

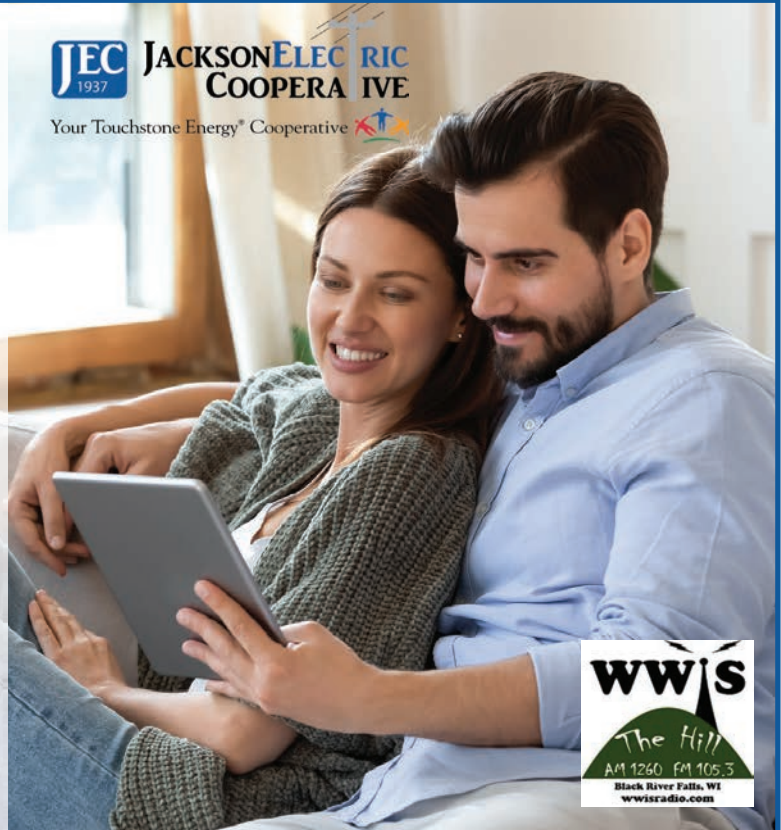
**Grab your favorite snack.  
Put on your favorite T-shirt.  
Find a comfortable chair.**

**Jackson Electric Cooperative's  
annual meeting date is set,  
and it is going virtual!**

**Jackson Electric Cooperative's  
Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, August 18, 2020 • 7 p.m.  
Facebook Live event  
@JacksonElectricCooperative**

If you don't have Facebook, tune your radio to WWIS FM 105.3 or AM 1260 to listen to the live broadcast.

Call or text your questions and comments to 715.896.2701 or 715.896.0007 during the live event.



**Host a Watch Party and attend this event from your living room, campsite, car, barn, or wherever you have internet connection.**

**MY CO-OP**

**Call and Notice of Annual Meeting of the  
Jackson Electric Cooperative, Black River Falls, Wis.**

As president of the Jackson Electric Cooperative (hereinafter called the "Cooperative"), I do hereby call and give notice of the Annual Meeting of the members of the Cooperative for the year 2019 to be held virtually at the Cooperative's office in the City of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, commencing at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of acting upon the following matters:

1. Reading of the unapproved minutes of the previous meeting of the members of the Cooperative and the taking of necessary action thereon.
2. Presentation of reports of officers, directors, and committees.
3. Ratification of the report of the District Elections.
4. Ratification of the virtual meeting process.
5. Such other further business as may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Members can join the Cooperative's annual meeting by viewing Facebook Live @JacksonElectricCooperative or by tuning your radio to WWIS FM 105.3 or AM 1260.

Financials and 2019 meeting minutes can be referenced in the April 2020 *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. Copies are available from the Cooperative's office or online at [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com).

Dated on this 27th day of July, 2020.

*Gary L. Woods*  
Gary L. Woods

**Agenda**

**Jackson Electric Cooperative  
83rd Annual Meeting of the Members  
August 18 • 7:00 p.m.**

**Facebook Live Event @JacksonElectricCooperative  
or tune your radio to WWIS FM 105.3 or AM 1260**

- Call to Order ..... Gary Woods, President
- Pledge of Allegiance ..... Gary Woods, President
- Welcome and President's Message ..... Gary Woods
- Reading of Notice of Meeting ..... Dave Peasley, Secretary
- Establish a Quorum ..... Dave Peasley, Secretary
- Reading of 2019 Meeting Minutes ..... Dave Peasley, Secretary
- Redistricting Committee Report ..... Dan Smrekar, Director
- Audit Report ..... CarlsonSV
- Ratification of Directors ..... Jessica Shrestha, Legal Counsel
- Ratification of ..... Jessica Shrestha, Legal Counsel
- Virtual Meeting Process
- Old Business ..... Gary Woods, President
- New Business ..... Gary Woods, President
- Question & Answer Session  
(Please call or text to 715.896.2701 or 715.896.0007 anytime during the meeting if you have a question or comment)
- Adjournment

# A Recipe for Sustainable Suds

Let's get back to the basics of that one product you use every day, several times per day: soap. During a time when personal hygiene is more important than ever, and with so many products on the market, it can be confusing to determine what is considered a "good" soap. When it comes down to the nitty gritty, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) says warm running water and plain soap is the best way to practice good hand hygiene. It's reassuring to know that there is never a shortage of quality, locally produced homemade soaps available throughout Jackson Electric's service territory. Not only are these soaps homemade, but they're less toxic, more environmentally friendly, contain natural products, and support local entrepreneurs.

## The Makers

When it comes to starting your own business and selling your own product, there's reasoning and dedication behind that decision. For Jackson Electric members Kelly Emerson and her daughter Faith, Lori Scharlau, and Wyatt Berg, son of Mike and Melanie Berg, making homemade soap offers an opportunity to try something new and be more sustainable while also helping others do so in the process.

What started as dabbling with a new activity became a way for Kelly to be more self-sustainable while also creating a business venture. "It was something that interested me," says Kelly. "I have 13 goats, and I use the milk from them to make homemade soap."

"It's a very useful skill to have, and one that I never expected to obtain," says Faith.

For Lori, soap making became a health benefit for her skin, and she

recognized a way to be more sustainable. "We raise our own beef, and I don't like wasting anything," Lori shares. "I render my own beef tallow and lard for the soaps I make," she says.

Wyatt raises meat goats, and his relatives have a goat-milking operation where they milk 100–150 goats. "I went to a seminar where a lady was demonstrating how to make goat milk soap, and she told me I should try it," shares Wyatt. "I bought a tutorial and started using that to experiment and make different soaps over the last four years."

## Recipe: Homemade Soap

**Ingredients:** The main ingredient that makes a true soap is lye. If there's no lye, it's not soap; it's a detergent. Lye, or sodium hydroxide, is a chemical compound made from salt that is used in making bar soap. Potassium hydroxide is used for liquid soap. Lye is used for washing and cleansing, but it's also a

must-have. Without lye, a bar of soap would never form because lye and oil molecules chemically react, resulting in a product containing soap and glycerin. Glycerin has moisturizing properties and is used in products developed for various skin conditions.

In general, homemade soap also contains fats, coconut oil, which produces a lather, olive oil, and may include scenting such as essential oils or a fragrance. The soap makers differentiate mainly in that Kelly, Faith, and Wyatt use goat milk in their soaps, while Lori uses beef tallow and sometimes adds calendula blossom, which has healing properties. "Store-bought soaps contain a lot of sodium and salt, which can dry out your skin," says Kelly. "I like knowing where my products come from."

**Directions:** There are two main processes for making this soap: a cold process and a hot process. The two processes are similar up until the final steps. The cold process uses an exothermic heat reaction, while the hot process uses an external heat source, such as a slow cooker, to accelerate the saponification. Saponification is the chemical reaction between an acid and a base to form soap. The overall end product is the same with either process, and neither process is superior to the other.

**Cold Process:** Wyatt learned how to do the cold process. To make the soap in



Left: There's no guessing about ingredients with Lori's Allen Creek Farm soap. This particular bar contains Calendula, which has healing properties. Right: There's a soap to meet everyone's needs from Our Own Acre soap.

this way, you first have to add lye to frozen goat milk. It is important to remember that lye is always added to liquid, not the other way around. The oils are then melted in a separate pan. The solutions contained in each pan must be of equal temperature before the lye and milk solution can be poured into the pan with the oils.

The solution is mixed until it reaches trace. Many soap makers use a stick blender to help with this process. Trace means that when you take a scoop of the mixture with your spoon and drizzle it back into the pot, you can see your track. It doesn't just mix back in. "Once it looks like pudding, you pour it into molds," says Wyatt. "It takes about a day for the product to set, but then it takes four to six weeks to cure so that that lye neutralizes."

**Hot Process:** Both Kelly, Faith, and Lori use the hot process, which neutralizes the lye faster. While the cold process ends with trace, the hot process continues to heat the solution through the gel stage. "You have to keep stirring for saponification, the chemical reaction that produces soap, to occur," says Lori. "If you don't keep stirring, the lye will separate from the oils."

The hot process continues to heat the solution so that it thickens and bubbles. Some sources describe the texture as being like Vaseline, glossy, or wax-like. "I like using the hot process because of the turnover rate," says Kelly. "Once the product is poured into the molds, it cures and is ready to use almost right away."



Black River Falls FFA member Wyatt Berg produces goat milk soap, expressing creativity with fun molds.

"You don't want it to dry too fast, though, because your lye could still separate from the oil," Lori adds. "The bar of soap will harden as it cures, which makes for a longer lasting soap, as it won't melt down as fast. I usually wait at least 30 days," says Lori.

### Serves: Benefits

If you're still not quite sold on homemade soaps, there are benefits beyond knowing where your product came from. Kelly notes that spearmint eucalyptus soap is cooling after working outside, while lemongrass cedarwood is great for gardeners and outdoor enthusiasts because it helps keep the bugs away, such as pesky gnats. "My daughter and I gave a bar of soap to a farmer as a gift. One morning we were picking corn, and

the gnats were horrible, but they weren't bothering the farmer. We soon realized he had used the soap," shares Kelly.

Homemade soaps are also great for those who may experience skin conditions, such as eczema, psoriasis, or irritation. These producers can work with the consumer on which soaps would be best for a specific concern. For any situation, fragrance-free soaps or those made with essential oils are the best option. "The greatest benefit is that it's gentle on the skin," says Wyatt.

### From Local Sources

Those interested in purchasing homemade soap are encouraged to buy from local sources. Kelly and Faith can be found selling their Our Own Acre soap product at local farmers markets, flea markets, and winter markets. They can also be reached through Facebook.

"I have to say I prefer the marketing aspect of it all the best, but getting creative with new scents is a close second," says Faith.

Lori's Allen Creek Farm soap can be found for sale at her Allen Creek Country Store, and she can also be reached through the farm's Facebook page. Wyatt is currently selling his product to relatives and neighbors. He aspires to pursue a business venture in the future and create a presence at local farmers markets. "I enjoy making soap," says Wyatt. "There's creativity behind it, it's for all ages, and it's fun to do." —*Brandi Shramek, Member Relations Advisor*

## LOAD MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE

Members can be notified of a load management event (peak alert) by email, text, and/or phone call.

Load management notification enrollment forms can be requested from our office or downloaded from [www.jackelec.com/content/dual-fuel-program](http://www.jackelec.com/content/dual-fuel-program). This form must be on file at Jackson Electric for you to receive notifications.

## Loans for Small Businesses

- ◆ Up to \$7,500
- ◆ Zero to 2% interest rate
- ◆ 48-month term
- ◆ First payment due January 4, 2021
- ◆ Must be able to demonstrate how COVID-19 pandemic has financially impacted your business
- ◆ Contact our office for more information



## GOT MILK? AND CHEESE CURDS, TOO

Jackson Electric donated \$1,500 to the Jackson County Dairy Promotion Committee for its Dairy at Dinnertime Milk Giveaway and Curds for Kids promotions. This donation was made in support of the local dairy producers and their products. Pictured is Jackson Electric Director Chris Curran and Dairy Promotion Committee President, Max Hart.

Federated Youth Foundation funds were used for this donation. These funds are unclaimed capital credits and can only be used for scholarships and charitable giving.

## AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION FOR DBA ACCOUNTS

All Jackson Electric Doing Business As (DBA) or “in care of” accounts should have received a direct mailing with a request for the member of record, account holder, to complete and return an Authorization for Release of Information form to Jackson Electric.

Account information, including statement balance, payment information, and disconnect status, cannot be released without proper authorization. This form establishes which individual(s) or organization(s) Jackson Electric can discuss account information with and requires that authorized party to identify themselves by correctly answering a security question.

If you did not receive notice of this request and would like to complete a form, please contact our office.

## APPLIANCE AND HEAT PUMP REBATES AVAILABLE

Clothes Washer .....	\$25
Clothes Dryer (electric) .....	\$25
Heat Pump Clothes Dryer.....	\$50
Dishwasher .....	\$25
Dehumidifier.....	\$25
Refrigerator (min. 10 cu. ft.).....	\$25
Freezer (min. 10 cu. ft.) .....	\$25
Inductive Range.....	\$25
<b>Air Source Heat Pump.....</b>	<b>\$250/ton</b>
<i>(SEER 14+, HSPF 8.2+, or EER 11+)</i>	
<b>Geothermal Heat Pump.....</b>	<b>\$500/ton</b>
<b>Variable Speed Blower Motor.....</b>	<b>\$35/unit</b>
<i>(New furnace only. Efficiency (AFUE) ≥95% and kWh/yr (Eae) ≤670 or variable speed as listed on the AHRI certificate)</i>	

**Appliance Rebate:** Appliances must be Energy Star rated. To receive your rebate, complete and submit to our office the appliance rebate form, along with a copy of your receipt or invoice of each item purchased, and the Energy Star label.

**Heat Pump Rebate:** To receive a rebate, complete and submit the rebate form to our office, a copy of your receipt or paid invoice, documentation showing the equipment is installed and operating on Jackson Electric’s service lines, and the AHRI certificate.

Applications may be rejected if all required documentation is not completed and submitted within 60 days of invoice date. Equipment and devices must be installed and operating on Jackson Electric’s service lines. Active membership only.

Application forms can be downloaded from [www.jackelec.com](http://www.jackelec.com) or requested from our office.



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](http://www.jackelec.com)    

Mailing Address: N6868 County Road F  
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President  
Chris Curran, Vice President  
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer  
Jerry Huber, Dairyland Power Representative  
Daniel Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Stanley Gran, Brian Huber, Jerry Wagner

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

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