

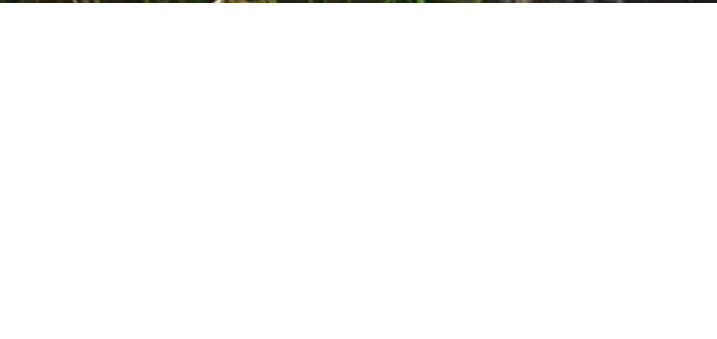
Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY

*Cooperative*

September 2020 NEWS

## CONNECTIONS to the *Past*



TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy Partner



# FARMERS URGED TO LOOK UP DURING HARVEST SEASON

## Always keep electrical safety in mind

**H**arvest brings long grueling hours in the field. This can cause workers to be weary and prone to forget the safety precautions that can prevent serious or fatal electrical injuries. Every year, an average 62 farm workers are electrocuted in the United States and many more are injured, according to Labor Department statistics.

Safe Electricity urges farm operators, family members, and employees to beware of overhead power lines, to keep farm equipment safely away, and to know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. Safe Electricity urges all farm workers to visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) and watch the video story of farmer Jim Flach, who was fatally injured as he climbed down from his equipment that was in contact with overhead power lines.

The increasing size of farm equipment, particularly grain tanks on combines that have become higher with extensions, allow operators to come perilously close to overhead power

lines over entrances to fields. It is vital to keep equipment safely away from them—a minimum 10-foot safety radius around the electric line.

“The No. 1 cause of electrocution on the farm is an auger that hits a power line when being moved,” says Bob Aherin, extension agricultural safety specialist, University of Illinois.

Portable augers being maneuvered by hand around bin sites have caused the death of many farm workers who became the path to ground for electricity when the top of the auger touched overhead power lines. Always retract or lower augers when moving or transporting.

The most common equipment involved in power line accidents are portable grain augers, oversized wagons, large combines, and other tall equipment that come into contact with overhead lines.

“Harvest time is the most likely period for farm-related injury accidents and fatalities,” Aherin says. Combines and other equipment loaded onto trailers can also hit power lines and can cause

electrocutions, as can raising the bed of a truck to unload, he adds. That is exactly the reason for the tragic electrocution of a 53-year-old Michigan truck driver, who raised the bed of his semi-trailer truck while parked beneath a power line at the edge of a field. Colleagues said he was attempting to clean out the bed, and when he touched the truck bed he became the path to ground for the electricity.

Farm operators, family members, and farm employees are urged to take these measures:

- Use a spotter when moving tall loads near lines.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height, and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- Make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. These accidents are survivable if the right actions are taken.

“It’s almost always best to stay in the cab, call for help, and wait until the elec- ▶

## MILK GALLON GIVEAWAY PROVIDES MORE THAN 14,000 GALLONS OF MILK

Promotion supports Wisconsin farmers, electric co-op members

**T**aylor Electric Cooperative, in partnership with the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, Kwik Trip, and other participating Wisconsin electric cooperatives, delivered 14,016 gallons of milk to members in June’s Milk Gallon Giveaway. Taylor Electric members redeemed coupons provided in June’s *Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News* for 683 gallons of milk at area Kwik Trip Stores.

The promotion was offered in connection with June Dairy Month. According to Kwik Trip, coupon promotions typically result in 2-5 percent redemption rate. The Milk Gallon Giveaway had a 12 percent redemption rate, with some co-op areas, such as Taylor Electric, registering as high as a 18 percent redemption.

Wisconsin’s member-owned electric cooperatives serve 57 percent of all dairy farms in the state. The industry continues to be hit hard by the impact of the coronavirus and the public health emergency.

“The pandemic affects us all, and our farmers have been hit particularly hard,” said President/CEO Ken Ceaglske. “Thank you to our members, and our partners for making this promotion a success, and helping us offer a little relief during this difficult time. We are all in this together.”



tric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result,” Aherin said. “Even if a power line is on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there’s fire or imminent risk of fire.”

In that case, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time, and continue to shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

“Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the voltage diminishes the farther out it is from the source,” Aherin said. “Stepping from one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A large differ-

ence in voltage between both feet could kill you. Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Never should

the operator simply step out of the vehicle—the person must jump clear.”

To learn more about electrical safety visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

FARM SAFETY
POWER LINE AWARENESS

Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around electricity. Utilize these safety tips for you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm.

- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Know all power line locations on your farm and routes between fields.
- Always use a spotter when moving equipment near power lines.
- Don't completely rely on autosteer or GPS to detect and clear power lines or poles.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact us.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



Safe  
Electricity.org

## YOU HAVE THE POWER WITH PREPAID METERING

These are challenging times, with pandemic-related issues putting a strain on many household budgets.

One of the services we offer at Taylor Electric that can help give you more control over your household energy costs is prepaid metering. This service is as simple as it sounds: Consumers pay for electricity before it is used, then use the electricity until the credit expires.

A terrific analogy for prepaid metering is putting gas in your car. Say you only have \$30 for the week to pay for gasoline. You drive to the station, pump in \$30, and drive off. As you drive during the week, you monitor the gauge and make sure each trip is necessary. If you drive too much, you burn up your \$30 before the week is out. By checking the gauge throughout the week, you became more prudent with your gas use and made informed decisions on when and how much to use.

Now let’s transfer that analogy to your account with Taylor Electric Cooperative. With normal metering, you get a bill after you have used the electricity. Sometimes it comes as a shock. “How could I possibly have used so much electricity?” Prepaid metering is designed to ease—and hopefully eliminate—that shock. Let’s take a look at how it works.

The components of a prepaid metering system aren’t too different from regular metering. Two extra pieces are required: a way to turn off the power when all your money is used and a way for Taylor Electric to tell you how much you have left in your account. On the cooperative’s side, we handle the extra software and processes.

Now let’s see it in action. You have the prepaid metering equipment installed. Prepaid users will receive electricity use

notifications through emails and text messages, so in order to qualify, you must have these options.

Now you decide how often you want to buy electricity. Monthly? Weekly? Then you budget for a certain amount of power and pay the co-op. Payment options are easy: log into Smarthub at [www.taylorlectric.org](http://www.taylorlectric.org) for instant payments or call our toll-free payment center at 855-874-5353. You can also stop by the office and make a payment. Bingo, your electricity tank is full.

During the time period you have paid for (let’s say a week for this example), you receive regular feedback on how much you have left in your tank.

As you approach “empty,” you add more money to your account and are then set for the next period. If you run out, the power goes off just like your car stops when it runs out of gas. To complete the analogy, let’s look at what you have been doing during the week. You become quite aware of how you are using electricity. You turn things off more often. You may change the setting on your thermostat so you don’t cool or heat as much. You might cook outside to avoid using the oven or make sure your dishwasher is really full before running it. Industry studies show that consumers who participate in prepaid metering plans use as much as 10 percent less electricity than their counterparts.

Prepaid metering teaches the value of electricity, what uses watts in your home, provides absolute control over how much you pay and helps you reduce your energy use. It is a tremendous way to power your life. Contact Taylor Electric at 715-678-2411 to learn more about prepaid metering.

# TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INCENTIVES

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INCENTIVES

Effective January 1, 2020

2020 INCENTIVE

## ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES--MUST BE ENERGY STAR

Clothes Washer	\$25 per unit
Clothes Dryer	\$25 per unit
Clothes Dryer-Heat pump-all heat pump clothes dryers qualify	\$50 per unit
Refrigerator >= 10 cubic feet	\$25 per unit
Inductive Range-all inductive ranges qualify	\$25 per unit
Freezer-freezer must be ≥ 10 cubic feet to qualify	\$25 per unit
Dishwasher	\$25 per unit
Dehumidifier	\$25 per unit
Recycling—Refrig/Freezer/Room A/C (Signed certification req'd-must be working)	\$25 per unit

## CONSERVATION

Flow Restrictor – shower (2.5 gal. per min. or less-capped at cost)	\$5 per unit
Flow Restrictor – faucet (1.5 gal. per min. or less-capped at cost)	\$1 per unit
Electric vehicle charging station (Load Management control required)	\$400 per unit
Smart Power Strip/Bar – All smart power strips qualify	\$5.00 per unit

## AUDITS & ASSESSMENTS

Compressed Air Audit	capped at cost - \$500 max
Audit Recommended Improvements	capped at cost - \$500 max
Touchstone Energy New Home Program – must meet 1 of 4 requirements (criteria for multi-family dwellings include one incentive per habitable structure (not warehouse, not per apartment), structure must be on cooperative lines and person requesting incentive must be owner and a member)	\$500 each

## ELECTRIC WATER HEATER\*\*\*

Commercial and Residential—75-99 gallon (Energy Factor .88+, Residential)	\$125 per unit
Commercial and Residential—100 gallon+ (Energy Factor .88+, Residential)	\$300 per unit
Solar storage, w/electric auxillary tank – 75-99 gallon	\$125 per unit
Solar storage, w/electric auxillary tank – 100+ gallon	\$300 per unit
Heat pump water heater (Integrated (all-in-one) units, Energy Factor 2.0 or greater)	\$300 per unit

## LIGHTING

LED bulb (residential & non-residential)-capped at cost	\$.50 per bulb- 5 bulb minimum
LED fixture – non-residential only-capped at cost	\$.50 per 800 lumens per fixture
LED Exit signs-capped at cost	\$5 per sign
Occupancy Sensors-capped at cost (excludes motion detectors)	\$5 each

## HVAC\*\*\*\*

Heat Pump – Air-Source & MiniSplit (14+ SEER, 8.2+ HSPF, or EER 11+)	\$250 per ton
Heat Pump – Commercial Air Source & PTHPs (Less than 20 ton: EER 11+)	\$250 per ton
20 to less than 60 ton: EER 10.5+ , Greater than or equal to 60 ton: EER 10+	
Heat Pump – Geothermal	\$500 per ton
New Furnace w/ECM Blower Motor-Variable speed motor (not multi-speed)	\$35 per unit
“or” AFUE>=95% & Eae <=670 kwh/year	
Dual Fuel (8 KW min. - new installations)	TEC only - \$100 bill credit
ETS units	TEC only - \$30 per KW
Electric hydronic or slab	TEC only - \$20 per KW

## AGRICULTURAL & C&I

Commercial Vending Machine Controls	\$25 each
Dairy Plate Cooler/Well Water Pre-cooler	\$500 per unit
Dairy Heat Recovery w/electric backup-used with controlled water heater	\$300 per unit
Low/zero Energy Livestock Waterer (500 watts or less, insulated tank)	\$50 per unit
Scroll Refrigeration Compressor (Max. \$1,000 per compressor)	\$30 per HP
Variable Frequency Drive (Max. \$1,000/drive, min. 1/2 HP)	\$30 per HP
Electric Forklift Battery Charger-must be controlled as defined by cooperative	\$200/each
Ag Fan – Exhaust, less than 36” must be >= 18 cfm/Watt @ 0.05” SP	\$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Exhaust, greater than 36” must be >= 21 cfm/Watt @ 0.05” SP	\$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Circulation, less than 36” must be >= 18 lbs. force/kW	\$1 per inch diameter
Ag Fan – Circulation, greater than 36” must be >= 21 lbs force/kW	\$1 per inch diameter

\*\*\*Water heater rebates require installation of Co-op’s Load Management (LM) control.

\*\*\*\*A/C and Heat pumps require LM only when separately metered for off-peak rates.

\*\*\*\*Dual Fuel, ETS, & Hydronic or slab systems require LM control to qualify for incentive. (timeclock control when under the time of day rate is acceptable).

Maximum rebate = \$20,000 per member account per year. Most rebates must be applied for within 3 months of purchase.



# ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES: DO THEY REALLY SAVE YOU MONEY?

**If you are in the market for a new appliance, you might wonder if buying an ENERGY STAR-certified version will make a difference in your energy bills.**

**The short answer is yes**, when you compare its estimated energy costs to its less efficient counterpart.

In fact, there are really two costs to consider before buying an appliance: the cost itself and the projected monthly energy costs.

The energy-conscious appliances donning the square-shaped Energy Star logo use 10 to 15 percent less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov. For example, Energy Star clothes washers use about 40 percent less energy than conventional clothes washers while also reducing water bills.

**And the longer answer is yes**, if you consider the appliance's lifespan.

Energy Star appliances and other products used throughout your home can save you a collective \$750 over their lifespan, according to Energy.gov. (Besides appliances, there are other Energy Star-certified products, such as lighting and electronics).

While selecting energy-saving designated appliances could have a slightly higher price tag, they don't always. Compare prices and don't assume they cost substantially more than less efficient models.

The biggest bang for your energy-savings buck might be your refrigerator, especially if it is 15 years old or older. By replacing your old fridge with a new Energy Star-certified model, you can save more than \$200 over a 12-year lifespan.

Tip: EnergyStar.gov offers a "Flip Your Fridge" calculator to estimate savings depending on the size and age of your largest kitchen appliance.

**Bottom line?** The typical U.S. family spends around \$2,200 a year on home utility bills. Switching to ENERGY STAR products can help lower these costs over time.

**According to EnergyStar.gov, if every appliance purchased in the United States this year earned the ENERGY STAR, Americans would:**

- Prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions from 225,000 cars.
- Save more than 1.3 billion kWh/year of electricity.
- Save \$425 million in annual energy costs.
- Save more than 28 billion gallons of water per year.\*

\*Includes ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer, dishwasher, and refrigerator. Dollars savings reflect savings generated from the reduction of energy and water usage.

**Safelectricity.org**

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