



CELEBRATING JUNE DAIRY MONTH



by Craig Buros,
General Manager
& CEO

June Dairy Month has always been a special time for us. This is when we take a moment to pay tribute to the dairy industry, which is a key part of our state's economy, contributing some \$45.6 billion a

year, according to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. In fact, Wisconsin is home to more than 7,000 dairy farms—more than any other state—and 57 percent of those operate on electric cooperative lines. We're proud to say that about 320 (almost 5%) of those farms are located on our lines.

So, we salute the dairy industry every year during June, extending our heartfelt thanks to the farmers who supply us with nutritious dairy products and keep our state's economic engine humming.

This year, however, our dairy farmers need a little more than just our thanks and good wishes. The coronavirus pandemic has hit our state's farmers particularly hard. With schools closing and restaurants limited to carry-out and delivery services only, dairy farmers have temporarily lost a huge market for the milk they produce. Some have had to

dump large quantities of milk.

Perhaps the biggest irony in this situation is that at the same time dairy farmers have been forced to dump perfectly good milk, many families have been struggling to pay for groceries due to furloughs and job lay-offs caused by the pandemic.

So, this year for June Dairy Month, we're taking action to try to help our members on both sides of this troubling situation.

Through our statewide service agency, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, we are offering a coupon

for a free gallon of milk to all of our co-op members, redeemable at any Kwik Trip store. We are partnering with Kwik Trip because of the company's visible presence in all of the areas served by the state's electric cooperatives, as well as the company's willingness and ability to accommodate a promotion of this scale.

Simply clip out this coupon below and take it to your local Kwik Trip at any time from June 1 through July 16 for a free gallon of your choice of non-fat, 1%, or 2% milk.

When you get back home and pour yourself and your family a cool glass of delicious, wholesome milk, raise a toast to your local dairy farmers who produced it.

FREE

One Gallon Jug
Nature's Touch® Milk
Skim, 1% or 2%



Limit one coupon offer per customer, per visit. Original coupon must be presented to the cashier at the time of purchase. Excludes Orange Juice and Chocolate Milk. Coupon may not be combined with any other offers. No cash value. Good at all Kwik Trip Stores. Valid June 1 - July 16, 2020



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MY CO-OP



VERNON ELECTRIC GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!

Give the gift of power to people and families struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Electricity is something we use every day to help us with chores, health, knowledge, and much more. It's the perfect gift that nearly anyone can use. If you're looking for ways to help someone, why not give our office a call to purchase a gift certificate any Vernon Electric Co-op member could use toward their next electric bill. You can have a credit put directly to their account and we'll send them a card letting them know, or you can get a gift certificate and give it directly to them.



READSTOWN RESTAURANT REMAINS OPTIMISTIC

By Leah Call

Restaurants are among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 shutdown. As they reopen, the challenges continue, with enhanced safety guidelines and reduced patronage. Kickapoo Creekside restaurant and bar in the Vernon Electric Cooperative service territory shuttered its doors on March 17, offering only limited curbside pickup in May. Kickapoo Creekside owner Duaine Dregne expects a slow return to normal, but he's optimistic that the menu and the updates he's made to the nearly century-old restaurant in Readstown will draw guests to his establishment this summer.

"We have an outside patio, which we put on last fall," noted Dregne. "With this virus going on, it will be nice to have that outside option."

The large patio, complete with fire pit and band stage, is one of many renovations Dregne has made since purchasing the restaurant two and half years ago.



"It's completely renovated—electrical, plumbing, heating—everything is new," he added. "We try to create a nice, clean place to dine."

Dregne says renovating and running Kickapoo Creekside has been a family effort, with wife, Susan, and adult children Dionne, Derek, and Dane all pitching in. "At our age, we would not tackle this size project without our three talented kids," he said.

While the Dregnes have created a welcoming ambiance inside and out, the food on Kickapoo Creekside's menu speaks for itself. "We have everything from Red Lake Walleye, which

is the best Walleye you can buy, to Alaskan Salmon, prime rib and all kinds of steaks," said Dregne. "And we do a Friday night fish fry."



Old Meets New

Formerly the Kickapoo Inn, Kickapoo Creekside has operated as a restaurant in Readstown, 11 miles southeast of Viroqua, since 1921. A modern-day addition to

this historic site—an electric vehicle charging station—is scheduled to be installed in the next couple of months. The charging station is sponsored by a partnership of electric cooperatives including Vernon Electric. It's one of very few level-3 DC fast-charging stations in the rural areas of Wisconsin.

Craig Buros, general manager & CEO of Vernon Electric said, “Kickapoo Creekside is a good fit for this level-3 charger. There is relatively high traffic volume and it is an excellent place for people to grab a bite to eat. Most level-3 fast chargers are currently in large cities and along the interstate. Sitting between La Crosse, Madison, and Dubuque, the Readstown location will be a nice addition to the electric vehicle charging network in southwest Wisconsin.”

Since Kickapoo Creekside sits at the intersection of Highways 14, 61, and 131, drivers of electric and hybrid vehicles will have the perfect opportunity to grab a bite to eat while they wait for their vehicle to charge. “I think we will see more of a trend in that direction [electric and hybrid vehicles],” said Dregne, who met with representatives of Vernon Electric about installing the station. “I agreed that there will be a need for the area, and this is something we should do.”

Dregne enjoys running a business in rural Readstown, population 417. He grew up in the small town and owns several area businesses, including Kickapoo Homes, Dregne Realty, and Kickapoo KWK Stop. As a small business owner, challenges are nothing new to Dregne, yet he's faced two major hurdles in the short time he's owned Kickapoo Creekside.

“After we remodeled in 2018, we were open for about four months, when the building was flooded for the first time in the history of the building. We had 16 inches of water inside the building,” he recalled. “So we completely went through it again and got it up and running for about a year and a half, and



The Dregne family: (L-R) Duaine, Dane, Dionne, Derek, and Susan

now we have the virus. So it has been a challenge.”

Now Dregne challenges area residents and passersby to stop in for some great food, drink, and entertainment.

“We will do some outside grilling and smoking... try some new things,” he adds. “And we will probably look for some more outside entertainment. I think it will work out well to have music outside throughout the summer.”





WAYS TO SAVE

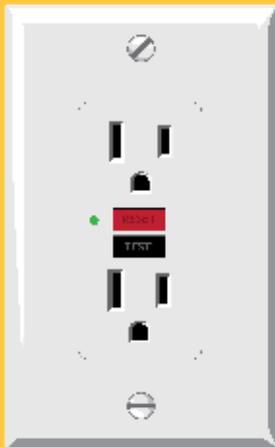
Save money and ease stress on the electric grid by doing activities that require lots of energy in late evening or at night.



Safe Electricity.org

WATT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

SAFETY CORNER



Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical shock by detecting variations in current.

Install in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity.

Test outlets with GFCIs monthly; if they don't work properly, consult your electrician.

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical fires caused by arc flash. Usually installed by an electrician.

An arc is an electrical discharge that can cause intense heat or light.

It interrupts the circuit when it detects an arc or other abnormalities in the flow of electricity.

Tamper Resistant Outlet

Prevents shocks caused by tampering with an outlet.

The protective shutters are designed to move when a plug is correctly inserted.

Became part of the National Electrical Code in 2008; if your home does not have these, install childproof devices.



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