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# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

September 2021

## TAKING CHARGE

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy Partner

# Where can I get a COVID vaccination?

**RURAL CONNECTIONS**  
**CRUSHING COVID**

## Clark County

### Clark County Health Department

517 Court Street, Room 105  
Neillsville, WI 54456  
(715) 743-5105

<https://www.clarkcounty.wi.gov/vaccine-information>

### Transportation Services for Elderly and Disabled

Abby Vans Inc  
(715) 743-3364  
<https://www.abbyvans.com/>

### Aging & Disability Resource Center of Clark County

(715) 743-5166  
(866) 743-5144  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/clark.htm>

MTM, Inc.  
(866) 907-1493  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nemt/index.htm>

## Lincoln County

### Lincoln County Health Department

607 N Sales St  
Merrill, WI  
(715) 536-0307  
<https://co.lincoln.wi.us/health/page/how-get-covid-19-vaccine>

### Transportation Services for Elderly and Disabled

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin  
(serving Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon and Wood Counties)  
(888) 486-9545  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/central.htm>

MTM, Inc.  
(866) 907-1493  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nemt/index.htm>

## Marathon County

### Marathon County Health Department

1000 Lake View Dr Ste 100  
Wausau, WI  
(715) 261-1000  
<https://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/HealthDepartment/COVID19/VaccineInformation.aspx>

### Transportation Services for Elderly and Disabled

Metro Ride  
(715) 842-9287  
<https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/MetroRide.aspx>

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin  
(serving Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon and Wood Counties)  
(888) 486-9545  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/central.htm>

MTM, Inc.  
(866) 907-1493  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nemt/index.htm>

Questions about the vaccine? Call the Wisconsin Department of Health Services TOLL-FREE COVID vaccination hotline at 844-684-1064. And remember, COVID vaccinations are FREE!

## Taylor County

### Taylor County Health Department

845 E Broadway Medford  
Medford, WI  
(715) 965-8830  
<https://www.co.taylor.wi.us>

### Transportation Services for Elderly and Disabled

Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Northwoods (serving Forest County, Taylor County, Forest County Potawatomi Community)  
(800) 699-6704  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/northwoods.htm#overlay-context=adrc/index.htm>

MTM, Inc.  
(866) 907-1493  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nemt/index.htm>

## I got vaccinated because...

We got vaccinated because the Delta variant of COVID-19 is proving to be even more infectious and contagious, according to the CDC. It is also more likely to affect children, who are now heading back to school. Our motto is – Live safe, but keep living!

—Julie Lund, WECA Director of Media and Communication, and daughter Lexis, 17



**Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Info**





# STUDENTS ATTEND VIRTUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS



The 2021 Youth Leadership Congress kicked off the evening of July 12 with a virtual dance party hosted by “TY DJ”, also known as Tyler Tautges, a member of the 2020-2021 youth board. The conference continued the following two mornings with sessions focusing on leadership development and the cooperative business model. Almost 50 students from 13 Wisconsin electric cooperatives participated, including Colby Elsner of Medford.

WECA President and CEO Steve Freese kicked off the first session by welcoming the students to the event. Other speakers included Craig Hillier, motivational speaker and author, who was upbeat and engaging, and State Senator Janet Bewley (D–Ashland) and State Representative Rob Summerfield (R–Bloomer), who engaged in a lively Q & A with the participants.

Trevor Clark, director of outreach services with Richland Electric Cooperative, presented about a podcast contest and Dylan Pingitore, utility project coordinator, talked “Co-ops 101.” Past youth board members and Glenn English Scholarship winners Tessa Otto and William Tuchtenhagen shared their experiences about youth tour, YLC, and the youth board.

District meetings were spent doing ice-breaker activities, a cooperative principle activity, hiring a manager case study, discussing both the License to Live and What Lies Beneath videos, and youth board candidate interviews.

**“These kids are the future of the cooperative world, and the future is bright.”**

–Tina Walden, WECA youth coordinator

Kenneth Ceaglske, president/CEO of Taylor Electric Cooperative; Jesse Singerhouse, general manager and CEO of Dunn Energy Cooperative; Lynn Thompson, president and CEO of Eau Claire Energy Cooperative; Mike Wade, president and CEO of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative; and Brian Zelenak, president and CEO of St. Croix Electric Cooperative, presented on the “Responsibilities of a Cooperative CEO.”

“It was great getting to see that the interest in cooperatives and the experience of YLC was still able to come to life across the screen,” said Gracelyn Footit, 2018/2019 Youth Board member from Adams-Columbia who assisted with the 2021 virtual event.

Tina Walden, WECA executive assistant and youth coordinator, said the first-ever all-virtual event had some glitches due to broadband access, but overall was a great event. “The students obviously had a lot of information thrown at them in a short time, but they handled it very well,” she said. “The cooperative CEOs that took the time out of their day to speak to our students did an amazing job. They were fun and engaging and got the students to interact with them. Lynn Thompson even stuck around to be the ‘bad candidate’ example for the session on hiring a CEO.”

“These kids are the future of the cooperative world, and the future is bright,” Walden added. “Thanks to everyone who contributed to YLC this year. Everyone is so happy to be back.”

Walden says she is planning, and hoping, for an in-person Youth Leadership Congress next year.



Motivational speaker Craig Hillier brought his high-energy style to the virtual format of this year's Youth Leadership Congress. Taylor Electric President/CEO Kenneth Ceaglske also spoke at this year's event.



# LOOK UP DURING HARVEST SEASON



*Photo Courtesy of Lance Cheung, USDA*

**H**arvest brings long grueling hours in the field. This can cause farm 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 be aware of overhead power lines, to keep farm equipment safely away, and to know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. A video story about farmer Jim Flach on [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) shows what can happen if you aren't careful. Flach was killed as he climbed down from his equipment that was in contact with power lines.

The increasing size of farm equipment, particularly grain tanks on combines that have become higher with extensions, allows 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 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, and large combines.

“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. That is what happened to 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.

If you should make accidental contact with a power line, it's almost always best to stay in the cab, call for help, and wait until the electric 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.”

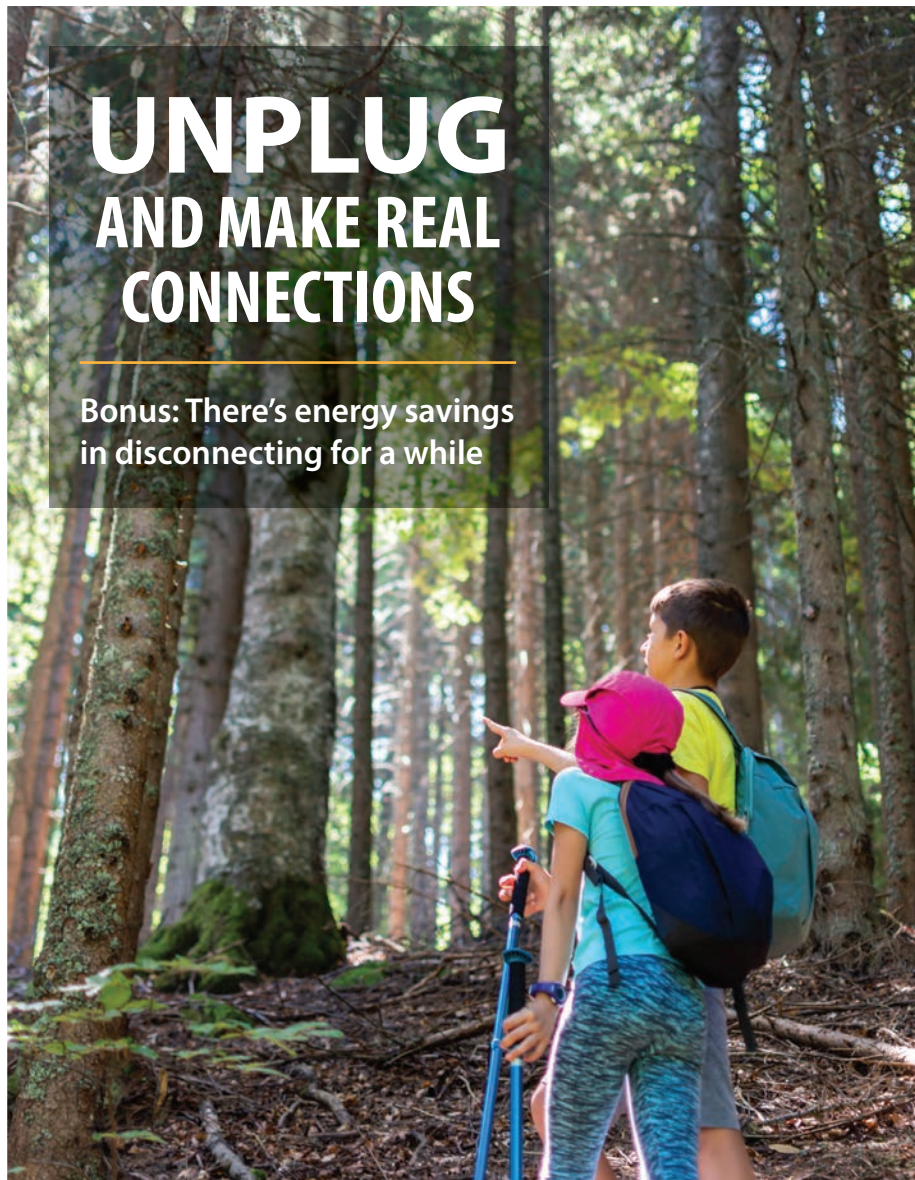
In that case, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time, and continue to shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together.

“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 difference 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.”



# UNPLUG AND MAKE REAL CONNECTIONS

**Bonus: There's energy savings  
in disconnecting for a while**



Most adults have a vague memory of a time when “checking for messages” meant listening to an answering machine. We carried on with our days without relying on cell phones and managed just fine. But today, we are more connected than ever through our smart phones and other devices.

Our phones are so much more now—from cameras to calendars to social media connections—and truly disconnecting from them can be tough. But it's even harder for our kids to unplug because they only know life with these tiny screens. It's difficult for them to imagine life without computers, gaming devices, tablets or cell phones.

But there's great value in unplugging

for children and adults, even if it's for just a short period of time. For kids, time away from the screen to be outside with other children allows them to connect with nature and others in a way that a virtual experience simply does not allow. They are able to experience life in the moment and allow their creativity and energy to break free.

Fortunately, we have access to great community programs and organizations like 4-H and the Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, that provide children with a safe place to play, learn, and grow, while cultivating new skills and interests.

These types of clubs and programs offer kids an opportunity to explore activities and interests outside of school academics. Children can investigate

areas they might not otherwise have access to and discover new interests and passions. They often learn new skills and strengthen existing ones. It's no secret that the broader the range of experiences and activities children are exposed to, the more likely they are to find their own path and possibly a career. Community programs also foster important leadership development and public speaking skills. Through guided and informal play and activities, children learn problem-solving and interpersonal skills that enable them to resolve conflicts peacefully and improve interpersonal relationships.

Adults can also find meaningful opportunities to spend time with the kids when we all unplug. From board games to craft projects to playing in the park, there are many ways we can unplug for some family fun.

## Energy Vampires



can add **10%** or more to electric bills.

Safe  
Electricity.org

research collected from Energy.gov

While you and your children are disconnecting, take a moment to identify potential energy savings. Unplug electronics that are not in use to avoid “vampire” energy loss. This is the energy that is drained from technology and electronics even when they are not in use. For example, although it is turned off, your TV is waiting to receive a signal from the remote and your DVR is waiting to record the next show or perform an update.

Let's encourage youngsters to step away from the screens and join in. To play and be part of an organization that helps them connect with others and find meaningful interactions and explore new activities and interests.

When you do plug back in, Taylor Electric Cooperative is here to help you save money and energy by connecting you with our energy saving programs and services. While we'd love to see you in person, we're also just a call or click away.



# LET'S BEAT THE PEAK TOGETHER

As a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative, you know how to make smart energy choices that help you save money. But did you know that when you use electricity can be just as important as how much you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes, and watch television.

These times when people in our community are using more electricity at the same time are called "peak" hours. The cost for Taylor Electric to provide power is higher during these times because of the additional demand for electricity.

By shifting some of your energy use to hours when demand is lower, also known as off-peak hours, you can help keep rates lower for our community.

Here are a few easy ways you can shift energy use to off-peak hours:

- Adjust your thermostat. During summer months, raise the thermostat a few degrees during peak hours, and during the winter, turn it down a few degrees.
- Wash full loads of clothes in cold water during off-peak hours.
- Run the dishwasher right before you go to bed, or air-dry dishes by opening the dishwasher instead of using the heated dry cycle.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)



There are many ways to save energy and money by making a few minor adjustments to your daily routine.

We're here to help. Contact us at 800-862-2407 or visit us at [www.tayorelectric.org](http://www.tayorelectric.org) if you have questions about your energy bill or for additional energy-saving tips.

## Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

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## Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor

## WATCH FOR THOSE FLASHING LIGHTS



After a year of mostly remote learning, students are heading back to school this month to start the 2021-2022 school year. That means school buses are back on the roads, and drivers need to look out for them.

Remember: It's the law in all 50 states to stop for a stopped school bus with flashing lights. The lights indicate one of the following is happening:

- **Flashing yellow lights** – This indicates the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Slow down and prepare to stop your vehicle to allow for safe loading or unloading.
- **Flashing red lights** – Usually paired with an extended stop arm, this indicates the bus is stopped and children are actively in the process of getting on or off the bus. As a driver, you must stop your vehicle and wait until the lights stop flashing, the extended arm retracts, and the bus begins to move before you resume moving.



## Customer Appreciation/Co-op Month Celebration

**Thursday, October 7**

Centennial Community Center,  
Stetsonville

*Event subject to change due to COVID mitigation requirements. Watch for details...*

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