

July 2018

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE  
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## Grant County Rural Safety Day



Grant County Rural Safety day is an annual event in which students going into 2nd through 8th grade this Fall can participate. The program covers a wide range of safety topics including electrical safety which is what Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative works with on a daily basis. On this day we put on numerous 30 minute presentations that include our hot line demonstration, PowerPoint slides, discussion and questions. For more coverage on this event, please see the feature in the July issue of Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News magazine.

## Get your cameras fired up! *Deadline is nearing*

Members must take pictures within SREC service area that captures life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, etc.). Photos must be landscape orientation with at least 300 dpi and emailed to [hpierce@srec.net](mailto:hpierce@srec.net). The deadline is August 21st. The entry form and additional photo contest details are on our website [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop) under News & Community.



# *The federal government must invest in rural America*

**H**ere's a simple fact that we at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative know all too well: The 21st century economy runs the risk of leaving much of rural America behind. It's a concern shared by electric co-ops all across the country, because their strong community ties give them a bird's-eye view of the quality of life of the members they serve.

Rural America grows most of the food, generates much of the power and manufactures many of the goods that are used throughout the country. When the modern economy threatens to leave much of the country on the wrong side of the ledger, that's bad news regardless of where you live and work.

Today, fewer than 15 percent of U.S. businesses are located in rural areas and small towns. Bank loans for amounts less than \$1 million, primarily to family-owned small businesses and farms, have dropped by nearly half since 2005. These are warning signs for the basic building-blocks of the economy that serve as the foundation of America's economic stability.

The solution isn't simple, but it's within reach. It will take a concerted, long-term commitment from Congress and the administration to reverse this trend.

The Trump administration and Congress already have taken significant steps to jump start programs that bolster the rural economy. That's helping turn the tide in many communities. But reversing this trend requires a sustained focus across the executive branch and Capitol Hill.

The omnibus budget bill that Congress approved earlier this year is providing key resources and tools to foster development of energy, telecommunications and other essential services in rural America, including \$600 million for high-speed internet access in underserved regions.

Other sections of the omnibus bill fully fund low-interest government loans or enhance the efficiency of permitting for rural electric programs to improve grid reliability.

These are positive steps. But there's more work to do.

As local businesses built by the consumers we serve, electric cooperatives have meaningful ties to America's rural communities. And they are making strategic infrastructure investments to give communities the flexibility to adapt to tomorrow's energy needs, investing \$12 billion annually in the areas that they serve.

That's why co-ops have launched community microgrids, lead the nation in the deployment of community solar facilities and have invested in new XPRIZE carbon capture research.

But it takes more than smart energy infrastructure to rejuvenate rural communities. Co-ops also leverage public-private partnerships to enhance the quality of life.

Over the last two decades, co-ops have partnered with community stakeholders through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural economic development programs on hundreds of projects to construct essential infrastructure, renovate hospitals, build libraries and expand businesses. Co-ops also use the Rural Energy Savings Program to work with consumers on energy efficiency solutions to their homes to save money on their energy bills.

There's a major piece of legislation moving in Congress that offers an opportunity to bolster these important public-private programs while giving rural America an additional boost: the Farm Bill.

As Congress continues discussing the Farm Bill, it should support a stronger rural America and enhance key rural development programs by including:

- Additional funding for rural broadband grants and loans. A reliable, modern grid and vibrant rural communities depend on a robust communications infrastructure.
- Ample support for proven rural economic development programs.
- A focus on accelerating energy innovation to build new renewable energy resources and modernize the electric grid.
- Continued funding for rural electrification programs.

The need to invest in rural America is real for all of us. So too are the opportunities for our leaders to make a meaningful difference in its trajectory.

*Dan Riedinger writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.* ■

# Creative Youth Expo

Saturday, July 28

9am – 4pm

Youth and Ag Building, Lancaster  
Ages 8-18

For information and to register  
call 608-723-2125  
or go to [www.grant.uwex.edu](http://www.grant.uwex.edu).

## Save Energy with LEDs

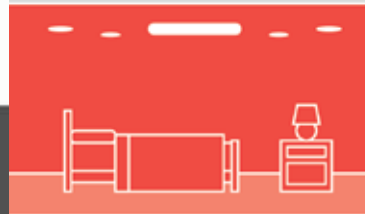
LED lights last up to 30 times longer than incandescents, reducing the need to replace bulbs in high or hard-to-reach places. Below are LED lighting suggestions for your home.



**Living Room Lamps**  
Table or floor three-way lamps using LED bulbs provide 620, 1,600 or 2,150 lumens of soft white light and deliver up to 25,000 hours of light.



**Kitchen**  
Dimmable recessed LED conversion lights add a warm glow of up to 1,200 lumens for kitchen workspaces and add far less heat to your kitchen. Each bulb could last 10 years.



**Bedrooms and Hallways**  
Long-life LEDs are ideal for ceiling fixtures. A 9-watt LED produces the same 800 lumens of light as a 60-watt incandescent, and uses about 80 percent less energy.



**Bathrooms**  
Omnidirectional LED globe bulbs are designed to provide a warm glow ideal for bathrooms. A 6-watt bulb produces 450 lumens and lasts up to 15,000 hours.



**Outdoors**  
A 6-watt, 500 lumen LED bulb can replace a 40-watt incandescent bulb. Designed to last up to 30,000 hours, it could be a one-time switch.

## Stay Away from Electrical Substations

An electrical substation converts electricity to a lower voltage so it can be safely routed and delivered to your home. Because high-voltage power runs through substation equipment, please avoid substation areas and the fences that surround them. Keep the following safety tips in mind:



Never release metallic balloons near substations. If they get caught in the equipment or lines, they can cause power outages.



Never fly kites or drones near electrical substations. If you do and the kite or drone gets caught inside the fence, let us retrieve it for you.



Teach youngsters to stay away from electrical substation fences. The area is dangerous, and these fences are NOT for climbing.



If you see a substation fence or transformer cabinet that is open or looks to be vandalized, please contact us immediately.



## Recipes

Thank you Rita Kruser (Cuba City) for sharing your Bloody Mary Skirt Steak recipe! She said that this recipe is really good with roasted potatoes and grilled asparagus!

### Bloody Mary Skirt Steak

- 2 c. Tomato Juice (Spicy V8 works best)
- 2 Tbsp Prepared Horseradish
- 4 Cloves Garlic, minced
- Juice of 1 Lemon
- ½ Tbsp Worcestershire Sauce
- 10-15 shakes of Tabasco Sauce
- 1 LB Skirt or Flank Steak



Combine the tomato juice, horseradish, garlic, lemon juice, Worcestershire, tobacco and black pepper in a baking dish and use a whisk to thoroughly mix. Add the steak and turn to coat. Cover with plastic wrap to marinate in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours or up to 12 hours. Preheat a grill. Pour off the marinade and discard. Use a paper towel to pat most of the marinade from the steak. When the grill is very hot, add the steak and cook for 3-4 minutes per side for medium rare. Let the meat rest for at least 5 minutes before cutting into thin slices against the grain of the meat.

### Sausage Quiche

- 1 (16 oz) package of Pork Sausage
- 1 cup Shredded Cheddar Cheese
- 4 Green Onions, sliced
- 4 Eggs
- 2 cups Half and Half or Milk
- 1 cup All-Purpose Baking Mix
- Suggested Toppings: Sour cream, chopped tomatoes, chopped fresh parsley



Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place sausage in a lightly greased 9x13 inch pan. Top with onions and cheese. Beat eggs, milk and baking mix with wire whisk until well blended. Pour over cheese. Bake 20-25 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes before cutting.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Here's a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

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



## Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be on the Jerrett Substation west circuit in Grant County.

Mi-Tech Services Inc will be testing poles in Franklin, Kickapoo, Utica, and Clayton Townships in Crawford County.

Badgerland Utility Solutions LLC will complete the spraying (or herbicide application) on the Eastman Substation in Crawford County.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at [jgardner@srec.net](mailto:jgardner@srec.net) or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.

## WATT'S HAPPENING

*Watt's Happening* is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

[www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)

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