

Watt'sNew

June 2023



Vernon Electric Cooperative

Monthly Co-op



Last month's trivia question was...

America's rural electric cooperatives have had a mascot since 1950. What's his name?

Answer: America's rural electric cooperatives are represented by the mascot named Willie WiredHand. Willie's name is a play on the phrase "hired hand", "the never-tiring, always available hired hand to help the nation's farmers."



"Information for our member-owners."

June Trivia:

The first locations energized by Vernon Electric Cooperative in 1937 were farms. Who did those farms belong to? Hint: Can be found on the website and in this month's WECN Magazine.

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Wednesday, June 14

4:30-7:00 food;

5:30-6:30 presentations

VEC Headquarters

110 saugstad Road, Westby

Pork chop sandwiches, milk, malts,
cheese curds & more

Industry updates from Vernon Electric and
Dairyland Power CEOs

Kids'
Activities

Bounce
House

Member Appreciation Picnic & Survey

Time constraints at the March annual meeting resulted in the postponement of the Vernon Electric and Dairyland Power CEO reports. After consulting with directors and staff, we decided to host a member appreciation picnic on June 14 at our headquarters facility. On the menu will be pork chop sandwiches with sides as well as milk, malts, and cheese curds to go along with the dairy month theme. The relaxed setting will allow us the privilege to provide updates on projects taking place at the cooperative. Brent Ridge, president & CEO of Dairyland Power, will attend as a special guest to share steps taken at Dairyland to ensure sustainable and reliable wholesale power for our members.

We partnered with Power System Engineering on a survey to assess how we can better serve you! 2,000

members were selected at random to complete a mail survey on current program offerings as well as:

- Satisfaction with your Cooperative
- Perspectives on conservation and climate change
- Interest in participating in energy-saving rates and programs
- Interest in electric vehicles, renewable energy, and energy-efficient technologies

Your feedback and opinions are extremely valuable as we consider future programs and rate offerings. If you received the survey and have not submitted it, we encourage you to do so prior to the June 16 deadline. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete and your response will enter you into a drawing to win one of ten \$25 bill credits.

Youth Leadership Conference: July 11 -13, 2023

The annual WECA Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) is a dynamic three-day event sponsored by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives and facilitated by WECA. It is a unique opportunity for youth across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

What will you do at YLC?

- See what makes the cooperative business model different and successful and apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Work together with other youth leaders from around Wisconsin to demonstrate the power and value of cooperation.
- Identify and develop your own leadership skills.
- Be entertained and challenged by highly acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens and

explore topics important and relevant in your life. This is a by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference. It is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

- Attendees don't pay. Students are sponsored by Vernon Electric Cooperative.
- Students spend three days on a college campus and experience a typical college environment, complete with living in the residence halls, attending sessions throughout campus, and even experiencing a university dining service.

Who and How?

- High school students with family members belonging to Vernon Electric Cooperative.
- Contact Trevor Clark at 608-634-3121 to tclark@vernonelectric.org.
- Application due by June 7, 2023.

June Dairy Month

June Dairy Month may be celebrated nationwide, but it holds a special significance in Wisconsin. This year, the Vernon and Monroe County Dairy breakfasts will be hosted by Vernon Electric members. The Monroe County Dairy Breakfast will be held at Mapltwin Farms on June 3, and the Vernon County Dairy Breakfast will take place June 10 at Monument Rock Jerseys. We encourage you to show your support for the dairy industry by attending breakfast at their farms.



**The Peterson Family
Mapltwin Farms
28521 Navajo Road
Cashton, WI, near Portland**

**Gerald and Connie Vesbach
Monument Rock Jerseys
57303 State Hwy 82
Viroqua, WI near Liberty Pole**

Safety Tips for Before, During and After the Storm

Before the Storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the Storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.

- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.



After the Storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

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