



It's been of a summer of love shown for our members, communities, and fellow cooperatives!

Cooperatives adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions—from how we run the co-op, to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for Community is the seventh principle, and it is one that all employees of Oakdale Electric Cooperative value year-round. But this summer, our cups were overflowing with concern for community.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. So take the time to give back this season, and all year long. You'll be glad you did.



1. The employee blue jean fund sponsored a silent auction item for a member's cancer benefit.
2. Participation at National Night Out, an event focused on community safety, is an annual summer highlight. This year an electrical safety matching game was available for kids to play.
3. Employees volunteered at the Tomah VA Medical Center's Hero Games, a day for veterans and active-duty service members to be active, participate in friendly competition, and try new recreation activities.
4. Support was shown for youth members at the county fair livestock auctions for their dedication and commitment to their agriculture projects.
5. Employees ate high off the hog when they purchased pulled pork lunches where all proceeds benefitted the local FFA chapter.
6. Severe weather caused extensive system damage to neighboring cooperatives. Oakdale Electric sent crews to assist with power restoration at Central Wisconsin and Oconto Electric Cooperatives.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) sponsored 21 high school students, from 12 local high schools, to attend the 56th Annual Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) at UW–River Falls July 24–26. This three-day event is a unique opportunity for youth across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

DAY 1 Following dorm check-in and roommate introductions, students played ice breaker games, learned “What Is A Cooperative?”, and burned off energy during outdoor team-building activities. YLC provides an authentic college experience, which included dining in the cafeteria. Who said dessert should only be eaten once a day? The first night was capped off with guest speaker, Shelby Gruss.



DAY 2 A busy second day began with Craig Hillier, motivational speaker and author, leading team-building activities and discussions on leadership. Group work and career panels took place during the afternoon, followed by an evening etiquette dinner and hypnotist entertainment.



DAY 3 Students vying for a 2020 Youth Board position presented speeches before their peers. Matt Holtz, Tomah High School, was selected and will have the responsibility of planning next year's YLC, and will attend the 2020 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Upon returning from YLC, all students have the opportunity to participate in the Oakdale Electric's essay scholarship program, which is funded from unclaimed capital credits.



MY CO-OP

Interested in attending next year's Youth Leadership Congress? Contact Deana Protz, dprotz@oakdalerec.com, to learn how you can take part in this cooperative tradition.



FALL IS THE IDEAL TIME FOR PLANTING TREES

A freshly planted tree can put its energy into root growth, not foliage, and establish itself before winter. There are many environmental and beautification benefits to planting young trees. However, Oakdale Electric Cooperative wants to remind everyone to be aware of electrical hazards while planting. Always seek help from professionals when choosing and placing trees.

Trees that grow too close to electric lines can create shock and fire hazards as well as power outages. More importantly, children can become victims of electric shock when they climb trees that have grown too close to the power lines as well. Trees growing into power lines can also create electrical hazards for employees who might be trimming branches, hanging lights or otherwise working around them.

Take the time to research tree selections by consulting with Oakdale Electric Cooperative, a local arborist, or a tree nursery. These experts can provide assistance in designing a beautiful, shade-filled yard with trees appropriate for each area of the landscape. With their help, trees can provide economical cooling in the summer, and a wind-break for harsh winter winds.

Choosing the right tree for the right place is crucial,

especially when it comes to power lines. Trees and wood in general can potentially conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if grown close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch can also cause fires.

If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact your local cooperative. Never try to prune them yourself. Oakdale Electric has skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance.

To avoid future electrical hazards, follow the guide to Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place:

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.ArborDay.org.

LARGE TREES	MEDIUM TREES	SMALL TREES
<p>Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maple • Birch • Oak • Spruce • Pine • Sweetgum • Linden 	<p>Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington hawthorn • Goldenrain tree • Eastern redbud • American arborvitae • Dogwoods 	<p><i>Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.</i></p> <p>Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star magnolia • Crabapple • Lilac

Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, October 19

7:30–11 a.m.
Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Games • Prizes
Fun Activities

Join us for breakfast!

Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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 866-392-4307

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