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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* December 2020 NEWS

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STAYING SAFE AFTER AN ACCIDENT:



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Know what to do around utility equipment

With winter right around the corner, now is the time to revisit accident safety with the drivers in your home. Do you all know what you should do if your vehicle comes in contact with a pad-mount transformer (or “green box”) or other utility equipment or lines?

First, assess the situation. If your car is not smoking or on fire, stay in your vehicle. That is the safest place for you to be while you wait for help, and the utility to de-energize the power lines. Stepping out of your vehicle while touching it at the same time, or trying to walk or run to safety, can cause serious burn injuries or death.

If you are in a multiple-car accident, yell to others (from the safety of your car) to warn them not to leave their vehicle. Also warn those who might stop to help to not approach the scene.

Call 911 to report the accident location and clearly state to the dispatcher that electrical equipment or lines are involved.

If you see smoke or fire, try to stay calm. Make a clear jump, without holding on to the vehicle, and hop or shuffle (with your feet together) at least 30 feet from the vehicle. Just like any downed power lines, any damaged utility equipment such as pad-mounted transformers or cabinets that house electrical equipment can send electrical current through the pavement or ground.

Walking across the energized ground or touching an energized vehicle and the ground at the same time, a phenomenon known as step potential can occur. Step potential is the voltage difference between the two feet of a person near an energized, grounded object. A person on the ground is subjected to the risk of injury during an electrical fault by

simply attempting to move away from the grounding point, in this case the car in the accident.

DO NOT go near or touch electrical equipment.

DO NOT move a downed wire or broken piece of equipment with your hand or other object.

Keep in mind that there can still be damage to equipment, even if you don't see anything. Even if metal boxes look intact or appear to have minimal damage, please report the incident to electrical provider. If the impact dislodges the equipment inside the “green box” it is possible the ground

could become energized. This makes for a very dangerous situation.

This winter, if you are plowing and accidentally clip a transformer or any other electrical equipment, please make sure to report it to your utility. This helps keep everyone safe.

If you are in an accident involving electrical equipment, stay calm, call 911, stay in your vehicle, and warn others to stay away. If your car is on fire, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together and hop or shuffle at least 30 feet away.

Let's make it a safe winter season here in Wisconsin!



License to Live To learn more about what to do you if you should ever find yourself in an accident involving power equipment, watch the short video “License to Live,” a project sponsored by Wisconsin’s electric cooperatives and developed by electric co-op employees and WECA in conjunction with the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and Safe Electricity. You can view the video at <https://safeelectricity.org/license-to-live/>.



FOUR WAYS SANTA SAVES ENERGY IN HIS WORKSHOP

The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year. It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop—how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.

1 Santa leaves his decorations up year-round, so by using LED holiday light strands, he's able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.

2 Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the United States used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!

3 Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

4 Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.



This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!).

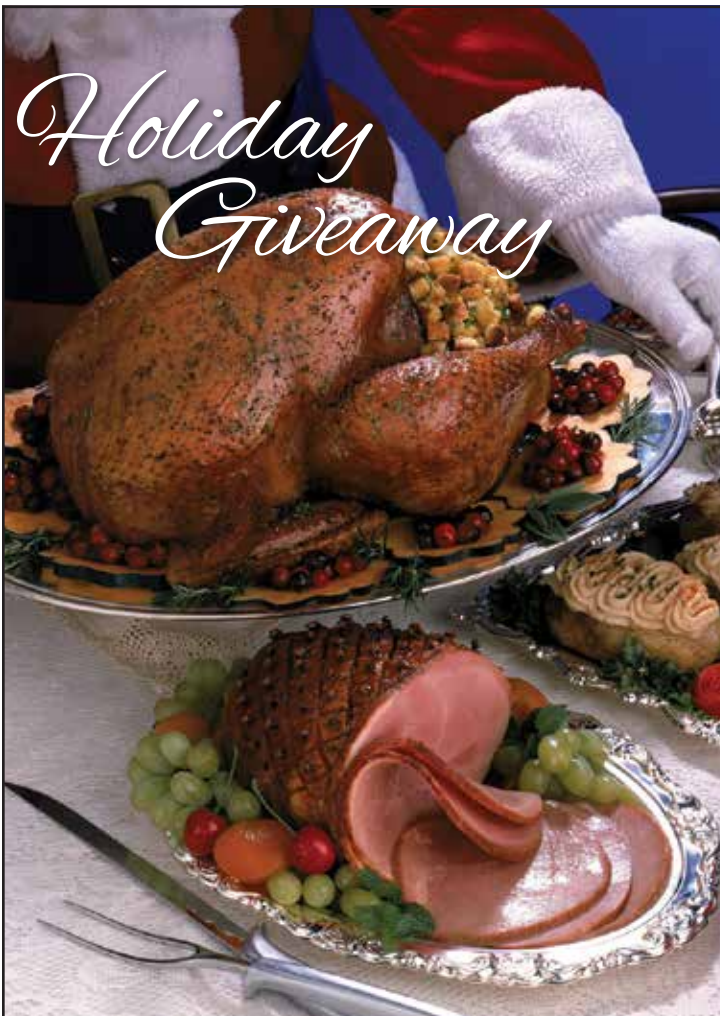


CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

We're looking for pictures for our 2021/2022 calendar!

With the new year fast approaching, work will begin soon on our annual report. That means our search for photos for our calendar is underway! If you've taken a photo that shows off our beautiful rural part of the state, please share! And if you haven't taken any such photos yet, start snapping! We'd love to see your photos!

Photos can be submitted to tclark@rec.coop.



We're getting into Christmas spirit with our holiday giveaway! We will be giving away a ham or turkey to two lucky winners for Christmas. The ham and turkey will be prepared by the Richland Locker. Just fill out the form below and bring it to the REC offices. The drawing will take place on DECEMBER 15. The winner will be able to pick their prize up directly from the Richland Locker. Prizes must be picked up December 22!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE # _____

ACCOUNT # _____

EMAIL _____

Return this form to Richland Electric Cooperative,
1027 N. Jefferson St., P.O. Box 439, Richland Center, WI 53581.



BEYOND THE BOOKS

Book learning was supposed to improve farming, and in many ways it did. But there were many skills a farmer needed to have that never found their way into a book. No one ever wrote about how to:

- Shovel dirt, fork cob corn into a crib higher than your head, and pitch cow manure into a manure spreader.
- Shock oats, shock corn, and pile hay into bunches that don't tip over with the slightest breeze.
- Pick corn by hand.
- Plant potatoes with a hand planter.
- Pound nails into dried white oak boards without bending the nails.
- Milk cows by hand.
- Dig potatoes with a six-tine fork for 10 hours at a stretch, and not stab any potatoes.
- Harness a draft horse that is so big you have to stand on a box to get the hames over the horse collar, and risk the big beast's pushing you against the side of the stall and squashing you like a horse fly.
- Splice a hay fork rope that breaks just when you are unloading the next-to-the last load of hay and a thunderstorm is coming up in the west.
- Sharpen a pocket knife so it will cut paper and shave the hair off your arm.
- Stretch the new barbed wire fence you and Pa strung across the pasture south of the barn tight enough so it doesn't sag in the hollows and not so tight that it breaks with the first staple you pound in place.
- Notch a tree with an ax, on the side of the tree in the direction where you want it to fall.
- Start a fire in the kitchen stove that keeps burning after you leave for the barn in the morning.
- Walk in the woods so quietly that wild game doesn't hear you.
- Read the evening sky and predict the next day's weather, accurately, because the threshing crew is coming the following morning.
- Measure distance by walking and counting your steps.
- Know when grain is ready to harvest by sight and feel.
- Keep your mouth shut when your neighbor does something dumb. The neighbor will usually learn from his mistake without your help.
- Praise your farm dog. A dog will do anything for its master with a little praise.
- Learn to appreciate all kinds of weather, the good and the bad. Neither hangs around long enough for you to get used to it.
- Keep on the good side of all of your neighbors even when, deep down, you can't stand at least one of them.




Go to www.jerryapps.com for more information about Jerry's work, or contact him at jerryappsauthor@gmail.com.

Shannon Clark, Manager/CEO

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