



**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Pine to Prairie**  
[www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop)  
**June 2026**



**Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Co-op  
Strong is July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Join Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, West Central, and Lakes Community Cooperative for the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Co-op Strong** lunch! Join us on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Memorial Forest Park & Campground just south of Menahga (825 Aspen Ave. SE).

This drive-through lunch is **FREE** to all members. We will also be giving away patriotic Co-op Strong lunch bags (pictured to the right).



Road Work Slows Things Down.  
**AutoPay+Paperless Speeds Things Up.**

Summer road construction doesn't have to create extra stops on your to-do list. While MnDOT's Highway 10 project may affect access routes to our office throughout the season, managing your electric bill can be easier than ever.

Enroll in ACH AutoPay through SmartHub and receive a **\$10 energy credit**. You'll never have to worry about remembering a payment date or mailing a check. Then switch to paperless billing and receive an **additional \$10 energy credit** while reducing clutter and gaining convenient access to your bills online.

Complete both upgrades this summer and **receive up to \$20 in energy credits**. It's a simple way to save money and make managing your account more convenient. Sign up today in SmartHub (scan QR code).



*\*Promotions apply to new residential enrollments only. Promotion runs through Sept. 8, 2026. All new residential enrollees will receive a one-time \$10 energy credit for each Paperless and/or AutoPay (up to \$20!) and will be entered to win an additional prize via monthly AutoPay drawings during June—September!*

# Replacing Our Demand Response Units to Keep Programs Reliable

Beginning in June, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) will begin a large-scale project to replace demand response units (DRUs) associated with several of our load management programs.

Members may see TWEC meter technicians Mike and Bob working throughout our service territory, or a contracted Bergstrom Electric electrician. The contracted crews will be driving Bergstrom Electric vans as pictured below.



The project is necessary because many of the existing demand response units currently installed on homes and businesses are reaching the end of their service life and are becoming obsolete. These devices play an important role in helping the cooperative manage electrical demand during periods of high energy use.

TWEC originally began portions of this replacement project several years ago. However, the project was temporarily paused due to external factors. Now that equipment availability has improved and planning efforts have resumed, the cooperative is moving forward once again with the project

to continue upgrading and modernizing the system.

Load management programs have long helped keep costs lower for participating members and the cooperative as a whole. During times of peak demand, DRUs allow TWEC to temporarily control certain loads such as electric water heaters, dual fuel systems, irrigations, and air conditioning systems in exchange for discounted electric rates or bill credits.

As technology changes, replacement equipment is needed to ensure these programs continue operating reliably into the future. Updating the units also helps improve communication capabilities, reliability, and long-term supportability of the system.

With the majority of this equipment located on the outside of homes, barns, or other outbuildings, members will not be contacted prior to the exchange. Crews will complete the work as efficiently as possible; in most cases, members may simply notice crews working near their meter or service area for a short period of time.

We appreciate members' cooperation and patience as we complete this important system upgrade over the coming months. Maintaining reliable demand response programs continues to be an important tool in helping TWEC manage wholesale power costs, reduce strain on the electric grid during peak periods, and continue providing value to our members.



**Daniel Carlisle**  
President/CEO & General Counsel

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President/CEO & General Counsel

**OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES**

► **Mission Statement**  
To be a trusted partner providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy options to our members.

► **Vision Statement**  
To improve the quality of life for our members and embrace beneficial opportunities in a changing industry.

► **Values**  
Service > Safety > Fiscal Responsibility > Integrity > Communicate & Educate > Commitment to Community

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Congratulations to Our 2026 Youth Tour Winner!

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is proud to announce Griffin Rasmussen, son of Jason and Katie and a sophomore at Sebeka High School, as our 2026 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour delegate!



Griffin earned this opportunity through an essay competition and interview process. He will represent TWEC on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 15<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup>. He'll join students from across the country to visit historic landmarks, meet with lawmakers, and learn how decisions made in our nation's capital impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities they serve.

Griffin stays busy with football, basketball, baseball, FFA, trap shooting, and fishing league, and serves as a Sebeka FFA Chapter Officer.

We're excited to have him represent TWEC and our members in Washington, D.C.

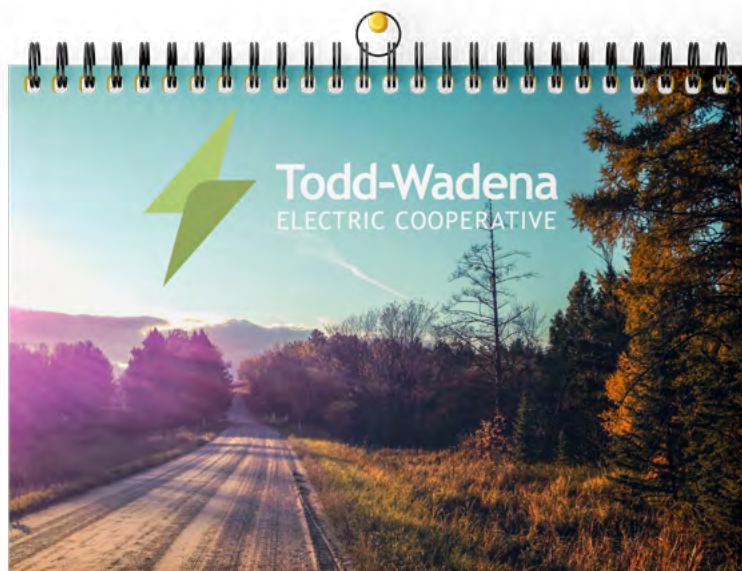


## Submit Your Best Shots for Our Annual Photo Calendar

Have stunning shots of spring blossoms, summer sunsets, fall colors, or winter scenes? We want to see them! Submit your best landscape photo of any of the four seasons for a chance to be featured in our **2027 Photo Calendar!** Contest winners will have their photos printed in our calendar and receive a \$20 TWEC account credit. Share the beauty of nature through your lens! Photos must be in landscape (horizontal) orientation.

**Details:** [www.toddwadena.coop/photo-contest](http://www.toddwadena.coop/photo-contest)

**Deadline:** September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026



## TWEC Board Minutes: Highlights from the April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, regular board meeting:

- *Mike Thorson will serve as the 2026 Great River Energy (GRE) Board Representative and Marie Katterhagen will serve as the 2026 STAR Board Representative. Thorson was appointed as the GRE voting delegate, with Gene Kern as the alternate.*
- *CEO Dan Carlisle attended the MREA Spring CEO conference and went over highlights from the event. He touched on wildfire legislation, grid affordability, MNPFML, safety, and mutual aid.*
- *The board approved proposed GRE contract extensions and amendments and accepted the resolution as presented.*
- *Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE board report. GRE announced that they do not plan to return any capital credits until 2031; capital is needed to fund the transmission build-out and the new generation plants.*
- *Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the March financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 1 percent over budget. Energy revenue was at budget. March's purchased power expense was 3 percent over budget. TIER is 1.82 and Equity is 41.44.*
- *Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson gave a recap of the 2026 Annual Meeting. There were 238 members and their guests in attendance and TWEC had a 17.96% voter participation score. Member feedback was also shared and discussed.*
- *Operations Manager Tyler Fisher provided updates on workplan projects and vegetation management.*
- *Director of Corporate Services, IT, & Cybersecurity Abby Harrison shared some highlights from the latest GRE IT meeting, where the guest speaker was part of the MN National Guard IT/Cyber team.*
- *Board Member Dale Adams gave the STAR Energy report. STAR continues to grow at a slow and steady pace. The member-owners have collectively saved \$760,000 utilizing STAR services.*
- *Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided a legislative update, specifically looking at the study that Prairie Island tribal community has agreed to; it will look at the nuclear siting and location, waste storage, water availability, and economic impacts of allowing nuclear siting in Minnesota.*

# UNDERSTANDING DEMAND

As a Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) member, you may have heard terms like “**demand**” or “**load control**.” Or perhaps you’ve seen headlines about “**Electric Demand on the Rise**.” But what does demand actually mean when it comes to electricity?

In simple terms, **demand** refers to how much electricity is being used at one time. This is different from the total amount of energy used over the course of a day or month.

One way to think about it is like driving a vehicle:

- ✦ *Energy usage* is similar to the total miles driven in a day.
- ✦ *Demand* is like how hard you press the gas pedal at a specific moment.

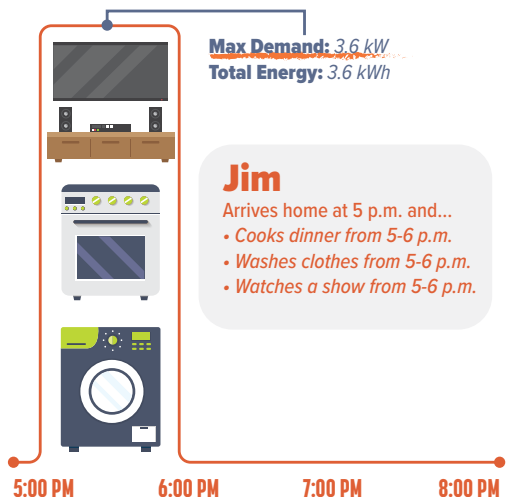
Two vehicles may drive the same number of miles, but one may accelerate quickly, pull a heavy trailer, or climb steep hills, requiring much more power at one time.

Electricity works the same way. Two homes may use the exact same amount of electricity in a day, but if one home runs several large appliances at the same time, that home’s demand will be much higher. When many homes do this, it creates higher demand on the electric grid.

This matters because electricity must be generated and delivered the exact moment it is needed. During periods of high demand, additional power generation and transmission resources must be available to meet that need. Those peak demand periods are one of the largest factors affecting wholesale power costs across the electric industry today. Utilities and cooperatives across the country are seeing increased costs tied to these short periods of very high usage. Because of this, many electric cooperatives are beginning to introduce residential demand charges as part of their rate structures.

At this time, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is **NOT** billing residential members for demand. However, because demand is becoming increasingly important across the electric industry, TWEC displays your home’s demand information directly on your electric bill.

## Demand Usage: *Jim* vs. *Pam*



### Appliance Energy (per hour)

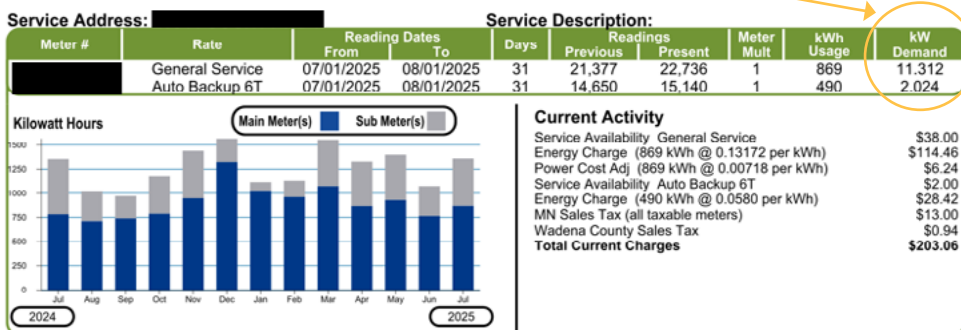
Washing Machine	Stovetop	TV
2 kWh*	1.5 kWh*	0.1 kWh*

\*All values differ according to model

This information is currently being provided for educational purposes only so members can become more familiar with:

- ✦ What demand is
- ✦ How their household uses electricity
- ✦ What activities increase demand

Including this information now allows members to better understand their energy use and become familiar with an industry trend that is common across the country.



## Understanding Demand

(continued from previous page)

You may be wondering if your demand is high or low – or what is average? There is not one single “average” demand for a rural Minnesota home because it depends on many factors, including the size of the home; whether it uses electric heat, air conditioning usage, EV charging, farm or shop loads; and how many appliances are operating at the same time. Many homes may normally use around 1–3 kW during everyday use, while higher peak periods commonly range from 5–10 kW.

### For perspective:

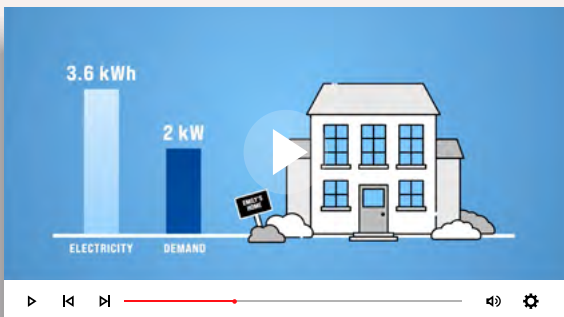
- ✓ A clothes dryer may use 4–5 kW
- ✓ An electric range may use 3–8 kW
- ✓ Central air conditioning may use 2–5 kW
- ✓ An EV charger may use 7–11+ kW

As you can see, demand can increase very quickly when several larger appliances operate at the same time. Reducing demand does not always mean using less electricity overall. Often, it simply means spreading out when electricity is used.

Understanding demand is becoming an important part of the future of electricity. By learning how and when energy is used, members can make informed decisions that help support reliability and manage future costs for the cooperative and its members.



**Scan the QR code to watch a short video and learn how timing your electric use helps keep rates affordable.**



**Video Credit: Minnkota Power Cooperative**

**Limited Time!!!**  
 Promotion ends  
 on July 31<sup>st</sup>,  
 2026

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE HOT PROMO REBATES

**WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING, ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!**

Ducted Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≤5-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$750	<b>\$1,000</b>
≤5-ton, ≥ 2026 CEE Tier 1	\$1,000	<b>\$1,500</b>

*Important: Ducted Air Source Heat Pump must be installed by a quality installer to qualify for TWEC rebate. A list of QI installers can be found at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop).*

*Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice. **Promotion runs May 1<sup>st</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.***

Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≤1-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$150	<b>\$250</b>
≤1-ton, ≥ 2026 CEE Tier 1	\$250	<b>\$350</b>
>1-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$750	<b>\$1,000</b>
>1-ton, ≥ 2026 CEE Tier 1	\$1,000	<b>\$1,200</b>

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

## Pole Testing Near Nimrod and Staples

To ensure the safety and reliability of the system, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative inspects and tests the utility poles on the electric system every seven to ten years. The poles are visually inspected and tested using a ‘sound and bore’ method of testing. In late June/July, STAR Energy Services will be conducting pole testing and inspections for 6-8 weeks in the Nimrod and Staples areas. You may see a vehicle or side-by-side UTV during this time with a STAR Energy Services logo and a **Line Inspection** decal on it. Please be courteous to the crew members as they ensure the safe distribution of your electricity.



## Transmission Troubles—Why Some Outages Aren't Ours to Fix

When the power goes out, the first call is often to your local electric cooperative, and understandably so. As your trusted energy provider, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) works hard to restore power safely and as quickly as possible.

### ***But not every outage starts on our system.***

Many larger outages originate on the high-voltage transmission system – the network of major power lines and substations that move electricity long distances across the region from generation sources before it reaches TWEC's local distribution lines that serve homes, farms, and businesses.

### **Think of the electric grid like a road system:**

- Transmission lines are the interstate highways carrying large amounts of electricity across states and regions.
- Distribution lines are the local roads that bring electricity directly to your home or business.

Todd-Wadena owns and maintains the local distribution system – the “last mile” that delivers electricity to members. However, much of the transmission infrastructure that feeds our substations is owned and operated by other organizations, including Great River Energy and Minnesota Power. When an issue occurs on those transmission systems, it can impact thousands of members across multiple utilities at the same time, including TWEC members.

Transmission outages can happen for many reasons, including: severe storms or lightning, equipment failures, vehicle accidents involving transmission structures, vegetation contact, or extreme weather conditions. Because transmission lines carry such large amounts of electricity, a single issue can affect multiple substations and utilities.

In some cases, TWEC crews may arrive at a substation only to discover the outage source is upstream on a transmission line we do not own or control. Until that transmission provider completes repairs or restores service, power cannot flow back onto our local system. Even when the outage source is not directly on TWEC's system, our team remains actively involved.

### **During a transmission-related outage, we:**

- Coordinate directly with transmission operators and power suppliers
- Monitor substations and system conditions
- Respond to local outage issues caused by the larger event
- Communicate updates to members whenever information is available
- Prepare crews and equipment for restoration as soon as transmission service is restored

Reliability today requires coordination across many interconnected organizations. The electric grid is no longer isolated utility-by-utility; it operates as a highly connected regional network.

### **Why Are Transmission Investments Increasing?**

You may have heard more discussion recently about transmission infrastructure and regional grid upgrades. Across the country, utilities and power suppliers are investing heavily in transmission improvements to:

- ◆ Improve reliability
- ◆ Reduce congestion on the grid
- ◆ Support growing electric demand
- ◆ Add new generation resources
- ◆ Strengthen resilience during extreme weather events

Organizations like Great River Energy continue making major investments in transmission because these systems are critical to delivering reliable electricity to local cooperatives like TWEC. While those investments can increase costs in the short term, they are intended to strengthen long-term reliability and help ensure electricity can move where it is needed most during peak demand and emergency situations.

### **Your Local Cooperative Still Matters**

Even though some outages originate beyond TWEC's local system, your cooperative still plays a critical role. TWEC maintains thousands of miles of local power lines, poles, transformers, and equipment that directly serve members every day. Our crews respond around the clock to outages, storms, and emergencies while working closely with regional partners to keep power flowing safely and reliably.

Reliability is a team effort, from power generation, to transmission highways, to the local lines that serve your home. Through it all, TWEC remains committed to being your trusted partner in an increasingly complex energy world.

# Strengthening Security: Changes to How We Accept Payment Information

Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's Member Services Representatives will no longer accept payment information or AutoPay enrollment details over the phone or through paper/online forms. This update helps strengthen security and ensures we meet current payment-processing compliance standards.

Your existing AutoPay will continue without interruption. Members can also still enroll in AutoPay at any time—the only change is that our Member Services

Representatives can no longer enter or update payment information on your behalf.

You can continue to make secure payments through our automated phone system or by using SmartHub. SmartHub allows you to safely add or update automatic payment information, view billing history, and manage your account anytime online or through the mobile app.

Scan the QR code to the right to go directly to SmartHub.



## Cooling System Tune-up Rebate



The best way to ensure efficient operation of your central air conditioner or air source heat pump (ASHP) is by having it tuned-up every two years. Todd-Wadena offers a \$25 rebate for central air conditioner and ASHP tune-ups! See if you qualify for this opportunity to keep your equipment running at top level.

### To qualify for the tune-up rebate:

- ✓ Tune-up must be completed where electricity is supplied by TWEC.
- ✓ 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.

*Subject to change or cancellation without notice.*

*Program is for tune-ups only; it does not cover the cost for repairs of the central air conditioner or air source heat pump. Rebate credits under \$100 will be applied to the member's account.*

### 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* below.
- 3) Complete the *member portion* of the application.
- 4) Return the coupon to Todd-Wadena, along with a copy of the contractor invoice within 90 days of purchase.

#### Member Information

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact phone 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.

I have attached a copy of the contractor's invoice with rebate coupon.

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 indoor 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: \_\_\_\_\_



# 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.  
Monday - Friday

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**Email:** [todd-wad@toddwadena.coop](mailto:todd-wad@toddwadena.coop)

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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:

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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[www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative](http://www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative)  
[www.instagram.com/twec.coop](http://www.instagram.com/twec.coop)

## Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

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U.S. Postage

**PAID**  
DPC

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's office will be closed on July 3<sup>rd</sup> for Independence Day.



## Reminder: Summer Office Hours

Our summer office hours are **7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, Monday through Friday, through **Labor Day**.



## June is Dairy Month Reader's Contest

Join us in saying "thank moo" to the dairy farmers who work hard every day. Then correctly answer the questions for your chance to be entered in a drawing to **win a \$10 credit** on your 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 **July 25<sup>th</sup>**.

1. TWEC meter technicians and \_\_\_\_\_ Electric electricians are working on replacing DRUs.
2. Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, TWEC no longer handles payment information or AutoPay info over the \_\_\_\_\_ or through paper/online forms.
3. In honor of Dairy Month, name your favorite flavor of ice cream:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

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**John Kopp of Staples was the April Reader's Contest winner.**