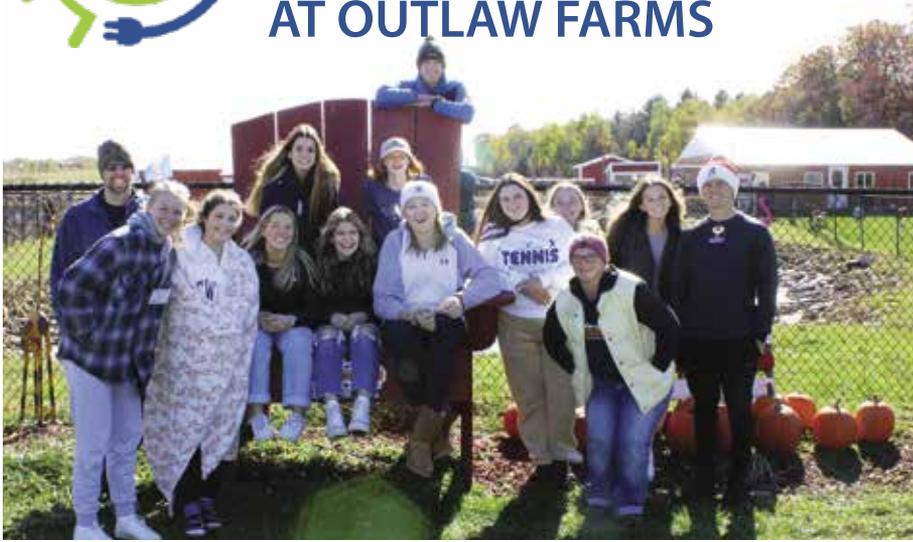




# YOUTH AMBASSADORS AT OUTLAW FARMS

## ***Eau Claire Energy Cooperative***

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



**E**au Claire Energy Cooperative's Youth Ambassadors took advantage of a seasonable October day to visit one of ECEC's most unique farms—Outlaw Farms in Fall Creek. Ashley Schulner, co-owner with her husband Josh, toured the group around the farm, introducing them to the animals as they went. Unfortunately, Wisconsin's cold temperatures kept the students from seeing the kangaroo, lemurs, alligator and other popular animals, but being able to feed the goats, buffalo and llamas made up for it!



# SCHOLARSHIPS 2023



***Your Trusted Energy Advisor***

## There is still time to apply!

Scholarship applications are  
due by January 9, 2023

***Eau Claire Energy  
Cooperative***

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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



## HOLIDAY DÉCOR TIPS FOR AN ENERGY-WISE HOME

**W**hether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking—and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 and \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers like Amazon or at big box stores like Lowe's or Wal-Mart. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money, and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows.

To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's website for additional energy-saving tips.

Janicki's Christmas Trees in Cadott has been providing affordable and quality Christmas trees for over 40 years. They annually have provided a Christmas tree for free to the Cadott Elementary School since their kids went there. Now, 45 years later, their grandkids have come and gone from the school, and they continue to provide a tree to spread the joy of Christmas to all the students and staff.

## JANICKI'S CHRISTMAS TREES BY FAMILIES, FOR FAMILIES

Michael and Barb began the tree farm to provide joy to those in their community with quality Christmas trees. They both have roots tied to Christmas tree growing. As a teen, Michael worked for a large Christmas tree grower and Barb's family grew Christmas trees as well. They both loved the business and wanted to continue. They purchased 51 acres in 1977 which turned into a family business with a passion for people. In the summer of 1987 Michael and Barb planted 10,000 trees with the dream that in 8-10 years those trees would be ready to be cut. Unfortunately, they lost about 95% of their crop the following summer to a drought. Fortunately, they persisted and today they provide Christmas trees to many loyal customers.

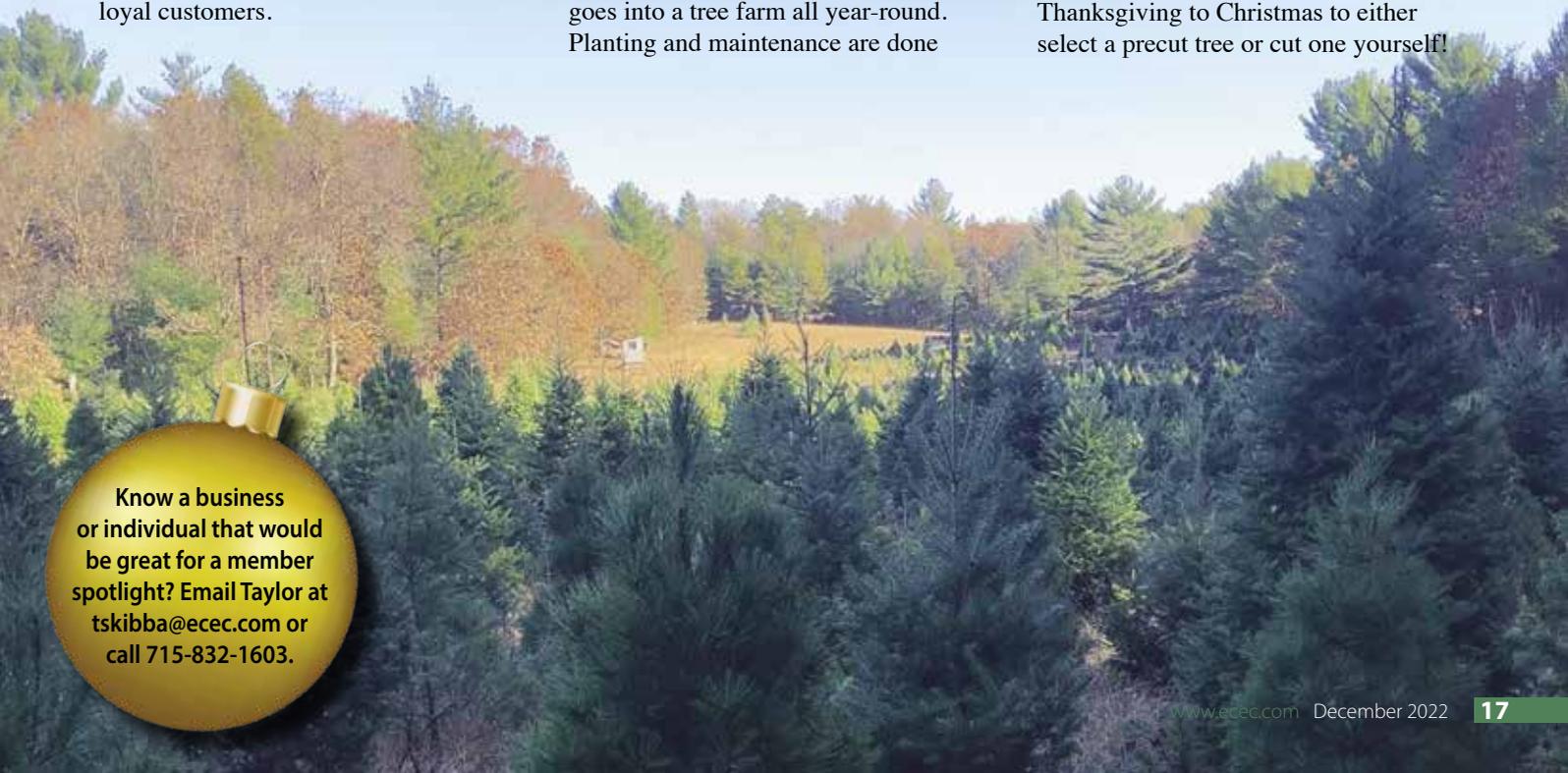
The Janickis plant and maintain many acres of different varieties of Christmas trees for customers year after year right in ECEC's service territories. During their working years the couple maintained the tree farm to provide affordable and beautiful trees for local residents. Now, in retirement, they continue to do so because they love the business and the happiness that comes with it. Michael stated that he continues because he loves the joy that comes with seeing families come and pick out their Christmas tree. There is a happiness that comes with providing cost-effective and gorgeous trees for families and community members during the most wonderful time of the year.

While customers come and go during the holiday season, there is work that goes into a tree farm all year-round. Planting and maintenance are done



Barb and Michael Janicki

regularly during the spring, summer, and fall months. All of the work is worth it when it comes time to pre-cut trees and assist families in picking out the perfect tree. If you and your family are looking for a tree, look no further! They have lots located in both Cadott and La Crosse. Visit them anytime from Thanksgiving to Christmas to either select a pre-cut tree or cut one yourself!



Know a business or individual that would be great for a member spotlight? Email Taylor at [tskibba@ecec.com](mailto:tskibba@ecec.com) or call 715-832-1603.

# RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY STRING LIGHTS AT ECEC!



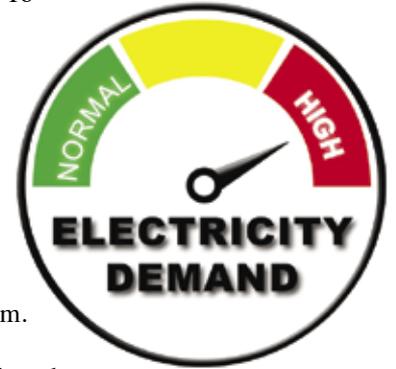
Drop off your old holiday string lights at ECEC headquarters between now and January 10, 2023 to have them recycled for FREE!



 8214 US Hwy-12  
Fall Creek, WI 54742

## CHANGES IN LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Grid reliability is at the forefront of strategic planning for utilities—from the regional Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) all the way down to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative’s system. To ensure generation resources are adequately available year-round, MISO recently changed its requirements for power providers, including our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative. This has resulted in modifications to our Load Management program. Water heater load control receivers will no longer be affected by peak alerts. Instead, they will be controlled as the need arises based on peak demand on the MISO market. In the event of a peak alert, ECEC will notify members via [www.ecec.com](http://www.ecec.com), on our social media pages, and radio messages.



Additionally, other load-controlled program times will shift. The Dual Fuel program peak alerts will happen between 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. Enrolled dairy water heaters, grain dryers, and manual stand-by generators will remain on the traditional winter schedule of 5:00 p.m., with restoration beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Please see the chart below to determine your program and peak alert time:

Controlled Device	Load Management Timeframe
Water Heaters	As need arises
Dual Fuel	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Dairy Water Heaters	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Grain Dryers	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Manual Stand-By Generators	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
A/C	Non-applicable for Winter Load Management
Irrigation	Non-applicable for Winter Load Management

### Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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[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  
Call 3 working days before you dig.