



Thank a Lineman

Kevin Babcock
General Manager/CEO

On April 13, electric cooperatives across America will honor linemen—those men and women who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. The second Monday of April has been designated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) as National Lineman Appreciation Day. The following excerpt is from the resolution adopted by NRECA's board:

"Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen."

Brotherhood

*Linework is a brotherhood.
It is a trade;
It unites hardworking men and women around the world.*

*It's a unique and rare gift to have been born a Lineman.
They cannot be made,
They are simply born.
It is not always a respected profession;
Actually, hardly ever.*

*Until that storm or unexpected outage hits
Then the Lineman is the one everyone looks to.
He is the one calling the shots
And the one with the true gift;
For he can return light
Where there is darkness.*

*The Lineman knows no forty-hour workweek;
For he is always in demand.
He is always ready to go at the drop of a hard-hat
And sure to be capable
For he is a Lineman.*

*For every pole he climbs, his brother isn't far behind
Because Linework is a brotherhood and brothers stick together.
Because of this and this alone is why
I am my brother's keeper.*

Author unknown



Jackson Electric Cooperative's linemen work on the lines to bring reliable electricity to your home or business. Left to right: Dan McKeivitt, Dalton Berg, David Ripp, Steve Tenner, Brian Schultz, Jesse Hansen, Hazy Wood, and Matt Bush. Absent the day this photo was taken is Eric Steien.

I started my career at Jackson Electric Cooperative working with the line crew. I watched the crews put in countless hours repairing lines and replacing poles after storms and accidents so members could enjoy the comforts of home. In 1991, I received my journeyman's card and I became one of the crew. Being called out during the most inconvenient times to restore power during dangerous weather conditions is the way of life for all linemen.

If you happen to see one of Jackson Electric Cooperative's linemen, give him a high-five or a simple "thank you" for helping keep your lights on.

What's Happening at the Co-op

First of all, thank you to all the members who attended the annual meeting. One of the great things about being a member of a cooperative is you have an opportunity to learn more about your investment and to voice your concerns through member meetings.

"Your Cooperative's Vision" was the theme for this year's meeting. The co-op's vision is to keep the members #1. By fulfilling this goal, we will need your support. Near the end of this month or possibly early May, we will be conducting a residential member satisfaction survey. This is a confidential survey to find out how we're doing as a cooperative. The only way we can improve our service to you is to learn what areas we're deficient in. If you happen to get a phone call from NRECA, please take the time to answer the short survey.

Once we receive the survey results, we will be putting together a strategic plan for your cooperative's vision. We will put together short-term and long-term strategies to guide and grow your cooperative, thus keeping the members #1.

The big push for line construction will begin and the line crew is anxious to get started. We continue to upgrade our lines and poles so that reliable electricity is distributed to your homes and businesses. When you see our crews working on the power lines alongside the rural roads, please slow down for everyone's safety.

Have a great Easter and enjoy spring. ■

Jackson Electric Cooperative

Jackson Electric Cooperative constructed a 9.75 kilowatt (kW) solar array in December 2013. The chart shows the array's output in kilowatt-hours (kWhs). The average residential consumer on Jackson Electric Cooperative's system uses 1,060 kWhs per month. Individual usage varies



according to house size, number of people, and how electrical devices are used. To view real-time output, go to www.jackelec.com and click on the Solar Array Output tab.

SOLAR ARRAY OUTPUT (kWh)			
	2013	2014	2015
JAN		918.58	495.76
FEB		1280.05	1060.87
MAR		1365.43	
APR		1016.75	
MAY		1271.49	
JUN		1194.80	
JUL		1338.32	
AUG		1236.23	
SEP		1189.47	
OCT		1051.26	
NOV		585.67	
DEC	578.17	466.29	
TOTAL	578.17	12,914.34	1556.63

Member Systems

Several members throughout the service territory have chosen to install distributed generation systems. The following is capacity interconnected to the grid:

- Hydro – 19 kW
- Solar – 121.33 kW
- Wind – 10 kW

Rebates and Incentives

Nearly \$99,000 in energy efficiency rebates and incentives were given back to members in 2014 who purchased Energy Star rated appliances, energy efficiency lighting, and highly energy efficient electric heat pumps. Rebates and incentives continue to be offered through 2015. Go to www.jackelec.com to learn if your purchase qualifies.

THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF GREEN IN ALL OF US

Here's a snapshot of distributed generation and energy efficiency progress from Dairyland Power and Jackson Electric Cooperative. Remember to honor Earth Day on April 22.

Evergreen Program

Eighty-eight members purchase a total of 169 blocks of renewable energy each month through the Evergreen program. This is a voluntary program where members pay \$1.50 per block per month to help offset the additional cost of renewable generation. This is added to your monthly electric bill. Go to www.jackelec.com to learn more about this program.

Dairyland Power Cooperative

Wind

- McNeilus Wind Farm, Adams, Minn. – 18 MW
- Winnebago Wind Power Project, Thompson, Iowa – 20 MW
- Prairie Star, Elkton, Minn. – 1.5 MW
- Buffalo Center Wind, St. Ansgar, Iowa – 1.5 MW

Solar

- Vernon Electric Cooperative, Westby, Wis. – 517 kW solar “farm”
- Minnesota Three LLC, Oronoco, Minn. – 517 kW
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Necedah Wildlife Refuge – 61 kW (DC)/47 kW (AC)

Hydro

- Flambeau Hydroelectric Station, Ladysmith, Wis. – 18 MW

Landfill Gas-to-Energy Biogas Facilities

- Seven Mile Creek Landfill, Eau Claire, Wis. – 4 MW
- Timberline Trail Landfill, Bruce, Wis. – 5.6 MW
- Central Disposal Landfill, Lake Mills, Iowa – 4.8 MW

Digesters

- Bush Brothers, Augusta, Wis.
- Eight manure digesters located in Dorchester, Colby, Nekoosa, Elk Mound, Rice Lake, and Cashton, Wis., and Riceville, Iowa

Biomass

- DTE Stoneman Station, Cassville, Wis. – 40 MW

Green Fleet investment – plug-in hybrid vehicles

Break Through at Youth Leadership Congress

Three days. More than 100 students. Dynamic speakers. UW-River Falls campus. It's that time of year when registration opens for the annual Youth Leadership Congress (YLC), sponsored by Wisconsin electric cooperatives including Jackson Electric Cooperative.



This year's YLC will be held July 15–17 at the UW–River Falls campus. Students will participate in team-building activities, learn about cooperative principles, and have an opportunity to interview and campaign to be part of the Wisconsin Youth Board. All sessions are designed to develop the next generation of community leaders. Those students attending YLC also have an opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association.

Jackson Electric Cooperative sponsors high school students who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the fall to attend this event. Enrollment and transportation costs are covered by the co-op. Learn how you can break through at YLC by contacting Carol at cblaken@jackelec.com by May 29, 2015. For more information, go to www.jackelec.com. ■

We Want to Know What You Think

To understand the needs of Jackson Electric Cooperative's membership and to help in long-range planning, a random residential member survey will be conducted late April/early May. The cooperative has commissioned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Market Research Services to conduct the confidential phone survey. The survey takes about six minutes and we ask that you are candid with your responses.

Those conducting the survey are

not telemarketers and are not selling anything. They will identify themselves as being from NRECA on behalf of Jackson Electric Cooperative.

Thanks for your cooperation. ■

JEC Promotes Eric Steien to Line Superintendent

Jackson Electric Cooperative is proud to announce the promotion of Eric Steien from line crew foreman to line superintendent. Steien replaces Kevin Babcock, who recently was promoted to general manager/CEO of the co-op.

Steien has been with Jackson Electric Cooperative since 1991. Throughout his 24-year tenure, he received education in power distribution, stray voltage investigation, and safety protocol, as well as extensive training in leadership responsibilities. He received his journeyman's card in 2003 and was promoted to line crew foreman in 2008. As line superintendent, Steien

No Recycling Day Planned at Jackson Electric

Jackson Electric Cooperative has offered an Electronics Recycling Day in April since 2010. This provided an opportunity for the public to drop off old TVs, computers, electronics, and appliances to be recycled. This was a free service, and several community members benefitted from it.

For the past several years, recycling companies did not charge the co-op a fee to collect and dispose of items. Unfortunately, these companies now charge for these types of events. Because our priority is to hold co-op expenses down for our members, Jackson Electric will not be hosting a Recycle Day this year.

However, Jackson County Zoning, Planning and POWTS Department is planning to host its annual appliance and electronics roundup day. It will be held April 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jackson County Recycling Center at 115 Harrison Street in Black River Falls. Call 715.284.0220 for more information on this event. ■

will be responsible for organizing and managing operations activities of the co-op's electric system including the development of construction work plans, financial forecasts, and facility construction and maintenance.

He and his wife, Michelle, have three children. Both are very involved in youth activities in the Blair-Taylor communities. He also enjoys working on his farm with his family and hunting. ■



Jackson Electric Cooperative Will See You at the WWIS Home Show
Heat Pumps - Energy Efficiency Tips
New Line Build Information

Your Energy Your Future
Jackson
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Cooperative

Saturday, April 11
8 a.m.—3 p.m.
Milt Lunda Ice Arena,
Black River Falls

Your Touchstone Energy Partner

Sump Pump Value and Consumption

By Ron Blado,
Member Services Manager

As I'm writing this article, it's the middle of February and temperatures are below zero at the start of the day. Many members are hoping for a spring thaw, but we may have to wait a bit longer. I'm hopeful that by the time this article is published in April, that spring will be headed our way.

Speaking of spring, several conditions change in our homes during this season. One well-known problem is the introduction of water or moisture in basements, crawl spaces, and around the perimeter of our homes due to melting snow, thus causing flooding and changing of local water tables. To resolve this issue, many homes, especially those at lower elevations, have sump pumps to remove water from sump pits in their basements.

The two most common sump pumps available are submersible or pedestal type. Both types are connected to electrical outlets that run the pumps when the float/pressure switch closes to run the motor. These pumps vary in price and flow rate. The flow rate is referred to as gallons per minute (gpm).

Common residential motor sizes are 1/6, 1/4, 1/3, or 1/2 horsepower. The



larger the motor, the more electrical consumption; therefore, the more energy used. Calculate the electric energy consumption for any electric device by combining three factors: hours of operation, watts (power) of energy needed to operate the device, and price per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Once you have those three pieces of information, the consumption can be converted to the cost per hour of the sump pump.

The characteristics of a sump pump rely on how fast the sump pit fills with water. The pump, in the spring of the year, could start and stop several times per minute. In calculating the actual cost, it can be difficult to determine hours per day/month. Monthly electric bills are calculated in kWhs; therefore, we need to convert watts to kWhs to find out the cost of operation.

For example: You have a 1/3 horsepower motor that operates at 4 amps at 120 volts. The sump pump

operates 24 hours a day (this is a worst-case scenario). Use the following calculation to figure the operating cost of the sump pump:

- 4 amps x 120 volts = 480 watts
- 480 watts/1000 = 0.480 kWhs
- 0.480 kWhs x 24 hours = 11.52 kWhs per day
- 11.52 kWhs x \$0.113 (meter price per kWh) = \$1.30 per day
- The impact to a monthly electric bill for the sump pump to operate is: \$1.30 x 30 days = \$39.05 per month. If the pump operates half the time the cost is \$19.53 per month.

This information is to remind homeowners to inspect their sump pump systems and make sure they are in sound operating condition. Water problems in a home are never good, but they can be remedied. Outside excavating and rain gutter downspouts direct water away from foundations. Inside wall systems and good floor drains collect and direct water to a sump pit location. Prevention is always a good policy. ■

Please direct your question or comment for Ron to Jackson Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 546, Black River Falls, WI 54615 or rblado@jackedec.com.

Attention:

Electricians, Plumbers, HVAC Dealers,
Roofers, Building Contractors

Jackson Electric Cooperative will hold a contractor's meeting on Thursday, April 23, beginning at 7:30 a.m. If you're a plumber, electrician, HVAC dealer, or roofer/building contractor and want to learn more about our programs and incentives, please contact our office by April 13 to RSVP to this event.

Need Electric Service Installed?

If you're planning to build a house or need to extend your electric service, please contact Scott at Jackson Electric Cooperative to schedule an appointment to discuss your electric service needs. We can also help you with electric heating and cooling options and Energy Star rebates and incentives.



Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Box 546, Black River Falls, WI 54615

715.284.5385 • 800.370.4607

www.jackedec.com 

Outage Only Number:

855.222.DARK (3275)

Board of Directors

Gary Woods, President

Jerry Huber, Vice President

David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer

Daniel Smrekar, Junior Jacobson,

Stanley Gran, Brian Huber,

Chris Curran, Jerry Wagner

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 