

# CVEC PROMOTES SAFETY AWARENESS

## High Voltage Safety Demonstration

In the morning of December 12 Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) linemen Chris Larson, Ben Modl, and Zach Sonnentag presented CVEC's high voltage safety demonstration at Cornell Schools to students in grades 6 through 12. The presentation began with a video titled, "This is Your License to Live." This is a valuable tool to help teach others what to do if their vehicle contacts downed power lines. Please take a few minutes to watch the video and make yourself aware of important safety information by going to [safeelectricity.org/license-to-live](https://safeelectricity.org/license-to-live).

The presentation continued with an educational and exciting demonstration using CVEC's High Voltage Safety Demonstration display, which was designed with the same equipment used by the cooperative. Chris, Ben, and Zach demonstrated the dangers of encountering 7,200 volts of electricity from overhead and underground equipment.

The session concluded with Chris, Ben, and Zach fielding questions and being available for students to talk one-on-one about pursuing a career in electrical power distribution. If your school would like to have this demonstration brought in for students and staff to see, CVEC would be happy to discuss planning to do so. Please contact the Operations Department at 715.239.6800.



Chris Larson, Ben Modl, Zach Sonnentag

## EV Safety Training

Later that same day, at the Cadott Fire Department, CVEC participated in an Electric Vehicle (EV) Safety Training for First Responders. EVsafe.org trainers Mike Klimkosky, Jeff Gross, and Bill Nitz brought real-world EV expertise that included 30-plus years of First Responder and EMT experience. Approximately 300 first responders gathered to learn about electric vehicle safety awareness, accessibility, fire suppression, extrication techniques, and battery information. Multiple EVs were on display, including CVEC's all-electric powered truck, a Rivian R1T. Attendees were able to have hands-on access to the EVs and one-on-one time with the three instructors.

For more information about EVsafe.org and future training events go to their website, you guessed it, EVsafe.org!







## WINTER STORM OUTAGES: DECEMBER 2022

**W**inter storms are inevitable, but northern Wisconsin was hit hard in December even before winter had officially begun. The storm that moved into our area on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, brought rain, freezing rain, and sleet before changing over to wet, heavy snow. Outages started to report at Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) around 1:30 a.m. through the automated system and member phone calls.

The line crew was called in and hit the ground running around 2:15 a.m. and they didn't stop until 10:30 p.m. They were sent home to rest and then returned to start at it all over again on Thursday. And for the next several days they continued working to restore power as outages steadily trickled in due to strong winds causing trees to collide with

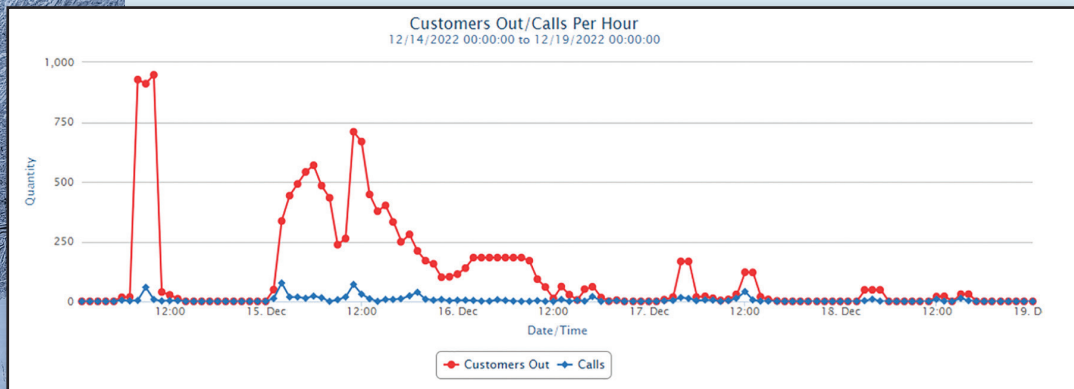
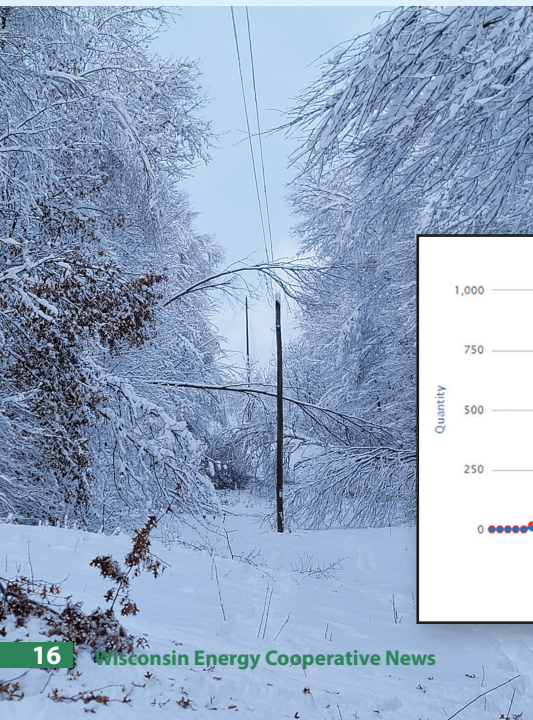
the lines. In addition, the wind caused snow to fall off the lines, making them come into contact with each other. From Thursday morning until Sunday evening, there were several linemen on rotation working to bring power back to each and every member. The CVEC line crew also assisted the City of Cornell and Village of Cadott during that same timeframe. We value the partnership we have with our neighboring communities and the ability to assist them during outages.

Safely delivering and restoring power to our members is our priority. The CVEC line crew and office staff combine to form a great team to get this done for our members. Unfortunately, there were a few members who were out of power for approximately 24 hours. However, there are several reasons outages were restored quickly or avoided completely. First of all, enhanced metering immediately notifies CVEC when a member's meter is out of power. This starts the outage management process by notifying the co-op office of the outage so crews can begin work to restore power much more quickly than in days past.

Years ago, it was a manual process and action to restore power didn't start until after a member called the office.

Device protection is also prioritized at CVEC. Oil Circuit Reclosers (OCRs) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) are important tools used to reduce outage times. One of the greatest benefits of using OCRs is that it prevents temporary short circuits from causing prolonged power outages, i.e. a momentary blink of power versus going hours without electricity. In addition, the SCADA system the cooperative has in place allows the office to remotely open and close circuits on sections of power lines. The ability to do this from the office saves a significant amount of time.

To those who shared words of appreciation and kindness with the cooperative team during the outages, we are grateful. There were many messages of thanks posted and even a father and son who ran snacks out to one of our linemen while he was in their area. Gestures like these make the hard work worth it in the end.





# CVEC OFFERS ROPE HELP

The same storm that caused hundreds of outages within Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) service territory affected Jump River Electric Cooperative's (JREC) service area as well. Ice followed by 10 or more inches of heavy snow fell upon JREC's service territory December 14–15, causing many trees and branches to bring down power lines, and a few poles. Power restoration was slow going due to many impassable roads and the extent of storm damage.

JREC immediately began restoring power, but it became evident early on that more help was needed and they requested assistance through the Restoration of Power in an Emergency (ROPE) program, which is overseen by Dairyland Power Cooperative. CVEC was one of the six neighboring cooperatives that answered the call. Ben Modl and Tyler Jones were eager to offer their assistance to CVEC's neighboring co-op, JREC. Zielies Tree Service also provided multiple crews and equipment that went ahead of crews in some of the hardest hit areas, clearing trees and branches from the lines. Dairyland also provided a line-clearing crew that aided JREC in the same manner. Power restoration efforts continued through the weekend, with the last 60 members restored by Monday evening.

JREC General Manager/CEO Kurt Harris said, "Power restoration to all members was quicker than initially anticipated due to all the extra help received from neighboring cooperatives, and the other tree clearing crews. This was a true demonstration of one of the cooperative principles Jump River Electric was founded on, which is Cooperation Among Cooperatives. We have been able to help other co-ops in the past through the ROPE program and we are very grateful for all the help we received during this storm."



Tyler Jones (left) and Ben Modl assisted JREC restore outages.



MY CO-OP

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

This spring, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) plans to award several scholarships to graduating high school seniors of member families through the Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship Program. The scholarship program is funded entirely from unclaimed patronage capital issued by the cooperative and from members who wish to donate their capital credits earnings to this program. Please contact Nicole at CVEC if you wish to do so.

CVEC's scholarship program began in 1998, and since its inception has provided more than \$191,500 in scholarships to area students.

Each scholarship is worth \$500. Applications can be obtained from CVEC's website ([cvecoop.com](http://cvecoop.com)) or by contacting the cooperative office.

The completed scholarship applications must be returned to the cooperative office by April 1, 2023. The applications will be reviewed by a special Scholarship Committee, and the scholarships will be awarded to the students at an honors ceremony or at graduation.

If you have any questions about the scholarship program, please contact Nicole at Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative 715.239.6800 or [nwsime@cve.coop](mailto:nwsime@cve.coop).

## ED ROSSETER ACHIEVES JOURNEYWORKER STATUS

Congratulations to Ed Rosseter upon earning his State of Wisconsin Certificate of Apprenticeship Completion. The commitment and dedication needed to complete the four-year apprenticeship program are definitely reasons to celebrate Ed's achievements.

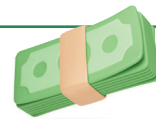
Ed was hired as a full-time lineworker at CVEC on June 1, 2018. Six months later he began the electric lineworker apprenticeship program, which took four years to complete. To reach journeyworker status, Ed was required to do a total of 8,000 hours of training, 640 hours attending related instruction courses at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC), and 7,360 hours of on-the-job-training. And, after all of that, he successfully passed the test.

On December 1, 2022, Ed was presented with his certificate. CVEC is proud of our latest journeyworker. Congratulations, Ed!



L to R: Kevin Scheidler (Line Superintendent), Ed Rosseter, Nic Alberson (Operations Manager)

Find CVEC's 2023 Energy Efficient  
Rebate List on [www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com).



# 2024 FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS LOCATION UNWRAPPED

Just before Christmas, along with cookies and milk, the local Wisconsin Farm Technology Days (WFTD) Committee continued their work alongside the Chippewa Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) in identifying the location for the 2024 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days show to be hosted in Chippewa County. On December 15, they held a press conference at Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) office in Cornell, to "unwrap," or reveal, the host farm and the venue.

The committee is proud to announce that it has chosen a date and location: August 13-15, 2024, at the Country/Rock Fest grounds in Cadott. Set on 360 acres of field, this fitting venue has been hosting events since 1987 and has a history of partnering with its neighbor, Close Farms, which the committee has named as the host farm for the event.



Wade Asher (left), festival promoter, and Jamie Close, owner of Close Farms

Dean Ortmann, president/CEO of CVEC, stated, "As a rural electricity provider, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative strongly supports Wisconsin Farm Technology Days and is excited that our members, Close Farms and Chippewa Valley Music Fest, have been selected as the host farm and host site, respectively. Farming traditions have long been a part of our community. In fact, back in 1938, the cooperative's original headquarters was literally built with the help of farming families. We are proud to see local farms continue to thrive and grow."

"We're so excited to welcome Wisconsin Farm Technology Days and its guests to the grounds," Festival Promoter Wade Asher said. "Aligning Wisconsin's largest outdoor agricultural event with Country Fest, the largest party in a hayfield, just made sense. We're looking forward to hosting this farmer-focused event and its economic impact for our community."

"This venue positions the 2024 event very well in terms of



planning, public safety, and central locations for additional local farm tours. There is plenty of room for WFTD to continue its tradition of educational, fun, and interesting events which highlights the wide range of agriculture and industry in Chippewa County," said Arnie

Jennerman, general manager of Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. "There will be something for everyone, and we're excited to showcase Chippewa County industry and agriculture as well as the latest in ag technology."

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is a three-day outdoor event showcasing the latest developments in production agriculture, including practical applications and recent research and technological developments. This is the only farm show of its size in the United States that is organized and run entirely by volunteers. As the largest outdoor agricultural event in the state, it welcomes more than 45,000 attendees, with more than 500 commercial and educational vendors. The first WFTD show was named Farm Progress Days and was held in Waupaca County in 1954, and the last to be held in Chippewa County was in 2004.

"Volunteers make Wisconsin Farm Technology Days run and 2024's show will be no exception," said Charlie Walker, president of Chippewa Economic Development Corporation (CEDC). "Now that the venue and the farm have been selected, the next step will be a call for volunteers to assist the Local WFTD Committee because we have to remember that all proceeds of WFTD benefit the local agriculture community in terms of scholarships. Also, they will be utilized to help improve the Northern Wisconsin State Fair Grounds' Ag Facilities."

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**Last Call!** The deadline to submit paperwork for director candidates from Districts 3 and 5 is February 8

**Save the Date:** 86th Annual Meeting of CVEC members March 25



**High School Seniors:** Submit your completed scholarship application to the CVEC office no later than April 1 (See page 17 for details)



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*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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Follow us on Facebook Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30–4 p.m.

**Nicole Whipp Sime, Editor**