



Celebrate Dairy Month

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

It's a tradition, especially in Wisconsin, to participate in June Dairy Month activities and events. This nationally recognized tradition started in 1937, then called National Milk Month, to help stabilize dairy demand during periods of peak production when cows were turned out to pasture. At that time, supporting the campaign was the theme, "Keep Youthful – Drink Milk."

You have many opportunities to celebrate June Dairy Month throughout Wisconsin. Some local stores provide dairy product samples, financial institutions provide ice cream treats, and some counties crown a dairy princess. In Jackson County, we are fortunate to have families who offer their dairy operation as a site for the annual On-The-Farm Breakfast.

Charlie and Betty Janke, owners of CBJanke Farms, are kind enough to invite the public to their dairy farm on Saturday, June 6, for the Jackson County On-The-Farm Breakfast. You can read about their dairy operation on page 5 of this issue. Attending this breakfast is definitely an opportunity to see a traditional farm family operation.

Bringing Youth Back to Our Community

This month, Jackson Electric Cooperative will be sending two of its youth ambassadors to the Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. They will have an oppor-

tunity to meet their senators and congressman; hear from co-op leaders; see the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, and Smithsonian Institution museums; and meet hundreds of kids just like them.

It's real-life education and experiences, like the Electric Youth Tour, that will help young people know and understand they have an important role to play in our community. Jackson Electric is committed to engaging youth in the community through its youth ambassador program, Youth Leadership Congress, and electrical safety educational programs, to name a few. These programs help teach young people the importance of community involvement and the potential future roles they could play in their home towns. It's programs like these that will help bring youth back to our communities.

Jackson Electric is now accepting applications for the youth ambassador program. If your high school junior or senior is interested in participating, go to www.jacksonelec.com or contact our office to learn more. ■

Local Upcoming Events to Keep Your Eye On:

May 28-31 – Taylor Old Fashion Days

June 5-6 – WIAA State Track and Field Meet at UW-La Crosse
Stop by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booth. Jackson Electric is a Touchstone Energy Partner.

June 11-14 – Sparta Butterfest

June 14 – Touchstone Energy Triathlon, West Salem

June 19 – Jackson County Interfaith Caregivers golf outing fundraiser, Skyline Golf Course in Black River Falls

June 19-21 – North Bend Days

June 26-28 – Alma Center Strawberry Festival

A Sure Sign of Spring



When you see Jackson Electric's line crew constructing new line, you know that spring is here. Warm April weather helped jump start the line construction season for Jackson Electric's line crew. In these photos, cable is strung on 50-foot poles by Jackson Electric linemen.





CBJanke Farms to Host Dairy Days Breakfast

On a dead-end road, nestled in the rolling hills of the Township of Garden Valley, exists a dairy farm with more than 100 years of history. Recognized as a Century Farm in 2013, CBJanke Farms, located north of Hixton off of North Branch Road, is the site for this year's Jackson County On-The-Farm Dairy Breakfast to be held Saturday, June 6. Serving will be from 6 to 11 a.m.

Charlie and Betty Janke talked with pride about the history of CBJanke Farms. The farmstead, purchased by Charlie's grandparents Ludwig "Louie" and Annie Janke in November 1913, was the first 40 acres acquired in Jackson County. For several years, Charlie's grandparents worked alongside his parents, Elton and Zelda, who eventually purchased additional acres to increase the size of the farmstead. When Charlie was young, he worked on the farm and decided there was no better life than the way of farming. Charlie signed into partnership with his parents in 1980; 10 years later, he purchased the farm.

In 1998, Charlie and Betty were married. Betty recently retired, after 29 years, from the Jackson County

Farm Service Agency and now helps Charlie on the farm as a self-recognized calf manager. Charlie does the milking of the grade Holsteins, two times a day, in a stanchion barn that houses 38 stalls. Charlie says they milk between 35 and 40 cows, depending on freshening and drying-off dates. Heifer calves are raised for replacements; bull calves are raised to feeder steer weight, 400 to 500 pounds, then sold for finishing.

Heifers and cows are bred using artificial insemination, or AI. Charlie says he looks for milk production when choosing breeding characteristics. They use an on-farm mating service through their dairy sire cooperative to select bulls that will improve genetics and meet specific breeding features.

Charlie and Betty own a total of 530 acres; 352 of those acres are tillable. Some of those tillable acres are rented to Charlie's brother, Ted, who lives on the neighboring farm. The Jankes raise corn, oats, soybeans, and alfalfa, all which is fed to their stock. Any excess grain is sold.

In addition to farming full time, Charlie sells seed oats and Betty is involved with community organizations.

The Jankes invite you to enjoy Saturday morning with them at the Jackson County On-The-Farm Breakfast. ■

Handicapped parking will be available at the site of the breakfast. All other parking will be located in the field below the house. In case of rain, shuttle buses will be transporting breakfast-goers from the Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan High School to the farm. Listen to WWIS-FM 99.7 radio for updates.



Charlie and Betty Janke welcome visitors to view their farming operation during the Jackson County On-The-Farm Breakfast.



Charlie and Betty pose for a family photo with Betty's children. They are, left to right, Matt Stark and his fiancé, Jennah, Hannah and Mike Stark, Liz and Will Campbell, and Betty and Charlie.

JEC Youth Ambassadors Selected to Attend Electric Youth Tour

Kandi Shramek, daughter of Pat and Cindy Shramek of Alma Center, and Kristen Johnson, daughter of Dennis and June Johnson of Black River Falls, will attend the Electric Youth Tour June 12–18 in Washington, D.C., as representatives of Jackson Electric Cooperative.

Kandi and Kristen, along with 1,500 other high school students from across the country, will have an opportunity to meet with their representatives on Capitol Hill, learn about the role electric cooperatives have in the national economy, enhance their leadership skills, and visit the many historic sites in Washington, D.C.



Kandi Shramek, left, and Kristen Johnson

Both participate in Jackson Electric Cooperative's youth ambassador program. To apply to attend this leadership conference, Kandi and Kristen submitted a mock letter to either their state or federal representative

describing the importance of electric cooperatives in Wisconsin, specifically Jackson County.

Kandi states in her mock letter to Representative Ron Kind, "Today, Jackson Electric Cooperative does a lot more than just provide electricity to its members. The cooperative established the youth ambassador program as a way to educate young adults about cooperatives, and provides leadership skills and knowledge essential for life." Kristen talks about Jackson Electric Cooperative's history and its progress throughout the years in her mock letter to Senator Tammy Baldwin.

To learn more about the Electric Youth Tour and how your high school junior or senior can participate in the youth ambassador program, go to www.jackelec.com or contact the office. ■

Water Heaters Work While You're Away

Turning off your water heater while you're away doesn't guarantee that you will save money on your water heating. Generally, if you have a high-efficiency water heater, like the ones available from Jackson Electric Cooperative, there is little benefit in turning off the water heater for a duration of less than one week.

If you plan to be gone for longer than a week, timing is the key to saving money. If your water heater is com-

pletely heated at the time you turn it off, there will be little, if any, savings by doing so because you have already paid to heat the water that will cool down while you are away. The money-saving trick is to turn the water heater off early enough so most of the water you paid to heat is used before you leave. Cold water entering the water heater as you use the hot water will remain cold, using no energy, until you return and turn the water heater back on. ■

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



You Can Make a Difference!

Cooperative members can help keep electric rates affordable for everyone. Just shift energy use to before 11 a.m. and after 7 p.m. summer weekdays.

Do the Summer Shift

Total members participating

1
7,462

My cooperative saves

..... \$11.37
..... \$84,843

Energy Efficiency for a Farm Operation

By **Ron Blado**,
Member Services Manager

All farms, whether hobby, grain, or livestock, use electricity for the production of their goods. The cost associated with the use of electricity may be one of the operation's largest expenses. To use electricity wisely and efficiently, some farm operators may find energy efficient upgrades cost effective to their operation.

Electric energy is integral for pumping water for irrigation or drinking, heating water for cleaning equipment, inside lighting in barns/warehouses and outside lighting areas, barn cleaning/loading equipment,

ventilation for animal comfort, refrigeration for cooling milk, and operating compressors and vacuum pumps. Almost every essential function in the operation requires electricity.

There are recommendations that a farm operator should think about when it comes time to remodel or replace equipment. Although an energy efficient replacement device comes with an initial cost, it should reduce the amount of energy used and save energy for the long term. Comparisons can be calculated to determine a simple payback. If payback periods on proposed improvements are excessive, it may be better to redirect the monies elsewhere at your facility.

Some areas to improve energy efficiency:

- Replace single-pass plate coolers with dual-pass plate coolers.
- Replace standard vacuum and water pumps with variable frequency drive (VFD) pumps.
- Replace standard appliances with Energy Star rated appliances.
- Consider a heat recovery vessel for water heating.
- When possible, replace standard compressors with more efficient scroll compressors.
- Consider the best placement of natural and mechanical ventilation. Use horizontal air flow for the best air circulation.
- Consider low-energy livestock waterers where applicable.

Energy efficiency is a good practice. Jackson Electric Cooperative has a rebate program available to assist members with qualified energy efficiency purchases. Please contact the office for more information on custom rebates. ■

Look up and look out for overhead power lines.

Make sure that you keep yourself and all equipment at least 10 feet away from them in all directions, at all times.



- Convert older lighting technologies to more efficient styles. Older bulbs, like incandescents, can be replaced with more efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) or light emitting diodes (LED). Take advantage of daylighting when possible.

26th Annual
Energy Fair
Clean energy & sustainable living

June 19-21
Custer, Wis.

- Visit with more than 200 exhibitors featuring sustainable living and clean energy products
- Learn about renewable energy resources from more than 200 workshops
- Clean Energy Car Show
- Hands-on green building demos
- Get a taste of sustainability that you can bring to your dinner table

Dairyland Power Cooperative and its member electric cooperatives will have a booth at the Energy Fair. Stop by to learn about clean, environmentally friendly heat pumps. For more information on the Energy Fair, go to www.midwestrenew.org.



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