



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
www.toddwadena.coop
September 2026

Todd Wadena Hosts Successful Meet the Candidates Event

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative hosted its Meet the Candidates Forum on Thursday, August 27th at the Wadena Memorial Auditorium. All state and federal candidates were invited to participate. The evening began with a short social at 5:30 p.m., giving candidates an opportunity to meet and converse with constituents before the forum started promptly at 6 p.m.

Approximately 90 voters attended the event to hear from candidates who will appear on the November ballot. Over the two-and-a-half hour forum, candidates responded to questions on a wide range of topics, including energy, wildfire mitigation, agriculture, affordability, fraud prevention, and more. Due to time constraints,

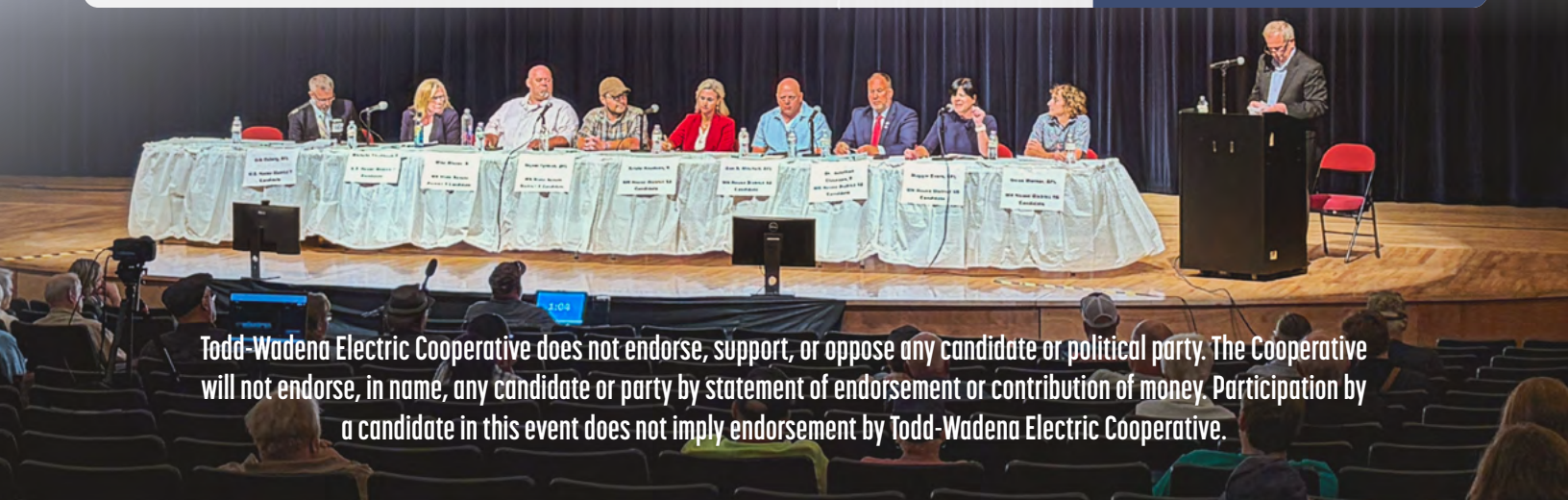
not all audience submitted questions could be asked, and voters were encouraged to reach out to candidates directly with any additional questions.

A special thank you goes to our long time forum moderator, Dan Skogen—a Todd-Wadena member, former TWEC Board Member, and current member of the TWEC Nominating Committee. We also extend our appreciation to all candidates who took time out of their busy schedules to meet with area voters, and to every community member who attended.

This event is designed for you—the voters—to bring candidates directly to our community so you can listen, engage, and ask questions that matter to you.

Candidates (and the offices they are seeking) in attendance included:

- **Erik Osberg**
U.S. Representative, District 7 (DFL)
- **Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach**
U.S. Representative, District 7 (R)
- **Representative Mike Wiener**
State Senate, District 5 (R)
- **Skylar Fynboh**
State Senate, District 5 (DFL)
- **Krista Knudsen**
MN House, District 05A (R)
- **Dan S. Mitchell**
MN House, District 05A (DFL)
- **Dr. Jonathan Claussen**
MN House, District 05B (R)
- **Maggie Evers**
MN House, District 05B (DFL)
- **Owen Werner**
MN House, District 9B (DFL)



Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative does not endorse, support, or oppose any candidate or political party. The Cooperative will not endorse, in name, any candidate or party by statement of endorsement or contribution of money. Participation by a candidate in this event does not imply endorsement by Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.

Planning for What We Hope Never Happens

TWEC's Wildfire Mitigation Policy

At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC), reliability and safety go hand in hand. Much of our work happens behind the scenes, maintaining equipment, clearing right-of-way, inspecting our system, and planning for risks before they become problems. One important example is TWEC's Wildfire Mitigation Policy.

Todd-Wadena was the first electric cooperative in Minnesota to formally adopt a wildfire mitigation policy, putting a framework in place to identify wildfire risks and establish practices designed to reduce the potential for our electric system to contribute to a fire.

Wildfire risk is often associated with western states, but Minnesota is not immune. Dry conditions, high winds, drought, vegetation, and severe weather can create conditions where a small spark can quickly become a serious threat. As weather patterns change and extreme conditions become more frequent, we believe it is important to prepare for risks before they become emergencies.

Our Wildfire Mitigation Policy brings together many of the practices TWEC already uses to operate a safe and reliable electric system. This includes vegetation management and right-of-way clearing, system inspections, equipment maintenance and replacement, protective devices, operational practices, employee training, and monitoring conditions that may increase fire risk. It also gives us a framework to continually evaluate our system and adjust our practices as technology, industry standards, and conditions change.

Being the first Minnesota cooperative to establish this type of policy wasn't about checking a box. It was about recognizing an emerging risk and asking, "What can we do today to better protect our members and communities tomorrow?"

That is an important part of our responsibility as your locally owned electric cooperative. Our poles and wires stretch across thousands of acres of farmland, forests, wetlands, and communities. The decisions we make about how that system is designed, maintained, and operated have a direct connection to the people and places we serve.

A strong wildfire mitigation strategy does not mean every fire can be prevented. It means we are taking reasonable, proactive steps to reduce risk, prepare our employees, and ensure we have clear procedures in place when conditions become elevated.

Many of the most important investments we make at TWEC are ones members may never notice. A tree trimmed before it reaches a power line, equipment replaced before it fails, a system inspected before a problem develops, or a policy established before it is required may not make headlines, but those actions matter.

Planning ahead is part of how we protect the reliability, safety, and long-term strength of your cooperative. TWEC's Wildfire Mitigation Policy is another example of our commitment to doing just that.



Daniel Carlisle
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

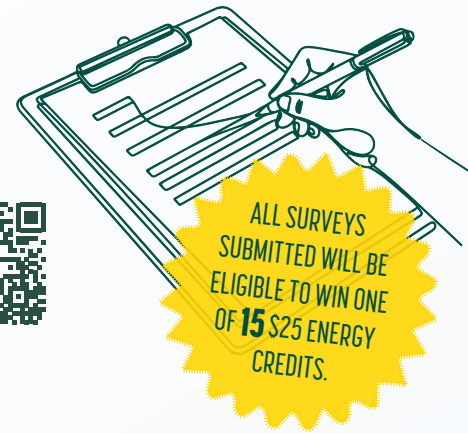
Daniel Carlisle

President/CEO & General Counsel

Member Survey: Planning for Tomorrow Starts With You

Every decision the Board of Directors makes is guided by what is best for our members, today and in the future. We would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete this survey and help us shape the future of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative. If you prefer to complete the survey online, visit www.toddwadena.coop/2026survey or scan the QR code.

Note: the survey must be completed and returned by October 26, 2026.



1) Overall, how satisfied are you with Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative?

- ☐ Very Satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied

Why did you rate your satisfaction as such? _____

2) The Board of Directors must balance many financial priorities when making decisions. If one of the following had to receive the greatest emphasis, which would be your highest priority? Choose one.

- ☐ Keeping electric rates as low as possible
☐ Returning capital credits sooner
☐ Maintaining or increasing the cooperative's equity (financial strength) to support future system improvements and reduce borrowing

3) Which THREE of the following are most important to you when it comes to your electric cooperative? Choose up to three.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Reliable electric service | ☐ Renewable energy |
| ☐ Restoring power quickly after outages | ☐ Supporting the local community |
| ☐ Friendly, knowledgeable employees | ☐ Making long-term investments in the electric system |
| ☐ Clear and timely communication | ☐ Electrical safety |
| ☐ Energy-saving programs and rebates | |

4) Please rate Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative on the following.

	VERY POOR		FAIR		EXCELLENT	
a. Reliability of electric service	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(N/A)
b. Speed of outage restoration	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(N/A)
c. Outage notifications	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(N/A)
d. Ease of reporting an outage	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(N/A)

5) How do you currently receive information from Todd-Wadena Electric, and how would you prefer to receive important updates? Check all that apply.

	CURRENTLY USE	PREFERRED
Pine to Prairie Newsletter	☐	☐
SmartHub	☐	☐
Facebook	☐	☐
Website	☐	☐
Annual Meeting	☐	☐
Radio	☐	☐
Other _____	☐	☐

2026 Member Survey (Continued from page 3)

6) What *THREE* topics would you like Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative to communicate or provide more education about? *Choose up to three.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ How electric rates are set | ☐ Capital credits |
| ☐ Understanding my electric bill | ☐ Solar and renewable energy |
| ☐ Power generation & transmission and Great River Energy | ☐ Cybersecurity and utility scams |
| ☐ Reliability and outage restoration | ☐ Legislative and energy policy issues |
| ☐ Rebates and load management programs | ☐ Cooperative governance and Board decisions |

7) How well do you understand the charges on your electric bill?

- ☐ Very well ☐ Somewhat well ☐ Not very well ☐ Not at all

8) Which of the following home energy technologies are you interested in learning more about or investing in over the next five years? *Check all that apply.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Electric vehicle (EV) & EV charger | ☐ Renewable energy |
| ☐ Smart thermostat | ☐ Battery storage (home backup battery) |
| ☐ Heat pump heating and cooling | ☐ Whole-home standby generator |
| ☐ Other: _____ | |

9) As technology and the electric grid continue to evolve, utilities are exploring new rate options that can provide members with more choices and opportunities to manage their electric bills. Which option would you be most interested in? *Choose one.*

- ☐ A traditional electric rate similar to what I have today.
- ☐ A Time-of-Day Rate that could lower my bill by using more electricity during lower-cost times of the day.
- ☐ A Demand Rate that could lower my bill by avoiding the use of several large appliances at the same time.

10) Which TWO of the following do you believe will be the biggest challenges to providing affordable and reliable electricity over the next 10 years? *Choose up to two.*

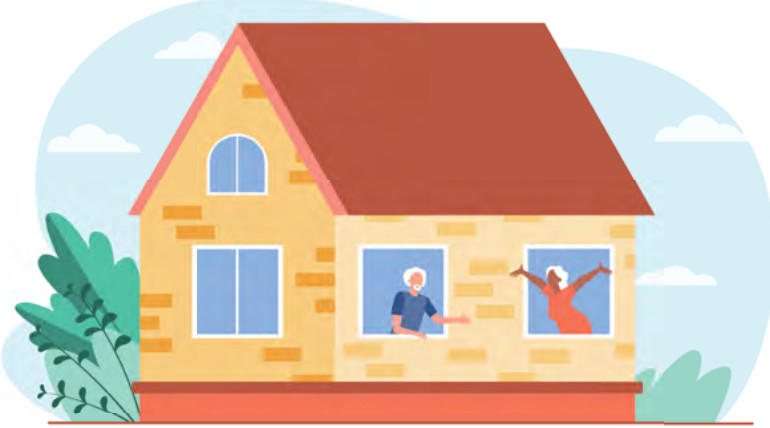
- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Rising power supply costs | ☐ Renewable energy |
| ☐ New data centers and other large energy users | ☐ Cybersecurity threats |
| ☐ Infrastructure costs | ☐ Workforce shortages |
| ☐ Legislative regulations | ☐ Other: _____ |

11) Final Comments: What is one thing Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative could do to better serve you? *Please list phone number if you would like to be contacted.*

Please list your account number so we can contact you if you are one of the 15 winners of the \$25 energy credit drawing. Your account number can be found on your electric bill.

Account #: _____

Improve-It Loan Program



Have you been thinking about making your home more energy efficient? TVEC has a loan program available for **\$1,000-\$15,000!** We make it easy for you by adding your loan payment directly to your monthly energy bill. Some loan project ideas that may qualify are listed below. Interest rates vary depending on the length of the loan and current market rates. Call us today to see if you qualify for our Improve-It Loan Program!

Todd-Wadena's loan program is designed to help members finance small-scale improvement projects.

- ✓ **New windows**
- ✓ **Dual heat installations**
- ✓ **Lighting upgrades**
- ✓ **Insulation**
- ✓ **Major electric appliances**
- ✓ **Private sewer systems**
- ✓ **Electrical service upgrades**
- ✓ **New electrical service construction**

Visit www.toddwadena.coop or call (800) 321-8932 to learn more.

Is Your Contact Info Up to Date?

Good service starts with the basics. Making sure your phone number, email, and mailing address are correct helps us deliver timely updates and support when you need it most. Updates may consist of items such as scheduled outages, billing details, or other service notices.

The easiest way to review the contact information we have on file is to look at the remit stub on your electric bill. You can find this on your *paper bill* and on your *paperless bill on SmartHub* (follow the steps below to find it).

1. Visit SmartHub and tap on *Bill & Pay*
2. Tap *Billing History*
3. Tap on *View Bill* or the paperclip (on mobile device) to view your most recent billing statement

Dual Fuel Load Control Test Events

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will be dispatching **two upcoming load control test events** for members enrolled in the Dual Fuel program. These tests help ensure your heating system and our load control equipment are operating properly and ready for the winter season.

If you participate in the Dual Fuel load management program, please make sure your heating system is turned on and ready to operate during the test periods.

Scheduled Test Events:

- **October 28th** from 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
- **November 17th** from 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Please note: If the temperature is above 55°F, the test event will be cancelled.



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

Members of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TVEC) 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.**

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 TVEC's office.

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

Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Now Applies to Irrigation Accounts

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) reflects changes in wholesale power costs passed through to Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) from Great River Energy (GRE).

Earlier this year, TWEC expanded the PCA to additional rate classes because the adjustment from GRE was being driven by energy costs rather than demand costs.

Because these costs are tied to the amount of energy used, TWEC will now apply the PCA to irrigation accounts as well. This ensures that wholesale energy costs are shared more fairly across the rate classes and usage contributing to those costs.

What is the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)?

The PCA is a per-kWh charge that reflects changes in the cost of generating and delivering electricity. Fuel prices, weather, system load, regional market conditions, and the generation mix can all affect wholesale power costs.

Because TWEC's energy rates are set in advance while wholesale power costs can vary, the PCA provides a way to account for that difference. Depending on wholesale power costs, the PCA may appear as a charge, a credit, or zero.

Why is the PCA being applied to irrigation now?

Since the PCA currently reflects energy costs, rather than just costs associated specifically with peak demand, applying the PCA to irrigation usage provides a more equitable way to recover the wholesale power costs passed through to TWEC.

How is the PCA calculated?

The PCA is calculated based on the amount of electricity used during the billing period.

When Local Businesses and Communities Thrive, We All Thrive

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) is committed to helping our local communities and businesses grow. We offer economic development funding opportunities for both member and non-member businesses and organizations, based on program eligibility.

Loan funds may be available for new business development or the expansion of an existing business, including equipment and machinery, renovations, business expansion, industrial or commercial development, and community infrastructure.

TWEC also works closely with and supports our local economic development partners:

- **The Economic Alliance: Wadena County**



The Economic Alliance

The Economic Alliance works with new and existing businesses throughout Wadena County, helping connect them with resources, financing programs, site and development assistance, and other tools to support business growth. Contact *Alison Medeck* to explore opportunities in Wadena County.

- **Todd County Development Corporation (TCDC)**



TCDC supports business development and expansion throughout Todd County, providing assistance with financing resources, business planning, development opportunities, and connections to local and regional partners. Contact *Leah Wolkow* to learn more about resources available in Todd County.

Thinking about starting a business, expanding your current operation, purchasing equipment, or making a new investment in our area? Reach out to Allison at TWEC, Alison at The Economic Alliance, or Leah at TCDC. We're here to help connect you with the resources that can move your project forward.



Allison Frederickson
Todd-Wadena
Electric Cooperative
Member & Energy
Services Manager



Alison Medeck
The Economic Alliance
Executive Director



Leah Wolkow
Todd County
Development
Corporation
Executive Director

Cold Weather Rule (CWR)

Each year, some members are unable to pay their electric bill during cold weather months. The *Minnesota Cold Weather Rule* was established to protect residential members from electrical service disconnection between October 1st and April 30th.

CWR protection is available if the following conditions exist:

- 1) The disconnection would affect your main heating source
- 2) You and Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative agree on a payment plan
- 3) You have returned the CWR's Inability to Pay Declaration form to TWEC

** Note: the Cold Weather Rule and Inability to Pay Declaration form will be mailed with all September bills.*

To avoid disconnection between October 1st and April 30th you *must* complete the following:
1. Set Up a Payment Plan

If you receive a disconnect notice on your bill, you must call TWEC and set up a mutually agreed upon monthly payment plan before the disconnect date on the bill. This payment plan must be kept current to be protected by the Cold Weather Rule and avoid disconnection.

2. Return the CWR Form

Complete the CWR's Inability to Pay Declaration form and return it to TWEC before the disconnect date on your bill. You may complete this form online at www.toddwadena.coop.

The Cold Weather Rule does not prevent winter disconnections. If you have a DISCONNECTION NOTICE on your bill between October 1st and April 30th, you must act before the disconnect date on the bill.

Energy Assistance Program

WHAT IS IT?

Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program helps renters and homeowners keep their homes heated and the lights on. The deadline to apply for energy assistance during the winter of 2026-2027 is May 31st, 2027.

HOW MUCH CAN I RECEIVE?

- ◆ Primary grants range from \$200 to \$1,400 depending on energy consumption costs and income.
- ◆ **Additional funds are available for crisis situations.**
- ◆ Free home energy upgrades for homeowners and renters.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

People who rent or own their home and meet the income guidelines.

Contact your local energy assistance by county:

Becker, Hubbard, Otter Tail, & Wadena (Mahube OTWA)

(218) 847-1385 or (888) 458-1385

Cass (Bi-Cap) Beltrami

(218) 547-3438 or (800) 332-7161 (*Walker Office*)
 (218) 751-4631 or (800) 332-7161 (*Bemidji Office*)

Douglas (West Central Minnesota Communities Action)

(218) 405-3073 or (800) 492-4805

Morrison (Tri-County)

(320) 251-1612 or (888) 765-5597

Todd

(320) 732-4516 or (888) 838-4066

APPLY ONLINE



TWEC Board Minutes:

Highlights from the July 31, 2026, regular board meeting:

- Griffin Rasmussen, TWEC's 2026 NRECA Youth Tour representative, gave a short presentation on his experience visiting Washington, D.C.
- Board Member Mike Thorson has been awarded the NRECA Region 6 Award for Outstanding Service. He will be presented with the award at the NRECA Regional Meeting in September in Minneapolis.
- CEO Dan Carlisle shared Great River Energy's (GRE) Integrated Resource Plan for 2026-2040. The plan outlined which resources were planning on coming onboard and which were set to expire in the coming years.
- Thorson gave the GRE board report, noting that June financials were \$2.3 million ahead of budget.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the June financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 5 percent under budget. June's purchased power expense was 10 percent under budget. TIER is 1.94 and Equity is 42.16.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson shared that this year's Co-op Strong event was a huge success, serving just under 1,000 members.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher discussed the recent storms and miscellaneous outages across TWEC's service territory. There were 109 distribution outages (mostly due to vegetation) that affected 2,300 members.
- Director of Corporate Services, IT, & Cybersecurity Abby Harrison highlighted areas of the recent cybersecurity tabletop exercise and the status of the penetration tests that are being conducted in 2026.
- Carlisle was reelected as the STAR Energy Board Chair.

Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for members & friends of



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

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

Website: www.toddwadena.coop

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:

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

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

Business Hours Reminder

TWEC's office hours have returned to 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday, now that summer is over.

September Reader's Contest

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 **October 25th**.

1. TWEC was the first electric cooperative in Minnesota to formally adopt a wild _____ mitigation policy.
2. TWEC will conduct _____ dual fuel load control test events later this fall.
3. Review your contact information on SmartHub or the remit stub of your electric bill, is your contact info up to date? Yes or no? _____

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

--	--

Judy Vrdoljak of Browerville was the July Reader's Contest winner.