

Watt's New

AUGUST 2025



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our members."

Monthly Co-op



July Trivia:

True or False – The most common cause of “blinks” (momentary outages lasting just a few seconds) are caused by faulty electrical equipment.

Answer: False – The most common cause of “blinks” are trees and small animals. A “blink” is a normal operation of specialized powerline breakers that trip when a fault is detected (i.e., branch falling on the line). After a few seconds the breaker automatically resets, and if the fault has cleared (branch falls off the line), power will flow uninterrupted, and no lineworkers will need to be called out to fix the line.

August Trivia:

What is the average number of members per mile of line for Vernon Electric Cooperative?

- A) 5
- B) 8
- C) 11
- D) 18

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Energizing the Next Generation

From July 15–17, 2025, student delegates from across Wisconsin gathered at UW–Stout for the annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), an energizing three-day event hosted by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA). The conference brought together high school students sponsored by electric cooperatives for a dynamic experience focused on leadership, education, and the cooperative difference.

Kicking off with a warm welcome and orientation, the event wasted no time diving into hands-on activities. Students engaged in team-building exercises, heard from former Youth Board members, and learned about the WECA Essay Contest, which offers valuable scholarship opportunities.

Highlights from the agenda included motivational presentations from former YLC board members, such as “Embracing Electric Cooperative Opportunities” with Thomas Peters, Jayden Mosley, and Emma Steinke, and a powerful keynote from Hunter Gillet, who shared his personal story of survival and recovery after a plane accident. On Wednesday, nationally recognized speaker Craig Hillier captivated the audience with his “Breakthrough Leadership” seminar, followed by an impactful session on safe driving from Ben Bella and a timely advocacy talk by Joe Mesac, emphasizing the importance of youth voices in public policy.

Evenings were filled with social events like the Formal Etiquette

Dinner and a performance by hypnotist Al Snyder, giving students the chance to unwind and build lasting friendships. The Conference concluded Thursday morning with Youth Board elections and a heartfelt closing session, marking the end of an unforgettable leadership journey. This year, Braxtyn Marx, a junior at Westby High School, was elected by his peers to serve on the Youth Board. He will have the opportunity to attend National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. next summer and will assist in the planning of next year's YLC. Congratulations Braxtyn!

Youth Leadership Conference continues to be a cornerstone program in developing informed, confident, and engaged cooperative members. With its blend of education, inspiration, and fun, the event reinforces the cooperative principle of education and the value of investing in the next generation.



From Left to Right: Braxtyn Marx, Alden Christianson, Emma McGraw, Laney Cuarenta, Kendell Weiker, Clara Brown.

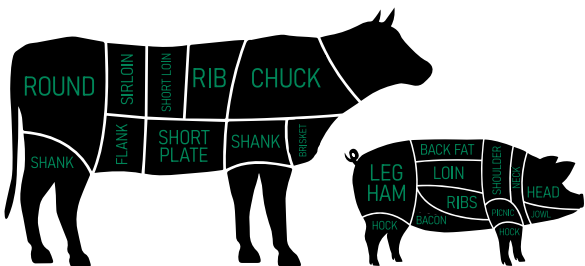
MEAT GIVEAWAY

Vernon Electric's 4th Annual Meat Giveaway: Supporting Our Community and Fairgrounds

Visit us at our booth at National Night Out at the Vernon County Fairgrounds on Tuesday August 5th to enter the meat giveaway and get a chance at a pair of all-inclusive Vernon County fair passes. Here's how you can participate and support our cause:

- \$1.00 donation = 1 ticket
- \$5.00 donation = 6 tickets

You can also visit us at Vernon Electric headquarters anytime during business hours to enter. Every dollar raised will go directly toward enhancing the fairgrounds, making a significant difference in our



community. After the Vernon County Fair, four lucky winners will receive a \$100 gift certificate to a local meat locker, perfect for stocking up on quality meat while supporting local businesses.

Dormitory 101: Make Room for Safety

The car is loaded up and check-in is about to start on college campuses across the country. While you want to have all the comforts of home at school, there are some **electrical safety tips to keep in mind** as you set up your new space.

- **Do not** overload outlets, extension cords, or power strips.
- Use power strips with **overcurrent protectors**. This will shut off the power if there is too much power being drawn.
- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. Some commonly **approved safety labels** include **UL**, **CSA**, and **MET**.

- **Unplug small appliances** when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.
- Keep all electrical appliances and **cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers**, and other flammable material.

Check with your **university's housing department** on specific housing rules before planning to bring hot plates, coffee makers, toasters, microwaves, and portable heaters.

For more information on dorm safety, visit:



Mark Your Calendars for the Vernon County Fair!

Join us from September 10th to 14th for a celebration of our community featuring livestock shows, exciting entertainment, and fun for the entire family!

