



With Memorial Day weekend and summer just around the corner, it's time to stock up on fresh home-raised beef products to grill all season long. If you're looking for a sustainable approach to grilling goodness, you need to put Scholze Family Beef on your radar. Located in rural Humbird, this third-generation family farm operation is managed by brothers Theo and Will Scholze. "If you can make it out of beef, we have it," shares Theo.

Established in 2017, Scholze Family Beef is a retail meat market that offers a true farm-to-consumer experience. Whether it's a visit to the farm store or an online order, you can be assured you are getting a fresh product that hasn't been imported from another country and shipped on a truck for days. "We source our beef directly from our farm," explains Will. "Our online orders can also be delivered to most of the Midwest

within Spee-Dee Delivery's service area."

With farm to table also comes a quality product. Scholze Family Farms sources as much of their own feed as possible to provide their cattle with a balanced and healthy diet. While you won't be paying grocery store prices for Scholze Family Beef's products, you will find competitively priced products comparable to other meat markets of the same quality. "You know where your food is coming from," says Theo. "Right now, there's a niche for direct-to-consumer products."

In addition to ground beef, pre-made hamburger patties, hotdogs and brats, summer sausage, snack sticks, jerky, and steaks, to name a few, Scholze Family Beef also carries seasonal items. "In the summer we carry pork brats, chicken, and some sauces/spices," says Theo. "The holidays are our busiest time of year with snack stick and summer sausage gift box orders," adds Will.

Having grown up on a dairy farm, Theo and Will established Scholze Family Beef as a separate entity from their dairy operation as a way to diversify the farm and generate a revenue



JACKSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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stream independent of the dairy. Overall, Scholze Family Farms milks 550 dairy cows, raises 200 head of beef, and farms around 2,000 acres of land. While the brothers farm side-by-side and share duties, they each have their role when it comes Scholze Family Beef. Theo



Brothers Theo and Will Scholze are the third generation to operate their family's dairy farm and have diversified their business with the addition of beef cattle and a retail beef market store.

handles the raising of cattle and inventory, while Will covers the marketing and sales of the beef products. "What I enjoy most in this business is the variety. The days are always different," says Will. "The greatest reward is the people you meet and returning customers," Theo concludes.—Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor



Scholze Family Beef's Farm Store offers a true farm-to-table experience with a selection of products for everyone to enjoy.



STOCK UP YOUR FREEZER

Farm Store: W11218 Scholze Road, Humbird, WI 54746

Open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment

Call 715.501.4120

Online Orders: www.scholzefamilybeef.com

Facebook @ScholzeFamilyBeef

MY CO-OP

WEATHER THE STORM WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

Does your storm safety plan include a generator?

“About four years ago a bad storm caused a four-to-five-hour outage,” shares Jackson Electric member Greg Totten. “I had been thinking about a home standby generator, and this storm finally convinced me to make the investment.”

That’s exactly what an automatic home standby generator is—an investment. Jackson Electric Cooperative’s service territory covers over 610 square miles, serving most of Jackson County and parts of Monroe, La Crosse, Clark, Trempealeau, and Eau Claire Counties. This includes over 800 miles of overhead power lines to maintain. “Having a standby generator is a good idea for homeowners in rural areas where most outages are driven by weather conditions,” shares Eric Steien, Jackson Electric line superintendent. “Ice, snow, heavy winds, storms—it’s all so unpredictable,” he adds.

Unexpected power outages can happen at any time, at any location, and can occur across the entire service territory. “I can think of a few storms where I’ve had to use my generator,” shares Greg. “One winter, we lost power when the heavy snow and ice caused a lot of branches to go down. Most recently, a storm went through last summer.”

Jackson Electric member Matthew Jessie has been more fortunate when it comes to outages. He’s had his generator since 2017 and hasn’t been part of an extended outage requiring use of his generator. However, it does offer reassurance. “I care for my 92-year-old mother and I thought it would be a good idea to have an automatic standby generator in the event that the power would go out.”

When the power goes out and outage calls come in, Jackson Electric’s crew’s priority is to evaluate the extent of the outage, get everything organized, and dispatch crews to the correct locations. It’s important that everyone is aware of each other’s location at all times and keeps safety as a first priority so that a line is not re-energized while another crew member is still working on it.

The crew begins restoring power to as many members as possible by starting at the substation level, moving down to major three-phase lines, single-phase, and eventually those who may reside at the end of the line. Your power could be out for minutes or hours depending on the severity of the outage. “There’s an expense to buying a standby generator but think of it as an insurance policy for your home,” says Eric. “If you’re in a very rural part of the service territory or at the end of the line, it could take longer to restore the power at your home.”

When the lights do flicker and don’t come back on, an automatic standby generator senses there’s a problem and begins to restore your home’s power within a few seconds,

utilizing your existing natural gas or LP fuel supply. It will continue to run until your power is restored. These generators are sized according to your needs. “I’ve been on outage restoration calls for assistance to other co-ops,” shares Eric. “There were times it took 8 to 10 days to restore power to some of their members. It becomes more of a problem when it’s winter and you don’t have heat,” he recalls.

Home standby generators can be set up to restore key items in your house, such as your HVAC system, well, and refrigeration, or can power your whole house. “We decided on the whole house backup out of convenience, rather than just restoring the larger items,” shares Greg. “When you call the [generator] company, they will assess what size generator you need, give you a quote, and provide the installation.”

Matt also decided to install a whole home standby generator. “The dealer will physically visit your property to discuss what you want and size it accordingly,” he says. “I highly recommend to check around to see what options and features are available. Sometimes, you don’t think of little things until you actually use it.”

When it comes to installing any type of generator, whether it’s automatic standby or manual, it’s essential that the generator is installed properly. “A generator installed improperly can put our lineworkers’ safety at risk and damage equipment,” says Eric. “I highly recommend using an electrician to make sure everything is up to code.”

In the age of remote work and home businesses, electricity is essential to fulfilling your job duties. When the power goes out, so does your internet. It is recommended that anyone operating a business out of their home have a backup plan for a power outage, so it doesn’t disrupt their daily operations. “Remember, it’s a smart investment that will be beneficial to your business,” Eric reiterates.

While WWIS Radio is not a home business, WWIS believes that having a generator is essential for their business operations. “If we were to lose power, we would not have the ability to pass along important information that our communi-



An automatic standby home generator can be sized to restore essential items in your home or power your whole house.



WWIS Radio General Manager Mary Gerdes shares having a generator is essential for their business operations.

Eric's Outage Tips

1. Properly install your generator.
2. If there's a power outage, don't panic.
3. Be patient. Be assured that our crews are working quickly and safely to restore power.
4. Leave your refrigerator/freezer doors closed. They will maintain cooling for a few days.
5. If you're without power for a lengthy period, don't hesitate to call back to Jackson Electric. An individual home could still be without power.
6. Outage reporting to 855.222.3275

ties need to know, especially during storms," says WWIS General Manager Mary Gerdes. "Mother Nature is not predictable at all! I would recommend a generator to business owners because it can help to keep your doors open and continue to serve the community during a power outage."

There have been summer outages in our service territory in the late 1990s and early 2000s where Jackson Electric members were left without power for several days while crews worked to restore power. Our area has been otherwise fortunate when it comes to outages. "The last outage we all can recall occurred right before Thanksgiving 2019," says Eric. "There were members out for more than 24 hours."

When it comes to reliability, home standby generators also take your worries away by allowing you the option to run weekly or monthly system test runs. "It turns itself on to make sure it's prepared for the next outage," explains Greg. "It's very reliable, hasn't failed us, and I have never looked back on this decision."

To further ensure the life of your generator and that it will work when you need it, there is some maintenance involved. "On the first initial visit, the dealer makes sure everything is working correctly," shares Matt. "I prefer to check it myself on a yearly basis and keep the oil changed."

Full-service maintenance plans are available. A service technician can make a site visit once a year to inspect your generator and make sure everything is operating properly for the next time you need it. "Jackson Electric covers a large area and things can happen," concludes Greg. "I like having that peace of mind."—*Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor*

Jackson Electric does not sell or install generators, but we can provide contact information for dealers that do. Contact our office or go to www.jackelec.com/generators for more information.

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District meetings will be held in Districts #4, #5, and #7. Members who have a meter in each of these districts will receive a meeting notice via the USPS in June. Since the district meetings will be held virtually, the mailed notice will include instructions on how to view and participate in the meeting. The meeting dates are:

District #4 – Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 7 p.m.

District #5 – Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 7 p.m.

District #7 – Thursday, June 24, 2021, 7 p.m.

Call for District Director Nominations was published in the March 2021 issue of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*.

ANNUAL MEETING RULES

These rules are set in accordance with Jackson Electric Cooperative Bylaws, Article II, Section 7. Jackson Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, time and place to be determined.

1. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised edition.
2. Any speaker must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
3. Only members and duly registered guests will be recognized by the Chair; each person so recognized must give his or her name.
4. Unless otherwise approved by the Chair, those recognized are to limit their questions and comments to three minutes, with any rebuttal limited to two minutes.
5. Questions and comments from members and duly registered guests will be in order during old and new business sessions, and at the conclusion of the officer reports, if invited.
6. No resolution affecting Jackson Electric Cooperative may be submitted by any member, unless written copies have been received by Jackson Electric Cooperative by May 20, 2021. This will permit time for review by the Jackson Electric Cooperative Board of Directors to make its recommendation to the meeting as to approval or rejection.
7. No signs or handouts will be permitted within the building of the place of the meeting, except such handouts as required for the official conduct of the Annual Meeting. No handouts made available outside of the building will use the name of the Cooperative, its letterhead or logo to imply that the Cooperative supports or opposes any resolution.
8. No demonstrations shall be held within the building of the place of the meeting.

Annual Meeting Voting Procedures

Voting may be by voice or electronic vote (one vote per membership).



BE AWARE OF THE OPERATING COSTS OF A DEHUMIDIFIER

It's springtime, and if you haven't experienced it yet you may soon notice some level of humidity lurking in your home. The purchase of an Energy Star dehumidifier has its perks but be aware of its operating costs.

Dehumidifiers that operate continuously in an area where it is very humid consume a considerable amount of energy. The size of the unit will affect the operating costs. A monthly increase

of \$20 to \$50 in energy costs is not unusual. Dehumidifiers have a compressor similar to a refrigerator. Therefore, operating a dehumidifier uses energy similar to leaving the refrigerator door open.

Look for the Energy Star logo when purchasing a dehumidifier. According to the En-

ergy Star website, Energy Star certified models have more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors, and fans than conventional models. This means they use less energy to remove moisture.

Energy Star rated dehumidifiers qualify for a \$50 rebate from Jackson Electric. Rebate forms are available at www.jackelec.com or from our office.



We're looking for high school juniors and seniors for 2021-22 Jackson Electric's youth ambassador program.



YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

**SCHOLARSHIPS
NEW FRIENDS
RESUME BUILDER
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ENERGY INTEREST
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contact bshramek@jackelec.com

go to www.jackelec.com/youth-ambassador-program to request an application

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Get a \$1,000 discount off the installation of a new solar system when you make a downpayment on a system with JacksonSolar LLC before May 28, 2021. Site assessment is required. That's an additional \$1,000 savings on top of the 26% federal tax credit that you may be eligible to receive.

Contact our office at 715.284.5385 or go to www.jackelec.com/jacksonsolar-llc.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607

Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)

Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511

Credit Card Payments 844.759.3984

www.jackelec.com

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Black River Falls, WI 54615

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