

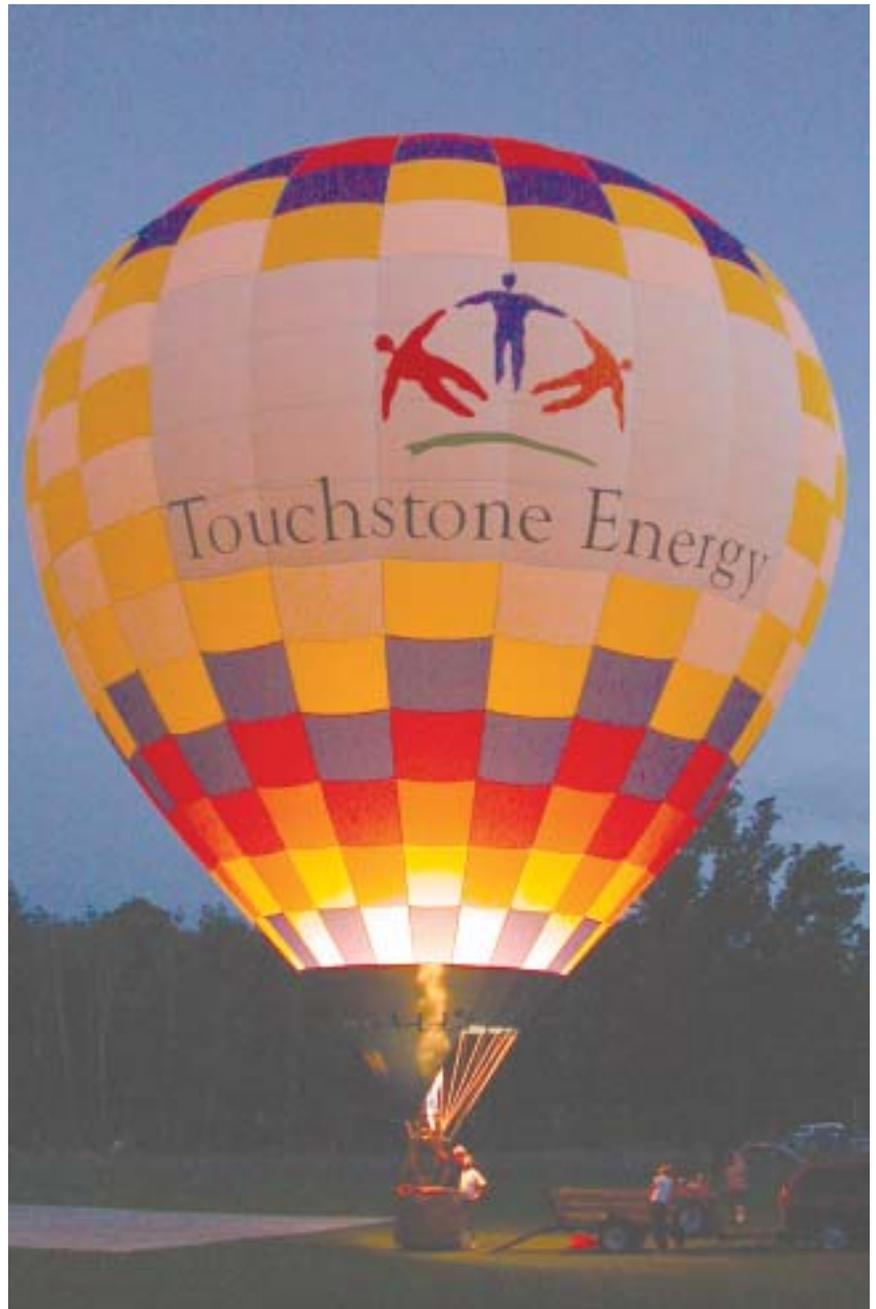
# THE LIGHT THAT KEEPS ON SHINING

## The Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Visits Greenwood During its Fourth of July Celebration

The sky was lit up more than once on the Fourth of July in Greenwood. Besides the annual fireworks display that people come from all over to see, the Wisconsin Touchstone Energy hot air balloon was in town to help celebrate Independence Day. The hot air balloon made an early evening flight over Greenwood. The flight brought the balloon over the George Scherer Ball Park, where a softball tournament was going on, and it landed east of Greenwood. The balloon then came back to the ball field and did an exciting “night glow” after the last softball game and just before the fireworks.

The balloon is owned and operated by Balloon Adventures, LCC – Keith and Sue Wohlfert from Oxford, Wisconsin. The balloon is huge! The 90,000-cubic-foot hot air balloon is an eye-catching sight; in the logo banner, the Touchstone Energy guys stand 7 feet tall and nearly 60 feet wide. Keith and Sue are the right people to be flying this balloon; Keith is the communications coordinator for Adams–Columbia Electric Cooperative in Friendship, Wisconsin. He knows how special Touchstone Energy is and what it means to all the electric cooperatives in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. Keith and Sue have been active in ballooning for the last 20 years. Their ballooning business accommodates passenger rides and is available for other events. You can see more about Balloon Adventures at [www.hotairflight.com](http://www.hotairflight.com).

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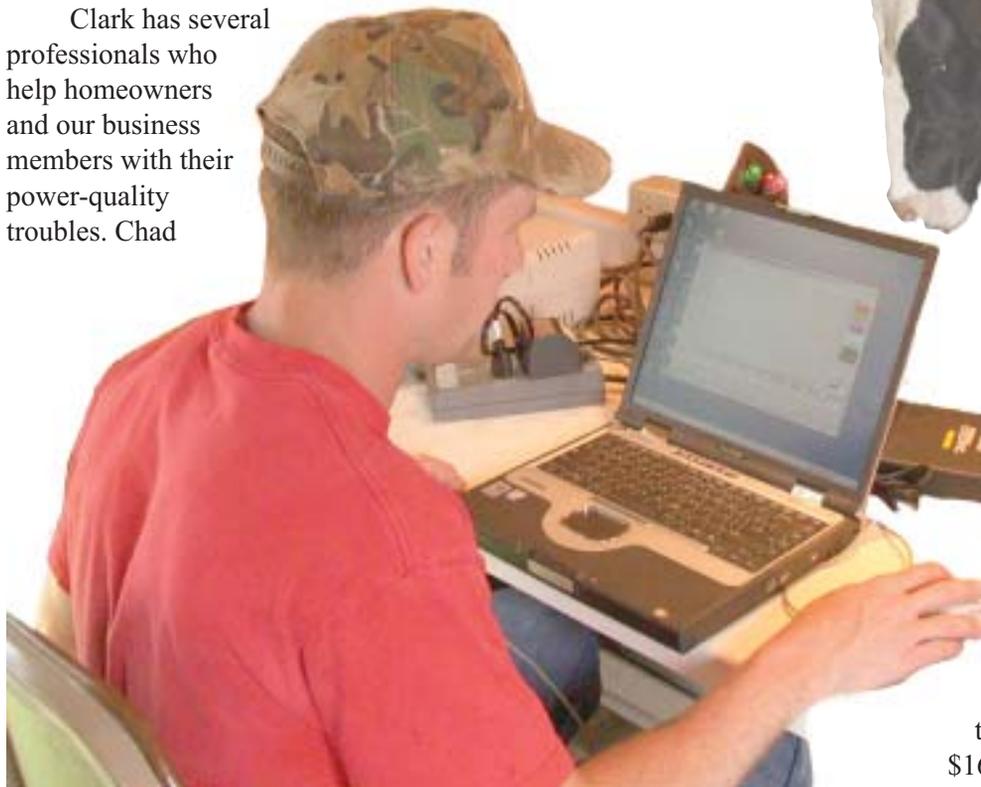
The night-glow show put on by the Wisconsin Touchstone Energy balloon was some fun entertainment before the annual fireworks display in Greenwood.

# POWER QUALITY TOP PRIORITY

## Farm Background Helps with Investigating Stray Voltage and Other Electrical Problems

**P**ower quality is important, whether you have a large business, a farm, or even in your own households. In all of these places, we have sensitive equipment or animals. Clark Electric Cooperative provides the assistance needed to help determine what problems may exist and how to correct them.

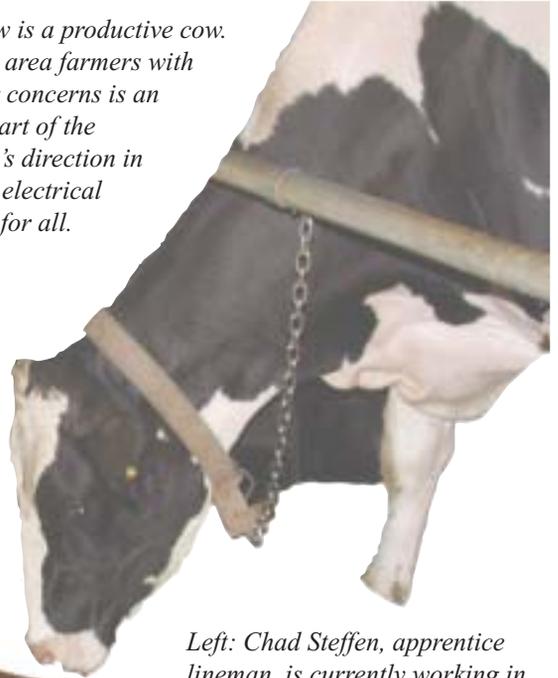
Clark has several professionals who help homeowners and our business members with their power-quality troubles. Chad



Steffen, one of our apprentice linemen, is currently helping our member-farmers with their power-quality concerns. Chad's knowledge of farming and raising dairy cattle is an extreme benefit in providing the type of assistance that is needed to help address farm concerns. Working with the sophisticated monitoring equipment and computer programs designed to help sort and make sense of the data, Chad works with the farmer to solve these issues.

One of the new programs available to area farmers is the Safety First Program, which is designed to help

*A happy cow is a productive cow. Helping the area farmers with their wiring concerns is an important part of the cooperative's direction in making our electrical system safe for all.*



*Left: Chad Steffen, apprentice lineman, is currently working in our Power Quality Investigations Department. Chad is working on one of the computers that are connected to sophisticated monitoring devices, which look at various voltage levels.*

farmers make needed repairs to their farm wiring system. Safety First is a two-part program where a member can receive a grant of up to \$4,000 and then borrow from the cooperative up to another \$16,000 to upgrade and fix their electrical wiring. Clark will provide for a state-certified inspector to inspect the farm and give the owner a complete list of what needs to be done to bring the farm up to code.

A lot of power-quality problems that are found on the farm are associated with bad wiring and improper grounding. Having a licensed and certified electrician do any electrical work is also an important key to having a sound electric system.

Clark Electric Cooperative's employees are dedicated to helping our members use their electricity wisely, and most importantly, safely. ■

## JUNIOR BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

### Two Local Youths Participating in their Cooperative

Being a kid nowadays is a full-time job! However, Courtney Goetz and Samantha LeMahieu took time out of their busy schedules to participate in their cooperative. Both are serving on the Clark Electric Cooperative Junior Board of Directors.

As representatives of the cooperative, they attended a regular cooperative board meeting and will attend the Youth Leadership Congress held annually in River Falls. They will also be going on the annual board tour, during which your board of directors goes out to see what is happening on the system, such as new or interesting businesses, construction jobs, or other interesting things that pertain to the cooperative.

Both girls are very active in school with FFA and other activities. Outdoors is another place that they like to be, as both enjoy outdoor recreational fun. ■



*Courtney Goetz, Neillsville, and Samantha LeMahieu, Granton, represented their schools at the July board of directors meeting as Junior Board representatives.*

## Night Glow Before the Fireworks

*(Continued from page 4)*



*Journeyman Lineman Jeff Block prepares for his flight in the Wisconsin Touchstone Energy hot air balloon.*

In the hot air balloon was Journeyman Lineman Jeff Block, who helped to coordinate the nighttime activities. Besides being a lineman for Clark Electric Cooperative, Jeff is also the president of the local softball association that puts on the yearly softball tournament on the Fourth of July.

Touchstone Energy is the national brand for electric cooperatives throughout the country. All cooperatives that participate utilize this symbol to show the world what a cooperative stands for: integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. No matter where you travel, you will be guaranteed that electric cooperatives hold these values close to their hearts. It's the cooperative way! ■



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