



Kevin Babcock,
General Manager/
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BUYER BEWARE

Depending on the time of year, our office staff receives several questions from members on different topics. We learn from some members, when purchasing an item, they are told one thing by the salesperson, but the results are not what was expected. In most cases, the results have a negative effect on the purchaser.

That, in turn, leads to questions directed to our office staff. With that being said, my column will focus on three areas of concern triggered by members' questions.

Portable Electric Space Heaters

Some of Jackson Electric's members choose to use portable electric space heaters to warm different areas in their home. They purchase portable electric space heaters that are sold as an energy-saving solution to heating. A watt is a watt, no matter how you receive it. A portable electric space heater can be wrapped in gold and silver, but the cost to operate this space heater is the same as if you purchased a standard space heater.

Central Air Conditioners vs. Air Source Heat Pumps

A central air conditioner provides only cooling comfort to a home or business. An air source heat pump provides both cooling and heating to a home or business. Air source heat pumps are very efficient and operate very well in this area, contrary to what might be advertised.

Because the heating days in Wisconsin outnumber the cooling days, an air source heat pump is an excellent option. Several homeowners start to heat their home in October and continue through April. This year, some were operating their heating system in May. An air source heat pump will efficiently heat your home until the outdoor temperature reaches 30 degrees. If the heat pump can't keep up with the call for heat, the fossil fuel backup heating system kicks in.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS DEADLINE APPROACHING

High school students who will be entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year have an opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Leadership Congress July 26-28 at the UW-River Falls campus.

Deadline to register for this event is June 9. Contact Deanna at doliver@jackelec.com for more information.

PEAK ALERT DAYS

The potential for a full load control or peak alert day is now upon us. From June 1 through August 31, the potential is there for our power supplier, Dairyland Power, to issue a peak alert day. A peak alert day is typically issued on the hottest days of summer. If a peak alert is issued, we ask that you limit your electrical usage between the hours of 2 and 6 p.m. During this period, all electric water heaters and cooling loads on the dual fuel program will be interrupted. Cooling loads will be interrupted every 15 minutes throughout the period.

Peak alert notifications are announced on WWIS and WAXX affiliated radio stations and Jackson Electric's Facebook page and website.



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During the summer months, the thermostat for the heat pump is switched to the cooling mode.

You can read more about heat pumps in this issue on page 17. Rebates are also available on these units.

Residential Solar

Residential solar is an investment for which a buyer needs to do their due diligence. Solar is an alternative energy source that does come with a price. Before installing a solar array, the consumer should first determine what their goal is with the purchase. Recently, staff have been hearing from members that they have been told by the salesperson they could live off the grid and never receive another electric bill after they install a solar array. In fact, some have been told that the electric utility will be purchasing energy from the member. Contrary to what some members may hear, solar is not a stand-alone energy source. It requires an alternating current source (the electric grid) to operate unless an energy storage device can be utilized.

More often than not, solar production is consumed prior to reaching the grid. In the event that over-production occurs, energy is purchased (from the owner) by the electric utility at avoided cost. Avoided cost is the cost a utility incurs to generate or purchase power at market price.

Many of Jackson Electric's current members who have installed solar arrays are pleased with the results. If you are considering solar, Jackson Electric is researching options that may assist in your decision. In April, each member received a solar survey. The goal of this survey is to measure member interest in solar. Once the surveys are tabulated and reviewed, the board of directors will make a business decision on constructing a community solar project and/or the potential for Jackson Electric to sell and install solar systems.

We encourage members to contact Jackson Electric so we can assist you with energy decisions that could potentially give you the greatest investment for your dollar.



Fun Fact:
About 90% of Wisconsin milk is turned into cheese and about 90% of Wisconsin cheese is sold outside of the state.

Source: wmmb.com

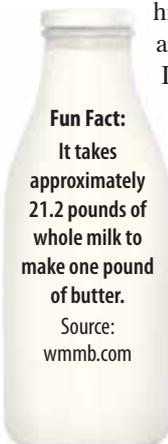


Stardome Farm, LLC to Host Dairy Breakfast

“I feel it’s important for the community to have a better understanding of where their food comes from,” says Wade Stubrud of Stardome Farm, LLC. “I want to share with visitors what a traditional 100-cow dairy operation looks like.”

On Saturday, June 3, Stardome Farm, LLC will host the Jackson County On-The-Farm Dairy Breakfast. Wade and his fiancé, Sonja, along with their four children, are hosting the event so they can share their passion for the dairy industry with others. The public is invited to attend and learn more about their dairy operation. Wade says he’s hoping for a record-breaking crowd that morning.

Wade is the second generation to operate Stardome Farm, LLC. His parents, the late Gene and Janice Stubrud, purchased the farm in 1971. At that time, his parents milked 26 cows and operated 120 acres. In 2008, Wade purchased the cows and feed from his parents; in 2011, he purchased the real estate. Wade makes it his mission to make sure his family’s farm legacy is carried on, and that his Dad, if he were alive, would be proud of the farm’s accomplishments.



Fun Fact:
It takes approximately 21.2 pounds of whole milk to make one pound of butter.
Source: wmmmb.com

One-hundred grade Holsteins are milked in a stall barn two times a day at Stardome Farms. The rolling herd average is 26,055 pounds of milk with 1,030 pounds of fat and 776 pounds of protein. The rolling herd average measures the overall performance and efficiency of all cows in a herd. Wisconsin’s

rolling herd average for a 154-cow herd is 23,944 pounds, according to AgSource data. Wade adds that the herd’s somatic cell count (SCC) is 116,000. SCC shows the amount of white

blood cells that are present in milk. A lower SCC means the cows are less stressed and have fewer invading microorganisms. The goal is to have a SCC lower than 200,000 cells per milliliter.

Cows are artificially inseminated (AI) and the heifers are bred to a bull. Wade says they breed for high and wide udders and correct feet and legs. Heifer calves are raised for replacements, and bull calves are sold at a local sale barn.

About 200 acres of tillable land is used to feed the herd. Eighty acres of corn are planted for corn silage, 60 acres of soybeans, and the remainder is corn planted for grain. Wade says he sells about 15 to 20 acres of corn and all of his soybeans. He, in turn, purchases canola to incorporate into the total mixed ration (TMR) to feed his herd. In the fall, after the harvest of corn silage and soybeans,

rye is planted in those respective fields. The fall rye is harvested as ruelage and baleage the following spring. Bunkers, stave silos, and Harvesters are used for feed storage facilities.

Driving past the farm and scoping out what project to do next is something Wade says he enjoys. The smell of a freshly plowed field and a fresh cutting of hay is a subtle reminder to him of why he enjoys farming. He adds that the farm is a great place to raise a family.

In his spare time, Wade serves as a member of the Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan FFA Alumni, the Jackson County Dairy Promotion Committee, and the Dairy Pricing Association. He says, “I enjoy helping others out. I hope to be respected by my peers, and that I make my family proud. We do the best we can with what we have.”

Fun Fact:
Wisconsin is the only state that offers advanced education in cheesemaking. Of the 1,200 licensed cheesemakers, 70 have earned the right to be called Master Cheesemakers.
Source: wmmmb.com

Getting to the Jackson County On-The-Farm Breakfast: From Alma Center, take Hwy. 95 west approximately one mile to Hwy. 121. Take Hwy. 121 to the west for approximately ¼ mile to Stardome Farms, LLC on Old Stage Road. Traveling from Hixton, take Hwy. 95 east for approximately five miles to Hwy. 121. Take Hwy. 121 to the west to Old Stage Road.

The Jackson County On-The-Farm Dairy Breakfast will be Saturday, June 3. Serving will be from 6 to 11 a.m. Enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast. Adults are \$6; children under 12, \$3.

Heating and Cooling Comfort in One Unit

Heating and cooling your home accounts for nearly half of a home's energy use, according to energy.gov. When trying to determine which technology is best for heating and cooling, it may be beneficial for you to consider installing an electric heat pump. Heat pumps are highly efficient devices that provide both heating and cooling comfort.

Heat pumps simply move heat from one place to another. During winter months, they collect and consolidate heat from outside sources and move it inside; during summer months, they reverse the flow and send warm, indoor air out. The most common type is an air-source heat pump that resembles an air-conditioning unit and uses the air around it to transfer heat. Geothermal heat pumps, also known as ground-source heat pumps, use the earth itself or groundwater as a means of transferring heat.

Geothermal Heat Pump

Once you get a short distance below the ground's surface, around four feet in depth, the temperature of the ground stays a reasonably constant 50–55 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. Have you ever gone into a cave or tour a cavern? In the summer, it is cool. In the winter, it's warm. What you sense is the difference between the outside temperature and that of the cavern below ground.

Geothermal heat pumps use this temperature difference to heat and cool. These systems need some sort of heat exchanger installed underground, either vertically or horizontally, and filled with a fluid. The equipment at the house resembles a typical HVAC system. Pumps and compressors move the fluid through the pipes inside the house and in the ground where it picks up or gives off heat, depending on the need.

Air Source Heat Pump

The mechanics of an air source heat pump take advantage of very small differences in temperature using the proper compressor and refrigerant mix. The air source heat pump moves heat from one spot to another, like the geothermal system. However, the medium to exchange heat with the air source unit is the outside air.

When the outside temperature dips below 30 degrees Fahrenheit, the unit will automatically switch to the backup

fossil fuel heating source to keep up with the call for heat.

Both air source and geothermal heat pumps use refrigerant to capture the heat and carry it to where it is exchanged, either in the ground or using the outside air.



Ductless/Mini-Split Air Source Heat Pump

Bypass the ducts with a mini-split air source heat pump. These units have two main parts: an outdoor compressor/condenser and one or more indoor air-handling units. These components are linked by a cable (refrigerant line) (see photo above). These units are ideal for room additions where duct work may not be possible, or for homes with “non-ducted” air conditioning (window units). Indoor models can be mounted in the ceiling, hung on the wall, or placed on the floor.

Heat pumps are very efficient. A heat pump with a COP (coefficient of performance) of 3.0 delivers up to three units of heating/cooling for every unit of energy used.

If you're going to install or replace a central air conditioning unit, you really should consider installing a heat pump. Don't rule out a heat pump because of its upfront costs. Rebates are available from Jackson Electric which make the cost to install either an air source or geothermal heat pump affordable. Contact our office for more information.

To keep your heat pump operating efficiently, make sure you clean or change filters at least once a month or as needed. Clean outdoor coils whenever they appear dirty. Occasionally, turn off power to the fan and clean it; remove vegetation and clutter from around the outdoor unit. Clean the supply and return registers within your home, and straighten their fins if bent.

Power Outages Can Occur at Any Time— Be Prepared.

Jackson Electric is now working with Home Backup Systems, specializing in residential and small business Generac standby generators.



Call Jackson Electric for more information.

Fun Fact:

Number of licensed Wisconsin dairy farms: 9,236

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, April 2017

Fun Fact:

Average number of cows per farm in Wisconsin is 139.

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, March 2017



MEET JACKSON ELECTRIC'S 1,000-HOUR EMPLOYEES

Spencer Paulson and Grant Witcraft recently were hired as 1,000-hour laborers at Jackson Electric Cooperative. Both will work with the line crew assisting with the maintenance and construction of line throughout the service territory.



Spencer Paulson



Grant Witcraft

Spencer Paulson originates from the Blair area. After serving four years in the United States Marine Corps, Spencer received his Electrical Lineworker certification from Northwest Lineman College in Denton, Texas. He brings to Jackson Electric more than 500 hours of training in new distribution and transmission overhead and underground line construction and maintenance.

Grant Witcraft is from Madison, but his roots are also from the Blair area. Grant recently worked for Badgerland Supply in Madison. After serving in the United States Marine Corps, Grant received his lineworker certification from Southeast Lineman Training Center in Trenton, Georgia. He has more than 320 field hours training in tool and equipment operation, climbing, underground distribution, and construction and maintenance.

REBATES AVAILABLE

Whether you're retrofitting or building new, remember that Jackson Electric has rebates available on Energy Star appliances and air source and geothermal heat pumps.

ITEM	REBATE
Clothes Washer	\$100 per unit
Clothes Dryer	\$100 per unit
Heat Pump Clothes Dryer	\$50 per unit
Dishwasher	\$100 per unit
Dehumidifier	\$100 per unit
Refrigerator	\$100 per unit
Air Source Heat Pump and Mini-Split (SEER 14 or greater, HSPF 8.2 or greater, or EER 11.5 or greater.)	\$750 per ton
Geothermal Heat Pump	\$750 per ton

CALL 855.222.3275 TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

Before reading any further, you may want to put the outage reporting number, noted above, in your contact list on your phone. If you experience a power outage any time of the day or night, and you call the outage reporting number, your call is directly connected to Jackson Electric's call center.

Headquartered in Austin, Minn., the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) efficiently handles members' power outage calls. If there is a large amount of calls being received at the call center in Austin, the calls are forwarded to CRC in Dunlap, Tenn. or Abilene, Texas. When you call the outage reporting number, CRC's message center will immediately ask you to enter your 10-digit phone number. Your phone number identifies your location on Jackson Electric's system. **It is important to have your correct phone number(s) on file at Jackson Electric.**

How does CRC have information to dispatch a power outage to Jackson Electric's line crew? Outage management software programs at Jackson Electric are interfaced with those at CRC which allows CRC to dispatch the location's power outage. Once CRC confirms the call of a possible

power outage, the representative dispatches the "on-call" lineman at Jackson Electric. If CRC receives a call during Jackson Electric's working hours, CRC contacts our office to confirm the outage.

CRC was founded in 1992, and serves more than 325 members and associate members in 41 states. CRC also provides after-hours dispatch, round-the-clock member care and monitoring of Jackson Electric's Enviro-Watch Program.

Power Outage Checklist

When you experience a power outage, before you report your outage, make sure you've checked the following:

- Are any of your breakers tripped?
- Are any of your neighbors without power?
- Are there power lines down near your residence or business?

After you've done your research and are still without power, call the outage reporting number 855.222.3275.



Fun Fact:

96% of Wisconsin dairy farms are family owned.

Source: wmb.com



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607

Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511

www.jackelec.com



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Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
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Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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