



DUNN ENERGY COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD JUNE 19

By Jesse Singerhouse, General Manager

Each year Dunn Energy Cooperative (DEC) hosts an annual meeting. Last year, due to COVID concerns, our in-person annual meeting was changed to a drive-in style format in order to keep members and employees safe. This year, with COVID numbers on the decline and many vaccinations taking place, we plan to hold the meeting in person. The meeting will take place on Saturday, June 19, in our shop with COVID safety measures in place.

While it won't be the traditional meeting format you've come to know over the years, it will provide us a chance to gather safely in person to conduct the business of your cooperative. For those who have attended our cooperative month breakfast event here, the layout will be similar. Members will park in our grass yard and check in for the meeting inside the shop. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. We will have chairs spaced out for attendees as well as masks available for anyone needing one and hand sanitizing stations. We ask that you not attend the meeting in person if you are experiencing any COVID symptoms or have been recently exposed to COVID-19. A live radio broadcast of the event will be available for those unable to attend starting at 10:30 a.m. by tuning to WRDN Radio at 107.3 FM or AM1430

At the meeting we will conduct the business of the cooperative, including reports about our 2020 results by the board president, manager, and our audit firm. Director elections will take place for three seats as well. Ballots were mailed to all members in late May. We will also hear from a guest speaker who will talk about electric vehicles. We hope to have the meeting wrapped up before noon. Each attendee will receive a boxed lunch to take with them from cooperative member Jake's Supper Club, as well as a gift as they leave.

You should have recently, or will shortly, receive a condensed annual report for 2020. This information will be covered in more detail at the annual meeting. In the

report you'll see that we had a strong financial year even though sales were down. This is mainly due to lower-than-expected power costs from our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and our ability to hold local costs below budget. 2020 was a challenging year, but your cooperative was up to that challenge. Our commitment to power quality and long-term system reliability provided members power 99.9% of the time. Our commitment to delivering affordable energy resulted in members seeing power cost adjustment credits being applied to their bills and more members receiving capital credit checks in 2020.

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Our commitment to the members and communities we serve was on display through our Operation Round Up program, helping us support food pantries, schools, and other community organizations throughout the pandemic. 2020 reminded

us about the power of cooperation and reinforced our commitment to you, our members. (140019844)

Like I said earlier, it won't be a traditional annual meeting format, but it will be nice to see our members in person and share with you the successes and challenges your cooperative experienced in 2020. The global pandemic impacted each and every person in our area in some way, shape, or form. Dunn Energy Cooperative was also impacted by COVID-19 in many ways. But through the dedication and commitment of our members, employees, and board of directors, the cooperative had a strong year. We successfully navigated the issues of the pandemic to achieve our mission of providing our members safe, reliable, and affordable energy on a daily basis.

I look forward to talking with you at the annual meeting on June 19.

Hidden Account Numbers

If you find your account number hidden in the pages of this magazine and you call and tell us before the next issue is mailed, we'll put a **\$50 credit** on your electric bill. Happy hunting!

Last month's winners were Peggy Zack and Dan Gifford.

LET'S CELEBRATE THOSE WHO KEEP THE MILK

Moo-ving!



(L-R) Karl, Mandy, Olivia, Mary, and Dennis Kragness at their farm in Dunn County.

In Wisconsin, we all know that we celebrate the dairy industry in June. It's the month of dairy breakfasts, ice cream treats, and a general appreciation for the men and women who provide that particular mainstay: milk. To celebrate, we took a walk through a local dairy and learned some fascinating and downright heart-warming things.

The family behind Denmark Dairy has been farming for nearly 120 years in this area. Dennis and Mary Kragness have been members of Dunn Energy Cooperative for well over 40 years. In recent years Dennis has become more involved in cooperative happenings by volunteering for our Nominations & Elections Committee. It was through this connection we were able to tour their farm on a beautiful May morning.

We met on site with Karl Kragness, son of Dennis and Mary. Karl is the fourth generation to run the family farm. We spoke briefly about how COVID impacted day-to-day business over the last year. "We are very fortunate in that we never

stopped working," Karl said. On a family farm, even a big one, employees can become like family. Together, that family-mindset helped them work smart, stay healthy, and continue to supply local creameries with local product. The supply chain may have been severely disrupted, but their commitment to their employees, animals, and community was not.



The Kragnesses milk approximately 2,500 cows and farm 4,500 acres in this area. They grow the majority of the feed needed for their animals. They employ 40+ local people, and believe that being good neighbors and stewards of the land will help them continue to be a sustainable family farm. That, and maybe using technology and innovation to their advantage.

Some of the herd at Denmark Dairy are sporting some new collars. These collars aren't just for looks though. They are a part of a pilot program on the farm. The technology embedded in the collar

Calves at Denmark Dairy can look forward to a life of comfort on the farm. A happy, relaxed cow is a productive, healthy cow.



continually monitors the health of the animal through tracking their movement and rumination (or cud chewing). If their movement or eating habits change, this will alert Kragness to a possible health issue that can be nipped in the bud before it becomes detrimental.

Another innovation at the dairy is the installation of a sand separator on site. This process removes the sand from manure and cleans it. It's then ready to be re-used as bedding for the animals. The sand the cows lay on has been washed and re-used hundreds of times. This makes for very comfortable cows, and comfortable, relaxed cows are healthier, more productive cows. More productive cows keep the rest of us in milk, butter, ice cream, and more!

“We are thankful to be in a community that accepts us and supports us,” said Karl. This is the community they live, work, play, and educate in. And, if they're lucky, the community where the fifth generation will take over in. “I think that's every family farm's goal: to pass it on to the next generation,” said Kragness.

So, this June Dairy Month, let's support those who support us by splurging on that extra carton of ice cream or swing on in to a local creamery and buy some fresh cheese curds. There might not be a Dairy Breakfast to attend this year, but you can do your part by buying local and supporting those who keep the milk moo-ving.

A couple of cows show off their new collars. These collars will track the animal's moo-vement and rumination to monitor her health and alert Kragness to any possible health concerns.

OPERATION ROUND UP

The Power of Change

Operation Round Up® uses the power of cooperation to provide much needed grant dollars for community projects, 501©3 organizations, and non-profit groups within the Dunn Energy Cooperative service territory.

If you, or a group you are a part of, are interested in applying for an Operation Round Up grant, you can find the application and our Giving Guidelines on our website at www.dunnenergy.com or by emailing Jolene for an application at jolene@dunnenergy.com. Grant applications are due March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 and reviewed shortly thereafter.

Thank you for your interest. Let's show the community the Power of Change!





TAKE COVER WHEN A STORM IS BREWING

Did you know that there’s a day for everything? Well, June 1 is the National Weather Service Summer Weather Safety Day. According to the National Weather Service, “While we can get tornadoes at any time of the year, it tends to pick up going into June (peak), July, and August.” We thought we would use this opportunity to go over some important storm safety information. Remember to pass it along to the rest of your family.

When a Storm Hits

When stormy winds blow, follow these weather-related reminders from FEMA and the Red Cross:

- 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 and mountain ridges and peaks.
- Get away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water. (10027002)
- 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 United States happen on golf courses, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Pick a safe place in your home, away from windows and doors, for family members to gather during a thunderstorm.
- Know the difference between a watch and a warning for extreme weather such as a tornado or severe thunderstorm. A watch means that the weather is possible in and near the area. A warning means that severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. A warning is more serious than a watch and means that there is imminent danger to life and property.

After the Storm

Once the storm is over, follow these safety tips from Safe Electricity:

- Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Never touch (or use) electrical appliances, cords, wires, or switches while you are wet or standing in water.
- After a storm, a downed power line could be covered by standing water or debris. Never go near a downed line and warn others to stay away. If you see a downed line, call 9-1-1, and a crew will be dispatched to de-energize the power and address the problem safely.
- The same safety know-how applies to a downed power line you might encounter while driving or after an auto accident. In either case, do not get out. Instead, call 9-1-1 to report the downed line (pull over first if you are driving). If you must exit your vehicle after an accident because of a fire or smoke, make a solid, clean jump out, landing with both feet together. Then make solid hops with your feet together, hopping as far away as you can.
- If your home has been damaged by a flood, turn off the power to your house if it is safe to do so. (Do not turn power off at the breaker box while standing in water or in damp conditions.)
- If the wiring, electrical system, or appliances have been damaged by water, have your home inspected by an electrician; also, have appliances serviced by a qualified technician before using them.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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