increase the chance of hitting power poles or guy wires with equipment. Striking a pole can lead to power outages, fire hazards, or even electrocution. If you damage any cooperative equipment, report it right away so we can ensure your safety and restore any affected service.

4) Watch for Fatigue and Work Together

We know that harvest doesn't wait, and exhaustion is common this time of year. But tired eyes and split-second decisions can lead to accidents. Encourage breaks, stay hydrated, and keep an open line of communication with your harvest crew.

If you have younger or seasonal help, make sure they're familiar with your equipment, your land, and electrical safety best practices. One quick safety meeting can save a life.

At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, we care deeply about our members' well-being. You power our communities in more ways than one—through your work ethic, your care for the land, and your commitment to safety.

Wishing you a safe and successful harvest season.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

Remember: Electricity is invisible—never assume a line is safe to approach. Always treat it as energized.

2025 Youth Tour Recap (Continued from page 1)

This is where I met a lot of my new friends. After this, we shuttled over to the airport, where we went through TSA, got lunch, and waited for our flight. Our flight got delayed several times, but it honestly was a blessing in disguise as I got to grow my new friendships and my relationships with my chaperones, which helped the trip in so many ways later on. Each day after this first one was a packed itinerary of visiting many memorials, visiting the Capitol, meeting our state representatives, seeing the Library of Congress, riding a segway for a tour, going to the Washington National Cathedral, visiting the Holocaust Museum, and going to the National Mall to visit the Smithsonians. We saw so much, and it felt like we had so little time to see everything. I also got to experience the *NRECA Official Youth Night*, which was the best night of all!

Overall, I learned a lot about co-ops, myself, and our nation's history all in one week. My favorite thing I experienced was the people. Whether they were from Minnesota or some other state with funny accents and other names for pop, I knew I was with the right kind of people. Everyone was kind, respectful, and made you feel comfortable in your skin. So, I want to thank them for helping me come out of my shell, and for making that week so amazing. The 2025 Youth Tour trip was honestly the greatest experience in my life so far.

DISCUSSIONS WITH DAN

Tuesday, August 19th
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Hub 71 in Sebeka

Join TWEC President/CEO Dan Carlisle in Sebeka for the last member meetup as he finishes up his tour of the service area this summer.

This event is a perfect time for questions about power supply, service reliability, rates, outages, upcoming industry trends, or anything you've been wondering about.

We hope you will join us for this last special event of the summer! *Non-alcoholic beverages will be available.*

What is a Cooling Degree Day?

Buildings require more air-conditioning as temperatures rise. Now that we're well into summer and home cooling systems are running frequently, it's a good time to discuss the energy consumption of building cooling systems and the concept of Cooling Degree Days (CDD).

Cooling degree days measure how much (and for how long) the outside air temperature is above a base temperature—typically 65°F in the U.S. They are commonly used to estimate the energy needed to cool buildings. Think of them as the reverse of heating degree days (which we have discussed in previous issues of *Pine to Prairie*): while heating degree days accumulate when temperatures *fall below* 65°F, cooling degree days accumulate when temperatures *rise above* it. For example, if the average temperature on a given day is 80°F, that day would contribute 15 cooling degree days.

A month with higher cooling degree days means the weather was significantly warmer, requiring more air conditioning to keep homes and buildings comfortable. Because air conditioners consume a lot of electricity, hotter periods lead to greater energy use—and ultimately, higher electric bills.

COOLING DEGREE DAYS EXAMPLE:

A day with an average temperature of 78 degrees would be considered as a 13 cooling degree day.

78° *(average daily temp.)* **- 65°** *(base temperature)* **= 13 CDD**

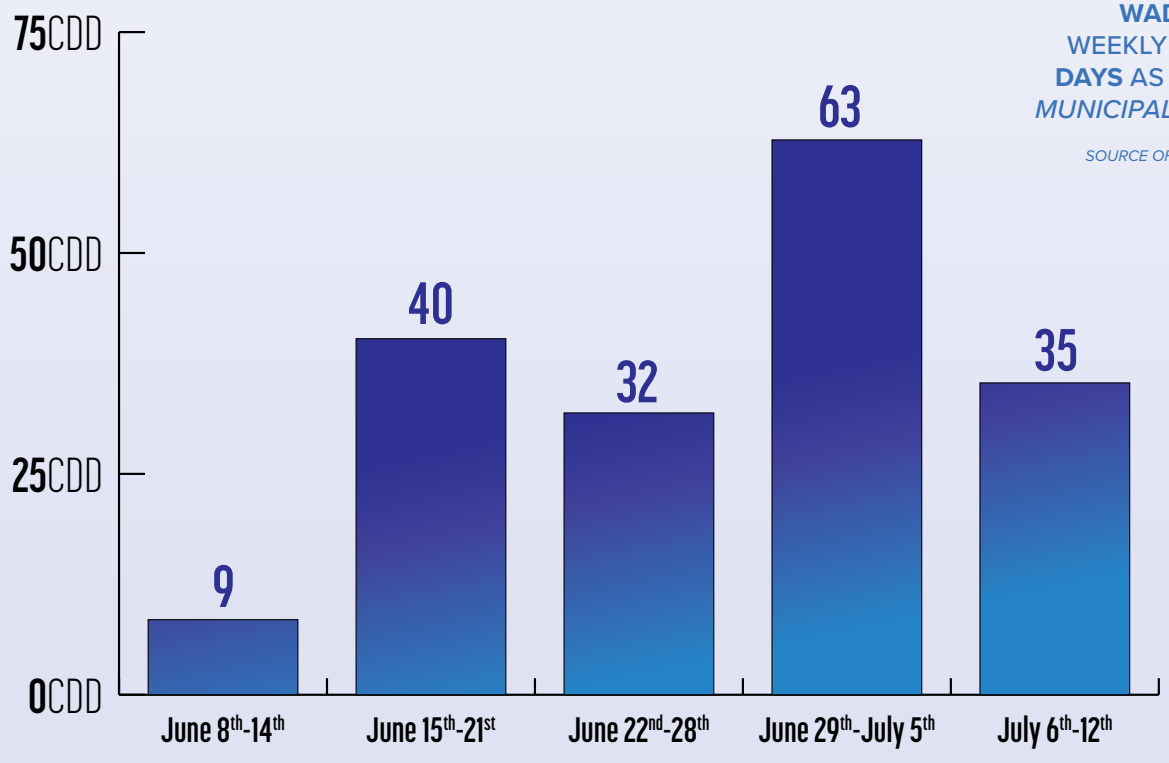
Another day with an average temperature of 86 degrees would be considered as a 21 cooling degree day.

86° *(average daily temp.)* **- 65°** *(base temperature)* **= 21 CDD**

Cooling degree days are then quantified and reported for a day, week, month, or year.

WADENA, MINNESOTA
WEEKLY **COOLING DEGREE DAYS** AS REPORTED BY THE *MUNICIPAL AIRPORT STATION*

SOURCE OF INFO: **WWW.DEGREEDAYS.NET**



SLIGHTLY HOTTER

In this period, there were **179** total cooling degree days (CDD) compared to **125** CDD over the same period in 2024.

The Value of Electricity

Estimating Electricity Use and Cost

Electricity's abundance and reliability are precisely why it's so tricky to tell how much you're using. Other types of energy require occasional reminders of how much you've consumed – your car will need a refill, or you'll empty the propane tank on your gas grill – but you never really "run out" of electricity. However, that doesn't mean you can't estimate how much you use. The following formulas will show you how to determine where your electricity dollars are being spent. Below that, we've included the average monthly cost of some common household items.

STEP 1

Your electric bill is determined by the number of kWh used in a billing period. The first step is to determine your **cost per kWh**. Our *General Service* base rates are 13.172¢/kWh for summer months, and 11.672¢/kWh for the other months. An average of the two is approximately 12¢/kWh. Does not include a monthly PCA pass-through.

STEP 2

Since the **wattage** of an appliance determines the electrical use per hour, the second step is to determine the wattage of the appliance. The wattage of an appliance is found on the serial plate. Electrical load may also be expressed in volts and amps, rather than watts. If so, multiply volts times amperes (amps) to determine the wattage.

EXAMPLE 120 Volts × 12 Amps = **1,400 Watts**

STEP 3

Use the formula shown in the following example to estimate use and cost. A light uses 100 watts and is left on for 15 hours. How many kWh are used and what does it cost?

EXAMPLE **kWh used**: (100 watts × 15 hours) ÷ 1,000 watts = **1.5 kWh**

Your cost: 1.5 kWh × 12¢/kWh = **18¢**

STEP 4

To find your daily cost for electricity, divide your bill amount by the number of days in the month.

EXAMPLE $115 ÷ 30 days = **$3.83 which is your daily cost**

To find the daily cost per person in your family, divide the daily cost by the number of people in your family.

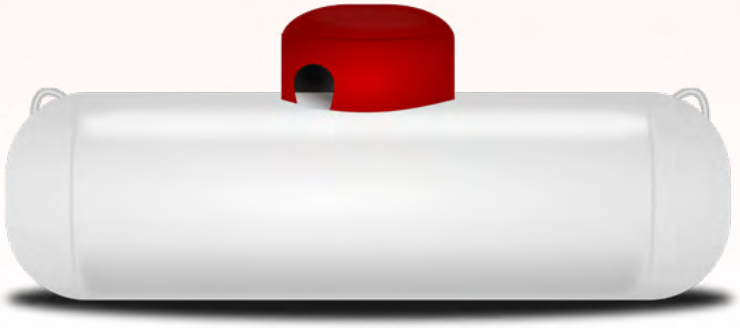
EXAMPLE $3.83 ÷ 4 people = **96¢ per person per day**

	Appliance	Typical Energy Usage**	Average Monthly Cost at 12.047¢/kWh*
KITCHEN	Refrigerator (side-by-side, purchased after 2010)	55 kWh/mo	$6.63
KITCHEN	Chest Freezer (less than 16.5 cu ft)	24 kWh/mo	$2.89
KITCHEN	Stove Range Top	37 kWh/mo	$4.46
KITCHEN	Coffee Maker	8 kWh/mo	$0.96
HOUSEHOLD	Clothes Dryer	85 kWh/mo	$10.24
HOUSEHOLD	Dehumidifier	81-690 kWh/mo	$9.76 – $83.12
HOUSEHOLD	Portable Heater (1,500 watts)	280-1,080 kWh/mo	$33.73 – $130.11
LEISURE	Digital Television (larger than 40 in)	21 kWh/mo	$2.53
LEISURE	Video Game System	8-10 kWh/mo	$0.96 – $1.20
LEISURE	Smartphone	0.3-3 kWh/mo	$0.04 – $0.36

* Rate of 12.047¢ is based off adding TWEC's **summer base rate x 3** *(0.13172)* with the **base rate for other months x 9** *(0.11672)*, then **dividing by 12**. A monthly PCA pass through is not in this calculation.

** These energy usage figures are based on the average use of an appliance in good working condition and are based on national averages and independent research. Actual energy usage will vary based on the number of hours used, and the age and condition of equipment.

Dual Fuel Members: Check Your Back-up System Fuel Supply



Members of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) who are on the dual fuel load management program are encouraged to make sure they have **adequate supplies of their secondary fuel source for winter**.

It may seem early to be thinking about winter, but in addition to checking off an item on your to-do list, you can ***save*** by taking advantage of lower *summer fill* fuel prices.

As a reminder, the primary heating systems of participants can be controlled up to 12 hours per day and up to 400 hours per heating season. Control occurs on days of high electrical demand, high wholesale energy prices, and/or system emergencies. Both morning and evening control is expected throughout the cold weather months. If you have any questions, please contact TWEC's office.

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, it's usually restored within a few hours. However, major storms can cause widespread damage and longer outages. Our crews work long hours to restore power safely and efficiently. The illustration below shows the typical steps we take during an outage.

Scan this QR code to watch a video about what to do when there is a power outage.

1. High-voltage transmission lines deliver generated power and rarely fail, but must be fixed first when damaged. TWEC cannot restore these outages and must wait for the transmission utility to make repairs.
2. Distribution substations can serve hundreds or thousands of members. When an outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines to the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist further down the line.
3. If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to the supply lines (also known as tap lines) that eventually bring power to individual homes.
4. If local outages persist, supply lines are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.
5. If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

Members with *ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), arc fault*, or *combination arc fault/ground fault* breakers have experienced their breakers tripping during outages or restoration.
Please be sure to check your panel after an outage as those may have tripped.

Congratulations, Allison!

Congratulations to Member and Energy Services Manager, Allison Frederickson, for becoming a Certified Key Accounts Executive (CKAE)! The CKAE certificate is offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to improve service to commercial and industrial accounts.

To earn the certificate, Allison had to complete coursework, pass an exam, and submit business and marketing plans for evaluation. Her written plans were judged by an outside business professional for content and strategic acumen. ***Business***, ***Commercial,*** and ***Industrial*** accounts can contact Allison if they are interested to see if they qualify for energy rebates or for *Commercial and Industrial Interruptible* rates.

Allison is also the lead on Economic Development loans for Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative. If members are interested in starting up a business, or expanding, please contact Allison for more information.

Unclaimed Capital Credits for Over Seven Years

Unclaimed capital credits go to the 2026 scholarship fund if not claimed. Please contact the office if your name is on this list.

Anderson, David
Bachman, Becky
Berkness, Dennis
Bounds, Marissa
Brasch, Douglas
Brown, Lloyd
Buckley Estate, Phil
Butler, Tim
Camacho, Ronald
Cameron, Russell
Carlson, Terry
Chase, Thomas
Christian, Cal
Clemon, Amanda
Conovr-Wilson, Rita
Conser, Terri
Costner, Mari
Country, Manor Motel
Dahl, Gertrude
Davis, Robert
DeNittis, L.W.
Easterday, Scott
Edmond, Jackie
Forar, Lucille
France, William
Getz, Don
Gillespie, Pamela
Gray, Tamera
Hahn, Jeffrey
Hahn, Sherry
Hand, Lawrence
Harris, Dale
Hinnenkamp, Jon
Horn, Jayme
Huff, Harold
Jesinoski, Michael
Johnson, Ryan
Johnson, Scott
Just, Leslie
Kopp, JoAnn
Kowalczyk, Casey
Kvamme, Darrell
Legus Estate, Jerry
Leritz, Stephen
Lewis, Randy
Machine, Action
Madison, Irene
McGuire, Gloria
Mickelson, Eric
Mills, Angela
Missling, Anthony
Motl Estate, James
Myren, Vince
Norton, Glenn
Ortiz, Robert
Peterson, Florence
Pieper, Brandi
Rausch, Richard
Rautio, Kelly
Ricker, Pearl
Rockwell, Janeane
Rost Estate, Myrtle
Sabourin, Robert
Schwalbaugh, Susie
Severson, Teresa
Shepersky, Juanita
Simonson Estate, Richard
Snodgrass Estate, Robert
Stursa Estate, Margaret
Swank, David
Tauring, Patricia
Thompson, Constance
Toepper Estate, William
Umland, Jeremy
Viergutz Estate, Laura
Whitlock, Beverley
Wilson, Betty

TWEC Board Minutes

Highlights from the June 25th, 2025, regular board meeting:

- *CEO Dan Carlisle attended the MRET Annual Meeting, where he was elected as a new board member. He gave an overview of the meeting and highlighted safety and injury related statistics.*
- *Zac Ruzycki, Great River Energy's (GRE) director of resource planning, joined the meeting via zoom to discuss the Emmons-Logan Battery Storage project with NextEra Energy Resources. He went over the pros and cons of the project, along with the estimated timeline and projected kW costs.*
- *Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE report. He announced the new board positions that took place at GRE's annual meeting in June; Mike Brasel was elected Board Chair.*
- *Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the May financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 2 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 2 percent over budget. May's purchased power expense was 4 percent over budget. Tier is 1.40 and Equity is 40.92.*
- *Operations Manager Tyler Fisher went over the new services for the month, including construction along the Highway 10 corridor. He also noted how TWEC sent two crews to assist neighboring cooperatives in mutual aid following June storms.*
- *The Annual Red Flag Report was accepted as presented.*
- *Board Chair Miles Kuschel shared a video that gave an update on NRECA International's project in Africa, where he traveled last year to help them develop board protocols.*

Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for members & friends of

Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Office Hours: *7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (summer)*
Monday - Friday

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Todd County:
Bob Kent (612) 528-5326
Wadena County:
Brandon Disselbrett (218) 580-8614
District 10 *(Todd & Wadena Counties)*:
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

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Office Hours Change after Labor Day

TWEC's office hours will return to 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, starting Tuesday, September 2nd.
The office will be closed September 1st for Labor Day.

Safety Corner

The safety corner replaces our reader's contest, which will resume in September.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

1) Slow down in residential areas and school zones.

2) Remind students to walk in front of the bus (never behind) when getting on or off the bus.

3) Motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights or a stop arm when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.