

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

June 2024

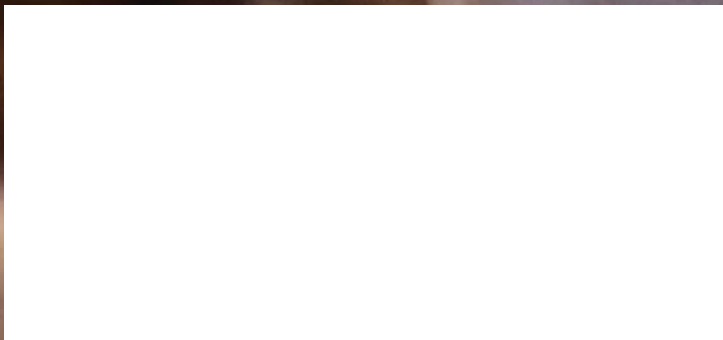
TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## DAIRY DELICIOUS

UNRULY

SET YOUR HOME TO VACAY MODE

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 25





# SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

Annual Meeting day, June 25, is right around the corner and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Centennial Community Center.

We will not be having a formal ballot election process for the director elections, since there are two candidates for the two open seats. Brian Hallgren and Cheri Klussendorf have both expressed interest in running and no challengers have come forward.

We will have one bylaw amendment ballot that changes the language outlining the qualifications to become a director. The amendment may look like a total rewrite, but the majority of the changes simply switch the negative perspective to a positive one. If you look at the current version, it starts out,

“No person shall be eligible to become...who is not an active member.” The double negative aspect doesn’t read well. The amended bylaw reads, “To be eligible...must have an active membership.”

The amendment also cleans up the language for partnerships or other legal entities to be represented on the board. It does not change the eligibility.

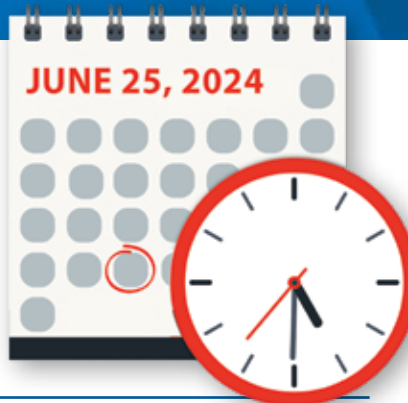
Lastly, the amendment adds a reference to abiding by a director’s standard of conduct policy.

If you have interest in voting for the bylaw amendment, either attend the annual meeting and vote in person, or contact the office for an absentee ballot.

## TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

**Centennial  
Community  
Center**

412 E. Centennial Ave.,  
Stetsonville, WI



Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for  
registration and dinner

Business meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.



### **Absentee Ballot by Request**

Call or stop by the office, verify your account information, pick up your ballot, and submit completed ballot back to the office!

In-person voting will still be available at the annual meeting on **June 25** as in the past.



## SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Sawyer Schmidt, son of Cody and Jackie Schmidt, Medford, who won Taylor Electric’s Safety Poster Contest. Sawyer’s theme of “Now you know....don’t let go” was based off of his own experience getting a kite stuck in the powerlines and having his parents call Taylor Electric to get it down. Sawyer won a \$25 gift card and his poster was advanced to the statewide contest for a chance to win a Chromebook.

*Celebrate*  
**JUNE DAIRY MONTH**

**39th Annual  
 Town and Country  
 Dairy Breakfast**

**Taylor County Fairgrounds**  
 Corner Highways 13 & 64, Medford, WI 54451

Please make plans to attend a celebration of the industry that defines our state and makes us who we are. June Dairy Month is a time when we all come together to embrace our title as the one and only America's Dairyland.

**MENU:**

Eggs & omelets, sausage, French toast, milk, cheese, and ice cream.

*Carry-outs available*

**\$7 per person**

**5 and under  
 FREE**



**Sunday, June 9, 2024  
 6:30 a.m. to noon**

Event sponsored by: Town & Country Dairy Breakfast Committee



ABBOTSFORD



35<sup>th</sup> Annual

35<sup>th</sup> Annual

**DAIRY BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, June 2, 2024**

Serving 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

at **DUKESTEAD ACRES**

Jim & Marilyn – Chris, Monica, Aaron & Nathan –  
 Greg – Jon, Marisa & Hudson Dukelow

**W1216 Willow Rd., Abbotsford, WI**

*1 mile north of Hwy. 29 and 2.5 miles west of Hwy. 13*

Please enjoy this year's delicious menu consisting of:

Pancakes, Maple Syrup, Sausages, Variety Of Cheese, Butter, Applesauce, Cookies, Juice, Coffee, White or Chocolate Milk & Ice Cream

**PRICES**

Ages 6 to adult: **\$5**  
 Kids ages 0-5: **FREE**



**Raffle prizes and door prizes!**

- Tram ride through Robot Barn
- A-C Heritage machinery display
- Bussing to/from the Abbotsford School District's south parking lot and the farm.

*First bus leaves school at 7 a.m., last bus leaves farm at 12 p.m.*

Breakfast Sponsored by  
**Abbotsford FFA Alumni**

# RAMBLING ACRES AWARDED GRANT THROUGH SAFETY FIRST!

A rewiring grant was recently awarded to Pete Graff of Rambling Acres, Stetsonville. The \$6,000 grant was awarded through WECA's Safety First! Farm Rewiring Program for the improvement/upgrade of Graff's existing facility. The project was designed to improve safety and electrical efficiency as well as support the modernization of Graff's milking system with the installation of 12 robotic milkers (six in remodeled barn).

The program is available to dairy farmers who are members of electric cooperatives. They can apply to their local cooperative for a cost-sharing package to rewire their existing agricultural facilities to meet current electrical code standards. New construction is not eligible.

The process involves an inspection by a state-certified electrical inspector, and application to the cooperative for up to \$6,000 (or 20%) in grant funds and up to \$24,000 in low-interest loan funds.

The work must be completed by or under the direction of a licensed Master Electrician. Before final payment is made for the rewiring project, the work must pass a final electrical inspection.

Wisconsin electric cooperatives are offering this financial assistance in order to protect the safety of their members and to help preserve and extend the life of important assets for farmers.



CEO Kenny Ceaglske (r) presents the \$6,000 grant check to Pete Graff of Rambling Acres.



Left: Ceaglske and Graff in the milk tank room where the milk is stored until it's picked up by the haulers. Center and right: Robotic milkers modernize and streamline the milking process.

# THINK SUMMER STORMS ARE HARMLESS? THINK AGAIN

**Y**ou might joke that you have a better chance of getting hit by lightning than winning the lottery, and you would be right. According to National Weather Service (NWS), there are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes in the United States each year, killing 28 people and injuring 252 annually.

Your odds of being struck by lightning are 1 in 1,171,000 in any given year. Before you deny that might ever happen to you, consider a person's average lifespan (estimated at 80 years) and the odds drop to around 1 in 14,600. (Oh, and just so you know, the odds of winning the Mega Millions jackpot are 1 in 302.6 million and the Powerball, 1 in 292.2 million. And that's according to Lottery USA.)

While there is little you can do to increase your chances of becoming a multi-millionaire by winning a huge lottery windfall, there are proactive steps you can take before and during a storm to stay safe. Safe Electricity and Taylor Electric offer the following weather-related reminders from FEMA, the Red Cross, and other safety organizations:

- Never seek shelter under an isolated tree, tower, or utility pole since lightning tends to strike tall objects.
- Immediately vacate elevated areas, such as hills, mountain ridges, and peaks.
- Get away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, including wires and fences (and golf clubs!). (Approximately 5 percent of annual lightning deaths and injuries in the U.S. happen on golf courses, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.)
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Learn about your community's emergency warning for severe thunderstorms.
- Pick a safe place in your home for family members

to gather during a thunderstorm. The location should be away from windows, skylights, and glass doors that could be broken by strong winds or hail.

- Protect your animals by ensuring that any outside buildings that house them are structurally sound.
- Your mom was right: Never talk on a landline telephone during a thunderstorm. Lightning could strike whatever building you are in, and the electricity will look for the quickest route to the ground via wiring. Although many homes don't have landlines anymore, many businesses still do.
- Know the difference between a watch and a warning. A severe thunderstorm watch means that a storm is possible in and near the area. A severe thunderstorm warning means that severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. A warning is serious and means that there is imminent danger to life and property.

The best way to protect yourself against lightning or other storm-related injury or death is to monitor the weather and cancel or delay outdoor activities when thunderstorms are forecast. Lightning can strike from 10 miles away, so if you can hear thunder, you are at risk for being struck by lightning.

**WHAT IS backfeed?**

Backfeed happens when a person connects their portable generator to a wall outlet, which allows power to flow in reverse – that is, the alternate power source feeds energy back through their home's electrical system, their meter and back into the power lines.

Potentially deadly backfeed can also happen with permanently installed generators that are not used or installed correctly. They should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, who will install either an automatic or manual transfer switch, depending on the generator. The job of this switch is to transfer a power source safely from its primary source to a backup source.

To keep utility crews safe, never plug a portable generator directly into a wall outlet or electrical system, and ensure transfer switches are professionally installed and working properly. Electric lineworkers thank you in advance.

Avoid deadly backfeed and help keep lineworkers safe.

Learn more at: [Safe Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

**Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO**

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**TAYLOR ELECTRIC**  
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