

Pierce Pepin sponsors Arbor Day event, donates trees to local elementary school

Arkansaw, Wis. – Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services held its sixth annual Arbor Day tree-planting event at the Arkansaw Elementary School in Arkansaw, Wis., on April 30. With six trees donated for planting on school grounds, fourth-grade students were invited to learn first-hand the importance of trees and properly planting the right tree in the right place.

Bill McMahon, PPCS' vegetation management supervisor, explained that PPCS is an electric cooperative located in Ellsworth that provides electricity to the rural areas surrounding Arkansaw and other communities. He stated that making sure cooperative members have electricity when they need it is the co-op's number one priority. Trees limbs that touch power lines can cause "blinks" or power outages, so trees have to be trimmed or sometimes cut down.

"Always look up to make sure that the tree you are planting will not make contact with power lines when it is full grown," said McMahon. "Planting the right tree in the right place, away from power lines, helps protect trees, prevents tree-related power outages, and helps keep employees and the public safe." McMahon also reminded students, "Before you plant trees, or any time before you dig, contact Digger's Hotline to locate all underground electric, gas and telephone lines."

These concepts were echoed by Justin Kobernick, arborist with Zielie's Tree Service, who often climbs trees to prune them or prepare them to be cut down. Kobernick displayed and described how he uses the basic equipment needed to do his job. He stressed that safety is most important and climbing should only be done by professionals.

Heavy downpours kept the fourth-graders from assisting with planting the donated trees. In spite of this glitch, special Arbor Day t-shirts and refreshments for each student helped lighten the mood.

Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services has been recognized for the sixth consecutive year as a Tree Line USA utility by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for its ongoing commitment to tree planting, quality tree care and public education. The cooperative hopes to continue to bring this annual event to other communities within its service area.

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About Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services

Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services is an energy services cooperative located in Ellsworth, Wisconsin, offering electric utility and appliance products and services to homes and businesses. PPCS also offers propane products and services through its subsidiary, Pierce Pepin Propane Services. As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services is committed to excellence, innovation and integrity, and is dedicated to helping its communities live better. For more information, call 1-800-924-2133 or visit www.piercepepin.com.