

Steve Lucas, CEO

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SAFETY DURING HARVEST

While I can't say I indulge in every new technological twist and turn (you won't likely find me playing Pokéman Go, for example), I am very grateful to be living in the time that we are,

when technology has made both work and play easier, more convenient, more productive, and safer.

However, sometimes those very attributes can cause problems of their own by making users of this amazing technology complacent. Take that Pokéman Go game, for example. By now there have been lots of reports of people getting injured while playing because they're relying on the screen to guide them instead of their surroundings, leading to mishaps with walls, ditches, trees, and anything else that gets in the way.

A similar idea applies to farmwork. Since it's September and harvest season has begun, I'd like to focus on safety in the field, especially as it pertains to electric power lines.

As with just about every other industry, agriculture has benefited from advances in technology. With the help of GPS auto-steer devices that provide farmers with real-time location data in the field, farmers are able to decrease driver error and maintain accuracy, even during low-light conditions. The technology even allows farmers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the combine maneuvers itself through the fields.

However, the Energy Education Council and Safe Electricity point out that these auto-guidance systems may lead some drivers to believe they don't need to be as aware of navigation issues since the farm equipment is basically doing it for them. This is a potentially dangerous assumption. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues such as power poles

not being correctly plotted in the system reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment and the location of any nearby power poles, and also to be ready to take action if necessary.

Here are some additional farm safety tips from Safe Electricity to keep in mind during the harvest season, whether you use the latest technology or not:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- 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 Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative. Never try to fix it yourself.
- If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for SREC crews to cut the power.

One more bit of safety advice: If Pokéman should ever appear in a substation or any other electrical equipment, don't go chasing it. Always keep a safe distance from electric equipment and lines, whether you're working or playing.

Have a happy, and safe, harvest!

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning photo from SREC's first-ever Member Photo Contest for September was taken by Rhonda Wiedenbeck at River View Farms in Lancaster. She described this image as "a prized friend/cow enjoying the landscape of Wisconsin."

Each of the winning photos is included in our 2016 member calendar. Our 2017 calendar, featuring winning photos from this year's contest, will be available soon. Thanks to all members who submitted pictures!

Though this year's contest has wrapped up, don't stop snapping! Photos taken past the deadline can still be submitted in next year's Member Photo Contest.





STUDENTS EXPLORE THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE AT 53RD YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Seven young members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative represented their co-op at the 53rd Youth Leadership Congress (YLC), held at UW–River Falls July 13–15. They were among the 125 high school students from around the state who gathered at the annual conference to explore the cooperative difference and develop their leadership skills.

Sponsored by Wisconsin’s electric cooperatives and UW–River Falls, the YLC offers a mix of interactive workshops, motivational speeches by well-known speakers, and team-building exercises that reinforce the value of cooperation.

Once again, a favorite session among the students was nationally acclaimed speaker Craig Hillier’s dynamic “Break-through Leadership” program. Back again this year by popular demand, Hillier inspires students to fulfill their leadership potential and make a difference in their schools and communities.

Other sessions focused on the cooperative business model, careers in cooperatives, and renewable energy options. Students also worked together in small groups tackling practical issues faced at electric cooperatives. Among the scenarios examined in these case studies were the hiring of a new CEO and determining a rate increase, both of which generated considerable conversation among the YLC delegates.

“I really didn’t know what a co-op was and how it worked before I came,” said SREC delegate Kate Nusbaum, a senior at Potosi High School. “We broke into different groups and learned what a co-op is, how they work, the co-op principals, and things like that.”

Students also got practice in the



Representing Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative at this year’s Youth Leadership Congress were, left to right: Bernadette O’Brien, Hannah Nusbaum, Norah O’Brien, Allie Stader, Sage Langhus, Kate Nusbaum, and Melody Hampton.

cooperative structure by participating in director elections. All students had the opportunity to run for one of six spots on the WECA Youth Board, which is tasked with planning and helping to run the next year’s conference. Last year SREC delegate Allie Stader was elected by her peers for a spot on the 2015–16 Youth Board; she was on hand along with SREC’s six 2016 delegates to help lead this year’s event. All students who take the opportunity to run for the Youth

ment by hypnotist Dr. Al Snyder, who had students pretending to eat ice cream cones that were melting rapidly, fly an expensive remote control airplane, and play slot machines for \$3 million. His performance was a topic of conversation among the students for the remainder of the conference.

Students also enjoyed a dance and a formal banquet, during which UW–River Falls Professor Melissa Wilson led the group through the fine points of formal dining etiquette.

However, feedback showed that once again the participants themselves made for the most memorable part of the YLC, with students forming fast friendships over the three-day event.

“My favorite part was probably just getting to meet all of the other students, who had the same interests I did,” Nusbaum said. Her advice to students who are considering attending the YLC next year is to take advantage of all the conference has to offer.

“I would say just be ready to meet people,” she said. “They all want to meet you, they want to know about you, they want to teach you everything they know. Just have fun with it.”

Next year’s Youth Leadership Congress is scheduled for July 12–14, 2017. Watch this magazine and SREC’s website, www.sre.coop, in the spring for more details.

“My favorite part was probably just getting to meet all the other students...”

—SREC delegate Kate Nusbaum

Board—whether they’re elected or not—gain from the arduous election process, which has each candidate completing a panel interview and presenting a speech to the entire YLC delegation.

The YLC also offered plenty of opportunities to just have fun and get a taste of college life. New to the program this year was an evening of entertain-



MY CO-OP

It takes teamwork!

UW–River Falls staff challenged Youth Leadership Congress delegates to complete several mental and physical tasks that required teamwork and cooperation for a successful outcome. 2015–16 Youth Board Member Allie Stader from Lancaster (center of the picture at bottom left) led some of the activities with the rest of the 2015–16 Youth Board.



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In addition, we have drop boxes available at the Piggly Wiggly grocery stores in Lancaster, Platteville, Darlington, and Boscobel.



October 18 – Lancaster office

October 19 – Gays Mills office

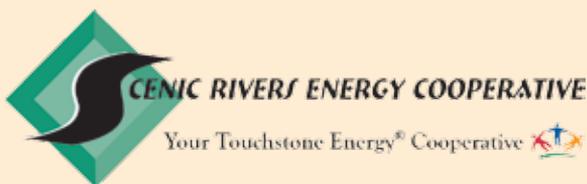
October 20 – Darlington office

4 to 7 p.m. at each location

Come join us as we celebrate October Co-op Month! We'll have...

- Dinner (shredded roast beef sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, chips, cheese curds, brownies and beverages)
- Bucket truck rides
- Free blood pressure checks provided by county nurses, as well as flu shots at members' cost
- Focus on Energy information
- Door prizes

Each member will receive a 2017 calendar with the winning photos from this year's contest!



Steve Lucas, CEO

231 N. Sheridan St.
Lancaster, WI 53813
lancaster@srec.net

300 Barth Drive
P.O. Box 127
Darlington, WI 53530
darlington@srec.net

15985 St. Hwy. 131
P.O. Box 158
Gays Mills, WI 54631
gaysmills@srec.net

608-723-2121 • 800-236-2141 • www.sre.coop

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