



### County Fairs are a Family Affair

*Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO*

This week the Jackson County Fair will be in full swing. For most, it is one of the most exciting events scheduled in the summer. So many families look forward to the fair to ride the carnival rides, play games, pet the animals, watch the rodeo, and listen to the roar of the tractors during the annual tractor pull. Others participate in the fair with the intent to win a ribbon, preferably a blue ribbon.

As a spectator at the fair for several years, I've noticed the generations of family members who participate in the junior and open shows. Grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, brothers, and sisters seem to always be involved in the shows, whether it's as a spectator, a youth leader, or a mentor. It doesn't matter what capacity they're at the fair for—you always see family members supporting one of their own. I think this is what makes the excitement of a county fair so unique and special.

Memories are created at the fair: meeting new friends, remembering the water balloon fights, the spider hanging on a thread trick, and the friendly competition.

You see others helping others—making sure the animals have water, cleaning pens, providing an extra halter in an emergency—values our youth are learning and hopefully embracing. Long days are the norm and the tiredness may tempt attitudes, but rarely do you see, or hear, of any frustration. This builds character.

Jackson Electric Cooperative has been part of the Jackson County Fair for several years. We support youth, and adult, participation in all areas of competition, from sewing to showing livestock. I encourage you to take your family to this year's fair, as a participant or a spectator, and create some memories.

### Member Survey

In April Jackson Electric conducted a residential member phone survey. We reviewed those results and used that information in the cooperative's short- and long-term strategic planning. In addition, much discussion was held on programs and services offered to members. We will be conducting another member phone survey in August to learn what the members' interests are in regards to the cooperative's programs and services.

If you receive a phone call, we hope you participate in this survey. This information is very valuable to the direction of your cooperative. The survey will be administered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Market Research Services. They will not be asking you for any personal information. ■

## Change is Underway –

### Slogan to be Selected by Members at Picnic

It's been 20-plus years since Jackson Electric's slogan, "Working Together, Working for You," was introduced. Change is inevitable and soon a new radio jingle will be hitting the airwaves, but before that happens, the cooperative needs your help in selecting a new slogan.

Employees have been busy deciding on the correct wording for a new slogan. Once the employees have their ideas narrowed down to three slogans,

the slogans will be displayed at the annual member picnic on Tuesday, August 11. Members will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite slogan at the picnic. The slogan with the most votes will be the new Jackson Electric slogan. Keep watching Jackson Electric's Facebook page and website for any updated information on the slogans.

Make sure you mark your calendars for Jackson Electric Cooperative's 15th Annual Member Picnic on Tuesday, August 11. The picnic will be held at the Lunda Park Upper Shelter in Black River Falls. Members will enjoy shredded pork sandwiches, potato salad, cole slaw, beans, beverage, and ice cream, serving from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Bring a lawn chair and listen to music at the park's band shell following the picnic starting at 7 p.m. Music will be performed by Them Coulee Boys. Read more about this local band on the facing page. ■



## Them Coulee Boys

### Local Musicians Return to Their Roots to Perform at Lunda Park

When youth come back to the community, the support of the community is wholehearted. That will be evident when the local band Them Coulee Boys plays on stage at the Tuesday evening, August 11, Concert in the Lunda Park in Black River Falls. This concert will follow the annual Jackson Electric Cooperative member picnic, also held in the Lunda Park.

Luck would have it that the band, consisting of two members who grew up on Jackson Electric's service lines, will be performing for several fellow cooperative and community members. Soren and Jens Staff, sons of Bryan and Sarah Staff, of rural Hixton, will be joined by their fellow band members, Beau Janke of Trempealeau, and Michael Aschbacher of Spooner, to bring the beautiful sounds of folk rock/Americana, with a little edge of punk rock, to attentive listeners.

It all started in high school when Soren was part of a punk band called The Vindicated Truth. While away at



summer camp, working as counselors, Soren joined with his brother Jens, and friends Beau and Michael, to play music at the camp. They enjoyed sharing their love of music so much they decided to form a band. Them Coulee Boys was born. Soren says, "Being together in a band was a dream for all of them."

Their dreams didn't stop at the formation of the band. They have an album out called "I Never Lied About Being in Love." This can be found on iTunes and Spotify.

Success didn't come easy for the group. Their first show was at the Honeycrisp Hootenanny at Eckers Apple Farm in Galesville. Soren recalls it being so cold they felt like their fingers were freezing while playing their string instruments. Because the cold limited the movement of their fingers, band members felt their performance suffered and did not meet their own standards. Leaving the event disappointed, they thought they wouldn't be called back to perform. Much to their surprise, event organizers called the group back and they have been regulars at the annual event ever since. Soren says the crowd is appreciative and enthusiastic. This type of crowd reaction encourages the band members and makes the show more entertaining.

Three of the band members continue to work as summer camp counselors at a camp in Chetek, and the remaining member works for an audio company. In addition to their jobs, the band travels to perform in towns located anywhere between Superior to Milwaukee. Their goal is to reach more listeners by traveling to more towns, in different areas, to perform.

Soren says they're excited to play during the Tuesday evening event. "We have been regulars to Black River Falls. It seems like August 11 will be a great time to play in the park with the beautiful band stand behind us. We hope to see a lot of friends there." ■



### Golfing for a Charitable Cause

Jackson Electric Cooperative employees took time from their day to support the Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers at its annual golf fundraiser in June. The fundraiser is held to raise money for the organization's programs and services it provides to older adults and disabled people in the community. Golfing for Jackson Electric were, left to right, Jerel Gunning, Matt Bush, Eric Steien, and Steve Wold.

## Planning a Distributed Generation Project?

The following steps are recommended by Jackson Electric if you're planning to construct any type of distributed generation and interconnect to Jackson Electric's service lines:

- 1) Member contacts Jackson Electric Cooperative for information regarding the application process, Jackson Electric Cooperative's Policy 305, Interconnection Agreement, fees, insurance, and requirements.
- 2) Jackson Electric recommends member contacts a vendor/installer for a site visit and information.
- 3) Vendor/installer contacts Jackson Electric's office for wiring and procedure information.
- 4) Member completes and returns the Distributed Generation Application Form for approval of the project, with proof of liability insurance.
- 5) Member has distributed generation system inspected to verify compliance with electrical code and interconnection requirements.
- 6) Nearing completion, member/installer schedules commissioning/anti-islanding test date.
- 7) At commissioning test, member completes and signs the Jackson Electric Distributed Generation Interconnection Agreement.
- 8) Jackson Electric applies the Distribution Generation Rate to the account for the system.
- 9) Jackson Electric to place the signed Distributed Generation Application Form, Distributed Generation Interconnection Agreement, and information letter in member's file.

To download Policy 305, the Distributed Generation Interconnection Agreement form and Distributed Generation Application form, go to [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com) or contact our office.

## Solar Array Update

Several members have asked, "How much does the solar array at Jackson Electric produce?" The chart below shows the 9.75-kilowatt (kW) array's output since it's been on-line in December 2013. For comparison, the average residential consumer on Jackson Electric's system uses 1,060 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month. Individual usage varies according to house size, number of people, and how electrical devices are used. You can also view real-time output from the solar array at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com); click on the Solar Array Output tab. ■

SOLAR ARRAY OUTPUT (kWh)			
	2013	2014	2015
JAN		918.58	495.76
FEB		1,280.05	1,060.87
MAR		1,365.43	1,420.35
APR		1,016.75	1,334.47
MAY		1,271.49	1,175.62
JUN		1,194.80	1,264.97
JUL		1,338.32	
AUG		1,236.23	
SEP		1,189.47	
OCT		1,051.26	
NOV		585.67	
DEC	578.17	466.29	
TOTAL	578.17	12,914.34	6,752.04



## Show Your Support for Green Power

**A**voluntary renewable energy (green power) program is available to members of Jackson Electric Cooperative. Evergreen is for those who want to support renewable energy and are willing to help pay for the extra costs associated with its production.

With your consent, you pay a small, additional monthly charge to offset the additional cost it takes to support renewable energy generation. You can purchase one block of Evergreen renewable energy or several blocks, if you desire. One Evergreen block costs \$1.50 per month and represents about

10 percent of the average residential monthly electric usage, which is 1,000 kilowatt-hours. According to the EPA (2008), the purchase of one block of Evergreen, every month for one year, has the same environmental benefit as planting one-half acre of trees or not driving a car 2,400 miles.

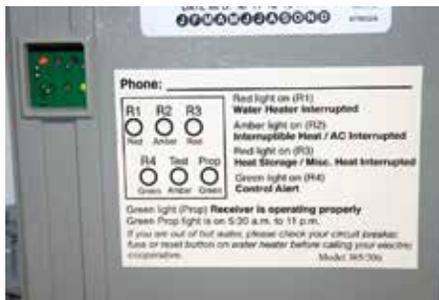
Evergreen helps our power supplier in the purchase of energy from renewable energy sources, such as wind, landfill gas, biomass, solar, hydro, and manure digesters. For more information on Evergreen, go to [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com) or contact our office. ■

# Load Management 101: Electric Water Heaters

By Ron Blado,  
Member Services Manager

In last month's issue, I talked about load management in regards to peak alerts or periods of high electric demand. This type of load management typically occurs on extremely hot and cold days. This month, I'll explain how the use of load management with electric water heaters can potentially save your cooperative money.

Jackson Electric hired summer help to test load management receivers. Receivers are typically located next to your electric meter on the outside of your house and wired into



You can determine your load management status by looking at your receiver. Red light on (R1) means your water heater is being controlled. Green light (prop) means your receiver is operating properly and is on from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

your breaker box. These receivers are being tested because every receiver that is not working properly is costing the cooperative money.

If a load management receiver is not operating properly, it will cost the cooperative, on average, \$50 per year per water heater. For one water heater, that doesn't seem like much. If the cooperative found 150 receivers not operating properly, the cooperative could pay approximately \$7,500 per year in demand charges. This may be reflected in the members' rates.

Those members who have water heaters on the load management program only experience control periods when a full load peak alert is issued or when market prices for electricity are high. Both are determined by Jackson Electric's power supplier, Dairyland Power.

Economic control of water heaters can occur anytime, Monday through Friday, during the summer hours of 6 p.m. to midnight and winter hours 4 to 10 p.m. The summer period is May 1 through October 31. When market prices are high, notification is sent to the distribution co-op alerting of the water heater control period. Members can also determine if a control period is expected or active by going to Jackson Electric's website, [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com); click on the Residential Load Control tab. Most water heaters on Jackson Electric's system, not on the dual fuel program, are classified as "Water Heaters 1B (large)."

If you don't have Internet access, you can also determine if your water heater is controlled by looking at your receiver. On your receiver there are several lights and explanations of each light. If your water heater is controlled, the red light (R1) and green light (prop) will be lit.

## Running Out of Hot Water During Load Control

Electric water heaters come in various sizes, but it is Jackson Electric's goal to assure that the member does not run out of hot water, regardless of the time of day. When choosing a water heater for new construction or

replacement, it is important to know how many people reside in the home. Under normal conditions, a 50-gallon water heater should adequately provide enough hot water for two to three persons on the load management program. Larger 85- or 105-gallon water heaters should be sufficient for larger families, say four to six persons.

The size of the water heater also depends on hot water usage. Consider length and amount of showers/baths, dishwashing, laundering, etc.

A strategy for a water heater installed in a dairy milkhouse is included in the mix of load management controlled water heaters. Many of these water heaters are set at higher temperatures for proper sanitation of pipeline dairy equipment. ■

**Did You Know?**  
Jackson Electric has a little more than 4,300 electric water heaters on its system.



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