

Watt's New

SEPTEMBER 2026



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our members."

Monthly Co-op Trivia

AUGUST TRIVIA:

Each year, Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives sponsor students to attend the Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). How many years has YLC been held?

Answer: 63 years!

SEPTEMBER TRIVIA:

What does the acronym REA stand for?

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Go Green with SmartHub

Make managing your electric account easier—and reduce paper waste—with SmartHub.

With SmartHub, you can:

- Pay your bill quickly and securely.
- Enroll in paperless billing.
- Sign up, update, or manage electronic payments.
- View your energy usage.
- Contact your electric provider.
- Access your account anytime from your computer or mobile device.
- Getting started is simple. All you need is your name, account number, and email address.

Download the SmartHub app or visit vernonelectric.smarthub.coop to set up your account today!



Back to School - School Bus Safety

School buses are among the safest vehicles on the road — but the greatest risk comes when children are getting on or off the bus. Whether you're a driver, parent or student, knowing these safety tips will help keep everyone safe.

For drivers:

- **Slow down:** Reduce speed in school zones and near bus stops.
- **Keep your distance:** Stay back at least 20 feet from a school bus displaying flashing lights — this is the most dangerous area for children.
- **Know the signals:**
 - Yellow flashing lights: bus is preparing to stop — slow down.
 - Red flashing lights + stop arm: bus is loading/unloading — stop and wait until the bus moves again.
 - Never pass a stopped bus on an undivided road — it's illegal.
- **Stay alert:** Watch for kids who may unexpectedly enter the road, especially near bus stops.

- **Respect the zone:** When flashers are blinking in a school zone, stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and take extra care to look for children near playgrounds, parks and residential areas.



For parents:

Teach your child to arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early, and how to play it **SAFE**:

- Stay at least ten feet — five giant steps — from the curb.
- Always wait for the bus to stop and the driver to signal before boarding.
- Face forward and buckle up if seat belts are available.
- Exit carefully, look both ways, and cross in front of the bus — never behind. Make eye contact with the driver before crossing.

As students head back to school, remember: a moment of caution can prevent a lifetime of regret.

National Night Out 2026

The event was filled with fun for everyone! Attendees browsed many vendors, enjoyed exciting K-9 demonstrations, and watched the kids play games and win fun prizes. Guests savored burgers and hot dogs, cooled off with root beer floats, and watched our local first responders in action during a mock scenario. They also met community heroes and explored their impressive duty vehicles before ending the evening with an amazing fireworks show.



Join Us at the Vernon County Fair

Come enjoy fun-filled days at the fair! The Vernon County Fair will be held at the Viroqua fairgrounds from September 16 to September 20. Check out the exhibits, a full schedule of events, watch the livestock auction, enjoy thrilling rides, and savor all the delicious fair food. The fair is a wonderful opportunity to support local farmers, 4-H and FFA members, families and community organizations. Most importantly, it allows us to celebrate the hard work and talent our community has to offer. Be sure to stop by our booth—and enter for a chance to win our annual meat giveaway! We can't wait to see you there!



VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

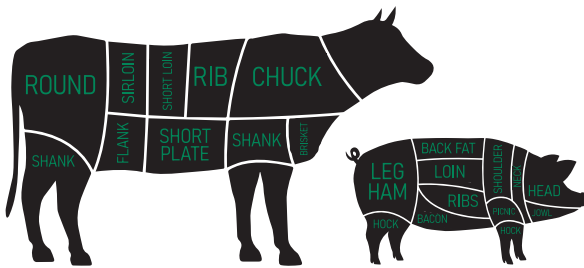
MEAT GIVEAWAY

5th Annual Meat Giveaway Underway

Our 5th Annual Meat Giveaway is officially underway! This annual fundraiser helps support ongoing improvements to the livestock buildings at the Vernon County Fairgrounds.

Stop by our office during regular business hours to enter for a chance to win one of four \$100 gift certificates to a local meat locker. Entries are available for a \$1 donation each or six entries for \$5.

You can also find us at the Vernon County Fair, where we'll be accepting donations for entries.



Join us in supporting our community—all proceeds go directly toward fairground improvements.

The drawing will be held after the Vernon County Fair.

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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Trevor B. Clark, Director of Member Services. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:
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