

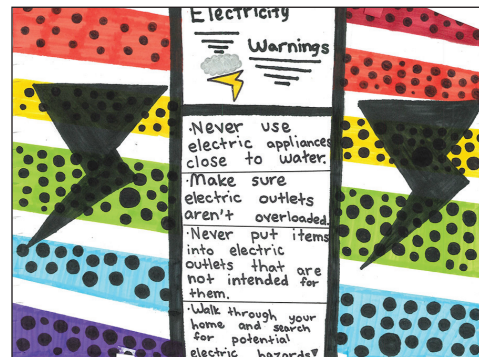
Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

In May, Electrical Safety Month, ECEC spends time visiting schools in our service territory to demonstrate electrical safety. The students hear about what to do in many scary electrical situations such as car accidents involving power lines, power outages, and general electrical safety such as avoiding underground transformer boxes and being mindful of where they fly kites.

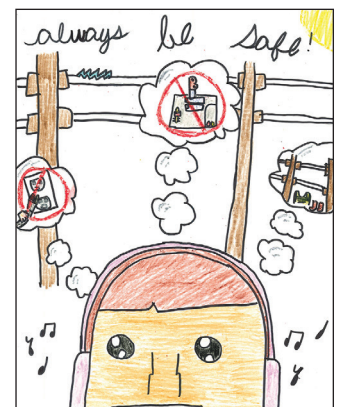
During Electrical Safety Month, Wisconsin Energy Cooperative Association (WECA) hosts an electrical safety poster contest for third-grade students and ECEC hosts an internal contest. ECEC received nearly 50 entries into the safety poster contest in 2023! The following are the winners of the ECEC internal contest. Congratulations Adelyn, Bronson, and Mallory!



First place: Adelyn B. from Fall Creek Elementary School



Second place (tied): Bronson B. from Moundview Elementary School



Second place (tied): Mallory R. from Altoona Elementary School

5 Factors to Consider Before Installing Home Solar

Find out your home's energy use

Look at your energy bill(s) to review kWh usage for the past 12 to 24 months and calculate the average monthly usage.

1

Contact your electric utility

Because most residential systems are tied to the power grid, reach out about connection requirements, fees and possible incentives.

2

Location, location, location

Start considering panel location. Assess the age, size and condition of your roof as well as available ground space.

3

Get several quotes

There are costs other than equipment, such as permitting, installation and inspection. Make sure all costs are included in quotes.

4

Do your homework

Ensure the company you are considering has installers who are specially trained and certified to install solar, among other factors.

5

To learn more, visit energy.gov and search for "Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar." Use the drop-down titled "How Much Power Can I Generate with Solar" for information on PVWatts, a solar energy production and cost estimator.

Safe Electricity.org®

BREAKFAST ON THE FARM HOSTED AT BEARS GRASS DAIRY

The second annual Eau Claire County Breakfast on the Farm was hosted on June 17 at Bears Grass Dairy. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is a proud sponsor of Breakfast on the Farm and is proud to serve Bears Grass Dairy's electric service. Thousands of guests ventured to the farm to have a delicious breakfast and learn about agriculture right in our community. The event included farm tours, family-friendly activities, and commemorative mugs provided by ECEC.

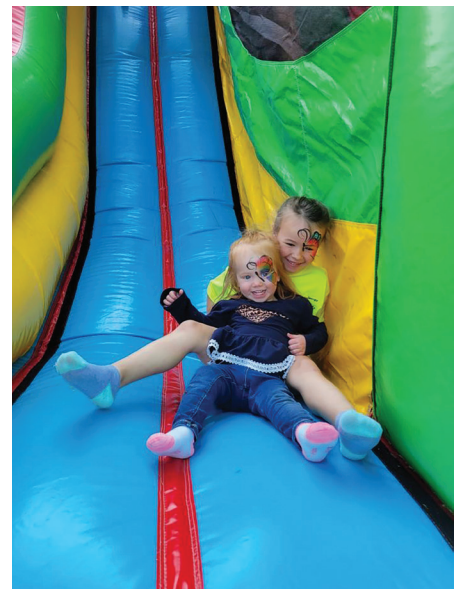
Bears Grass Dairy was named for the historic Bears Grass Valley. The owners of two separate 60-cow herds, one operated by the Schroeder brothers and the other by Donald Honadel, merged and incorporated Bears Grass Dairy in 2004. The newly formed Bears Grass Dairy rolled the two herds together in a new 230-stall facility along with a modest number of springing heifers purchased from other farmers. That fall they added an entire 40-cow herd from a retiring

farmer, bringing their herd count to around 200. Today, their herd has expanded to about 400 cows.

Bears Grass Dairy currently employs 10 full- and part-time employees. The cows are milked twice a day in a double 12 parallel parlor. They farm about 1,200 acres primarily growing corn and alfalfa, most of which is fed to the animals.

Tammy Smith Schroeder is the public-relations point person for the farm. She is passionate about educating the public about agriculture, which is a major reason she gives to hosting Eau Claire County Breakfast on the Farm. She is completely open about all aspects of dairy management, emphasizing that their 400-cow dairy has nothing to hide.

"Education is a big mission of this farm. Farmers have let others tell their story for too long. We need to tell our story because no one can tell it as good as we can." said Smith Shroeder.



FIVE TIPS FOR BUYING A DEHUMIDIFIER

The humidity level of your home matters. High humidity can lead to mold, mildew, dust mites, and other allergens. In addition, excess moisture in the air has the power to damage electronics, furniture, clothing, and even drywall. Ideally, your home should have a humidity level between 30% and 50%.

Dehumidifiers are a great tool for removing extra moisture and preventing allergies and other health issues. Use these tips for purchasing a dehumidifier and keep your home comfortable all year long.

1. Pinpoint the problem

Before starting your dehumidifier search, uncover the humidity issue in your home. High humidity may be affecting your entire house or just a specific space, like a basement or laundry room. Also, be sure there isn't a larger issue impacting humidity levels, such as clogged gutters, poor ventilation, leaking dryer hose, or lack of weatherstripping around doors and windows.

2. Compare room size and moisture level

What's the moisture level and square footage of your space? Look for clear signs of high humidity levels, such as window condensation and damp areas on the walls or ceilings. This will help you determine what capacity dehumidifier is required. Measure the square footage of the space. For small rooms or slightly damp areas, you'll only need a small-capacity dehumidifier. For larger rooms, or those with more serious moisture issues, you'll want a unit with more capacity.

3. Select the right size

Dehumidifiers come in many shapes and sizes. Most dehumidifiers are available in 30-pint, 50-pint, and 70-pint capacities. This is the amount of moisture that can be removed from the air within 24 hours. For a 500-square-foot space, you'll need a

compact dehumidifier with a 10-pint capacity. You'll need an extra four pints of capacity for each additional 500 square feet.

4. Look for energy efficiency

Save money on your energy bill with an ENERGY STAR®-certified dehumidifier. These energy-efficient models use about 30% less energy than standard units. In fact, you'll save around 2,800 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the dehumidifier. Energy efficiency is based on how many liters of water are

removed per kilowatt-hour of energy consumed.

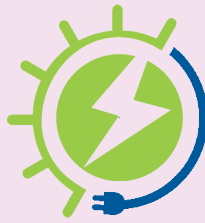
5. Connect a drain hose

Most dehumidifiers collect water into a bucket that must be emptied by hand. When the bucket is full, your dehumidifier will automatically shut off. Most models, however, come with a drain outlet. To ensure continuous operation, connect a drain hose to the outlet and run it to the nearest drain. If your unit does not include a drain hose, you can purchase one as an accessory or use a standard garden hose.





CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Interested in becoming a **YOUTH AMBASSADOR** ?

Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to explore the cooperative difference, learn from area leaders, and experience how Eau Claire Energy Cooperative demonstrates our commitment to community?

Youth Ambassadors (YA) at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative have a ton of fun. They do so while making connections in the community and adding extra-curriculars to their college applications.

Throughout the school year, Youth Ambassadors will meet once per month for educational learning sessions, field trips, and community service projects followed by lunch. If this sounds like fun to you, apply today!

The cooperative will sponsor YAs to attend Youth Leadership Conference at UW-River Falls, and two students will have an opportunity to go on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the Youth Tour hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Apply now at www.ecec.com under the "Community" tab or by following the QR code. Current Youth Ambassadors are encouraged to invite friends and classmates to join.

2023-2024 Meeting Dates

- September 20, 2023
- October 18, 2023
- November 15, 2023
- December 20, 2023
- January 17, 2024
- February 21, 2024
- March 20, 2024
- April 17, 2024
- May 15, 2024



Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

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www.ecec.com

Lobby Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday;
7:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Friday

Non-emergencies: 715-832-1603

Emergencies & outages: Toll FREE 800-927-5090
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Diggers Hotline: 811 or 1-800-242-8511
Call 3 working days before you dig.