

# ALMOST DONE

## Weston 4 Power Plant Achieves Commercial Operation

The Weston 4 power plant, of which Dairyland Power Cooperative has a 30 percent ownership interest, has achieved commercial operation recently during start-up testing. Wisconsin Public Service Corp., the majority owner, constructed and will operate the plant, which is located near Wausau.

The newly constructed 525-mw (nominal rating) power plant will use clean coal technology and a high-efficiency boiler, use low-sulfur coal as fuel, and feature sophisticated emission controls to minimize environmental impacts.

“Despite continuing emphasis on conservation, demand for energy in Dairyland’s four-state service territory is projected to continue increasing. Our partnership in the Weston 4 facility helps to ensure that our cooperative membership can count on a dependable, clean supply of electricity for generations to come,” said Bill Berg, Dairyland president and CEO.

Construction on the \$774 million project began in October 2004. The massive project required nearly 1,000 construction workers, who built the plant safely and on schedule.

The Weston 4 facility features a state-of-the-art emissions-control system to bring another source of clean, reliable, and competitively priced electricity to homes and businesses.

“It was designed to be one of the cleanest fossil-fueled power plants in the nation,” said Charlie Schrock, president of Wisconsin Public Service Corp. ■



*The Weston 4 Power Station is almost ready to go on-line to produce energy for Clark Electric members and the rest of Dairyland Power Cooperative’s member cooperatives.*

### **Member Survey Coming in August Your Opinion Matters**

During August, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) Market Research Services will be conducting a telephone survey on behalf of Dairyland Power Cooperative and its 25 member distribution cooperatives, including Clark Electric Cooperative.

The purpose of the survey is to help determine which conservation and energy-efficiency measures would have the greatest benefit to you, our members, and the Dairyland system.

A number of our residential members will be randomly selected for this 12-minute telephone survey. If selected, please answer all questions completely and honestly. Your participation is very important and your responses will remain confidential.

If you have Caller ID, NRECA Market Research Services uses interviewers calling from these area codes: (712), (605), and (402) and an (800) number. If you see one of these area codes, please take the call as it may be one of their interviewers. If you are busy, you may ask them to call back at a more convenient time. They will be happy to do so.

Thank you for your cooperation! ■

# Dairy Farm Rewiring Loan & Grant Program

## Safety First!



**W**isconsin's electric cooperatives developed a uniform statewide farm rewiring program entitled "Safety First!" The purpose is to assist dairy farmers with the cost of rewiring projects and to promote safety.

### *How is the Safety First! grant program funded?*

Wisconsin electric cooperatives contribute annually towards the grant money.

### *How long is this program available?*

This started as a three-year program that began on November 1, 2002, and it has been funded to run through at least December 31, 2009.

### *What expenses are covered under the loan and/or grant?*

Labor and materials needed to rewire the farm are covered. Isolation transformers, rings of life, and other systems not defined in the National Electrical Code (NEC) are not eligible expenses under this program. New construction is not eligible.

### *Can I apply for a grant and not a loan?*

Yes, 20 percent of the total cost of the project, up to \$5,000, is available without applying for a loan.

**Do Not Start Upgrading Electrical Work Until Approved by Clark Electric Cooperative**

### *How will the loan be billed?*

The monthly loan payment will be included on your electric bill.

### *Can I get a loan for wiring a new barn?*

No, only existing structures are eligible. New barns must be wired according to the latest version of the code.

### *Will funds be available to rewire my house as well as the barn?*

Yes, if the service for the barn is served from the main panel in the house.

### *Will funds be available for partial rewiring projects on the farm?*

If an approved state-certified inspector recommends a partial project to meet safety standards and if Clark Electric Cooperative agrees there is a need to resolve safety concerns, partial projects may be approved. Pre- and post-inspections are required for all partial projects.

### *Who will do the electrical work?*

You can choose your electrician as long as he/she is a Master Electrician.

### *What are the credit eligibility requirements?*

Members must have good credit standing with Clark Electric Cooperative. Members cannot have more than one late payment within the past 12 months.

### *Will I have to sign a service agreement?*

Yes. A service agreement indicating that you will receive energy from Clark Electric Cooperative for the duration of the loan is required.

### *Are there any fees associated with this loan?*

Yes. Pre- and post-inspections by an approved state-certified inspector are required for the loan. However, your electric cooperative will pay the costs. The #13 Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) filing fee will be your responsibility. Clark Electric Cooperative will handle the processing of the UCC fee.



(Continued on page 28 ►)

## Safety First Program

(Continued from page 5)

### *Can I pay the loan off early without a penalty?*

Yes.

### *Is there a lien on my property?*

Yes. The property and/or other various assets can serve as collateral for the loan.

### *What happens if I default on my loan?*

If you're delinquent on your loan (for two consecutive months), the loan will become due and payable immediately. The electric service may be subject to disconnection.

### *How do I apply?*

Contact Clark Electric Cooperative. Your cooperative will schedule an appointment with an approved state-certified inspector and a representative of your cooperative to determine the extent of the project.

### *What happens next?*

You choose an approved Master Electrician to give you a bid on the project, and you provide Clark Electric Cooperative a copy of the bid. If the bid meets the loan/grant requirements, the project is given preliminary approval.

### *When will I receive the grant money?*

Grant money will be given after a post-inspection when the wiring work is completed according to NEC, and all of the invoices and the wiring affidavit are given to Clark Electric Cooperative.

**For more information, please contact your local electric cooperative.**

### *Loans and Grants*

- A loan/grant combination is available up to \$25,000.
- Grants are available for 20 percent or up to \$5,000 from the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association.
- Loans are available for 80 percent or up to \$20,000 from Clark Electric Cooperative.
- Take up to 5 years to repay.
- 3 percent interest applies.

### *Requirements*

- Dairy farms only
- Existing farmstead
- Pre-program inspection
- Electrician's estimate
- Service agreement for length of loan
- Credit eligibility requirements

### *What happens after the rewiring is completed?*

Clark Electric Cooperative will schedule the state-certified inspector to inspect the work, and he/she provides written documentation that the work was completed according to NEC. You provide invoices from the electrician and the wiring affidavit. You choose if you want your cooperative to pay the electrician or the electrician and yourself. Clark Electric Cooperative sends a check request for the grant money and you choose to whom you want the check payable—the electrician or the electrician and yourself. ■

## Electric Heat

## Save On Your Winter Heating Bills

**D**o you have electric heat that you're not using? Because of the high and rising costs of natural gas, using your electric heat system may be the wisest choice. Clark Electric has a great electric heat rate, the Dual Fuel rate.

Clark's Dual Fuel rate is our best electric heat option. The Dual Fuel rate is an interruptible rate priced at \$0.0435/kwh for the heating season, September through May.

Your electric heat is separately metered; this

allows us to interrupt your heat. We do this during a high peak time; we shed the electric heat load to help control the purchase of expensive energy. To qualify for this rate, you need a backup heating system such as a gas furnace or an ETS system. You may already have the necessary equipment in your house without even knowing it. Your backup heating system needs to come on automatically. To find out if your system qualifies, please contact Director of Member Services John Knox for additional information. ■

# Copper Thefts Can Kill

**T**hieves searching for copper have ripped off businesses, public facilities, schools, churches, and even graves. The latest cases have involved theft of copper and aluminum wires from electric utilities as demand has pushed prices to record levels. This is a national issue that has serious safety and financial consequences for electric utilities and their customers.

At least three fatalities were reported nationwide in 2006 from the theft of metals from electric utilities. In Kentucky, a man's body was found near live wires beside a cut-down utility pole. In neighboring West Virginia, a man was found dangling from a power line; his wire-cutting tools were found on the ground beneath him. In another report a woman was electro-



cuted beneath a power line. Investigators learned that her accomplice would climb a utility pole and cut the

wire; she would stay on the ground to gather it in.

Power outages across the country have been attributed to acts of vandalism and outright theft of energized power lines and line equipment. In addition to dealing with the inconvenience, customers ultimately pay for repairs and replacement of lost materials.

Stealing copper or any other material is a crime. Clark Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, is offering up to a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of cooperative vandalism and theft, including copper and aluminum theft. If you have pertinent information, please contact your local sheriff's department. ■

## Copper Attracts Thieves to Electrical Substations

**I**f there is an electric utility substation near where you are standing, and there are warning signs that read "DANGER — KEEP OUT," what is your first inclination? Like most people, you probably think "safety first" and walk in the opposite direction.

However, some people gamble with their lives by trespassing in substations in the pursuit of copper. Once an inexpensive metal, copper has doubled in value in recent years. Thieves are cutting through substation fencing to take copper reels, and copper products have also been

stolen from utility trucks, transformers, work sites, and storage facilities. The metal is then sold to scrap dealers for a considerable profit.

Complaints of copper thefts have dramatically increased, causing concern for member safety. This is a growing problem across the country, as several substation intruders in Virginia, Kentucky, Florida, and Texas have been electrocuted while attempting to steal copper.

Clark Electric cares about the safety of our members. Here are a few things that will go a long way in securing your safety and the safety of others:

- If you see any unusual activity in or around substations, towers, utility poles, storage sites, and other electric utility property, report it to your local electric co-op immediately.
- No one should ever climb substation fences, utility poles, or towers. People must also stay away from substations and transformers.

Activities like these are hazardous and can result in severe injury and, in some unfortunate cases, death. ■