

Watt's New September 2024



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Monthly Co-op Trivia

August Trivia:

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

Answer: : Wisconsin Youth Leadership Conference has been held for 61 years.

September Trivia:

Approximately how many people are served by electric cooperatives in the United States?

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

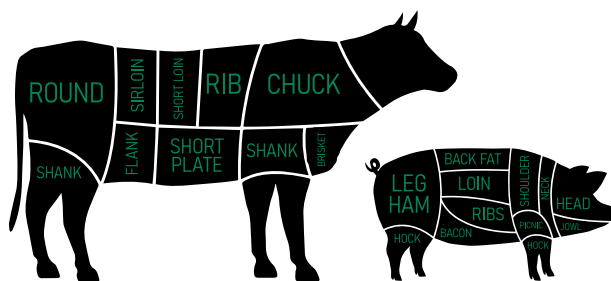
MEAT GIVEAWAY

GIVING AWAY \$400 IN GIFT CERTIFICATES

Visit us at the Vernon County Fair on September 11 – 15. Our booth, located in the Co-op building, will provide you with information on our services, programs, games, and prize opportunities.

Don't forget to sign up for our Meat Giveaway! You could win one of four \$100 gift certificates to a local meat locker. The drawing will take place immediately following the Vernon County Fair. All proceeds will go toward updates and maintenance of the livestock buildings at the Vernon County Fairgrounds.

Can't make the fair? Stop into our office and sign up beforehand. We look forward to seeing you at the Vernon County Fair.



SmartHub

Save time and money by managing your account whenever and wherever you want. Sign up for automatic payments, view and pay bills, track usage, go paperless, and more. Visit vernonelectric.org to get started.



In honor of Co-op Month, we will host a Member Appreciation Picnic

WHEN
Tuesday, October 29
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WHERE
VEC Headquarters,
110 Saugstad Rd, Westby

Q & A on momentary power outages

QUESTION: Occasionally, my power will go off for a second and then come back on, requiring my digital clocks and electronics to be reset. What causes this to happen?

ANSWER: What you are experiencing is what we typically call “blinking lights” in our industry. This problem is caused by a momentary power outage like someone flipping off a switch and then turning it back on again.

Several different things can cause these momentary outages. The most common causes are trees and animals. Tree branches can fall or get blown into power lines or animals can come into contact with power lines. The most common animals that we encounter while troubleshooting these problems are birds, squirrels, raccoons, and opossums. Once we discovered a frog that had caused a blink by creeping into some power equipment. But the most unusual problem occurred at one of our fellow co-ops near Green Bay when it was discovered a fish had caused an outage.

Apparently, a large raptor was eating a fish on a pole when the fish came in contact with the wires. Feeling a jolt, the raptor must have flown off, leaving the fish lying across the wires. The lineworker saw the fish on the wires while patrolling the line and removed it.

When a tree branch or animal comes in contact with a power line, a fault occurs, causing a special breaker to trip. This special breaker is called a Tripsaver. The Tripsaver will trip off like a regular breaker in your home, but after a second or two, the breaker will automatically reset itself.

If the fault is still present, the Tripsaver will trip again. The OCR will trip up to three times before it will not attempt to reset. If the Tripsaver stays tripped, then no one will have any power on that line until a lineworker comes out, finds the problem, clears or repairs the problem causing the fault, and resets the Tripsaver. Typically, a branch or animal will cause the Tripsaver to “blink” the line once or twice, and then the branch or animal falls off the line, and power is restored as normal. The “blink” caused by the Tripsaver may be long enough to cause your digital clock to have to be reset, but if it hadn’t been for the Tripsaver, you would have had a long outage.

Many times, the co-op’s equipment gets blamed for power quality problems like “blinking lights,” but often, the problem is found in the customer’s own wiring. If you notice dimming or blinking lights and your neighbors are not experiencing these same problems, call us. We can check our equipment, and if no problems are found, we may suggest that you have an electrician inspect your wiring to make sure all your connections, including your ground and neutral connections, are tight.



Single-phase Tripsavers



Three-phase Tripsavers



Heating, Ventilation and Heat Pump Rebates Available

- Air-Source Heat Pumps*\$300 per Ton
- Geothermal Heat Pumps*\$500 per Ton
- Variable-Speed Furnace Blower Motor*..... \$35 per System
- Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heaters up to \$450
- Electric Boilers up to \$450
- Electric Plenum Heaters \$5 per KW

***Additional incentives may be available from...**

- Focus on Energy (www.focusonenergy.com or 1-800-762-7077)
- Federal tax credits (www.energystar.gov)

Eligibility

- ETS heaters and boilers must be enrolled in the Off-Peak Storage Heat Program
- Electric plenum heaters must be enrolled in the Off-Peak Dual Fuel Program
- Other conditions apply. See rebate forms online at www.vernonelectric.org/rebates or request a rebate form by calling our office at 608-634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051.

Rebates and incentives are also available for water heating, appliances, lighting, agriculture, commercial, electric vehicle charging stations, and energy audits.

Incentive forms must be submitted by December 31, 2024.

**Watt's
New**

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:
VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
110 Saugstad Rd; Westby, WI 54667
Call (608) 634-3121 or 1-800-447-5051.

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