

# NO ANNUAL MEETING IN 2020

In March, the 2020 Annual Meeting was cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. The progression of the virus over the last several months has not improved, so there will not be a 2020 annual meeting. The following factors contributed to this decision:

- Concern for the health and well-being of our membership, board, and employees
- The three director candidates up for election were unopposed
- There were no bylaw changes or other new business to come before the membership
- The cooperative's 2019 annual report was published in the March magazine and is available on our website

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative plans to have a regular annual meeting in March of 2021. If members have any questions about this decision, please contact the cooperative at 715-832-1603 or email [info@ecec.com](mailto:info@ecec.com).

## Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



# MODIFIED EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FAIR HOLDS SUCCESSFUL SUMMER SHOWCASE

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is a longtime, proud supporter of the Eau Claire County Fair and the Eau Claire County Livestock Project. Like so many events, the fair operated differently this year due to COVID-19. Dubbed the Summer Showcase, exhibitors from around the county were given the opportunity to safely compete in various categories like creative writing, cultural arts, clothing, robotics, photography, and more!

A signature event at the fair is the Livestock Auction. A representative from our board of directors attends the auction each year, bids on the various livestock, and in most years makes a purchase. In



2020, Director Andy Bourget participated in the event and purchased a hog.

When asked his thoughts on the Livestock Auction, he stated, "We recognize the time and effort that these local students put into raising beef,

goats, swine, and sheep. The auction gives our cooperative an opportunity to support these great projects. These kids did an amazing job with their animals."

ECEC's hog purchase comes from the Joe and Kirsten Myers family of Fall Creek. Their children, Cole and Madison, worked hard all year to bring their swine to the auction. Under a large tent with plenty of physical distancing, Bourget secured the winning bid on

Madison's hog, named Finley. Madison is a sixth-grader at Fall Creek Schools and a member of the Pleasant Valley 4-H Club. Her parents spoke about the value of the entire process: "This teaches the youth about the production of meat from the breeding process, to birthing, through feeding and the finished product as well as the costs associated with each step." Everyone involved was grateful the pandemic didn't stop this great event from happening in 2020.

All of us at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative would like to thank the Eau Claire County Fair Committee for their efforts and congratulate them on a successful Summer Showcase event. We look forward to a complete fair July 28 – August 1, 2021!

MY CO-OP



Left: Madison shows off her swine project pig, Finley, in the auction ring. Far left: ECEC director Andy Bourget meets livestock auction participant Madison Myers after purchasing her pig.

# COVID-19 RESOURCE FOR AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

This guide is to help prepare for potential impacts on your business operations and to help decrease the spread of COVID-19.

## 1 PREVENT SPREAD

- Stay home if you or anyone in your household is sick.
- Ensure all employees keep 6 feet distance from employees and customers when possible.
- Support mask wearing by employees & customers.
- Increase cleaning & sanitizing throughout the workplace (including all high touch areas).
- Encourage frequent & thorough hand washing (make hand sanitizer available).
- Cover coughs & sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.

## 2 MONITOR EMPLOYEE HEALTH

- Employees who have a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms shouldn't be allowed to work.
- Have employees self-monitor with symptom trackers. (Fillable form available [here](#) or call 715-839-4178 to get a copy)
- Encourage all employees to wear a cloth face covering.
- Maintain complete & current contact information for all employees.
- Consider restricting travel for work purposes to reduce spread.
- Encourage frequent and thorough hand washing.

### COVID-19 Symptoms

- cough
- fever
- sore throat
- headache
- body/muscle aches
- chills
- fatigue
- vomiting
- new loss of taste or smell

Call the Health Dept. for testing sites if you have symptoms (715-831-7425).

## 3 ASSESS RISK

- What procedures are in place to protect humans or animals against the disease?
- Who comes on & off your premise?
  - Limit visitors to only those necessary to continue operations.
- Do you know what other locations or operations visitors have been to?
- Have you designed work spaces and customer areas to keep physical distance?
- Do you have hand washing and sanitizer stations available?

## 4 VENDORS & SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Who are your vendors & service providers?
- Do vendors/service providers have plans to continue providing service to you in case of an outbreak?
- Do you have back up vendors/service providers?
- Will mitigation measures be clear?
- Can you arrange contactless delivery or payment methods?

## 5 CRITICAL/ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Have you established or communicated essential business needs or critical activities?
- How long can you go without those activities?
- What alternatives do you have in place to accomplish those activities if employees are sick and are unable to work?
- Have you trained multiple staff to carry out essential duties in case someone is sick or unable to work?



The Health Department continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in Eau Claire County. For more information, visit: [covid19.eauclaire.org](https://covid19.eauclaire.org) \*For Employee Health tracking form, click Business tab on this site & scroll to additional health & safety information.

# CANDIDATES ENERGY FORUM

Join us for a discussion about energy issues with the area's state legislative candidates. The event will be held virtually on

**Wednesday, October 7,  
at 10 a.m.**

Watch for registration details to be released in mid-September.



**Sponsored by:**

**Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



## LINeworkERS VOLUNTEER TO BUILD HORSE TIE LINE

For Eau Claire Energy Cooperative lineworkers Alex Glomski, Lee Alberson, Alex Kiraly, and Jake Buss, setting poles and stringing power lines are part of a normal day's work. Well, they had an opportunity to use these skills in a new way when they volunteered their time to install posts for a horse hitching tie line at the Wilson Town Park near Hamilton Falls Road. Park supporters are improving the area for horse riders by installing these posts and cable for riders to tie their horses to. This project is one small way ECEC demonstrates our commitment to community.

MY CO-OP

## Youth Ambassador Kick-off Meeting Goes Virtual

**Wednesday, September 16 at noon**

A Youth Ambassador welcome package and meeting supplies will be mailed to each student prior to the meeting, so apply now!

The application is available on our website under the "Community" tab.



# SMART THERMOSTATS

## A comparison of the market's smartest and most popular

Heating and cooling costs account for around half of a user's energy bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. So when it comes to reducing energy use and cutting home energy costs, the most impact can be made by programming the thermostat. The right thermostat settings could yield energy savings of 8-15%, and new technology is making it easier than ever to achieve those settings.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone, or voice control. Some models use multiple sensors to monitor temperatures in various parts of the home for more balanced heating or cooling, track user temperature preferences and use the data to optimize your heating and cooling schedule, and some are designed for complex multi-stage systems that will control heating, cooling, dehumidifier, and ventilation systems.

If you're interested in controlling your thermostat with your voice or an app, or in being hands-off and letting it learn your habits, you should consider a smart thermostat. To narrow your choices, factor in smart features, price, and attributes that matter most to you, such as color, size, or style, and make sure the chosen product supports your HVAC system.



The Nest 3rd Generation Learning Thermostat and Ecobee4 are the most popular and sophisticated devices in this category. Both devices are usually priced around \$250, but consumers can easily recoup their money in energy cost savings.

There are many similarities between the two thermostats. Both can be adjusted via computer, tablet, smartphone, Google Assistant, or Amazon Alexa device (the Ecobee4 even has a built-in Alexa-enabled speaker). And both thermostats can interact with other smart devices and utilize geofencing—using your phone's GPS to determine if you're home, then automatically adjusting the temperature. Nest's geofencing works with multiple phones, while Ecobee supports just one phone. Ecobee makes up for this with its more sophisticated sensors.

The two thermostats also can connect with various energy devices in your home. Ecobee recognizes dehumidifiers and ventilators, and Nest recognizes heat pumps and auxiliary heat. For those looking for a smart thermostat with fewer bells and whistles, the Honeywell Lyric T5+ is one of the market's most popular, priced around \$135.

Through our partnership with Focus on Energy, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative members qualify for a \$50 cash-back incentive on many smart thermostats. Find details about the incentive at [focusonenergy.com/ecec](http://focusonenergy.com/ecec) or by calling member services at the cooperative for help. Whichever one fits your lifestyle and preferences, a smart thermostat is a good investment that can help you save energy and money in a more convenient way than ever.



## Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



**Lynn E. Thompson, President/CEO**

**Monica Obrycki, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Lobby address:** 2004 Highland Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701

**Mailing address:** PO Box 368, Fall Creek, WI 54742

[www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com)

**Office Hours:** 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Mon–Fri

**Non-emergencies:** 715-832-1603

**Emergencies & outages:** Toll FREE 800-927-5090  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Diggers Hotline:** 811 or 1-800-242-8511