



Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# *We are prepared for* **SUMMER STORMS**

MY CO-OP

By Meghaan Evans

Summer is here, school is out, and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Oakdale Electric Cooperative is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year round—through right-of-way clearing—to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches, or other types of vegetation. Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission stations, substations, and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. The big problems are handled first—like damage to transmission lines, which serve tens of thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there

could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members.

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of people. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a

**The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches.**

tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify Oakdale Electric Cooperative so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. Be sure to check our website, [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com),

on your smartphone for the latest updates during a power outage.

Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



# Congratulations

## TO OUR 2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each of these students received a \$1,000 scholarship from Oakdale Electric Cooperative. Winners were selected based on their essays on the topic of “Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World” following their attendance at the Youth Leadership Congress in UW–River Falls in 2015. Scholarships are funded directly through the Federated Youth Foundation by unclaimed capital credits.



**Peter Cauley**

Mauston High School  
Jim and Carol Cauley  
UW–Platteville  
Ag Business



**Craig Dallman**

Mauston High School  
Bob and Linda Dallman  
UW–Stout  
Mechanical Engineering



**Kyle Voss**

Mauston High School  
Alan and Lisa Voss  
UW–Stevens Point  
Sports Science / Exercise Science



**Jennifer Moore**

Necedah High School  
Patrick and Violet Moore  
UW–La Crosse  
Education



**Stephanie Rattunde**

Necedah High School  
Daryl and Annette Rattunde  
Winona State University  
Exercise Science/Nutrition



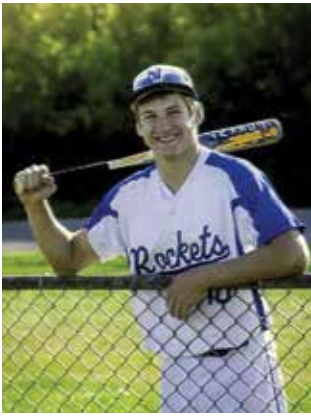
**Cheyenne Sterbenz**

Necedah High School  
Joe and Raquel Sterbenz  
UW–Stevens Point  
Early Childhood Education



**Gabrielle Smith**

Nekoosa High School  
Les and Lisa Smith  
UW–Stevens Point  
Education



**Stephan Burbach**

New Lisbon  
 Roger Burbach and Donna Davidson  
 UW–Madison  
 Mechanical Engineering



**Savanna Morris**

New Lisbon  
 Gene and Mary Morris  
 Fox Valley Technical College  
 Therapeutic Massage



**Kassie Woggon**

New Lisbon  
 Donald and June Woggon  
 UW–River Falls  
 Agricultural Engineering



**Jack Zdun**

Pittsville  
 Thomas and JoAnn Zdun  
 UW–Milwaukee  
 Letters and Science



**Mariah Burdick**

Reedsburg Area High School  
 Jason and Tammy Burdick  
 St. Cloud State or UW–Oshkosh  
 Anthropology and Forensic Science



**Amber Grundahl**

Reedsburg Area High School  
 Jeff and Rebecca Grundahl  
 UW–Baraboo/Sauk County  
 Nursing



**Austin Nauman**

Reedsburg Area High School  
 Danielle Nauman  
 UW–Madison Farm & Industry  
 Short Course  
 Dairy Herd Management



**Emma Granger**

Tomah  
 Gary and Deb Granger  
 UW–Whitewater  
 Accounting



**Ben Venner**

Tomah  
 John and Annette Venner  
 UW–Eau Claire  
 Chemistry



**Katelyn Pearson**

Tomah  
 Keith and Debra Pearson  
 UW–River Falls  
 Biology/ Pre-Physical Therapy



**Lane Wohlrab**

Tomah  
 Cory and Kim Wohlrab  
 UW–Oshkosh  
 Nursing



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



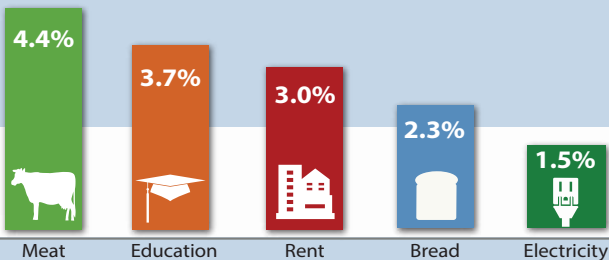
Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: energy.gov

## Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

 **Average Annual Price Increase**  
2010-2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

## 2016 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

### *"Life in Rural Wisconsin"*

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2017 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

- Photos must be taken within the Oakdale Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.).
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Only high resolution photos can be used. Photos must be at least 300 dpi.

Contest will run from February 1, 2016, until August 26, 2016; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.

#### Photo Contest Entry Options:

Email: Deana Protz – [dprotz@oakdalerec.com](mailto:dprotz@oakdalerec.com).

Mail: P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI, 54649. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)

Drop Off: Oakdale Electric Cooperative Office - 489 N. Oakwood St., Oakdale. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)

For a complete set of rules as well as entry forms and photo release forms, visit our website, [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com).


## Bruce Ardel, General Manager

P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI 54649  
608-372-4131 • 800-241-2468  
[info@oakdalerec.com](mailto:info@oakdalerec.com)

## Deana Protz, Editor



**Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151  
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307  
FAX Number: 608-372-5173

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.