

Watt's New

August 2024



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Monthly Co-op



July Trivia:

Electric cooperatives are guided by a set of principles. How many core principles guide the operations of cooperatives worldwide?

Answer: 7 Cooperative Principles

August Trivia:

Each year Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's sponsor students to attend the Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). How many years has YLC been held?

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Drive-Thru Picnic: A Resounding Success

Vernon Electric Cooperative held its first Drive-Thru Picnic at the Hillsboro County Market on June 24, allowing the board and staff to interact with between 350 and 375 members in the Hillsboro area. The root beer floats in celebration of June Dairy month were a hit. This event, designed to enhance community spirit and provide a safe, enjoyable gathering, exceeded all expectations.

Participants who were in a hurry enjoyed a seamless drive-thru experience, where they were greeted warmly by cooperative staff and directors. Others chose to park and spend some time with staff and directors at the shelter. The event ensured that everyone received a simple meal without leaving the safety of their vehicles,

"The turnout was incredible," said Bernadine Hornby, Board Chair. "We were thrilled to have served so many members in the Hillsboro area of Vernon Electric's service territory. It was great to see everyone come together, to try a new drive-thru format, while some members enjoyed their meals under the shelter. Events like this give us a chance to get to know each other and the weather cooperated which made the day even more enjoyable."



Board Chair, Bernadine Hornby greets a Vernon Electric Co-op member while handing her a tasty lunch.

The success of the picnic is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff while supporting a local business. All food was purchased from the Hillsboro County Market, a longtime member of Vernon Electric Cooperative. Their efforts ensured that the event ran smoothly.

Community members expressed their gratitude for the event, praising the Cooperative for their thoughtful planning and execution. Many attendees expressed their thanks for the cooperative holding an event in their area.

Vernon Electric Cooperative plans to continue hosting community events that bring people together and strengthen the bonds within the community. The success and enormous positive feedback from members on the Drive-Thru Picnic is a promising start, showcasing the Cooperative's ability to adapt and innovate in providing value and support to all of its members. Look for upcoming announcements regarding our next Member Appreciation Picnic to happen sometime in October during Co-op Month.



Board member, Jim Goodman, answers questions with a couple VEC members who stopped for lunch.

Vernon Electric Cooperative represented at NRECA Youth Tour in Washington D.C.

Helen Clements, a 2023 graduate of Kickapoo High School, represented Vernon Electric Cooperative at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour in Washington D.C. This annual event brings together young leaders from across the country to engage in a week-long immersion in the nation's capital.

Helen, currently enrolled at UW-La Crosse, was selected to the Youth leadership Conference board of directors by her peers in 2024 which awarded her the opportunity to travel with others to our nation's capital.

The NRECA Youth Tour, held each June, offers participants a unique opportunity to explore the workings of the federal government, meet with members of Congress, and discuss the role of electric cooperatives in their communities. During the tour, Helen and her peers visited iconic landmarks such as the U.S. Capitol, monuments, and the Smithsonian museums.



Helen Clements (right), had the opportunity to meet with our representatives. Here, she's having a conversation with Senator Tammy Baldwin.

VEC is proud to support initiatives like the NRECA Youth Tour, recognizing the importance of empowering the next generation of leaders. By investing in students like Helen, they are helping to ensure a bright future for the community and the cooperative movement.



Students representing electric cooperatives from across Wisconsin gathered at our nation's capital. Vernon Electric's representative, Helen Clements, is pictured front and center.

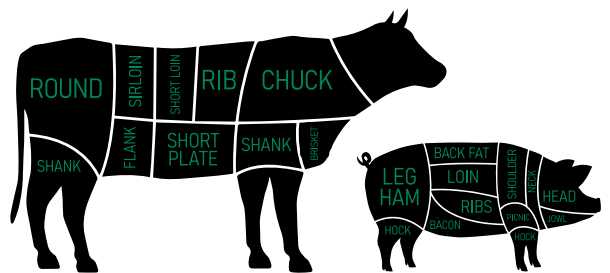
VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MEAT GIVEAWAY

GIVING AWAY \$400 IN GIFT CERTIFICATES

We are excited to announce our 3rd meat giveaway this year. People are given the opportunity to win gift certificates to local meat lockers. It has been such a massive success and given the fact it is 100% donation based—makes it even better. Last year, the Vernon County Fairgrounds was the recipient of the donations to help repair livestock buildings.

If you would like to participate, you can sign up at our office. You will receive 1 ticket with a \$1.00 donation or 6 tickets with a \$5.00 donation. This is being made available to the public once again and you will be able to sign up at the Vernon County



National Night Out, Vernon County Fair, and our Member Appreciation Picnic in October. The winners will be announced after the Member Appreciation Picnic.

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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Trevor B. Clark, Manager of Communications & Member Relations. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:
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