



DECEMBER REMINDERS

Holiday Hours

Jackson Electric's office will be closed:

December 26, 2022
January 2, 2023

Power outages can be reported to 855.222.3275.

Bill payments can be made at 844.759.3984 or through any of our online payment services.

Rebate Applications Due December 29



2022 energy efficiency rebate applications are due December 29, 2022. Forms can be downloaded from www.jackelec.com/rebates-and-incentives.

Energy Assistance is Available

Energy assistance is available to those who meet assistance guidelines. Please contact your county's Department of Health and Human Services or go to energybenefit.wi.gov to learn about the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance program.



A BIT OF JINGLE IN YOUR POCKET FOR CHRISTMAS



CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENTS COMING SOON

Jackson Electric members will soon be receiving their capital credits retirement check or credit on their electric billing statement. The allocation and retirement of capital credits is one of the many benefits of being a member of Jackson Electric.

Members of Jackson Electric accrue capital credits based on how much electric service the member purchases during the calendar year. Annually, your elected Jackson Electric board of directors evaluates the cooperative's financials to determine if the cooperative is in a financially adequate position to allocate and retire a portion of these credits. Capital credits are equitably allocated and reserved in the member's account.

Your Jackson Electric board of directors recently approved the retirement of \$400,000 in allocated capital credits for the year 2004 and a portion of year 2005. Members who purchased electricity from Jackson Electric during those years have capital credits allocated to their account and those capital credits will now be retired or paid out.

Capital Credits Retirement Notice

- Jackson Electric shall not retire and pay capital credits in an amount less than \$25.
- Jackson Electric shall apply retired capital credits in the amount between \$25 and \$50 to active member's billing account.
- Accounts with retired capital credits more than \$50 will receive a check to the patron's most current address on file at Jackson Electric. Retirement checks are slated to be mailed on December 9, 2022.
- Retired capital credits checks not cashed within 90 days from assignment will become null and void. There is a \$25 administrative fee to reissue that check.

Capital Credits Account Reminders

If you move from Jackson Electric's service lines, please be sure to contact our office with your new address. Even though you will no longer receive a capital credits allocation, the balance in your account will remain until it is retired in full. Therefore, it's important to keep your contact information current so we can send to you any capital credits retirement you are eligible to receive.

When a member passes away, the capital credits account is available for estate retirement. The representative of the estate should contact our office or go to www.jackelec.com/capital-credits to complete the required documentation.

INCREASE YOUR ELECTRIC BILL BY PLUGGING IN AN ELECTRIC SPACE HEATER

Embrace the opportunity to potentially increase your electric bill by \$40 per month during the winter by plugging in a portable electric space heater. No one wants to pay more on their electric bill, so before plugging in that electric space heater consider what it will cost you to operate.

Portable electric space heaters are 100 percent efficient and convenient to use, but they should only be used for supplemental heat. Space heaters, as the name implies, are designed to heat a small space, not your entire home. When used

improperly or beyond their intended use, space heaters can be costly to both your wallet and safety.

Calculate the approximate operating cost of an electric space heater:

$$\text{Watts}/1,000 \times \$0.1188/\text{kWh} \times \text{hours of operation} = \text{cost}$$

For example, a 1,500-watt electric space heater operating eight hours a day for 30 days costs \$42.77 per month to operate. There are more economical choices available to heat your home. Contact Jackson Electric to learn more about cost-effective electric heat options.



HUNTING AND SHOOTING SPORTS: MORE THAN JUST A HOBBY FOR THIS FAMILY BUSINESS

Own and operating your own business, especially during the past few years, is a challenge and not for the faint of heart. It takes commitment, perseverance, and belief in the service or product you're providing. Upon meeting Scott Goetzka, owner-operator of Woods and Meadow Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clays, you'll find this to be true. Despite challenges, Scott strives to uphold his family's hunting and shooting sports tradition. "I grew up with it," says Scott, who took over operation of the business in 1988, becoming the fourth generation on the family farm. "I have a love for hunting/shooting sports and running dogs for others."

Woods and Meadow Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clays is located on Potter Road, just 8 miles from I-94 Exit 128 in Millston. The business is headquartered on the original home farm established by Scott's great-grandfather. Upon arriving at the clubhouse, you'll notice the barn built by Scott's great-grandfather, a place Scott recalls spending a lot of time helping with daily life on the farm. "My grandfather raised cattle until the late '60s," shares Scott. "When my dad took over, he was approached by the local rod and gun about raising pheasants. That's where it all started."

What started as a traditional Wisconsin farm has diversified into a successful business with two components: a hunting preserve and a sporting clays range. The hunting preserve offers visitors, primarily from a one- to two-hour radius from the farm, an opportunity to experience pheasant hunting without making a trip out west. Meanwhile, the facility offers the perfect setup for shooting sporting clays, which has



Woods and Meadow owner Scott Goetzka is the fourth generation on his family's farm. Behind him is the original barn built by his great-grandfather.

become increasingly popular. Whether you're looking to go on a traditional hunt or sharpen your shooting skills, Woods and Meadow can accommodate you.

Hunting Preserve What does it mean to be a hunting preserve? For Woods and Meadow, it means managing the land for pheasant hunting through diversified agriculture. Scott explains that you need ground cover, habitat, and food sources for the birds. He incorporates a mixture of switchgrass, sorghum, and corn. These resources increase the chance of survival for those birds who do get away from hunters. "It's not shooting fish in a barrel," explains Scott. "The birds do run/fly away, and you don't always get your limit."

From October 1 through the end of March, Scott, along with two full-time employees and one part-time, keeps busy with pheasant hunting reservations five days a week, 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The day starts early with catching and releasing of birds before the first group of hunters arrive. By noon, the first group of hunters has returned to have their birds cleaned and spend some time in the clubhouse with celebratory pizzas. Meanwhile, more birds are released for the afternoon group. "We have six separate farms, so we can host up to 12 groups per day," explains Scott.

Scott followed in his father's footsteps, raising his own pheasants on the farm until 2008. A harsh winter storm of heavy snow and ice wiped out the pens and equipment needed to raise pheasants. That's when Scott made the business decision to outsource rather than continue raising pheasants. "We purchase our pheasants from Oak Ridge Pheasant Ranch in Watertown, Wisconsin," shares Scott. "Wisconsin is the second largest producer of pheasants as an agricultural commodity in the nation," he adds.

When it comes to pheasant hunting, most people bring their own dogs, but Woods and Meadow have dogs and handlers that run them for those who would still like to enjoy the sport. "It's a great outdoor experience to walk the fields, watch the dogs work, harvest the pheasants, and have a great meal [of



Left: The pheasants are raised by Oak Ridge Farm, a Wisconsin-based business. Right: The clubhouse offers hunters a space to gather to share their hunting stories and celebrate.



Special equipment allows disabled hunters to partake in the sport.

pheasants],” Scott shares.

Scott’s motivation to stay in business, despite the challenges faced by many small business owners, is the reward of sharing his love for hunting and shooting sports with others. He partners with a disabled veteran’s group and recently hosted a Vietnam veteran who hadn’t been

hunting in years. Woods and Meadow has a UTV with a special seat in the front that allows for the hunter to join alongside his/her hunting partners. “It was rewarding to see this veteran who hadn’t been hunting in years be able to shoot a rooster pheasant,” shares Scott.

Sporting Clays: A.K.A. Shooting Golf Let’s go golfing—shooting golf, that is. Woods and Meadow offers the traditional pheasant hunt, but has also become a hot spot for sporting clays, also called shooting golf because of the walk-on shooting aspect of the sport. “Like golf, with sporting clays you can just show up at the course to participate,” shares Scott. “We have three sporting clay courses. These are different from trap ranges because they require more space that most places can’t accommodate.”

Walk-on shooting is available Wednesday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from April through September. This is the perfect opportunity to shoot by yourself or with a friend, brush up on your skills, or try it out for the first time. Woods and Meadow also hosts team league shooting throughout the spring and summer. An additional heated five-stand allows for

shooting, October through March by appointment, when the weather gets chilly. “It’s an enjoyable sport to join with your friends, and you meet new people,” says Scott.

A centuries-old competitive sport, shooting sports is nothing new, but it has gained traction and interest, especially amongst youth over the past few years. Woods and Meadow has become the home range for the Black River Falls Shooting Tigers, and the host location for the state high school shoot. Scott is also a coach for the Black River Falls team, donating time and targets to the youth. “It’s about teaching kids how to use guns in a safe, controlled atmosphere,” says Scott. “There’s no better reward than coaching a beginner shooter and seeing the smile on their face when they successfully hit their target.”

Continued on the following page



In 2019, Woods and Meadow leveraged funds from Jackson Electric’s rural development revolving loan fund (RLF) to build this shop/maintenance building near the clubhouse. This expansion project created job retention and offers the facility an opportunity to host more guests at events held at the shooting range. The purpose of the RLF is to provide gap or alternative, low-interest funding to area businesses and non-profits with eligible projects that result in rural job retention or job creation. “I would recommend this program to other business owners,” shares Scott. “It was a simple and straightforward process.”

MING IN ON HAZY WOOD

During his senior year of high school, Jackson Electric lineman Hazy Wood had to answer the tough question of what he wanted to be when he grew up. He knew he wanted something with outdoor hands-on work, so that’s when he turned to the program catalog at Chippewa Valley Technical College. “I visited the college and talked with the instructors who were previous linemen,” shares Hazy. “That’s when I decided it was something I would enjoy.”

While on the two-year waiting list to get into the program, Hazy obtained a job at Ashley Furniture, where he worked in the factory. While this job taught him valuable skills, this experience motivated Hazy to do well in line school because he knew long-term factory work was not for him. “During high

school I was the head chef at Palm’s Supper Club. The restaurant was always busy, and it taught me how to plan and manage my time. The same was true with my work at Ashley.”

In 2012, the long-awaited lineman career became a reality for Hazy when he was hired by Jackson Electric, first as a 1,000-hour employee, and eventually as a full-time member of the line crew. He enjoys the variety that each day provides, and the satisfaction of providing a service for our members. “When you’re restoring outages, members do come up to you and are appreciative of what we do,” Hazy says. “It was also rewarding to be able to go on a ROPE call to help members at a neighboring cooperative in Minnesota,” he adds.

When Hazy’s not on the crew, you



won’t find him playing an instrument, but he has always thought it would be awesome to learn how to play guitar. Instead, you’ll find him spending time with his wife and four children. They try to spend as much time as they can outdoors, whether that’s hunting, fishing, or watching the kids play baseball. “We also have a pet potbellied pig named Dixie,” Hazy says. “She’s a sweetheart.”

ENERGY RATES TO INCREASE IN 2023

Jackson Electric members will see a system-wide 4.9 percent increase in their energy rate starting with the January 2023 usage, which will be calculated on the February 2023 billing statement. The rate adjustment is due to the increased costs in wholesale power, materials, and fuel.

For the past decade, Jackson Electric has been able to stabilize retail energy rates. Starting in 2023, Jackson Electric will see an increase in wholesale power costs due to increased fuel costs, primarily natural gas, and the high cost to purchase power from the energy market.

With the increase in retail energy rates, it is estimated a residential member will see an additional \$46 per year on their electric bill, depending on usage. Dual fuel accounts can expect an increase of \$71 per year, and ETS accounts will increase approximately \$200 annually.

If you are on the dual fuel or ETS program, electric heat continues to be a better buy and more efficient compared to a fossil fuel source of heat. For example, if you heat with a dual fuel air source heat pump, you'd have to purchase LP at \$0.81 per gallon to be cost comparable to electric. ETS units are 100 percent efficient. To be comparable to electric, you'd have to purchase LP at \$2.04 per gallon. Remember, when you are using electric, you are not purchasing LP during a volatile market to fill your tank.

BILLING STATEMENT LINE ITEMS

WHAT'S A PCA AND DEMAND CHARGE?

Beginning in January 2023, members will notice two additional line items on their billing statement. One line item will state PCA and the other Demand Charge.

The PCA, or Power Cost Adjustment, is a mechanism that is put into place so that Jackson Electric can either credit or recover unbudgeted wholesale power costs during the course of the year without having to continually restructure energy rates. For example, if Dairyland implements a PCA to each of its 24 member cooperatives, Jackson Electric may have to equally assess a PCA to each of its members depending on the financial status of the cooperative at that time.

Until a PCA is either a credit or a charge, it will remain zero on the billing statement.

The Demand Charge line item will also be a zero charge for now. In the future months, members may see this charge on their electric bill to help recover some of the demand fees that

Jackson Electric pays to Dairyland Power each month. Jackson Electric is charged a large sum for demand (kW) which is in addition to the energy rate (kWh). kWh is a unit of energy that is used over a period of time (consumption or usage) and kW is a unit of power or the rate at which energy is being used (demand).

As of September, the cost of power was nearly 65 percent of Jackson Electric's total year-to-date expenses. What that means to you, the member, is that 65 cents of your every dollar paid to Jackson Electric goes directly to Dairyland Power.

Current Service Detail	
Facility Charge	34.50
Facility Charge	5.00
Commitment To Community	1.40
Energy Charge	613 kWh @ 0.113 69.27
DE Energy Charge	394 kWh @ 0.075 29.55
PCA	0 kWh @ 0.00 0.00
Demand Charge	0 kW @ 0.00 0.00
Area Light (Qty: 1)	11.00
Wisconsin State Tax	6.92
Jackson County Tax	0.69
Total Current Charges	158.33


Hunting and Shooting Sports

Continued from previous page

Carrying on the Tradition Scott is proud to still be on the land his great-grandfather owned, and he has worked hard legislatively to protect his business and the hunting preserve and sporting clay tradition for years to come. His family has now expanded into the fifth and sixth generations through his children and grandchildren, who are also growing up with the tradition. He notes that none of this would be possible without the support of his family, especially his wife, Kris, who also participates in a shooting league and helps with administrative tasks.—*Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor*

To schedule your sporting clays appointment or reserve a pheasant hunt for yourself or a group, give Scott a call at 608.378.4223. Company outing or team-building activity? Woods and Meadow can accommodate you, too. Woods and Meadow Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clays is located at N4335 Potter Road, Warrens, WI 54666. From the exit in Millston, you'll head northeast on County Road O for 6.5 miles. Then, you'll take a left turn onto Potter Road. Your hunting destination will be on the left in 1.2 miles.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
Card Payments 844.759.3984
www.jackelec.com   

Mailing Address: N6868 County Road F
Black River Falls, WI 54615
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Chris Curran, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry Huber, Dairyland Power Representative
Daniel Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Brian Huber,
Troy Torkelson, Les Dokkestul
Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

Jackson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 