



# PREPARING TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Steve Lucas, CEO

**P**roviding reliable power to you is and will always be top priority for Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative. These days, power reliability seems to be making news now more than ever.

As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery, and even lawn equipment, additional pressures are being placed on our nation's electric grid.

With summer storm season upon us, I thought it would be a good time to tell you about a few measures we're taking to ensure you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

Let me be the first to say I love trees and the charm they add to our communities, and I know you do too. While trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages.

That's why we strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. A ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace, or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables Scenic Rivers to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area.

## Modernizing Vegetation Management

Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear

to improve power reliability. However, traditional vegetation management is costly and time consuming. It entails on-the-ground, labor-intensive efforts involving dozens of workers assessing vegetation and overseeing the quality and completion of contractor work. Although this approach has worked for decades, advances and improvements in technology have allowed us to reduce our costs and improve efficiency.

## Planned Outages Improve Reliability

Although it may seem counterintuitive, we also maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our local area for a few hours, we can

perform system repairs and upgrades, which ultimately improve electric service. Planned outages can also be used to balance energy demand, but only in rare circumstances. Rest assured, we will always notify you in advance of a planned outage, so make sure we have your correct contact information on file to receive the latest information.

You may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages.

Vegetation management is an essential tool in ensuring power reliability and minimizing the risk of outages. As advancements become more accessible and costs drop, we anticipate using additional technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment.

Lastly, I encourage you to follow Scenic Rivers on social media so you can learn about the latest co-op updates.



## BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you - our members!

# Dairy Breakfasts

## PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

### Crawford County Dairy Breakfast

June 3, 2023 • 6 – 11 a.m.

**Green Valley Farm - Al & Kathy Flansburgh Family**

58153 State Hwy 60, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Cost: Adults \$3, ages 5 and under free

Visiting the farm for many is an annual event each June. Area dairy promoters work hard to plan wonderful activities and cook yummy foods for visitors to enjoy. This year will be no different...or will it?

Alan and Kathy Flansburgh, along with their five sons, are now milking their 120 head with two robots! The robotic milkers operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and have been in operation since September of 2022. Kathy explained how the farm progressed from stanchions to a parlor in 2000 and now to the robots. “The cows wait in line to be milked and when the robot senses completion, the gate opens and one cow

leaves as the next enters,” she explained. “The robot cleans each cow twice before using laser technology to connect the pumping system. The entire area is cleaned multiple times a day and the computer tracks it all.”

Looking towards the future, Kathy and Alan knew they were not getting any younger. They embraced the technology that the next generation will use to continue farming efficiently. When the robots need human help, they call the house phone and cell phones until someone can get to the computer. That same computer can track production on each cow and the timing of their milkings. If a cow doesn't enter the stall in a timely fashion, the computer sends an alert and someone gets to “push” the cow to get in line. Even though the robotic milker has reduced some manual labor, the need for the farmer remains.

The Flansburghs and the Crawford County Dairy Promoters invite you to this year's Dairy Breakfast. There is road construction on Highway 60, but the road will be open to the farm. There will be free shuttle buses from Riverside Square and the Prairie du Chien High School, with some parking at the farm.



Visitors of any age can see geese and more at the petting zoo

Right: Dalton answers the robotic milker's call. Below: 1 of 2 robotic milkers at Green Valley Farm.

(Photo courtesy of Precision Dairy Equipment)



### Grant County Dairy Breakfast

June 11, 2023  
7 am – 11:30 a.m.

**Stonefield Historic Site**

12195 Co Hwy VV,  
Cassville, WI 53806

Cost: Adults \$8, ages 8 and under free

After seeing what the future holds in dairy farming, revisit the history of the dairy industry at the home of Wisconsin's







first governor. The Grant County Dairy Promoters and FFA Alumni invite you to explore the State Agricultural Museum, Stonefield Village, the 1901 Farm House, and the Dewey Barn as they celebrate both the farming community and the 175th anniversary of Wisconsin's statehood. You can watch historic tradespeople in action, including a blacksmith and milliner and eat a delicious breakfast too!

Stay and explore Stonefield the rest of the day. Take time to meet Wisconsin Historical Society Press authors Susan Apps-Bodilly and Peggy Marxen. UW-Platteville archivist James Hibbard will speak at noon in the State Agricultural Museum on the 175th anniversary of statehood and Wisconsin's first governor, Nelson Dewey.

This event is ATV/UTV friendly.—*Judy Mims*

**Check out these Dairy Breakfasts too:**

**Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast**

June 10, 2023  
6:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**Jim Meylor Farm**  
16209 County Road G  
Mineral Point, WI 53565

**Vernon County Dairy Breakfast**

June 10, 2023  
7 – 11 a.m.

**Gerald, Connie and Trent Vesbach Farm**  
57303 State Highway 82  
Town of Franklin/Rural Liberty Pole

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Department of Energy



**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

We believe this photo was taken in Lafayette County while underground lines were being constructed, but we confess, we know nothing else for certain. Can you help us out by telling us more about the photo? Call Judy at 800-236-2141 x 554 with any information.

Thank you to Sandy Kabele, who identified Gerald Knapp and Fred Dahms in last month's photo. She had the original newspaper clipping of the story which told how Gerald had installed a wind tunnel along with the pictured blower to dry hay. This photo was taken in July 1954 on the



Bloomington farm, where the sixth generation of Knapps are still farming.



# CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



July 11–13, 2023  
UW-Stout



The annual Youth Leadership Conference is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

## Take the opportunity to...

- See what makes the cooperative business model different and successful, then apply this knowledge to fun and challenging cooperative activities.
- Identify and learn how to develop your own leadership skills.
- Discuss cooperative careers with industry professionals.
- Be entertained and challenged by acclaimed motivational speakers who understand teens.
- Run for a spot on the Youth Board, which plans the next year's conference and has the opportunity to attend the National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in the spring.

**Who:** Area high school students

**When:** July 11–13, 2023

**Where:** UW–Stout campus

**Price to you:** FREE



**SIGN UP  
TODAY!**

**Deadline is June 7, 2023**

Contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 800-236-2141 x 554  
or download the forms from our website, [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop).



**Steve Lucas, CEO**

**Judy Mims, Editor**

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