



# NEW WAYS TO USE ELECTRICITY

Steve Lucas, CEO

If you listen carefully, you can hear a *quiet* transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment continue to be more popular than ever among members. Electricity has continued to be a good value for our members and we are proud to provide our you with consistent and safe power 24 hours a day.

Advancements in technology coupled with decreasing costs continue to win over members looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Inside the home, members and homebuilders alike are turning to efficient electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings.

Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction stovetop, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75% respectively (according to ENERGY STAR®). Electric induction stoves, which

cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove. Robotic vacuums are also gaining in popularity. *Fortune Business Insights* attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums like Roomba to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a Roomba to vacuum).

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi, and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their most popular products like drills, saws, sanders, and

other tools. In addition to standard offerings, members can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools that plug in such as power inverters, air inflaters, and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League, notes that, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited—electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and vehicles."

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

"There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes—even airplanes and boats,"

says Dennis. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

A case in point is the increased use of electric-powered tools and equipment, with more national brands offering a wider selection including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-

emissions lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can—something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increases in renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact over time. Quite a hat trick—improving efficiency, quality of life, and helping the environment.



Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries such as electric leaf blowers offer the same versatility as similar gas-powered models.

# GENERATIONS OF DAIRY FARMS

## *served up with a side of breakfast*

**S**cenic Rivers Energy Cooperative was established in 1938 to serve the rural members throughout Southwest Wisconsin. Primarily those members were farmers, like the Nolan family in Crawford County and the Noble family in Grant County. These families' roots precede those of the cooperative, and are the very reason we exist to power your lives. We encourage all our members to support our family farmers by visiting them at one or both of this year's Dairy Breakfasts.

### CRAWFORD COUNTY

In approximately 1850, Daniel and Sarah Nolan immigrated from Ireland to Crawford County to establish what would become the Nolan Family Farms. Currently the farm is owned and operated by the fourth and fifth generations of Nolans, but it was very evident during my visit to the farm that the sixth generation is actively farming too. The farm covers approximately 1,200 acres, 550 of them with cropland, and woodlands, creeks, roads, and buildings making up the balance. Of those acres, 300 are planted in corn, 80 are of new alfalfa seeding every year, and about 180 are hay fields. The Nolans milk 190 head of registered Holstein cows year-round. They have approximately 500 head, raising all their heifer calves and finishing out the bull calves to 1,500 lbs.

On Saturday, June 4, starting at 6 a.m., the Nolans, along with the Crawford County Dairy Promoters, will be serving up a full breakfast including: pancakes, sausage links, cottage cheese, cheese slices, cheese curds, applesauce, and milk. Culver's will be serving up custard and Vesperman Farms will have ice cream. Tickets are just \$2 each. Parking is limited but free bussing is available from the Piggly Wiggly and the high school in Prairie du Chien every 15 minutes to the farm.

In addition to enjoying a great meal, visitors will have a chance to walk the grounds and see the many animals. A small petting zoo will be set up on the grounds for kids of all ages. All visitors will have a chance to win door prizes throughout the morning. This is the fourth time the Nolans have hosted the Dairy Breakfast, and they look forward to it each time.



**The Nolan Family:** Front row Caitlin, Erin, Ashlin and Betty Nolan. Middle row: Kristin, Lindsey, Rachael, Tammy and Alexis Nolan. Back row: Carrie, Prestin, John, Dustin, Eric and Patrick Nolan.

Lastly, the newly crowned Dairy Royalty will be in attendance. Over the years many members of the Nolan families have been members of the dairy courts, and this year, Erin Nolan is running for Little Miss Squirt. Erin is a fourth-grader at Prairie Catholic and is pictured below left with her rabbit, Daisy. Erin caught Daisy last July 4 in Eastman during the traditional games held at the community celebration. Since then, Erin has been raising Daisy to show at the fair in addition to her other animals.

The Nolan family looks forward to seeing everyone at the 40th annual Dairy Breakfast. Their farm is located just off Hwy. 27 at 30990 Johns Lane, only eight miles north of Prairie du Chien.







## GRANT COUNTY

Established in 1909, Nobland Farms is proud to be hosting the Grant County Dairy breakfast for the first time. Currently, the 1,500-plus acre farm is home to over 400 head, many of which are registered Holsteins. Judging by the many, many photos in the meeting room above the new milking parlor, it is obvious that the Nobles have a long and successful tradition of showing these registered cattle at all levels of competition.

The current milking parlor was installed in 2017 and is the fifth building to be used on the farm for milking. Dennis Noble pointed out where the original building was located and where the milking was done by hand, before the power came on at the farm. Now, the double-12 parallel parlor is utilized three times a day and boasts a 5,000-gallon holding tank for the milk.

Pictured at right is the parlor being toured by second-grade students from Platteville. The Nobles work with the Platteville FFA to host these students, who learn about many aspects of farming.

Everyone is invited to visit the farm on Sunday, June 12, where breakfast will be served starting at 7 a.m. Cost is \$8 for those over 9 years of age, free for those 8 and under. Breakfast is coordinated by the Lancaster FFA, and many, many community volunteers show up to cook and serve the meal. You can expect to enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage links, yogurt, honey, cheese, ice cream, coffee and milk this year.

In addition to the meal, there will be live music, the Platteville Fire Department will be on site, and farm machinery will be on display. You can visit the petting zoo, enter to win door prizes, and much more. WGLR will be on hand to announce the 2022 Farm Family of the Year as well.



The Noble family: (l-r) Ainsley, Jaime, Troy, Rita, Drew, Dennis and Macie Noble. (Photo by Jessica Brogley)



There will be plenty of parking available at the farm, located just off County A east of Lancaster at 2561 Buckwheat Ridge Road. The fourth, fifth, and sixth generations of the Noble Family look forward to seeing you.—*Judy Mims*

## LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Due to road construction throughout Lafayette County, the dairy breakfast will not be held this year. However, the Lafayette County Dairy Promoters will be handing out string cheese at the events listed below.

### 2022 EVENTS

- Darlington Canoe Fest Parade 6/12
- Wiota 4th Of July Parade 7/3
- Shullsburg 4th Of July Parade 7/4
- Bogo Ice Cream Cones at the  
Lafayette County Fair 7/13-7/17
- Gratiot Labor Day Parade 9/5
- Belmont School Fair Parade 9/17





**BRIGHT  
AND SHINY  
FACES**

## 2022 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Get those cameras going! Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is holding our annual photo contest. Our theme this year is "Bright and Shiny Faces." We are searching for photos that show off the faces of our members, both young and old. Faces can also include those of our pets, farm animals, and the wildlife you might encounter. The winning members' photos will be featured in our 2023 calendar. Winning photos may also be used in future newsletters, on our social media pages, or in other cooperative publications.

**Photos must be submitted by  
August 15, 2022.**

*For a complete list of rules and criteria as well as downloadable forms, visit our website, [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop). Entry forms can also be picked up at our office, or we will email a copy to you.*

## MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The winning photo for June in SREC's 2022 Member Photo Contest is "June Planting Time" by Deb Udelhoven of Fennimore. Winning photos are featured in our 2022 Member Photo Calendar.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month


If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

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



**SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Steve Lucas, CEO**

231 N. Sheridan St.  
Lancaster, WI 53813  
[lancaster@srec.net](mailto:lancaster@srec.net)

300 Barth Drive  
P.O. Box 127  
Darlington, WI 53530  
[darlington@srec.net](mailto:darlington@srec.net)

15985 St. Hwy. 131  
Gays Mills, WI 54631  
[gaysmills@srec.net](mailto: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  
Sandra Davidson, Vice Chair  
Steve Carpenter, Secretary-Treasurer  
Donald Schaefer, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
Ellen Conley, Director  
Lily Long, Director  
Delbert Reuter, Director  
Jack Larson, Director  
Marcus Saegrove, Director