

Steve Lucas, CEO

WE'RE READY FOR STORM SEASON. ARE YOU?

Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life. I encourage our members to take advantage of the June Dairy Days Breakfasts in our area, as they are hosted by our cooperative members. See the next pages for more details.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Scenic Rivers crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. In fact, our crews inspected our 3,500+ miles of lines in February of this year as part of our standard maintenance plan.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has recommendations for storm and disaster preparedness. Please visit www.ready.gov for their advice, suggestions, and additional resources.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This could help avert damage and could also help prevent overloading the circuits in your home during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

After the storm, allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs. Follow these safety tips.

- Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Never touch (or use) electrical appliances, cords, wires, or switches while you are wet or standing in water.
- Never go near a downed line and warn others to stay away. If you see a downed line, call 9-1-1, and a crew will be dispatched to de-energize the power and address the problem safely.
- The same safety know-how applies to a downed power line you might encounter while driving or after an auto accident. In either case, do not get out. Instead, call 9-1-1 to report the downed line (pull over first if you are driving). If you must exit your vehicle after an accident because of a fire or smoke, make a solid, clean jump out, landing with both feet together. Then make solid hops with your feet together, hopping as far away as you can.
- If the wiring, electrical system, or appliances have been damaged by water, have your home inspected by an electrician; also, have appliances serviced by a qualified technician before using them.

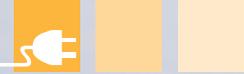
Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Scenic Rivers, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.



MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

The winning photo for June in SREC's 2021 Member Photo Contest was taken by Jennifer Bolstad of Viroqua. All winning photos are featured in our 2021 Member Photo Calendar. Keep taking pictures: Our 2022 Member Photo Contest is underway! Go to www.sre.coop to learn more.



June Dairy Days

COURTESY OF SREC MEMBERS



The Steger Farm will be hosting the Crawford County Dairy Breakfast this year for the sixth time.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and our members support and celebrate our area farmers year-round, but in June, we focus on our area dairy farmers. We are excited to announce that all three counties that we serve are holding the annual Dairy Breakfasts this year, and each is hosted by a SREC member farm. While dairy farms represent the largest segment of the agricultural industry in Wisconsin, the variety of size and structure between farms is well represented by this year's host families.

Crawford County

The Steger Farm is owned and operated by twin brothers Tim and Terry, along with Tim's wife, Char. Their 480-acre farm has been in the family for two generations and is no stranger to hosting the dairy breakfast. The Stegers have hosted the event six — that's right, six — times! Longtime attendees were at the farm in 1994, 2002, 2009, 2013, 2017, and now in 2021. The Stegers clearly enjoy having visitors on the farm and are looking forward to hosting this year's drive-through breakfast.

This traditional family farm was once three farms along



Highway 27, but they were rented and eventually purchased by the Stegers. Tim and Terry then bought the farm from their father in 1985, and along with Char and daughters Emily and Jessica, they have consistently milked cows for Swiss Valley and now Prairie Farms. They currently milk 20 head, have 40 head of beef cows, and work 300 tillable acres of corn, hay, and oats.

Terry and Tim spoke fondly of raising Terry and Char's daughters on the farm. Both girls graduated from Prairie du Chien High School and earned agricultural degrees in college. Jessica now works for Compeer and Emily works for Insight FS, continuing the family's dedication and personal investment in the agricultural industry. Terry and Tim said they wouldn't change a thing as living in rural Wisconsin is full of sights and sounds that urban Americans miss out on. "Clear and truly blue skies astound visitors from the city," Terry said.

Visitors to the farm will be directed to drive between two of the farmsteads, which will provide a beautiful view of the surrounding farm land. Tim has received many donations in order to keep the price per meal low. Prairie Farms and other local businesses also contribute to the meal.

Crawford County Dairy Breakfast Details:

**Saturday, June 5
6 - 11 a.m.**

The Steger Farm, 60724 Irish Ridge Road, Prairie du Chien

\$2 for a drive-through breakfast, complete with pancakes, sausage, cheese curds, cottage cheese, string cheese, and milk. Ice cream, custard, and/or shakes may also be available.

Grant County

Mark and Renee Vosberg are also second-generation dairy farmers, who took over the family dairy farm from Mark's parents, Louis and Ruthie Vosberg, in 2009. The farm was purchased in 1970 and milking was added in 1981. Through the years the farm has seen many additions starting with the first stall barn in 1981 up to the most recent addition of a calf shed in 2020. Additionally, acreage has been added, and the original farm has grown from 120 acres to the current 600 acres.

Along with expansion came a modernization phase during which many buildings have been torn down and added. Technology to monitor milk production and safely handle the milk were added as the operation grew, and they now milk 240 cows. It is clear that the Vosbergs are focused on providing excellent cow comfort and animal care, along with being good stewards of the land. The majority of the feed needed is grown on the farm including corn, soybeans, oats, and alfalfa.

Mark and Renee's passion for the dairy industry began when they were kids, growing up on dairy farms, working alongside family, caring for the animals, and working the soil to grow crops. Family hobbies include attending sporting events, showing pigs at the county and state level, and the most recent hobby, showing sheep. Mark and Renee take pride in being dairy farmers and enjoy watching their children have the same opportunities they've had. In addition to working the farm, Renee is a farm loan officer at the Farm Service Agency in Lancaster and Mark is president of Rolling Hills Dairy Producers.

Visitors to the farm will be treated to a delicious breakfast, live

Grant County Dairy Breakfast Details:

Sunday, June 13
7 - 11:30 a.m.

Vosberg Colonial Acres Farm,
1888 Bishop Lane, Cuba City

\$5 with 10 and under free.
Pancakes, sausage links, scrambled eggs, yogurt, applesauce, cheese, ice cream, and milk.



Mark and Renee Vosberg have three children involved in the family farm. Lance (19) attends Southwest Technical College for Dairy Herd Management, Madison (17) is a senior, and Levi (15) is a sophomore at Southwestern Schools.

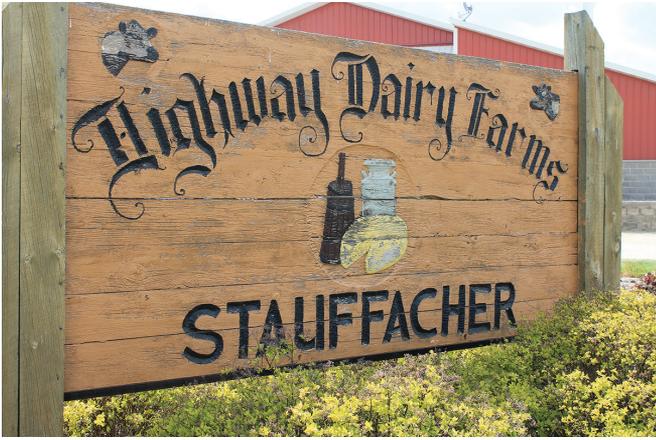
musical entertainment, and there will be displays from the Hazel Green Fire Department and Rescue Squad. WGLR will be announcing the 2021 Farm Family of the Year, and door prizes will be awarded.

Lafayette County

Siblings Jay and Jean Stauffacher are sixth-generation dairy farmers, with the current 1,700-acre site having been farmed for three generations. With that many years in the industry, they have seen tough times and good times. Like many family farms, they started small and grew over the years. Through the '90s many facilities were added as were cows, and by 1995 they were milking 500 head. Unfortunately, a fire



Some of the farm animals you'll see at Vosberg Colonial Acres Farm include sheep Roxy and Remy, piglets, and calves.



The Stauffachers milk 1,000 cows a day at Highway Dairy Farms.

in 2006 destroyed a barn and the parlor, and over 100 head of milk cows were lost.

The Stauffachers didn't quit and instead forged a new plan. Working with the UW-Madison veterinary school, they constructed a new facility in 2007. More barns and facilities were added and by 2016 they were milking 600 cows. A further expansion was completed in 2018, which meant they could now milk 750 head. The most recent construction project was a double 16 milking parlor. With this addition, the Stauffachers began milking 1,000 cows a day on a virtually non-stop schedule.

The commitment to the dairy industry was learned young by Jean and Jay. Jay's father, Jack, was a founder of the Dairy Promotions board and Jay has since served 21 years on the State Board. The first "on the farm" dairy breakfast in Lafayette County was held in 1980 at the Highway Dairy. It was Jay and Jean's plan to host the breakfast again 40 years later, but "the

pandemic got in the way, so instead we are welcoming visitors to our farm 41 years later," Jay said.

New this year to the Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast is cheese carving by Troy Landwehr. There will be live music, a petting zoo, tours of the farm by wagon, a children's corner, ADRC booth, door prizes, and more.—*Judy Mims*

Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast Details:

Saturday, June 12
6:30–10:30 a.m.

Highway Dairy Farms,
16639 Hwy 23, Darlington

\$5 adults; 10 and under \$3.
Scrambled eggs with ham and cheese, sausage links, donuts, pudding, cheese, strawberry ice cream sundaes, milk, juice and coffee.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or ever two months) to prevent dust build-up which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: www.energy.gov



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