

Watt'sNew

SEPTEMBER 2025



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our members."

Monthly Co-op



AUGUST TRIVIA:

What is the average number of meters per mile of line for Vernon Electric Cooperative?

- A) 5
- B) 8
- C) 11
- D) 18

Answer: Vernon Electric Cooperative has an average of **5 meters per mile of line** compared to that of investment owned utilities which average around 40 consumers per mile.

SEPTEMBER TRIVIA:

True or False

Vernon Electric Cooperative offers over seven different ways for members to pay their bill.

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

ELECTRIC BILL SALES TAX EXEMPTION BEGINS OCTOBER 1

The previous law allowed for a partial-year tax exemption from November through April, but the latest budget, signed into law by Governor Evers, provides that electricity and natural gas sold for residential use are exempt from Wisconsin sales and use tax for the entire year. The change is expected to save Wisconsin residents nearly \$180 million over two years.

According to the Department of Revenue, "The exemption applies to electricity and natural gas sold

on or after October 1, 2025. For purposes of this exemption, electricity or natural gas is considered sold at the time of billing. If the billing is by mail, the time of billing is the day on which the billing is mailed. As a result of this law change, utility providers must turn off tax on their October 2025 billings rather than the normal shut off that occurred in November to April billings."

This will be reflected on the members' statements they receive on October 1st for their September usage.

VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

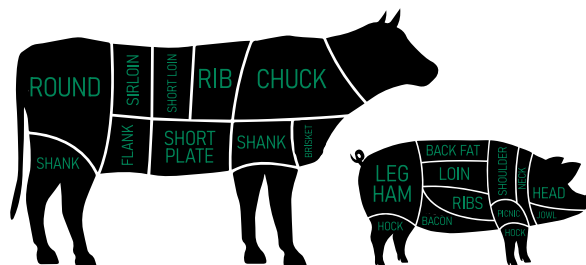
MEAT GIVEAWAY

Vernon Electric's 4th Annual Meat Giveaway: LAST CALL

Stop by our booth at the Vernon County Fair from September 10 – 14 for your last chance to enter the meat giveaway. Following the fair, four lucky winners will receive a \$100 gift certificate to a local meat locker, perfect for stocking up on quality meat while supporting local businesses. Here's how you can participate and support our cause:

- \$1.00 donation = 1 ticket
- \$5.00 donation = 6 tickets

Can't make it to the fair? You can still visit us at our headquarters anytime during business hours



to enter. Every dollar raised will go directly toward enhancing the fairgrounds, making a significant difference in our community.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PREPARATION INCLUDES LIFE-SAVING DRIVING TIPS

Teach teens what to do around downed power lines

It is back-to-school time and that means shopping for school supplies or dorm room décor and the sound of cicadas beckoning us back into our pre-summer routine.

As you prepare the students you know to return to school or a college campus, take a moment to share the story of Mary Gehrig, a teenager who was driving home from a friend’s house on a stormy June night. Although some cars had pulled over to wait out the storm, Gehrig was close to home, and she thought she could make it.

Around 25 minutes into her 30-minute drive, Gehrig turned onto the county road that would take her home. Although there was near-zero visibility due to the storm, which turned much more severe than originally forecast, she noticed two white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized that those lines were across the road, in her path, and they were anything but small.

“I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it,” Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car struck the object, which happened to be one of two high-voltage transmission power lines lying in the road. The massive cable stopped Mary’s car in its tracks. The car’s electrical system was damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

The next thing Gehrig did was pick up her phone and call her parents. When her dad heard that there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay in the car and call 9-1-1.

Fire chief Rich Schock, who was on the scene that night, said, “Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them,” adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. “Mary did everything right,” he said.

When there is an accident involving downed power lines, a padmount transformer or other related utility equipment, Safe Electricity offers these safety tips:

- Call 9-1-1 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit.
- Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back.

Exiting a vehicle or equipment is the last resort and should only be attempted if the car is on fire or giving off smoke. If this is the case, exit the vehicle by crossing your arms and jumping from the vehicle without touching it. Then, hop with both feet together as far as you can.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE VERNON COUNTY FAIR!

Join us from September 10th to 14th for a celebration of our community featuring livestock shows, exciting entertainment, and fun for the entire family!



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