



Steve Lucas, CEO

## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

### The power of Operation Roundup

It started as a simple idea over 30 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member's electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, use this idea to help members and organizations close to home.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community." The Operation Roundup program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average Scenic Rivers member donates just \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with thousands of other members, it adds up to make a significant impact. SREC had planned to donate over \$45,000 to area charities this year, but, in direct response to the pandemic, the board of directors approved an additional \$3,200 in giving to our area food pantries in May of this year. This brings the total giving this year to \$48,200, which has had a direct impact on our communities.

## YOUR CHANGE CAN CHANGE LIVES!

Over the years, thousands of dollars have been collected and distributed for a wide range of activities. These have included giving to a family in need after a house fire. Assisting the local food pantries. Providing funds so that local fire departments could get a needed piece of equipment. Or dozens of other humanitarian efforts that support the communities we serve. We support organizations throughout our service territory so that these funds directly impact the communities we live

in. This year SREC has donated these "rounded up" funds to the following groups/organizations:

- Fire/Rescue/EMTs – 74 area companies;
- Food Pantries – 17 area organizations;
- Hospitals and Clinics – 6 area locations;
- Cancer Coalitions and Relay for Life – 4 events; and
- United Way, Alzheimer's Association, Wisconsin Badger Camp, Opportunity Centers (2), Hodan Center, Family Promise, and the Have a Heart organizations.

These organizations are spread out over our entire service territory, covering Crawford, Grant, and Lafayette counties and farther. As we know, the need is even greater this year than in the recent past. We make these donations on behalf of all our co-op members. Here are some of the thanks we've all received:

*"Thank you so much for your generous gift. Your donation will go a long way towards helping several families in our community!"*

\*\*\*

*"Thank you for your recent donation during this pandemic. The need is high and this will help us continue to help people in their time of need."*

\*\*\*

*"Thank you so much for your donation to our food pantry. In uncertain times like these, it is especially important that we all come together to help those in need. It's a comfort to know we can count on each other through whatever life brings. Again, thank you!"*

So, thank you SREC members! Your generosity by participating in Operation Round Up is helping everyone in our communities!



## MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

November's winning photo in SREC's 2020 Member Photo Contest is "Running Deer" by Kathy Miller of Cuba City. Winning photos from our 2020 contest are featured in our 2021 Member Photo Calendar.



## Carpenters named a Tri-State Farm Family of the Year

By Jill Carlson

Steve and Lisa Carpenter encouraged their four children to get a college degree and go out into the world to be their own boss.

But all four—sons Cody, Colton, and Carson and daughter Cora—came back after college and now work on the family farm, Redrock View Farms in rural Darlington. Each also lives within three miles of it.

“We have enjoyed being able to raise our family on our farm and work with them side by side every day,” Steve said. “And now, having our grandchildren around brings us so much joy.”

The Carpenters are one of four *Telegraph Herald* Tri-State Farm Families of the Year, winning in the dairy farmer category. They were nominated by Charles Simmons, board chairman of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Steve’s parents began farming at what is now Redrock View Farms in 1978. When Steve and Lisa purchased the farm in 1995, it was a tie-stall barn with 80 cows. By 1997, the herd increased to 200. Today, 600 dairy cows call the farm home. Crops to sustain the herd also are grown there.

### Growing up on the Farm

“Like many kids raised on farms, I have been ‘helping’ since I was old enough to walk,” Cody said.

Cody, now 30, graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a dairy science major. After college, he worked in the ag-

business sector for three years before coming back to work at the farm full time at age 25.

He is the herd manager, is responsible for all of the livestock, and works with the 10 farm employees to ensure the animals receive the care they need. Cody and his wife, Carrie Jo, are parents to daughter Chloe Arden and are expecting a son in early November.

His siblings have graduated or will graduate with degrees in agriculture-related fields.

- Colton, 28, went to University of Wisconsin-Platteville, graduating with animal science with a dairy emphasis major.
- Carson, 24, attended Southwest Wisconsin Technical College for a degree in ag business. He and his wife, Alyvia Riley, are parents to daughter Wrenley Ann.
- Cora, 21, is a senior at Iowa State University majoring in ag communications.

### A True Family Farm

“I am impressed that Steve and Lisa operate a true family farm,” said Simmons, who has known the family for more than 60 years, beginning with Steve’s parents, uncles, aunt, and grandparents. “All of their children are involved in the operation. The Carpenter family has been a well-respected family in Lafayette County and very active in the farm community.”

Bob Hermanson echoes those sentiments.

“A true family farm best describes Redrock View Farms,” said Hermanson, who has worked for the Carpenter farm as a feeder and assistant herdsman for 12 years.

He added, “Steve and Lisa strive for a family-first philosophy with employees. Whether you’re a family member or a nonfamily member, you’re treated as family. This is why Steve and Lisa have very little turnover in employees.”

## Serving the Community

“I’ve watched my parents not only work lots of hours to make ends meet at the farm, but they also showed me and my siblings the importance of giving back to the community,” Cody said. “They are always willing to step up and help to promote agriculture and never ask for anything in return.”

Each member of the Carpenter family is actively involved in the community to help promote dairy farming, 4-H and FFA.

Steve has served as a leader for the Lafayette County 4-H for 26 years, and Lisa for 21 years. All of the Carpenter kids were active in 4-H during their eligible years and are now county 4-H leaders. In addition, Steve, Lisa, their children and spouses are lifetime FFA alumni members.

Steve serves as the president of the Lafayette County Livestock Committee, which helps support the youth at the county fair and auction. He was one of the founding members 10 years ago.

The Carpenter family has helped out with the annual dairy breakfast for many years and hosted 2,500 people for the breakfast in 2014. Steve has served on the Lafayette County Dairy Promotion Committee for six years, and the group is a sponsor of the dairy breakfast.

Redrock View Farms is one of four dairy farms in Lafayette County that founded Day @ the Dairy eight years ago.

The mission is to educate fourth-grade students about the daily operations of a dairy farm. Students are actively engaged in stations such as a milking parlor tour, learning about feeds from a nutritionist, petting calves and learning about their care, breeds of dairy cattle, types of cheese produced locally, and farm safety.

## Stewardship of Natural Resources

Steve is one of the founding members of Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance, a group of farmers that have come together to address the stewardship of natural resources in Lafayette County. The group bands together to provide a safe and sustainable agriculture community for the next generation. He is also a director of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, a private, not-for-profit utility.

“I take a lot of pride in the business that my parents have been able to develop focusing on sustainability,” Cody said. “Farming has taught me to appreciate what we have and to strive each day to make our operation better so that I can

hopefully one day pass it to the next generation and allow them to have success, as well.”

## Lobbying for the Dairy Industry

In addition to working hard on the farm and community to help promote the dairy industry, Steve and Cody also attend meetings and events for EDGE Dairy Cooperative and Dairy Business Association, two organizations that lobby for the dairy industry.

“I have always thought that farming is not something that you just do—it is something that is ingrained in you,” explained Cody. “I have my parents to thank for instilling that passion in me along with many other qualities, such as determination and compassion for others, that I hope to be able to pass on to my children.”

—Reprinted with permission of the Telegraph Herald



Colton Carpenter (top left) along with his brother Cody, their father, Steve, sister Cora, mother, Lisa, and brother Carson (not pictured) work at Redrock View Farms in rural Darlington (pictured on opposite page).



## Be a Smart Cookie

### Holiday Baking Tips

If you're planning to cook feasts or create treats this holiday season, follow these basic safety tips:

#### Test Smoke Detectors

Make sure they're working properly



#### Watch Your Sleeves

This is not a good time for loose sleeves

#### Put a Lid on it

Have lids handy in case of a grease fire



#### Old Things Don't Become New

Don't use appliances in disrepair

#### How the Cookie Crumbles

Consider having a fire extinguisher on hand



#### Where There's Heat There Could Be Fire

Keep flammables such as pot holders away from the stove

#### Not Child's Play

Keep children and pets away from cooking areas



#### Keeping Time

Use a timer when the oven or stove is on

#### Stay With it

Don't leave the room if you are broiling, frying or simmering food



#### Pay Attention

Take a nap **after** the feast

## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

—Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



SREC's offices  
will be closed  
November  
26 and 27 for  
Thanksgiving.  
Have a safe and  
happy holiday!



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  
Gays Mills, WI 54631  
gaysmills@srec.net

608-723-2121 • 800-236-2141 • [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)

*This institution is an equal opportunity employer and provider*

## 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  
Jack Larson, Director  
Marcus Saegrove, Director