




Clark Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

News from the Manager

Gosh, it seems like we just got through worrying about Y2K and the world coming to an end and computers running afoul, and here it is two years gone by already. However, we will remember 2001 as a year of national tragedy, and I'm sure the effects will be felt for years to come. Hopefully it will build us into a stronger, united country that cares more about each other and helping others in time of need. Generally in rural Wisconsin, we see this whenever there is a need. But over the years, we have lost that closeness to others during the good times.

The Christmas season helps us with that closeness to our relatives and friends, but we need to retain the same attitude to our neighbors also, year-round. Our wish to all our members and friends is that 2002 will be your best for health and prosperity.

2001 looks like it will be a good year for the cooperative. Sales were higher, caused by the extreme heat of last summer. Expenses, of course, were also higher. Bad storms in late spring and early summer



Clearing brush near Mead Lake. A crew member from New Age Tree Service is clearing brush under and around the electric right-of-way to help in electric reliability.

caused considerable damage. Some reimbursement was received from the Federal Emergency Management Administration because most of our area was declared a disaster. We continue to spend thousands on maintenance of the system, keeping rights-of-way trimmed back, but it is a continuous effort. Each year we take a different area to maintain as the trees and brush keep growing.

In a few days, (January 2, 2002) our capital credit refund checks will be in the mail. This year, we are

Capital Credit Checks will
be sent soon...\$676,715 this year.

refunding the credits earned in 1982, and the amount is up considerably over last. \$676,715 will be sent, at a time of the year when people most need it. Heating bills, taxes, and Christmas expenses hit hard at this time. The refund will put

us well over the \$10 million dollar mark for capital credit refunds. Not bad, considering that the investor-owned utilities would not extend service to the rural areas because the cost was too high. Our rates are very competitive; many times they are lower than the IOU's.

A brief mention about the stray voltage lawsuit filed against us in November. Our law firm and insurance company are handling the matter. We have worked with many farmers over the years and made corrections where needed. Our system is built under federal specifications, and we use the state guidelines for stray voltage levels.

I need to mention our electric rates. The power cost adjustment currently reflects a 2 mill per kilowatt hour charge from our supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative. This started in October 2001 and will continue until Dairyland's annual rate adjustment in May 2002. At that time, we may see an adjustment depending on what Dairyland's budget indicates coal and other operating costs will be. Hopefully, rates for our operations should hold good for 2002, but we may see an adjustment in 2003.

Seasons greetings and best wishes to all for a great 2002.

Dick Adler
CEO / General Manager

Power Outage

What do I do?

Check your fuses or breakers. Check to see if your neighbors are also without power. If so, call us. During regular business hours, call **267-6188** or **800-272-6188**. When the voice prompt answers, push (1) and that will take you to the service department.

After regular hours, call
800-927-5707 and this will take you to
CRC, our after-hours emergency
answering service.

Things to have ready!

- Your account number and the name on the account.
- Did you hear anything (loud noises)?
- Can you see anything (wires down or trees on the line)?

The dispatcher will dispatch our crews out to fix your problem. If there is a major outage occurring (especially after a large storm), be prepared to wait until an operator can assist you. It's very important that you stay on the line and give us your information. It could help in tracking down a large outage.

When you call, if you do not have important outage information, all you will have to do is punch in your phone number and the computer will know who you are and do the rest. If you have important information, you will then be able to stay on the line and tell someone, who can forward that information to us. Please make sure that we have your phone number on file. Please write your phone number on your bill stub when turning in your reading. By doing this, we can keep our records up to date.

Your phone number stays with us; it is not sold nor given out to anyone else.



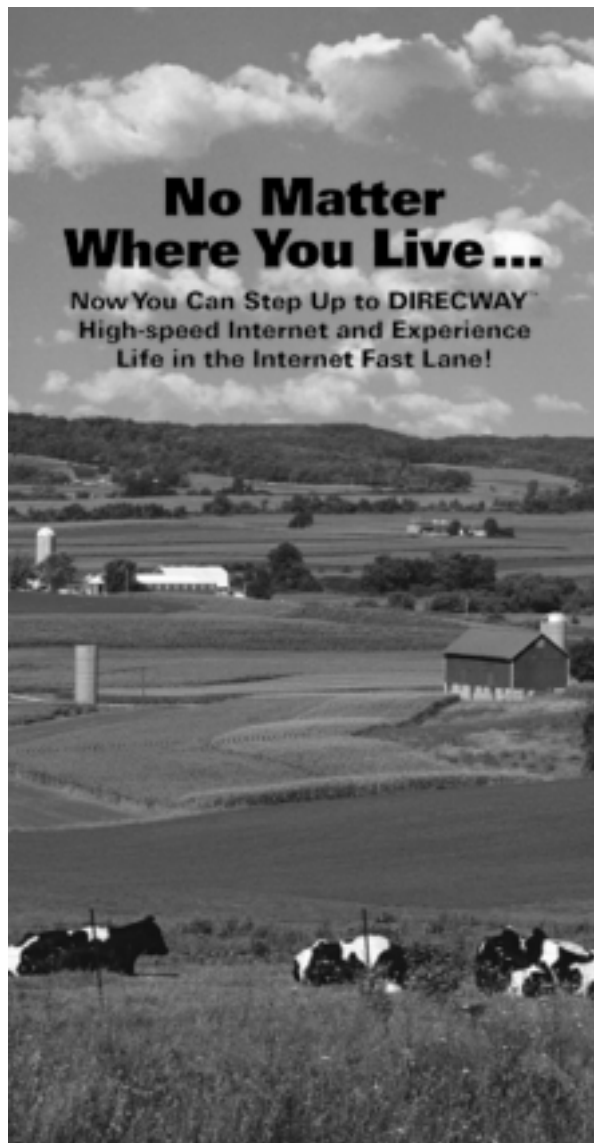
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Saturdays, 8–noon.

Chase those winter blues away

And visit some of our members

Winter sometimes can be pretty downright awful, but it doesn't have to be. Since we moved here, we (at least I) have found a new pastime for our winter fun. Snowmobiling is it! Now I'm not one of these diehard sled gurus who knows everything there is to know about the newest sled on the market; I'm satisfied with my old sled that I bought from a friend.

That's not to say that I don't want one of those new fancy sleds, but there is someone who says that I can't have one, and she means that! I'm sure most of you guys who are reading this understand my problem.

But let's get on with this story. We are blessed with having some of the best trail systems in the state right here in Clark County, with more than 350 miles of trails, and those trails connect to all the surrounding counties, which all have some great trails of their own that can take you almost anywhere in the state. To our north, Chippewa County has more than 300 miles of trails, and Taylor County also has 300 miles of groomed trails for the snowmobile enthusiast.

Now I'll call snowmobiling a sport because you have to work while you're riding, the muscles hurt after a nice long ride, and it's not that cheap, as most sports are expensive, at least the good ones! But it is a good family sport that most can enjoy. We have a small group that likes going out at night for a ride to one of our favorite places to eat a burger or a steak. My family gets in the car and meets us there, but the rest of us have a great ride, and we all enjoy a good time together.

As I said, the trail systems in Clark County will let you go anywhere within the county. The local snowmobiling clubs deserve a big thank you for that. They are responsible for the upkeep of their local trails. Clark County has a very large trail system that winds through the woods in the western part of the county; the Forestry & Parks department is responsible for these trails. There are three major state corridors that go through Clark County: Trails W22, W25, and W27.

If we start off in Greenwood and go west toward Willard, we get to Mel & Mary's and Alene's Inn, where you can enjoy some food. Then you can head past Willard and go up to Dale's North Mound for

some of his great hospitality and food. From Dale's, you can head to Rock Dam to Ernie's Rock Dam Saloon or the Haycreek Inn. From there, you will find connections to all the major trails in the western part of the county. You can now head toward Neillsville and eat at the Wildcat Inn, where you'll find a great steak, or from Rock Dam you can head north toward Thorp and visit K & G's Corner or the Silver Dollar, more good places to stop and rest and enjoy some time with friends. There are more areas to the north and west to visit.

We don't even have to leave Greenwood and we can stop at Chelsea's Supper Club for some great food. Heading east, our trip will take us through Loyal, which has some great places, and then on to Spencer. Between Loyal and Spencer, you can head south or north. South takes you down to Chili for a good time at some of the local establishments. By going north, you head up to Curtis, Abbotsford, and Colby, and from these areas you can get to spots farther east and north.

And speaking of north, you have read before about the Perkinstown area and the Perkinstown Tramp snowshoe race, which is hosted by the P-Town Inn. There are great trails that go to and through the Winter Sports area for both snowshoeing and sledding, and I'm told the ride is one of the most beautiful around. We hope to take a trip up there this year and enjoy the view. There are also many good little spots to eat at while up in that area.

What seems pretty funny here is that all the great trails seem to head to all the great places to eat and meet up with your friends. One important thing to remember: When you stop to visit these places, remember to be responsible while drinking. Drinking and driving don't mix well, whether it's a car or a snowmobile. Have fun this winter, and a special note: All those places mentioned above are fellow Clark Electric Cooperative members just like you, so head out to their establishments to have a good time.

For information on
Clark Electric Cooperative's
Dairy Farm Wiring Program &
Loan Program with free inspections

Contact John Knox
Director of Member services
715-267-6188 • 800-272-6188



A trip one day to Dale's North Mound with friends. This is just one of the many great places you can visit on the trails in Clark County.

To all of our members,

The Employees, Management, and the Directors of Clark Electric Cooperative would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God Bless you, your family, friends and our great nation.

Your Clark Electric Family

Anthony Jarocki
Michael Stimpert
Henry J. Onegid
Bob Bobson
Tracy Allen
Lindsay Mearns
Pat Krause
Frank Ocker
Amber Kudrke
Gary I. Thomas
Bob Maseley
Mike Hackel
Dana L. Abel
Katherine
Duke Allen
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Charles Hough
Annie Kappus
Wanna Smith
Sarah Shaw
Sharon Taylor
Deil
The Martins
Rocky Langford
Linda L. Abel
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Mike Ruff
Ron Schmitt
Jerry Smith
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Cathy Sackich
Stephanie Travis
Sandy Herrick
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Tom Delle
Jim Schuman
Michelle Walden
Dan Stet