

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* October 2025 NEWS



Oakdale Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

POWERING THE FUTURE

BE AWARE OF POTENTIAL ENERGY SCAMS

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

PORK RECIPES





POWERED BY PURPOSE

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

This month, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you—the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

As the General Manager & CEO of Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC), I see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you—our members, our neighbors, and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members

who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity, and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible—because we know how much rising prices affect families and businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, OEC crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community

needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, or partnering with volunteer organizations, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought—it's part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.

That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be *your* local electric cooperative.

Interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors? What to do next for interested parties in Districts 1 & 7

Oct. – Dec. 18

Request Nomination Petition Form by contacting Human Resources or scan the QR code to fill out a form online.

Dec. 19, 2025

Submit completed Nomination Petition Form by 12 p.m. on December 19, 2025

April 25, 2026

Attend the Annual Meeting and Director Election on April 25, 2026.



Scan code to fill out a Petition Nomination Form online.

Questions? Contact HR@oakdalerec.coop or call 608-372-4131.

Life in Rural Wisconsin

MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!



Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) members hit the outdoors with photographing “Life in Rural Wisconsin”. Over 65 photos were submitted this year, which called for extra meticulous judging by OEC employees. Photos were judged anonymously and the photo with the most votes was then deemed the cover photo winner.

Congratulations to our member winners and honorable mentions! The 2026 Member Photo Featured Calendars are available at Member Appreciation Day on Wednesday, October 1, from 4 – 7 p.m. at the co-op headquarters. Extra copies will be available following the event.



Cover Photo – Rita Berg of Tomah



January – Natasha Bouchette of Mauston



February – Rebecca Mortensen of Nekoosa



March – Anne Klein of Wisconsin Dells



April – Emily Sprague of Warrens



May – Debra Galston of Mauston



June – Eric Ingmundson of Sparta



July – Eric Ingmundson of Sparta



August – Natasha Bouchette of Mauston



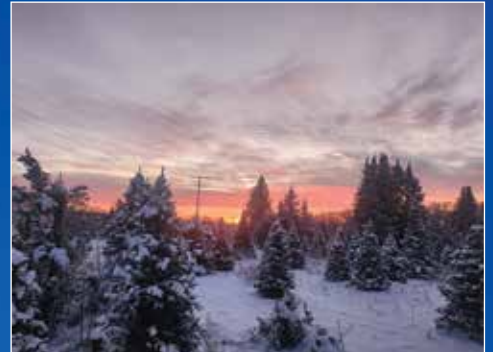
September – Anne Klein of Wisconsin Dells



October – Kim Christopherson of Necedah



November – Alan Baker of Necedah



December – Robert Skaer of Mauston



Honorable Mention –
Mike Tucker of La Valle



Honorable Mention –
Angela Fenelon of Lyndon Station



Honorable Mention –
Missy Davey of Kendall

UNDERGROUND SERVICE REMINDER

All underground construction paperwork and fees for this year need to be submitted by October 31, 2025. If you have construction plans that are not already scheduled, call Oakdale Electric Cooperative today at 1-800-241-2468. We cannot guarantee completion of any underground work after this date due to possible frost conditions; however, we will do everything possible to meet your construction needs and install your electrical service before winter.



WISCONSIN RESIDENTIAL ENERGY SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Coming October 1, 2025

As part of the 2025-2027 Wisconsin State Budget, the 5% sales tax on primary residential electricity accounts will be eliminated effective October 1, 2025. Primary residential member accounts will no longer pay the 5% sales tax on residential electricity statements, which includes state, county, and city sales taxes – all are waived for qualifying residential energy usage.

The exemption applies only to bills issued on or after October 1, 2025. Therefore, this change will be reflected on September usage statements received in October. For questions about your account or billing, contact our member services team at 608-372-4131.

DUAL FUEL HEAT NOTICE

As heating season approaches, this is an official notice to members with Dual Fuel Heat that Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) will no longer offer maintenance to heating equipment. If you need service, please contact the heating contractor of your choice. Load control equipment will still be maintained by OEC.




HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO


P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649
608-372-4131 • 800-241-2468

   info@oakdalerec.coop

Jackie McGlin, Editor



**Oakdale Electric
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Office Hours: Monday–Friday 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 855-938-3610

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.