

# GIVING THANKS THROUGH COMMUNITY CARES

RIVERLAND Energy Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

By Tim Holtan, CEO

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, Riverland Energy Cooperative is grateful for the generosity that strengthens our communities throughout the year.

Through Community Cares, members who round their electric bill up to the nearest dollar make a meaningful difference close to home. The average contribution is just $6 per year, or pennies each month. Some members choose to add an extra dollar or two, helping their neighbors and local organizations even further.

Those small gifts add up. Together, Community Cares contributors have provided more than $45,000 in grants to local civic groups and charitable organizations. These funds support the people and projects that help our western Wisconsin communities thrive.

Thank you to every member who participates in Community Cares. Your kindness and willingness to help others bring real support and hope where it is needed.




## Supporting Our Communities

In 2026, grants were awarded to:

- Arcadia Ambulance Service
- Feed My People Food Bank
- Friends of Independence Library
- Mondovi Ambulance Service
- ORA Trails
- Gundersen Tri-County Ambulance
- Holmen Area Food Pantry
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors – Central Lutheran Church, Mondovi
- Whitehall Fire Department

## Put Your Small Change to Work

Not yet enrolled? This season is a fitting time to join. A few cents each month can help provide grants that make a lasting local impact. Current contributors may also choose to increase their monthly donation by a dollar or two.

To enroll in Community Cares or update your contribution, call the Riverland Energy Cooperative office or visit our website.

## Apply for a Grant

Do you know a charitable or service organization, civic group or individual with unusual financial needs? Encourage them to apply for a Community Cares grant.

Applications are available at www.riverlandenergy.com.

***The deadline for the next round is Feb. 11, 2027.***




# CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

## *Member Appreciation Day Recap*

Riverland Energy Cooperative had another successful Member Appreciation Day on Tuesday, October 6. Over 700 members attended the event and enjoyed a picnic-style dinner.

The children's activity area was loaded with activities including bounce houses, balloon creations by Balloons by Kevin, caricatures, games, and giant LEGOS. Students in grades K-12 could enter into door prize drawings. The winners were:

- **K-4:** Evie Carlson won a basket with a Culvers' gift card, a LEGO set, and some squishies.
- **5-8:** Bret-lynn Hoffman won a movie night basket with a movie gift card to Marcus Cinema, a blanket, and some movie theater candy.
- **9-12:** Emma Mayton won an electric scooter with a helmet!

The family-friendly event is also held to educate members on available programs, safety, and services. Hotline demonstrations were held to showcase common power outage scenarios, safety around overhead and underground lines, and procedures to restore power. Members won a total of $1,000 in electric bill credits, along with five additional door prizes. The winners of the bill credit door prizes are listed below:




**$25 Bill Credits:**

- Anna Obgartel
- Donald Roessler
- Katie Suchla
- Rachel Sting
- Elizabeth Decker
- Grace Foegen
- Julie Paulson
- Darlene & Steve Auer
- Erin Nelson
- Lauri Smith
- Deborah Sedevie
- Ladonna Letourneau
- Sharon Ooten
- El Jane Eckman
- Storage 93
- Stephan Fritz
- Bo Nelson
- Judith Hoff
- Joe Slattery
- LuAnne Ekern
- Dianne Klein
- Don Stapleton
- Julie Beck
- Evelyn Lyga
- Tom & Donna LaFleur
- Renee Skaer
- Rex Wappler
- Aaron Henderson
- Patti Merfeld
- Bonnie McCann

**$250 Bill Credit:** Francis Moua



***Riverland is grateful for its members and enjoys providing that time for connection at Member Appreciation Day.***

# TAKE AIM AT YOUR CO-OP MEMBERSHIP THIS DEER SEASON

For many Wisconsin families, deer season means early mornings, warm layers, trail cameras and time spent outdoors. A successful hunt takes patience, preparation and a close eye on what is happening around you.

Your membership with Riverland Energy Cooperative works much the same way. There are many ways to stay involved, save energy and help shape the future of your cooperative. Whether you are a longtime member or new to the area, this hunting season is a good time to explore the opportunities available to you.

## 1. Scout Out Ways to Make Your Voice Heard

Every Riverland Energy Cooperative member has a voice. Members can take part in the cooperative's direction by voting in director elections, attending the Annual Meeting and considering service on the board of directors.

You can also share your perspective by serving on a District Committee or responding when Riverland sends a member survey. These opportunities give members a direct way to help guide programs, services and decisions that affect the communities we serve.

Much like scouting before opening day, staying involved helps you see the bigger picture and be ready when opportunities arise.

## 2. Follow the Trail to Energy Savings

Hunters watch the wind, follow tracks and pay attention to the details. Members can use the same kind of awareness to find ways to manage energy use and lower costs.

Riverland Energy Cooperative offers programs such as load management, dual fuel and energy-efficiency incentives. Depending on your home and heating system, these programs may help you reduce energy use during times of high demand while supporting a reliable electric system for all members.

Our Member Services team can help you understand which options may fit your household. A quick call before winter heating needs increase can help you make a plan that works for your family.

## 3. Gather Around the Co-op Camp

Deer season often brings people together, whether they are sharing stories at the cabin, preparing a meal after a long day in the woods or helping a new hunter learn the ropes. Riverland events offer a similar chance to connect with neighbors, fellow members and cooperative employees.

Member Appreciation Day, the Annual Meeting and other cooperative events provide opportunities to learn about Riverland, ask questions and hear about programs that may benefit your home or business. Watch for event details in your monthly magazine, *The Outlet*, and through Riverland's communication channels.

## 4. Keep Your Binoculars on Co-op News

A good set of binoculars helps hunters spot movement in the distance. Riverland's SmartHub, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages, along with our monthly magazine and newsletter updates, can help members stay aware of what is happening at their cooperative.

These channels share outage updates, safety reminders, program information, event announcements and practical energy-saving tips. Following Riverland online and reading cooperative publications is an easy way to make sure you do not miss an opportunity to participate or save.

## 5. Pack Your Co-op Gear

Before heading to the stand, hunters check their gear. Members also have useful tools available to help manage their electric account and keep track of energy use. SmartHub allows members to view and pay bills, monitor electric use, report outages and manage account notifications. Riverland's website provides information on programs, payment options and cooperative news. When questions come up, our Member Services team is ready to help explain your options.

These resources are designed to make it easier to manage your membership, whether you are checking your account from home or using your phone between fall activities.

## 6. The Best Part of the Hunt

The best part of deer season is often more than the harvest. It is the time outdoors, the traditions and the connection to family, friends and community.

Being an engaged cooperative member offers a similar kind of connection. Your involvement helps Riverland Energy Cooperative remain responsive to the people and communities it serves. Whether you vote, attend an event, enroll in an energy program, share feedback or simply stay informed, each step helps strengthen the cooperative.

This deer season, take a moment to look beyond the woods and consider a new way to engage with Riverland Energy Cooperative. There is always something worthwhile to find when members take an active role in their co-op.

# DUAL FUEL PREPAREDNESS TEST

**Note: This test applies only to members enrolled in Riverland Energy Cooperative's dual fuel heating program.**

The 2026 Winter Preparedness Test for interruptible heat (dual fuel) accounts is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 18, beginning at 6:55 a.m. This annual load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function.

During the test, residential interruptible heat load classes (2, 2W, 4B) will be controlled:

**6:55 a.m.** – Control start
**7 a.m.** – All loads interrupted (2, 2W, 4B)
**10 a.m.** – Class 2, 2W and 4B begin restoral
**10:30 a.m.** – Class 4B loads fully restored
**11 a.m.** – Class 2 and 2W loads fully restored




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Holmen: Monday–Thursday: 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
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**Outages & Emergencies**
Call 1-800-927-6206 24 hours a day

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