



Steve Lucas, CEO

## *A message from the CEO*

# OH, GIVE ME A HOME WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM: FARMER SAFETY

**W**e don't have to remind those who work the land and raise livestock that they have a potentially dangerous occupation. However, due to the nature of the job, and because of long days and tiring work, here are some reminders about electrical dangers on the farm.

### If you make contact with a power line, don't get out

If you make contact with a power line, guy wire, power pole, electrical box, or any other electrical equipment, do not get out of your cab or truck. Stay put and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the local utility to de-energize the power. If you must get out due to smoke or fire, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop. Another option (after you make a clean exit) is to shuffle or waddle away while keeping your feet together and on the ground.

Once you are out, never try to re-enter the cab or truck.

### Determine proper clearance

Contact us to measure power line heights; do NOT do this yourself. Once you know the heights, you can determine appropriate equipment, implement and extension clearances. Always maintain at least 10 feet between the power line and the tallest height of the equipment that will be transported.



Keep in mind that due to wear, age, and even weather conditions, power lines can change height. Please contact us with any concerns. It's good to know power line clearance, but always have a spotter.

### Call us before moving or adding a grain bin

The National Electrical Safety Code addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. The requirements are in place to help keep farmers safe: to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with power lines. If you are planning on building a new grain bin or remodeling around an area that already has one, contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative at 1-800-236-2141. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line.

### Always dig safely

Whether you are installing new fence posts or using large tillage tools, call 811 before you dig to have underground utilities marked. Even if you think you know where buried gas, power, and other lines are, don't rely on your memory. Get all utilities marked so that you know for sure. Utility locators dispatched by 811 do not mark private lines.

### Use standby generators with care

If you have a standby generator to provide essential power during an outage, be sure to correctly use the transfer switch. Once you properly engage the switch, it stops your farm's generated power from entering utility lines, aka backfeeding, which can electrocute lineworkers who are working to restore power.

We want all our members to be safe, all the time, but during the very busy summer farming season, we want to remind all of our neighbors to be extra safe.



## MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

June's winning photo in SREC's 2020 Member Photo Contest was taken by Craig Grau of Livingston. Our 2021 Member Photo Contest is underway. See page 18 to learn more, or visit [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop) for details and downloadable forms.



## FULLER'S MILKER CENTER RECEIVES FOCUS ON ENERGY AWARD

Fuller's Milker Center in Lancaster is the recipient of a 2020 Energy Efficiency Excellence Award from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency program.

Bill and Jean Fuller began Fuller's Milker Center in 1953 with only one employee, Ed Reynolds. The business began in the basement of Bill Fuller's home on Elm Street in Lancaster. After

several years in the basement they upgraded to the family's one-car garage. Before long they had outgrown the one-car garage, which became a two-car garage.



In 1978, Fuller's Milker Center was moved to a brand-new building located at 1015 S. Madison Street. John, Jim, and David Fuller purchased the business at this time and Bill and Jean Fuller retired. The business remained at that location until August of 2001 when it was moved to U.S. Hwy. 61 North. Fuller's now employs 18 full-time employees with many years of experience in the dairy industry. Today Fuller's Milker Center, Inc. is still owned by Bill Fuller's three sons.

Fuller's Milker Center supplies equipment and offers design, consultation, and maintenance services to dairy producers across the region. Over the past eight years, it has helped more than 165 of those customers achieve energy savings and receive financial incentives through Focus on Energy projects. Fuller's Milker Center has been active in promoting Focus on Energy offerings, including bonus incentives, and the company even completed the Focus on Energy incentive applications for all customers who had eligible projects in 2019.

Focus on Energy is a partnership of 107 Wisconsin utilities, including Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.



### Get in on Simple Savings with a Free Energy Efficiency Pack

Making your home more energy efficient doesn't have to be costly. That's why we partner with FOCUS ON ENERGY® to offer solutions to help. Start by ordering one of six free energy-saving packs, with items like LED lightbulbs, low-flow showerheads, advanced power strips and more! Visit [focusonenergy.com/free](http://focusonenergy.com/free) to order your free pack today.

Have you already ordered your free pack? You can also visit the Focus on Energy Online Marketplace to shop for additional energy-efficient products. Save instantly when you shop from a variety of LED lighting, water savers, power strips, or top brand smart thermostats like Google Nest and eco-bee. Visit [focusonenergymarketplace.com](http://focusonenergymarketplace.com) to start saving.



## FIVE WAYS TO HELP WISCONSIN DAIRY FARMERS AND CHEESEMAKERS

With 3% of the nation's restaurants already permanently shutting their doors and millions of students out of school, the normal markets for dairy are no longer available to farmers. Family farms and local businesses need support more than ever.

"Not only are dairy farmers and cheesemakers caring for their own their families, but they are still going to work every day to make sure the nation's families have access to fresh and nutritious food," says Suzanne Fanning, senior vice president of Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and chief marketing officer for Wisconsin Cheese. "We've had many people asking what they can do to help our state's signature industry, so we've rounded up a list of the top ways you can support them."

### Here's how you can help:

**Purchase Wisconsin dairy products when you are buying groceries.** Whether ordering groceries online for delivery or pickup, or while grabbing essentials at the store, look for the



Proudly Wisconsin Cheese™ and Proudly Wisconsin Dairy™ badges to identify the world's most award-winning cheese and highest quality dairy products.

### Buy cheese online at WisconsinCheese.com/order.

Check out the complete directory of more than 40 Wisconsin cheese companies that will ship cheese directly to your door, including several right in our area.

**Get cooking with Wisconsin dairy!** Find hundreds of recipes and all the inspiration you need to get cooking at WisconsinCheese.com/recipes. Share pictures by using #ProudlyWisconsin.

### Share access to high-quality nutrition, including milk, by donating to your favorite local food bank.

Don't know where to start? Go to GiveAGallon.com and enter your zip code to ensure that milk gets delivered to a Feeding America member food bank near you.

### Support your local restaurants that use Wisconsin dairy products.

Continue ordering takeout and delivery from your favorite local restaurants, like pizzerias, which account for the largest share (34%) of cheese used at dine-in and quick-serve restaurants.

Wisconsin ranks as the nation's top producer of cheddar and the second largest producer of mozzarella, and these two varieties account for 42% of all cheese used in restaurants.—*Courtesy of Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin*

## CELEBRATE 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 an estimated 57 percent of those operate on electric cooperative lines. The coronavirus pandemic has hit our state's farmers particularly 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.

Perhaps the biggest irony in this situation is that at the same time dairy farmers have been forced to dump 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 organization, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, we are partnering with Kwik Trip in offering a coupon for a free gallon of milk to all of our co-op members, redeemable at any Kwik Trip store.

Clip out the coupon below and take

it to Kwik Trip 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.

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**



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# NEED HELP PAYING YOUR BILL?

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Department of Administration (DOA) has adjusted the eligibility requirements for residents who are seeking heating and electric assistance through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP).

Eligibility will now be based on the household's previous month of income, rather than the former requirement of the previous three months of income. This move was made to ensure those who are recently affected by the COVID-19 response are able to receive assistance quickly. Eligibility requirements are available at right.

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations. Operating with federal and state funding, the program provides assistance to households across the state to help lower the burden incurred with monthly energy costs.

Locate your local WHEAP agency phone number and address online at [homeenergyplus.wi.gov](http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov) by clicking on the "Where To Apply" tab at the top of the page or calling 1-866-HEATWIS. Your local agency will determine your household's eligibility for the WHEAP and Weatherization programs during the application process. Households eligible for weatherization will have their application information forwarded to the local weatherization agency.



## INCOME GUIDELINES FOR THE 2019-2020 HOME ENERGY PLUS PROGRAM YEAR

### 60 PERCENT OF STATE MEDIAN INCOME GUIDELINES

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ONE MONTH INCOME	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$ 2,389.42	\$28,673
2	\$ 3,124.67	\$37,496
3	\$ 3,859.83	\$46,318
4	\$ 4,595.08	\$55,141
5	\$ 5,330.33	\$63,964
6	\$ 6,065.50	\$72,786
7	\$ 6,203.33	\$74,440
8	\$ 6,341.25	\$76,095

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website!



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

## 2020 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST



Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is holding our annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2021 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or co-op publications.

### Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative service area.
- Photos for 2021 should capture life in rural Wisconsin, specifically farm animals.
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Photos must be high resolution; at least 300 dpi and 8"x10".

Contest will run through until August 20, 2020; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.

For contest rules and downloadable forms, visit [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop). Entry forms can also be picked up at the office or emailed to you. Contact [jmims@srec.net](mailto:jmims@srec.net).



**SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Steve Lucas, CEO**

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