

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* October 2022 NEWS



**Richland Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

RESOURCEFUL RESCO

CO-OPS COPE WITH
SUPPLY-CHAIN SLOWDOWN

INSULATION MADE EASY

FALLING FOR ART

REC MEMBER APPRECIATION
PICNIC SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8





October is
Co-op
Month!



**Richland Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC



**Saturday,
October 8, 2022
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Richland Electric
Cooperative
Service Center
30 E. Robb Road,
Richland Center**

Please join us
Saturday, October
8, as we celebrate
October Co-op Month
with a picnic to show
our appreciation for
YOU, our members!

Come join us for fun,
food, and—even
better—fellowship,
live and in person!
We'll be serving
grilled brats, hot
dogs, chicken breasts,
pulled pork, potato
salad, beans, and
cheese curds.

CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP

October is National Co-op Month

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community, and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Richland Electric Cooperative (REC) celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for Community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

REC works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour, Youth Leadership Congress, and scholarship programs. We created a bottled water program to support school programs and extra-curricular activities. Many of our staff members support the community by volunteering as first responders or at a place of worship. We have a few high school coaches on staff. We have had several linemen volunteer to travel on emergency calls to other states to offer aid.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board

members are invested in the community in which we live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have numerous programs in place to help, including rebate programs, our

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partnership with Focus on Energy, and staff members who will work with you to help save energy and money.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our Smart Hub

app. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

REC is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.



Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



DRIVING BEHIND FARM EQUIPMENT: DO YOUR PART

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers. Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

Equipment Operators:

1. Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
2. Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
3. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
4. Take care at railroad crossings.
5. Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
6. Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges, and other hazards.
7. Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
8. Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
9. Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

Auto Drivers:

1. Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
2. Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
3. When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
4. Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
5. Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
6. Honk or motion when passing farmers. They may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
7. Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
8. Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
9. Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



with Farmers

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment, which can be wide and slow. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only way to get from point A to point B.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, take a deep breath and **do the following to keep everyone safe:**

1

Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.

2

Do not pass in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.

3

Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.

4

Do not tailgate. Following too closely means you could be in the operator's blind spot.

5

Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.

Source: Texas Table Top
(Texas Farm Bureau)





A RIDDLE:

FOUR CATS AND NO RIVER TO CROSS

By Dennis Siebert

Since the 9th century a riddle has been circulating regarding a farmer taking a fox and a goose and a sack of beans across the river. The farmer is only allowed to take one item across the river at a time. The realities are if the fox is left alone with the goose, he will eat it. If the goose is left alone with the grain, the grain will be consumed.

Over time similar riddles have been written. Examples, three married couples need to cross the river, but one is a jealous husband, or crossing the river with three missionaries and three cannibals.

Circumstances not of my choosing have created a riddle for me. Throughout my life I have never sought out a cat for a pet. However stray cats have found my doorstep. Some have been male cats seeking a place of refuge; others have been female cats dropping their litters under my deck.

MY RIDDLE: I have no river to cross but feeding the cats and finding a place for them to bed down has become a problem.

Grey was dropped off about four years ago and his mother and father were killed on Highway 14 west of Richland Center shortly after his birth. Grey was my only cat and he slept inside and outside my cabin. Grey is by far the most passive male cat I have ever owned.

About a year ago a tom cat was circulating through the neighborhood. For some odd reason my Grey and the new tom cat became the best of friends. The two of them ate and slept together as if they were long-lost friends. Grey would no longer enter my cabin without his new friend; both were made to stay outside.

All was going well until another stray cat, a female, with a frozen ear and no tail, decided to hook up with my new

male cat and they bonded. Several months later on May 25, 2022, she gifted us with a single male kitten. The courtship between my new male cat, Bear Junior, and this female cat, Mama, caused my passive male cat Grey to become listless and sad looking.

The mother cat, Mama, is very aggressive, territorial and rules the roost. Grey has moved off the deck, fearing for his life. Mama eats from the other cats' food dishes and Bear Jr. just steps back and lets her do whatever she wishes.

Mamma's kitten, Micki, loves playing with the tails of the other male cats, but no love returned by my two male cats.

I have three nice cat houses set up outside, and Mama loves them all. At feeding time, I have to search for Grey in order to feed him. When Grey does come inside, he gets antsy and must be let out to meet his foe.

I have no river to cross but I have done most everything from feeding on the front and the back deck, to placing their homes around the cabin, to neutering Bear Jr. and spaying Mama, to feeding kitten inside, to thinking of taking the female cat to her previous owner. With Mama gone I believe there would be no riddle to solve.

For now, all cats are welcomed here, well fed and housed but with winter approaching I fear my river crossing will be the snow and the freezing nights.

Do you have a knack for writing? If you've got an original story you'd like to share, we'd love to see it! Please send it to Trevor Clark via email, tclark@rec.coop, or mail it to 30 E. Robb Rd., PO Box 439, Richland Center, WI 53581.

Shannon Clark, Manager/CEO

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www.rec.coop

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