



### Watt's Going On

Greg McFarland, General Manager/CEO  
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A Wisconsin tradition that started in the late 1930s, June Dairy Month continues to promote the products and values of agriculture. On Saturday, June 1, we will celebrate June Dairy Month at the On-the-Farm Dairy Breakfast with hosts Steve and Pat Kling of Taylor. Bring your family to the pancake and sausage breakfast and enjoy taking part in the traditional values of a family farm.

### Evergreen

On the following page, you will see an advertisement for our Evergreen program. By voluntarily participating in this program, you are supporting renewable energy. When you enroll in this program, you pay a little bit more each month, in addition to your electric bill, to help offset the additional cost of renewable generation. Evergreen renewable energy comes from the wind, sun, hydro, and waste-to-energy sources such as landfill gas, livestock manure, and wood waste. I encourage you to "GO GREEN" and sign up for this program. Those who sign up by December 31, 2013, will receive a reusable tote from us as our way of saying "thank you" for supporting renewable energy.

Safety always! ■



### Community Recycling Drive Successful

More than a semi trailer of unwanted electronics and white goods were collected at Jackson Electric Cooperative's recycling drive held on Earth Day. Residents took advantage of this annual event by responsibly recycling computers, laptops, keyboards, fax machines, refrigerators, light bulbs, and batteries.



### Kling Acres to Host Dairy Breakfast

The lay of the land has been part of the Steve and Pat Kling family since the mid-1800s. The pride of Kling Acres will be recognized at this year's On-the-Farm Dairy Breakfast Saturday, June 1. Sponsored by the Jackson County Dairy Promotion Committee, this event kicks off June Dairy Month.

"We started with 11 cows," states Steve. The Klings recall that when they bought their farm in October 1981, many people were skeptical of the barn infrastructure at the time. "Many told us the barn would never last," says Pat. The Klings milked their cows with buckets up until 1987, when they installed a pipeline. In 2006, they renovated this same barn into a swing parlor in which they now milk between 50 and 55 Holstein and crossbred cows. Their estimated rolling herd average is 19,000 pounds of milk.

The Klings own 160 acres of land. They utilize 60 of those acres for rotational grazing their cows and heifers. In addition, they rent 240 acres from a neighbor. They run approximately 80 acres of corn, 130 acres of hay, and 25 to 30 acres of seeding that feeds their herd.

Steve and Pat have four children, Nathan, Sarah, Joel, and Sam, and six grandchildren. They are longtime supporters of the local FFA and 4-H chapters and are involved in several local, county, state, and national agricultural-related committees. Even though the Klings are busy promoting Wisconsin agriculture, they still find time to take their grandchildren fishing on a nearby pond on Kling Acres. ■

The On-the-Farm Dairy Breakfast is located off Hwy. P on Wilson Road near Taylor. Watch for the dairy breakfast signs. Breakfast will be served 6 to 11 a.m.

First 450 people at the On-the-Farm  
Breakfast will get a commemorative  
mug from Jackson Electric Cooperative.



## Peak Alert Full Load Control Hours

When our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, issues a Full Load Control, notifications will be announced on WWIS and WAXX radio stations and on our Facebook page. You can also find information on our website at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com); click on the “Residential Load Control” tab.

Full Load Control is possible during the months of June, July, and August between 1 and 5 p.m. This program is an effort to reduce peak load and meet future capacity obligations of our power supplier. ■

## Help Ease Summer Electric Demand

Members can help Jackson Electric Cooperative save money in wholesale energy demand costs by doing the summer shift.

With electricity demand and the market’s power prices in our region highest on weekdays between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., we all have an opportunity to curb our use during those hours. By limiting our electric usage during these hours, it will prevent Jackson Electric Cooperative from being charged expensive wholesale time-of-use charges and demand



charges that must be passed on to members. It will also help delay the need to contribute to building costly new power generation plants to handle our increasing electricity demand. We are asking for your help to shift your electricity usage to outside the 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. time window if it is reasonable and possible for your household.

### Examples of What You Can Do

- Do household chores, such as laundry, before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. or on the weekends.
- Recharge portable electronics and cell phones after 7 p.m.
- Close your drapes during the day so your heat pump or air conditioner run less.
- Consider raising the temperature on your thermostat a couple degrees. ■

## Plan Now for Power Outages

If you’re dependent on a life-saving device or have a medical necessity that requires electricity to be operational, please have a contingency plan in place in the event that a lengthy power outage occurs. Please consider the purchase of a battery-powered device, a generator, or another place to stay that has electricity during the period of the outage.

Jackson Electric Cooperative’s priority is to provide reliable service to its members, but sometimes acts of nature challenge us. Please have your plan in place before the power goes out. ■

*Celebrate Earth Day Every Day... by supporting renewable energy!*



**Please sign me up for Evergreen.**

1 block (\$1.50 per month)

2 blocks (\$3.00 per month)

3 blocks (\$4.50 per month)

4 blocks (\$6.00 per month)

5 blocks (\$7.50 per month)

\_\_\_ blocks at \$1.50 per block per month

**\* One block = 100 kilowatt-hours**

**I understand that this amount is in addition to my monthly energy bill and that I may cancel my purchase at any time.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete, clip and return this form to Jackson Electric Cooperative before December 31, 2013, and receive a reusable tote as our way of saying “thank you” for supporting renewable energy.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

[www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com)

By participating in the Evergreen program, you pay a minimal additional charge on your electric bill every month to help offset the additional cost of renewable energy generation. You don’t have to own a wind turbine to support renewable energy!

Invest in Evergreen and Go Green!

## Revised Bylaw Books

At the March 19, 2013, annual meeting, proposed bylaw amendments were approved by the membership. Bylaw books with the amendments are available from our office or at [www.jackelec.com/your\\_coop/Bylaws.pdf](http://www.jackelec.com/your_coop/Bylaws.pdf).

## Prevent Dry-Firing Water Heater Elements

Throughout the year our office gets calls from members stating the elements in their water heater are not working properly. Sometimes, but not all the time, we find the elements we replace have been “dry-fired.”

An element that has been dry-fired occurs when power is turned on to a water heater before air is bled out of the water heater tank. If a water heater element is not immersed in water while it’s heating, it will burn out in seconds.

Most dry-fired elements occur after one of the two events:

- 1) A replacement water heater has been installed and air is trapped in the water heater tank because the hot water faucet has not been opened to bleed air from the tank.
- 2) A water heater has been drained in a seasonal residence and the power to the water heater has either not been switched off or the power is inadvertently switched back on before the tank is filled and bled. ■



When an element is dry-fired, it loses its shape and becomes flexible to the touch as compared to a standard operational element that holds its firm shape. You can see the definite bend in the dry-fired element in the photo.

## 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 one 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. ■

## Spotlight—Electric Water Heaters

Electric water heaters deliver the safest, simplest, and most convenient way to heat water.

Electric high-efficiency tank water heaters are durable, efficient, and safe. Electric water heaters can be installed almost anywhere in a building without need for combustion air and flues to the exterior of the building, unlike fuel-fired water heaters for which the exhaust needs to be piped to the outside. Because electric water heaters are generally much better insulated than fuel-fired units, they tend to have lower standby losses.

When selecting a water heater, consider the most cost-efficient model for you based on how much hot water you use during its busiest hour. This is called your “First Hour Rating,” an indicator of the size of water heater you should buy based on how much hot water your family typically needs. You will find the “First Hour Rating” on the yellow EnergyGuide label that appears on all water heaters.

There are several types of electric high-efficiency water heaters available for purchase including storage tank water heaters and heat pump water heaters. Storage tank water heaters keep the water hot and ready for use at all times in an insulated storage tank with capacities ranging from 20 to 120 gallons. Eighty-five and 105-gallon storage tank water heaters can be purchased from Jackson Electric Cooperative. Heat pump water heaters transfer energy from the surrounding air to water in a storage tank. They are more efficient than electric resistance water heaters and are typically more effective in warm climates.

For more information on electric water heating, go to [www.jackelec.com/programs/water\\_heater\\_program](http://www.jackelec.com/programs/water_heater_program) or contact our office. ■

Storage tank water heater with a cut-a-way that shows 2-1/2 inches of Envirofoam insulation surrounding a plastic tank and a tough molded polyethylene outer jacket.



## Ask Your Cooperative **Steve Meyer, Member Services Director**



**Q:** I'm considering the purchase of a residential generator for lengthy power outages. What do I need to know about generators before making a purchase?

**A:** Purchasing a generator should not be a quick decision. There are many generator types and sizes to choose from and some thought should be given to the connection from the generator to the house wiring. Electrical safety codes require the connection be made with a generator transfer switch, also known as generator switchgear. The transfer switch has a double-throw switch that assures generator power will never feed back to the utility, causing a potentially fatal hazard to anyone working on the power line. These are the main transfer switch types:

**Automatic**—When the generator senses a power outage, the transfer switch automatically starts the generator and transfers the power from the generator. When the power outage has ended, the transfer switch transfers the power back from the utility and the generator automatically shuts off.

**Whole-House Manual**—A manual transfer switch requires the operator to plug the generator into the

transfer switch, start the generator, and manually “throw the switch” in order to transfer generator power to the house.

**Critical Load Panel**—With a critical load panel, only preselected electrical circuits in the home are energized after the generator is started and the switch transferred.

### Sizing Generators

Generators vary by size, voltage, and engine (fuel) type. Generators are sized by electrical output (watts or kW) and voltage (usually 120v or 120/240v). Portable units are usually gasoline fueled and larger stationary units are LP/natural gas or diesel fueled. Most residential generators coupled to automatic transfer switches are permanently mounted on a pad and are fueled with LP or natural gas. Sizing of these types of generators is critical; they must be sized to handle the largest anticipated load.

For those needing a larger generator and having access to a tractor, a PTO (power-take-off) generator is usually the best generator value as it's powered from the tractor PTO instead of its own engine. A PTO generator requires 2 horsepower for each 1,000 watts (1 kW) of generator load.

Smaller portable generators are usually 120 volts only and cannot be used with transfer switches that require 240 volts. They are suitable for use with extension cords that run to individual devices.

Generators 4,500 watts (4.5 kW) and over usually provide 240 volts and will work with transfer switches. Generators must be sized to handle the total load placed on the generator. Use the electrical data provided on the equipment and the formulas listed below to determine your load. All generators are limited in the size of motor they can start. Most generators list the maximum motor size they can start.

$$1,000 \text{ watts} = 1 \text{ kW}$$
$$\text{Amps} \times \text{Volts} = \text{Watts}$$

If you have a question to ask Jackson Electric Cooperative, please submit to our office at P.O. Box 546, Black River Falls, WI 54615 or e-mail [cblaken@jacelec.com](mailto:cblaken@jacelec.com), and put in the subject line “Magazine Question.” ■

## Energy Fair

clean energy & sustainable living

Annual Renewable Energy Fair  
**June 21-23**  
**Custer, Wis.**

- Visit with more than 275 exhibitors featuring sustainable living and clean energy products
- Learn about renewable energy resources from more than 200 workshops
- See alternative transportation sources
- Visit the Green Home Pavilion that emphasizes sustainable building ideas
- Get a taste of sustainability that you can bring to your dinner table

**Stop by the Dairyland Power Cooperative/Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives booth and learn about clean, environmentally friendly geothermal systems.**



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