

September 2015

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

. CO-OPS .

— Take —

OWNERSHIP

CO-OP MONTH OCTOBER 2015

SREC Member Appreciation Celebration

Members can enjoy a dinner on us of BBQ Pork Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Cheese Curds, Frosted Brownies, and Beverages.

Tuesday, October 13th
Lancaster Office 4-7pm

Wednesday, October 14th
Gays Mills Office 4-7pm

Thursday, October 15th
Darlington Office 4-7pm

- Browse through displays to learn what kinds of services SREC offers.
- Learn how Focus on Energy can help you manage your energy costs.
- Bucket Truck Rides
- Door Prizes and Giveaways
- Blood Pressure checks and flu shots (if available)

Clean Power Plan

You've probably heard in the media that President Obama announced the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan on August 3. The lengthy and complex plan establishes guidelines for states to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing fossil fuel-based electric generation units under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.

"Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, are committed to improving the quality of life for cooperative members," says CEO Steve Lucas. "This includes taking steps to improve our environment while safely delivering our members the power they need each day."

Many steps have already been taken to significantly reduce air emissions by Dairyland. These reductions have been achieved by burning less coal and leading or participating in renewable energy projects and programs (including the Evergreen program), educating about energy efficiency, utilizing hydropower, solar, wind power, landfill gas and biomass. Dairyland has also retired its five oldest coal-fired units at the Alma Station (Alma, Wis.) over the last five years.

The rule, which is over 2,000 pages long, will certainly take some time for the industry to understand the real impact. Dairyland's environmental, strategic planning and external relations staff are evaluating the details of the rule to determine how they will impact cooperative members' monthly electric bills and what impact the rule will have on the power plants that serve our cooperative and system reliability.

Specifically, staff will be assessing how the EPA modified its original proposal in response to public comments. Some of the key issues which Dairyland and other Wisconsin utilities jointly addressed with recommendations, included:

- Ensuring credit for early action to reduce emissions;
- Providing broad flexibility in the measures allowed as compliance options; and
- Allowing sufficient time to reliably achieve compliance.

"Our care for the environment is at the forefront of our mission to provide our members with safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy," said President and CEO Barb Nick. "The issues and impacts are very complicated and we will continue to advocate for a reasoned approach for a sustainable energy future for our members.

"Dairyland is already in the midst of a strategic plan to continue to diversify our energy resources with the addition of new renewable sources and we recently issued an RFP for up to 25 MW of solar energy resources," added Nick. "We now have about 12 percent renewable energy, including wind, biomass, hydro and solar projects. We have taken these significant steps in ways that protect energy consumers in our system from rate shock while keeping our system reliable."

Dairyland has also invested over \$300 million in the last decade in air emission control equipment at our existing coal plants. We have cumulative reductions in mercury output by over 90 percent, particulate matter by 99 percent, sulfur dioxide by well over 90 percent and nitrogen oxides by over 70 percent.

It is very important that the rule allows sufficient time to achieve the desired goals in a reasonable and cost effective manner. Energy policy is incredibly complex and absolutely vital to the economy of this country. It is also the reason that for many decades, coal was selected as the fuel of choice for baseload power plants in the Midwest for its reliability and its affordability. Transitioning too quickly will have economic and operational impacts.

As future developments occur with EPA's Clean Power Plan, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and Dairyland will continue to focus on ensuring cooperative members have access to safe, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective energy services.

We also will keep our members informed. At the end of the day, as a cooperative, that is our most important commitment.



Look up for hazards during harvest

After working in a field on a neighbor's farm, Jim Flach parked his equipment and stepped out of the vehicle. Sadly, Jim did not realize his equipment was touching an overhead power line, and he became a path for the electrical current as he placed his foot onto the ground. Jim received a severe electric shock that ultimately resulted in his death a few months later. Safe Electricity urges farmers to take the proper precautions when working around power lines.

“The rush to harvest can lead to farmers working long days with little sleep,” cautions Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Energy Education Council and its Safe Electricity program. “It is important to take time for safety. Before starting work, make sure to note the location of overhead power lines.”

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Safe Electricity urges farm operators and workers to:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines – at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Some additional safety tips from Safe Electricity include:

- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around grain bins.
- Always hire qualified electricians for any electrical issues.
- Do not use equipment with frayed cables.

“You need to double check, even triple check, to see what is above you,” says Marilyn Flach, Jim’s widow. His son Brett adds, “Be conscious of your surroundings. You need to keep your eyes open and beware of overhead lines.”

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency. ■



Recipe

This salad recipe is from Rita Kruser (Cuba City). She said "it's the tomato paste that makes this salad dressing taste better than store purchased bottled dressing".

Mixed Herb Salad with Strawberries, Pecans and Feta

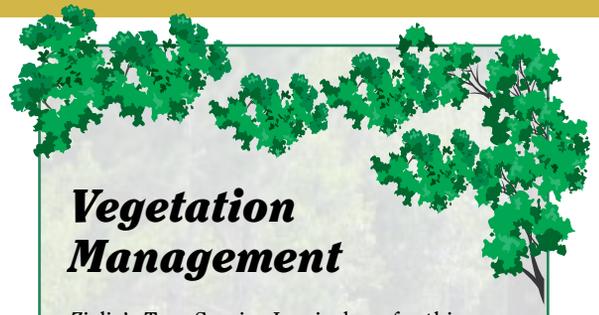
- 1 Tbsp. Balsamic Vinegar
- 1 Tbsp Finely Grated Lemon Zest
- 2 Tbsp Lemon Juice
- 1 tsp Tomato Paste
- ¼ c. Extra-Virgin Olive Oil
- ¼ tsp Salt
- ¼ tsp Pepper



For the dressing, combine the ingredients above. Set aside.

- 1 (6oz) Head Boston or Butter Lettuce, torn into bite size pieces
- 1 cup Mint Leaves
- ½ cup Basil Leaves
- 12 Strawberries, halved
- ½ cup Chopped Pecans, toasted
- ¼ cup Crumbled Feta Cheese

In a large bowl, combine the ingredients above. Then pour dressing over salad, toss well and serve. Serves about 4.



Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service Inc. is done for this year.

DJB Inspections is continuing to test poles in Wyalusing, Glen Haven, Bloomington and Beetown Townships in Grant County and will be moving to Belmont, Kendall, Seymour, Willow Springs, Darlington, and Mineral Point in Lafayette County. They will also start the underground maintenance in September on the Mt Hope and Kaiser Substations in Grant County and Belmont, Shullsburg and Crawhall Subs in Lafayette County. They will inspect and possibly paint all underground transformers, cabinets and pedestals.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Looking for an easy efficiency upgrade? Additional insulation can make a difference! The Department of Energy estimates you can reduce heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

Source: energy.gov

WATT'S HAPPENING

Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free Lancaster 800-236-2141, Darlington 800-236-6656, and Gays Mills 888-735-4314.

www.srec.coop

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