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EVENTS

BUSINESS NOT AS USUAL

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# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* June 2020 NEWS

EYE ON THE  
*Dairy*  
INDUSTRY

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



# MARK JUNE DAIRY MONTH WITH A FREE GALLON OF MILK



June Dairy Month is a time to pay tribute to the dairy industry, a key contributor to our state's economy. Wisconsin is home to more than 7,000 dairy farms—more than any other state—and 57 percent of those operate on electric co-op lines.



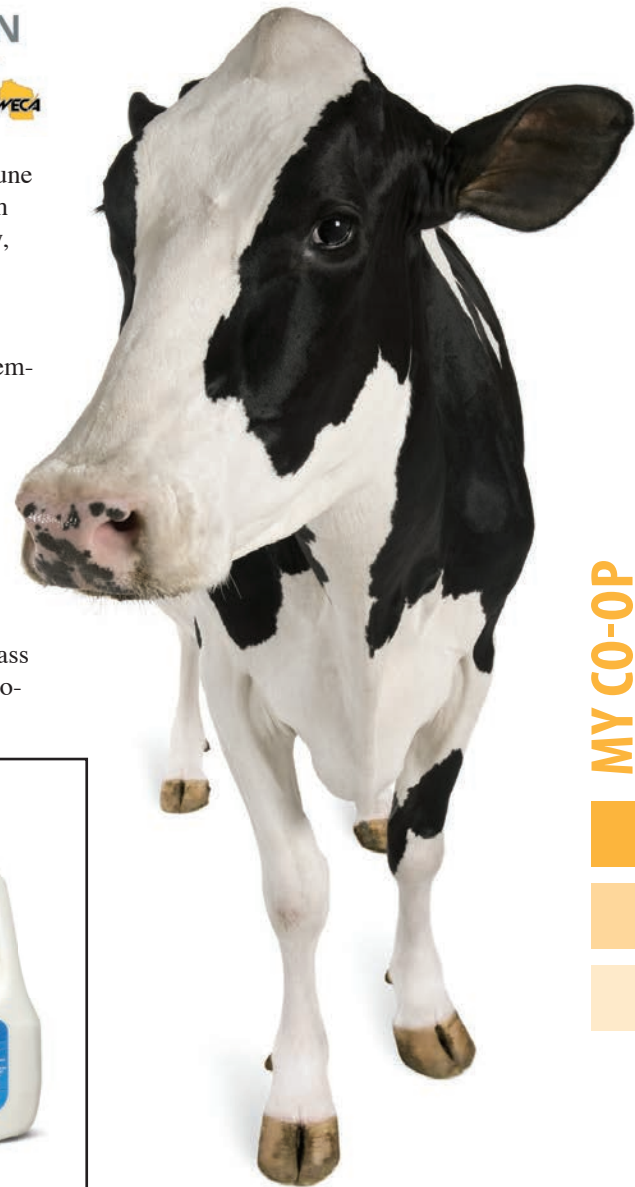
This year, dairy farmers need more than just thanks and good wishes for June Dairy Month. The coronavirus pandemic has hit our state's farmers hard. With schools closing and restaurants limited to carry-out and delivery services only, dairy farmers have temporarily lost a huge market for the milk they produce. Some have had to dump large quantities of milk.

Ironically, at the same time dairy farmers have been forced to dump good milk, many families have been struggling to pay for groceries thanks to pandemic-caused furloughs and job lay-offs.

So this year for June Dairy Month, we're taking action to try to help our members on both sides of this situation.

Through our statewide service agency, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, we are offering a coupon for a free gallon of milk to all our members, redeemable at any Kwik Trip store. Simply clip out the coupon below and take it to Kwik Trip at any time from June 1 through July 16 for a free gallon of your choice of non-fat, 1%, or 2% milk.

And when you get back home and pour yourself and your family a cool glass of delicious, wholesome milk, raise a toast to your local dairy farmers who produced it.



MY CO-OP

**FREE** One Gallon Jug Nature's Touch Milk Skim, 1% or 2%

Limit one coupon offer per customer, per visit. Original coupon must be presented to the cashier at the time of purchase. Excludes Orange Juice and Chocolate Milk. Coupon may not be combined with any other offers. No cash value. Good at all Kwik Trip Stores. Valid June 1 - July 16, 2020

**Kwik Trip** | **nature's TOUCH** | **Taylor Electric Cooperative** | **MILK GALLON GIVEAWAY**

## ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED

Taylor Electric's annual meeting has been tentatively rescheduled for Tuesday, June 30, beginning at 5:30 p.m. At this time, the meeting will be held indoors; however, depending on the current regulations regarding COVID-19, it may be held in a drive-up type manner, in which members would remain in their vehicles.

We are currently planning on dinner to be served at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting to start at 6:30 p.m. The meeting should take no longer than one hour.

Please watch/listen for details in the *Taylor Report*, Facebook, the *Star News*, and WKEB radio, 99.3 for any changes to this date.



Hey 2020 graduating high school seniors, check this out...

# 2020 WECA ESSAY CONTEST

Due to the cancelation of the Youth Leadership Congress caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, WECA is offering a unique scholarship opportunity. The scholarship that is generally exclusive to those who attend YLC is being extended to any high school or college freshman student whose primary residence receives electric service from a Wisconsin electric cooperative. Scholarships are awarded as follows to the authors of the top three essays:

- 1st place – \$1,000
- 2nd place – \$500
- 3rd place – \$250

Scholarships are paid to winning students upon presentation of proof of registration at any accredited college, university, or technical school in any state.



## CONTEST RULES

### Choose one of the two questions below:

- Electric cooperatives offer various opportunities to young people, such as scholarships, job shadowing, electrical safety programs, and sponsorships. What are some innovative ways your electric cooperative can connect with young people, especially with children and teens?
  - We've grown accustomed to having electricity on demand in the world we live in such as clicking a remote control to turn on a TV, using a computer, playing video games, or charging our cell phones. Describe the impact on your life and community in a world without electricity.
1. Students are encouraged to use personal experiences to demonstrate their understanding of the value of cooperation in their lives.
  2. Knowledge of the subject, originality, grammar, spelling, and neatness will be factors used in judging essays.
  3. A panel of three judges will judge essays. Only essays postmarked by the due date will be eligible to win.
  4. Essays must be a minimum of 600 words and not more than 1,200 words (Approximately two to four typewritten pages).
  5. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, and on white letter-sized paper. Essays will be copied for distribution to the judges, so please be sure your essay will copy clearly.
  6. Students may win a WECA essay scholarship only once. If a student is awarded a scholarship the first year they enter, he or she may not enter the contest again.
  7. Scholarships must be claimed within two years of receiving your notification of scholarship selection.
  8. DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE ESSAY. Be sure to use an Essay Contest Form.

### 2020 WECA YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Please do NOT put your name on the essay. Put your name on this form ONLY

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT / GUARDIAN NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORING ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION INSTITUTION: \_\_\_\_\_  High School  College Freshman

YEAR IN SCHOOL (As of September 1, 2020): \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form, along with your essay, to:

WECA Essay Contest  
WECA  
222 W. Washington Ave, Suite 680  
Madison, WI 53703-2719

**Essays must be postmarked no later than August 26, 2020**

# SMART THERMOSTAT OPTIONS

## A comparison of the market's smartest and most popular

By Maura Giles

Heating and cooling costs account for around half of a user's energy bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. So when it comes to reducing energy use and cutting home energy costs, the most impact can be made by programming the thermostat. The right thermostat settings could yield energy savings of 8–15%, and new technology is making it easier than ever to achieve those settings.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone, or voice control. Some models use multiple sensors to monitor temperatures in various parts of the home for more balanced heating or cooling, track user temperature preferences and use the data to optimize your heating and cooling schedule, and some are designed for complex multi-stage systems that will control heating, cooling, dehumidifier, and ventilation systems.

If you're interested in controlling your thermostat with your voice or an app, or in being hands-off and letting it learn your habits, you should consider a smart thermostat. To narrow your choices, factor in smart features, price, and attributes that matter most to you, such as color, size, or style, and make sure the chosen product supports your HVAC system.

The Nest 3rd Generation Learning Thermostat and Ecobee4 are the most popular and sophisticated devices in this category. Both devices are usually priced around \$250, but consumers can easily recoup their money in energy cost savings.

There are many similarities between the two thermostats. Both can be adjusted via computer, tablet, smartphone, Google Assistant, or Amazon Alexa device (the Ecobee4 even has a built-in Alexa-enabled speaker). And both thermostats can interact with other smart devices and utilize geofencing—using your phone's GPS to determine if you're home, then automatically adjusting the temperature. Nest's geofencing works with multiple phones, while Ecobee supports just one phone. Ecobee makes up for this with its more sophisticated sensors.

The Nest and Ecobee offer for purchase, remote sensors that allow the thermostat to take readings from any room throughout your home and adjust the temperature accordingly. This can be an advantage if your thermostat is located near a draft or in direct sunlight. The Ecobee's sensors go one step further with occupancy sensing, which notices if there is movement in the house, in order to override geofencing if the primary phone user leaves the house and someone is still there.



The Nest thermostat, powered by a rechargeable battery, is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule. —Source: Nest

While many of the features are similar, there are a few that are notably different and can help you determine which is right for you.

Nest, powered by a rechargeable battery, is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule. When you begin using Nest, it makes a few assumptions and creates a baseline for its schedule. As you adjust the temperature up or down, Nest records it, and after a week, learns your schedule and the temperature settings you prefer. From then, it continues to learn and respond to your adjustments. Nest also records 10 days of energy use data that shows you a visual of the times your system turned on and off during those 10 days. Nest also sends a monthly email report that includes a summary of your energy use compared to previous months and other Nest users.

Ecobee must be hardwire installed, utilizes a touchscreen, and can analyze HVAC data for 18 months. All temperature and motion data from the thermostat and sensors is recorded, and can be accessed online by the owner to help you monitor total energy use, how the weather influences your use, and how your home efficiency compares to other users in your area.

The two thermostats also can connect with various energy devices in your home. Ecobee recognizes dehumidifiers and ventilators, and Nest recognizes heat pumps and auxiliary heat.

For those looking for a smart thermostat with fewer bells and whistles, the Honeywell Lyric T5+ is one of the market's most popular, priced around \$135. While it can't sense your presence or learn your schedule, it does have the geofencing feature and can interact with other smart-home devices, such as turning on lights when you arrive or leave home.

Whichever fits your lifestyle and preferences, a smart thermostat is a good investment that can help you save energy and money in a more convenient way than ever.

*Maura Giles 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.*

**Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone, or voice control.**



## MAKE SLIGHT CHANGES IN YOUR ROUTINE FOR RATE STABILITY

It's easy to fall into routines and habits. We all do it. Routines are not a bad thing. But, have you ever thought about the long-term impact of your electric use habits? Probably not. This summer, we hope that you'll change that by developing a new habit. It's called the Summer Shift!

The Summer Shift is easy to do. It simply means shifting flexible electricity use to the hours before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. during the months of June, July, and August. Making just a few changes in your routine will help Taylor Electric Cooperative keep electricity rates stable.

How does this work? The demand for electricity fluctuates during a 24-hour period. There are "peaks" when demand is high and there are "valleys" when demand is low. Shift-

ing your flexible electricity use away from times when the overall demand for electricity is already high and, therefore, most costly to produce, helps hold down the expenses for purchased wholesale power. Electricity use that is shifted to "off-peak" hours fills in the "valleys" of the MISO region's demand profile when electricity is the least costly to purchase. The Summer Shift allows the most economical use of electric generation and transmission resources across MISO. This is all about controlling the cost of wholesale power.

What is MISO? The Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) is one of seven regional transmission organizations in the United States. MISO was created in 1989 to provide safe, cost-effective delivery of electric power across all or parts of 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. Through MISO, Dairyland Power Cooperative sells the power it generates and purchases power it needs for its electric cooperative members, including Taylor Electric Cooperative. Employees in Dairyland's System Operations Center balance cooperative members' electricity needs against MISO's pricing for electricity.

Why is it a "Summer Shift?" The highest demand for electricity in the MISO region occurs during the summer, particularly during extended periods of high heat and humidity.

Practice doing the Summer Shift. Make today's new habit part of tomorrow's lifestyle!—*Courtesy of Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative*



### Easy Tips for Making the Summer Shift

- Do laundry early in the morning or in the evening after 7 p.m. using cold water when possible. Take advantage of free solar energy to dry your clothes outside on a clothes line.
- Longer daylight hours have arrived. Shut off unnecessary lights.
- Start the dishwasher after 7 p.m., then open the door when the rinse cycle is complete to let dishes air dry overnight.
- Utilize a programmable thermostat. Set the temperature to 78 degrees when no one is home.
- Draw curtains to keep strong sunlight from over-heating the interior of your home and increasing the use of air conditioning.



Remember Dad on June 21

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