



Steve Lucas, CEO

CLEAR RIGHT-OF-WAY MEANS RELIABLE SERVICE

Spring is in full bloom, with summer right around the corner. I look forward to this time of year as much as anyone. However, as the CEO of a rural electric cooperative, I also brace myself for the inevitable spring and summer storms that present great challenges to a utility like ours, located in an often heavily wooded corner of the state.

Trees and storms are just a bad combination. Lightning, wind, and driving rain can cause a lot of branches to drop. Even wild animals scampering through trees can take down quite a few branches. Unfortunately, those branches often fall onto power lines, interrupting service to anyone living along that particular line. Trees, in fact, are the number-one cause of blinking lights, which are an annoyance at best. However, add the high winds and tornadoes that occur this time of year and those trees can cause widespread power outages, which can be much more serious. We don't wait for storm season to begin addressing this issue; we tackle it all year through our tree-trimming program.

Our goal is to provide you with safe, reliable power, and one of the ways we do that is by keeping our lines clear of trees and brush. Our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, also works to clear the right-of-way around its transmission lines and substations. Electricity is delivered via these transmission lines at a higher voltage to the substations, where it's stepped down to an acceptable level for usage and delivered to your homes through our own distribution lines. Just recently, I had the opportunity to observe some

of the right-of-way clearing work Dairyland has done in areas of Crawford County that were at risk of tree-related damage.

The area pictured below had the potential to affect six substations, each of which services anywhere from 400 to 1,100 members. That means as many as 4,200 people could be out of power if a storm were to cause major damage in this single area. And that's just for Scenic Rivers; our neighboring electric co-op, Richland Electric, has territory affected by these substations too, so the potential number of co-op members affected by a storm-related outage here could be even higher.

By keeping areas such as this clear, we reduce the potential for tree-related outages, and we also ensure our crews can safely access the equipment to quickly and efficiently deal with any problem that does occur.



MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning photo from SREC's first-ever Member Photo Contest for June is from Mark and Tiara Brothen from Viroqua. This photo shows "some ladies from West-Prairie-Vu Holsteins" enjoying a beautiful day on the farm.

Each of the winning photos is included in our 2016 member calendar. Don't miss our 2016 Member Photo Contest, which runs through August 21. Submit your favorite photo capturing scenic views within SREC's service territory, and it could be featured in our 2017 calendar! Photos must be horizontal and at least 300 dpi and 8x10 inches to be of sufficient quality for the calendar.

Please see our website, www.sre.coop, for contest details and entry forms.



MOO SCHOOL

Redrock View Farm
hosts Day @ the Dairy

On a lively, fun-filled morning in May, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Director Steve Carpenter's Redrock View Farm was transformed into a giant outdoor classroom. That's when 380 enthusiastic fourth-grade students, all clad in bright red T-shirts commemorating the day, arrived at Steve and Lisa Carpenter's Darlington farm for the fourth annual Day @ the Dairy, Moo School.

This yearly event was conceived by the owners of four local dairy farms, including the Carpenters, as a means of providing a hands-on agriculture learning experience for Lafayette County schoolchildren, many of whom have no other firsthand knowledge of farm life. Students move through various stations, learning about different agriculture-related topics including dairy nutrition, dairy byproducts, and farm safety.

"We added two more stations this year because we've got a few more kids this year," Carpenter said, noting that fourth-graders from nearby Warren, Illinois, joined Lafayette County students at this year's event.

The children get to pet calves, sample different types of milk and cheeses, try their hand at milking on a fiberglass milking cow, and take a wagon ride through the milking parlor. The morning ends with a nutritious lunch courtesy of the sponsoring farms and their sponsors, who also provide the T-shirts and a goodie bag for each child filled with agriculture information and dairy items. All this is made possible with the

help of 75 generous sponsors, including Scenic Rivers Energy.

Not surprisingly, Day @ the Dairy has become an anticipated event on the fourth-grade calendar, although at times it's hard to tell who's having more fun—the students or the sponsoring farmers and volunteers working with them.

"It's great," Carpenter said. "We got good feedback again after last year; it just seems to get better each year."

The site rotates among the four sponsoring farms: Redrock View Farm; Cottonwood Dairy LLC, owned and operated by Brian and Kay Larson, Randy and Tammy Larson, Jim and Laurene Winn; Darlington Ridge Farms LLC, owned and operated by Jim and Katie DiGangi; and Highway Dairy Farms LLC, owned and operated by Jay Stauffacher and Jean Stauffacher.

A fleet of volunteers—including high school students from local FHA clubs and FFA chapters, county ag employees, representatives of the Milk Marketing Board, and local ag professionals such as veterinarians—helps run the event by staffing the various stations, serving lunch, and overseeing agriculture-themed games. Among those volunteers is Darlington junior and FFA member Jarrett Lancaster, who was volunteering for the second year, this time leading a station that taught children how farmers keep their cows healthy.

"I like working with the kids—that's my favorite part," Lancaster said. "I would have loved to come to this when I

was their age. We never had this when I was in elementary school. It's just a great way to introduce them to all different parts of agriculture."

Lancaster indicated for those children who are visiting a farm for the first time, just seeing a cow is something new and exciting. He told of a student at last year's Day @ the Dairy who had just moved to the area with his family from California and had never been so close

to a cow before.

"He thought when the cow was going to the bathroom that it was just the coolest thing ever," Lancaster said with a smile. "His teachers and I had to explain to him that cows go to the bathroom just like humans do. When we drove through the barn he was just fascinated."

By the end of the morning, it seems even the most urban kids can rattle off a list of impressive dairy facts, such as

this one: "Did you know a cow gives 12 gallons of milk *each day*?"

However, it's not just the farm first-timers who come away from Day @ the Dairy enlightened.

"My Dad works on a farm but I still learned something new," said one student. "I didn't know there were so many different kinds of cows."

Once again, it was a great Day @ the Dairy.—*Mary Erickson*



1. Students lean in to learn about farm safety at one of 15 educational stations set up around Redrock View Farm. 2. Added to the list of stations this year was one focusing on showmanship. 3. The fiberglass milking cow was a favorite stop. 4. Children were treated to a nutritious lunch of pizza, apple slices, and milk. 5. Students got to sample different kinds of milk. 6. Groups of students toured the milking parlor via wagon. 7. Darlington high school student Jarrett Lancaster, right, taught students about herd health.



SREC MEMBERS TO HOST JUNE DAIRY BREAKFASTS

Two Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative member families will be hosting dairy breakfasts on their farms this month to celebrate June Dairy Month.

Achenbach's Hy-View Farms will be the site of the Crawford County June Dairy Breakfast on Saturday, June 4, from 6 to 9 a.m. This dairy and crop farm is owned and operated by the father/son team of Steve and Matt Achenbach and their families. Steve and Matt and their spouses, Terri and Keri, will host the breakfast, which will feature pancakes, sausage, and a variety of dairy products, including Culver's Custard. Activities will include tours through the dairy operation and a farm coloring activity for children.

Hy-View Farms is located at 92945 State Hwy. 27 in Eastman, about 10 miles northeast of Prairie du Chien. Shuttle buses will transport guests from Blackhawk Junction in Prairie du Chien out to the farm all morning. For more information, call 608-391-0134.

Hosting the Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast on Saturday, June 11, from 6:30–10:30 a.m., will be Gaylord Schultz and his family. Gaylord describes his dairy operation, located at 4462 County Rd. DD in South Wayne, as a traditional family farm; all four of his daughters worked on the farm when they were growing up.

This will be the second time the Schultz family has hosted a June Dairy Breakfast. The first time was in 1991; this time around, grandsons Koel and Noah will be on hand. Koel works alongside his grandfather on the farm and has taken over the dairy herd. His younger brother, Noah, inspired the decision to host again this year, as he chose the dairy breakfast as his community-service project required for school.

The Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast will offer music, a children's corner, petting zoo, kiddie tractor pull, and antique tractor display. For more information, call 608-776-4089.

The Grant County Dairy Breakfast will be held Sunday, June 12, at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Lancaster from 7 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 608-39-2110.



LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Member high school students—there's still time to sign up for the Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) July 13–15 at UW–River Falls. This is a dynamic event for teens across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the cooperative form of business and sampling college life. The program is planned by teens who were elected to the 2015–16 youth board.

Register by June 15!

This opportunity is open to students entering grades 10, 11, or 12 next fall whose parents or grandparents are members of SREC. Registration costs are covered by Wisconsin's electric cooperatives; SREC will even provide transportation to and from UW–River Falls.

Interested students should contact Heidi at SREC, 608-723-2121 or 800-236-2141, or hpierce@srec.net.



Safety Education – Safety is our number-one concern at SREC. One of the ways we help keep the community safe is by presenting hotline safety demonstrations at schools and other community events. Here, SREC lineworkers put on a safety demonstration for the River Ridge FFA Safety Day. About 200 students in 4K–fourth grade participated in this event, which offered 12 stations focusing on various safety issues such as grain bin safety, animal safety, and PTO and auger safety. SREC crews also participated in the Crawford County Safety Day Camp.



Steve Lucas, CEO

231 N. Sheridan St.
Lancaster, WI 53813
lancaster@srec.net

300 Barth Drive
P.O. Box 127
Darlington, WI 53530
darlington@srec.net

15985 St. Hwy. 131
P.O. Box 158
Gays Mills, WI 54631
gaysmills@srec.net

608-723-2121 • 800-236-2141 • www.srec.coop

Board of Directors

- Chuck Simmons, Chairman
- Donald Schaefer, Vice Chairman
- Sandra Davidson, Secretary–Treasurer
- Ellen Conley, Asst. Secretary–Treasurer
- Larry Butson, Director
- Steve Carpenter, Director
- Delbert Reuter, Director
- David Stute, Director
- Marcus Saegrove, Director