

Midwest Energy Cooperative

June 2016

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Plus!

Electricity Is Comfort
And Convenience

Strengthening Schools
And Students

Making A Difference In
The Community



Asparagus

REIGNS IN MICHIGAN

Both of these devices create hot air
but which uses less power?



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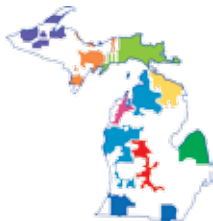
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1. 7 Series unit uses approximately 900 watts while running in speeds 1-2.



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See page 4 for contact information.

IN THIS ISSUE

6 OUR ENERGY

How To Use Ceiling Fans For Year-Round Comfort, Savings

James Dulley

7 SAFETY

Perform An Annual Safety Inspection On Your Boat And Dock Before Lifting The Anchor

10 HOME COOKING

Check Out These Quick And Easy Recipes

Christin McKamey & Our Readers

New! Join Our Online Cooking Community

14 FEATURE

Asparagus Reigns In Michigan

Emily Haines Lloyd

18 READERS' PAGE

I Remember – A Unique Driving Lesson

Ed Robinson, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative member

IN YOUR WORDS

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question:

If you could ask your future self one question, what would it be?

Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers...

"Will I always over think everything?"

"Will I ever not need to call mom every time I have a bad day?"

"Have I seen the world and did I let it shape me?"

"Am I happy?"

"Was college really worth all of the money?"

Our new Question of the Month is:

If you could spend the day with any celebrity, who would it be?

Please submit answers to countrylines.com by July 1.

ON THE COVER

Marcia and Dick Walsworth, second-generation asparagus farmers from Mears, MI, introduce us to their 260-acre kingdom as they explain the struggles of maintaining their domain in the second largest asparagus producing state.

Photo-Emily Haines Lloyd



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Midwest Energy Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The Cost Of Comfort And Convenience



Robert Hance
President/CEO

There's comfort in convenience. After mowing the lawn, it's nice to walk into your cool home. As the ravenous kids arrive home after soccer practice, it's easy to toss a snack into the microwave. When your teenager is out late, it's comforting to leave a light on to guide her home.

We don't even pause to think about these things anymore because the power is just there. We flip the switch and enjoy the comfort and convenience of our highly plugged-in lifestyles.

I just want to remind you that comfort and convenience come at a cost.

Your electricity is much more than the energy delivered to your home; that's just the commodity piece. We measure your consumption and collect the related costs through your energy charge and power cost adjustment. We then turn around and send that money back out to pay our generation and transmission partners.

Behind the actual commodity is a massive system designed to make sure you have electricity at the flip of a switch. In any given billing cycle, you may use 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) or you may use 2000 kilowatt-hours (kWh). Regardless of how much or how little you use, the system must be in place 24-7 so you can access it when needed. As your distribution cooperative, that's our cost of doing business and reflected in your distribution charge and monthly service charge.

What does that include? It's the cost and maintenance of all infrastructure in the field, including poles, wires, transformers, substations and everything else that plays a role in moving energy from the substation to your outlet. It's everything related to having a vehicle ready to roll. It's the men and women who work in the field, on the phones, and across the different departments everyday, and it's the facilities that house those people. It's hardware, software, office supplies and everything else we need for our day-to-day operations on your behalf.

As your "Utility of the Future," we're making investments to provide you with a first-in-class experience today and into the future. And, your board will continue to evaluate the fairest and most appropriate way to recover those investments from the membership. Every dollar we spend is a dollar provided by our members, and we don't take that lightly.

Electricity is comfort and convenience, and there's a cost to that. But when you sit back and think about what you get in exchange for your \$4, \$6 or \$10 per day, I think you'll agree that it remains one of the best values around. ■

New SCADA System: The Latest Chapter In Our Story

The “Utility of the Future” story continues to unfold as Team Midwest begins installing the new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system onto our electric distribution grid. Information Technology and Engineering team members David Eckert (left) and Darby Bucher (right) recently worked together on installation at one of the substations. (See photo on right.)

SCADA is the backbone that provides information allowing us to monitor and control power delivery. Midwest has used SCADA for years, but this new version—working with our enhanced communication system—brings distribution automation (DA) to our members’ value mix. Distribution automation will help us improve reliability with real-time intelligence that will allow automated locating, isolation and outage restoration of sections of our electric grid. In other words, we can monitor and manage system devices to reduce outages. We can also pinpoint and isolate issues causing short circuits, minimizing the overall impact of an outage. This investment will result in many utility and member benefits. Subscribe to our blog at UtilityoftheFuture.coop to stay informed about developments. ■



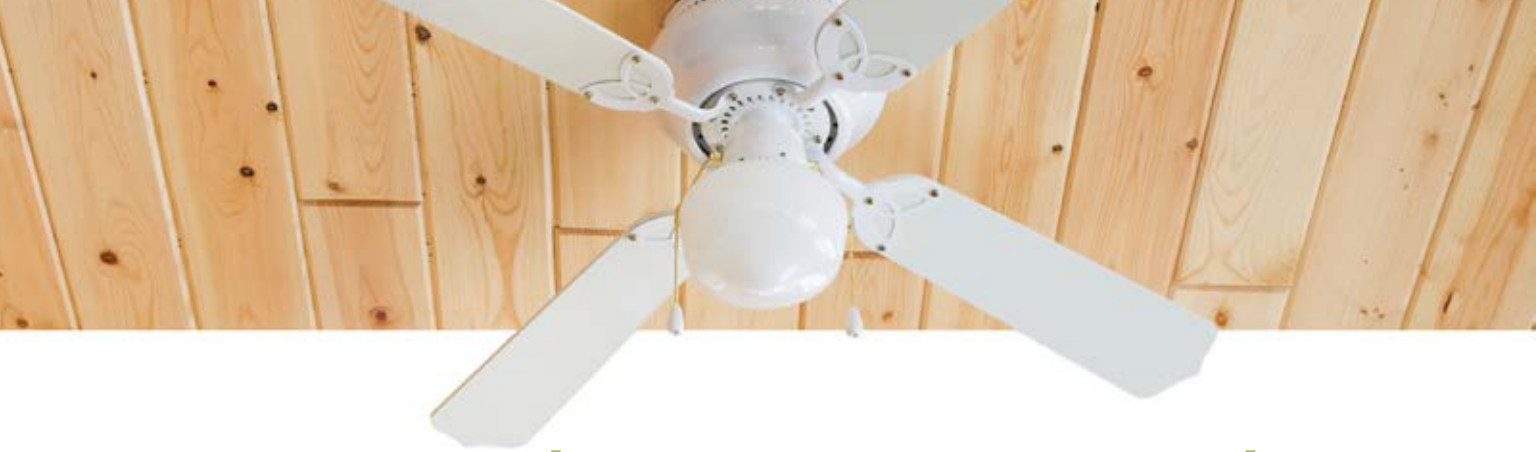
NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE CASE NO. U-15818

2014 RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires all Michigan electric utilities to get approximately two percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2012, increasing to 10 percent by 2015.

Under this requirement, Midwest Energy Cooperative submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2014, Midwest acquired a total of 20,727 renewable energy credits (12,934 credits from Harvest Wind Farm, LLC and 7,793 credits from Thunder Bay – Four Mile) and 726 incentive credits from Thunder Bay – Four Mile. All credit transfers were directed through Midwest’s wholesale power supplier, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Inc. Wolverine will continue to generate renewable energy and bank unused renewable energy credits for future use and compliance with statutory renewable portfolio standard requirements on behalf of all of its members.

A full copy of the cooperative’s Renewable Energy Plan annual report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative’s website at teammidwest.com or by request at any of the cooperative’s offices.



How To Use Ceiling Fans For Year-Round Comfort, Savings

By James Dulley

People often wonder which ceiling fans to install. There are so many models and prices, leaving some to wonder if they can help cut energy costs.

People typically think of fans only for summertime comfort and lower air-conditioning costs. Ceiling fans are unique in that they can also reduce your wintertime heating bills with proper use.

Before installing a ceiling fan, it's important to understand how one functions. A ceiling fan does not cool a room like an air conditioner. It heats the room whenever it is running. All of the electricity it uses ends up as heat. Always turn the fan off when no one is in a room.

You feel cooler under a ceiling fan because it creates a downward breeze over your skin. This breeze allows you to run your air conditioner less or set its thermostat a few degrees higher without sacrificing comfort. If you do not do this, running the ceiling fan will increase your electric bills.

During winter, reverse the rotation of the fan blades, so the air flows up toward the ceiling. Run it on low speed. This gently moves up the hotter air, which collects near the ceiling, throughout the room without creating a chilly breeze. This allows you to set the heating thermostat a few degrees lower for savings.

The simplest way to select an efficient ceiling fan is to pick one which is Energy Star certified. When selecting a typical, lower-cost, four or five blade fan, a rule of thumb for sizing is (room size vs. diameter of blades): up to 75 sq. ft.—36 in., 75 to 144 sq. ft.—36 to 42 in., 144 to 225 sq. ft.—44 to 50 in., 225 to 400 sq. ft.—50 to 54 in.

The ideal height for the fan blades is about eight feet above the floor. A three-inch downrod is included with most fans to provide the proper height. For high ceilings, downrods up to six feet long are used to get the fan low enough. For safety reasons, never have the blades closer than seven feet from the floor.

Many new, stylish fans come with multiple blades, ranging from one to six blades, with three being the most common. Pay attention to the pitch angle of the blades to get an idea of how strong a breeze it creates. A steeper pitch moves more air at a slower speed. This often indicates a quiet and more powerful motor.

The newest and most efficient motors are DC (Direct Current) motors. These are similar in design concept to the variable speed motors in new heat pumps.

Most people install a lighting kit under the ceiling fan. Select one with LED lighting. It is not only efficient, but it lasts for many years, and most are dimmable.

A model with a hand-held remote control is most convenient to adjust the speed and is the easiest to switch off when leaving a room. Some new high-tech fans can even be controlled by a cell phone with a special fan app.

The universe of ceiling fans is amazingly big! Besides the brick-and-mortar stores, online stores have a nice selection, too.

A good online site for ceiling fans is Hansen Wholesale. For each product it sells, Hansen offers information on motor quality, CFM (air movement measured in cubic feet per minute) output, energy efficiency and other pertinent data. ■

Perform An Annual Safety Inspection On Your Boat And Dock Before Lifting The Anchor

Water comprises almost one-half of Michigan, so it's easy to see why the state boasts a thriving recreational industry and leads the nation with nearly 1 million registered pleasure boats. For boating and water safety, there are items you must legally have on your watercraft—life vests, fire extinguisher, throwable flotation device, and properly working lights—but make sure the boat and the dock are safe, too.

To help prevent accidents, the National Electrical Contractors Association says:

- All installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor.
- All dock receptacles must comply with the National Electrical Code, which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI measures a circuit's current and senses any imbalance (such as a discharge into the water), which trips the GFCI and cuts off the power.
- Test any GFCIs every month. Locate it along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily tested by local fire departments.
- Metal dock frames should have "bonding jumpers" that connect all metal parts to an on-shore grounding rod. This means any dock part that becomes energized by electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI or circuit breaker.
- Ask neighbors if their dock electrical systems have been inspected and are up to Code.
- Household wire is not suitable for boats.
- *Do not* use wire nuts (these are for solid conductor wire, which should never be on a boat) or splice connectors (can cut wire strands)!
- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the stereo. If a fuse blows continuously, something else is wrong.
- If you rent a dock or boat, notify the owner of safety violations immediately.
- Have your boat's system (especially with onboard generators) checked at least annually and when something is added or removed.
- Ropes, string, masts and rigging also conduct electricity—don't be the common ground between water and electricity! ■

See SafeElectricity.org for more tips.



Optimize Your Home With A Free Energy Audit

Is your home properly sealed, insulated, and ventilated? If you've noticed any issues such as mold, mildew, ice dams, drafts or overall discomfort, your home may require improvements to resolve energy inefficiencies. To better understand and manage your home's energy use and cost, take advantage of the Energy Optimization program's free energy audit!

The Home Energy Optimizer is a brief online survey that analyzes your home's energy use. You will be required to enter some specific information, such as the year your home was built, the type of heating and cooling systems in your home, and when various systems and appliances were purchased and installed.

Once you've completed the survey, you will receive a personalized, comprehensive report, as well as cost-saving tips and recommendations to help reduce energy waste throughout your household. Additionally, all participants will receive a free energy-saving kit, which includes lightbulbs and other devices to help save energy and water!



How to complete your home energy audit:

Visit the Energy Optimization website at michigan-energy.org.

- Select your electric utility from the drop-down menu at the top of the page.
- In the left menu bar, select "Online Home Audit."
- Click "Get Started Now!" and complete the questionnaire.

Upon completion of the Home Energy Optimizer survey, your free energy-saving kit will be mailed to the address you indicate. Have questions about the free home energy audit or energy-saving kit? Call us at 877-296-4319. ■



Energy savings at your fingertips

Team up with the Energy Optimization program to improve the comfort, durability, and energy efficiency of your home! Complete our Online Home Audit to assess your home's energy performance, and receive a comprehensive report featuring cost-saving tips and opportunities.

ENERGY TIP: Receive a **FREE** energy-saving kit when you complete your Online Home Audit!

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877.296.4319

Better together



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

Reeling It In Fishing Photo Contest Winners



Winner!



2



3



5



4

Photos With The Highest Facebook Votes!

The votes are in, and we're happy to share the winning photo (and some great runners-up) from our May photo contest. Winners were selected from 29 Facebook entries receiving more than 900 votes! Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo, voted and spread the word by sharing the post on Facebook.

1. **Winner:** Ian Sindell, Cassopolis—
"One More Cast"
2. Diane Wallace, Dowagiac—"Pa And Payton Enjoying Their Time Together Fishing"
3. Denise Sobeski, Dowagiac—
"Jesse Is Going To Be A Big Brother"
4. John Gould, Morenci—
"Ice Fishing Fun On The Family Pond"
5. Julian Dhoore, Niles—
"First Fish Of The Season"

Visit teammidwest.com/photo-contest/ to view all the photos submitted.

Enter Your Photos And Win!

Team Midwest's photo contest is underway, and one lucky winner will end up with a credit of up to \$200 on their December 2016 electric bill. Every month, we will announce a new theme and invite you to submit your best shot. The photo receiving the most votes each month on our Facebook contest page will be entered into the drawing for the year-end bill credit, and will also be featured in a subsequent issue of *Michigan Country Lines*.

How to submit? Just visit facebook.com/TeamMidwest and click on "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. Not on Facebook? You can also enter at TeamMidwest.com/photocontest. Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too!

A high-resolution photo (at least 1 MB) is required to print your photos in *Michigan Country Lines*. We look forward to seeing your photos! Our June theme is **Sports/Outdoor Fun**. Photos are accepted from **June 1 to July 20**. Photos with the most votes will be featured in the September issue.

QUICK & EASY

Cook these fresh and simple recipes.

Blender Pots de Crème

Janice Harvey, Charlevoix

- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) chocolate chips
- 1 egg
- 2 T. sugar
- 1 t. vanilla
- ¼ t. salt
- ½ c. plus 2 T. milk
- whipped topping
- chocolate sprinkles or grated chocolate

In a blender, add the chocolate chips, egg, sugar, vanilla, and salt. Blend at high speed to mix ingredients and break up chocolate chips. Heat milk just to a boil, pour into blender and whirl at medium speed 1 minute. Pour into six small pot de crème dishes or custard cups and chill several hours. Just before serving, top with whipped topping and sprinkles.



Photos—831 Creative

BBQ Meatballs

Theresa Mandeville, Manistee

- 3 lbs. ground beef
- 1 c. milk
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 c. quick oats
- 1 T. minced onions
- 2 eggs
- pepper to taste

Topping:

- 2 c. ketchup
- 1 T. mustard
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 ½ c. brown sugar
- 1 T. garlic powder

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly grease a 9x13 pan. Mix meatball ingredients and form into large meatballs. Mix topping ingredients together in a saucepan on low heat until blended. Pour topping over meatballs and bake for 1 hour, covered.



Quick Corn Fritters

Virginia Curtiss, Bitley

- 1 egg
- ½ t. salt
- pinch of sugar
- ½ can cream style corn
- ¾ c. water
- peanut oil
- 2 c. self-rising flour
- sugar or powdered sugar

In a medium mixing bowl using a wire whisk, whip the egg with salt and a good pinch of sugar. Add the cream style corn and water; whisk. Fill an 8 ½" HEAVY skillet half full of peanut oil. Heat to just below medium heat. Add self-rising flour; stir with a fork. Drop the mixture into the frying pan one tablespoon at a time, using about ½ the batter. Turn fritters over once. Place on paper towels to drain. When just warm, roll in sugar or powdered sugar, and place them on a platter Tip: put sugar in a plastic bag and shake them quickly.

Gramma's Microwave Cashew Brittle

Linda Ackerman, Thompsonville

- ¾ c. whole cashews (or other nuts)
- ½ c. white sugar
- ¼ c. white corn syrup
- pinch salt
- ½ t. butter
- ¼ t. vanilla
- ½ t. baking soda

Place the first four ingredients in a glass microwave safe container (a 2-cup Pyrex measuring cup is perfect). Stir thoroughly. Cook 2 minutes on high; stir and cook 2 minutes longer on high. Add butter and vanilla. Stir and cook 30-35 seconds on high. The bubbling syrup should be light brown. Sprinkle baking soda over top. Stir quickly, thoroughly and carefully, because it's very hot. Pour immediately onto warm, lightly cooked, greased cooling rack. Cool and break up into pieces. Makes approximately 12 large pieces.



Gather Round The Co-op Kitchen Table

A **NEW** and **EXCLUSIVE** online cooking community for our electric co-op members.

Members can submit recipes online for a chance to win a \$50 electric bill credit; plus there's more! We will print the winning recipe in *Country Lines* with a photo of the dish and create an instructional "how to" video for micoopkitchen.com.

Ready to pull up a seat?

GREAT! Go to **MICOOPKITCHEN.COM** and register.

Please submit your favorite "Dessert" recipes by July 1 and "World Cuisine" recipes by August 1.

Enter your recipe online at micoopkitchen.com or send to (handprint or type on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

micoopkitchen.com



Strengthening Schools Grant Brings Science To Life For Niles Fourth-Grade Classroom

Today's classroom is more than just text books about fractions, proper nouns and the periodic table. The learning environment of 2016 puts technology at the fingertips of young learners—at least in schools that are fortunate enough to have the resources to equip classrooms and teachers accordingly.

In January, Midwest Energy Cooperative awarded a \$2,000 Strengthening Schools grant to Sara Grishaber, a fourth-grade teacher at Howard-Ellis Elementary School in Niles. Grishaber requested funds to purchase Little Bits Science Kits for her classroom and science club. Each kit accommodates 24 to 32 scientists and comes with 160 parts and accessories for inventors to problem solve and create gadgets

either informally or using STEM lessons. STEM is an acronym referring to the academic disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Grishaber's students have just scratched the surface in discovering all the possibilities their Little Bit Science Kits have to offer, and she is excited about their enthusiastic response. She has seen increased teamwork, problem-solving, excitement and good old-fashioned ingenuity since introducing the kits, and is now challenging students to find real-world applications for the devices they create. This technology also allows students to explore different career possibilities associated with their STEM curricula, like engineering, construction, or electrical services. ■



Fourth-grade students at Howard-Ellis Elementary School in Niles using their new science kits.

Midwest Accepting Applications For 2016-17 Grants

Today's students are tomorrow's business and community leaders, and Midwest Energy Cooperative supports the important work of regional teachers and schools with our Strengthening Schools Grant Program. The program is provided in partnership with Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

Midwest is now accepting applications for the 2016-2017 program. Any teacher, administrator or school official in a public elementary, middle or high school—serving students in the Midwest Energy Cooperative service territory—may apply for a grant of up to \$2,500 to support classroom needs and special projects, technology, or academic clubs and organizations. School districts may be awarded multiple grants, not to exceed a total of \$5,000 during the annual award cycle.

Applications are due Oct. 17 and funds will be awarded in January, 2017. Applications are evaluated, and funding decisions made without knowledge of the school or district by a committee of Midwest Energy Cooperative members.

For more information or to apply online, visit TeamMidwest.com. Interested applicants may also contact Lori Ruff at 269-445-1139 or email lori.ruff@teammidwest.com.

Midwest In The Community

Neighbor helping neighbor – that's how your Team Midwest family approaches daily work and efforts to give back. We live, work and serve right here in your local community and strive to actively live our community values in meaningful and impacting ways. ■

Kids Against Hunger

Members of the Midwest leadership team rolled up their sleeves in early April on behalf of Kids Against Hunger. We joined other Michigan electric cooperative leaders to package 10,000 highly-nutritious, vitamin-fortified, dehydrated meals to distribute within the co-op service territories. Patty Nowlin and David Allen from Team Midwest loaded up the boxes of meals that were distributed to Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, Adrian; Salvation Army, Niles; and Lawrence United Methodist Church.




Electrical Safety

In March, Mike Miller (left) and Rich Drews (right) brought an electrical safety message to about 50 firefighters from across Cass County with our interactive hotline demonstration program. Safety is an important part of our industry and everyday culture, and we're honored to work in partnership with local emergency rescue teams to prepare those who save lives right in our community.

April Reality Fair

Everyone needs to eat, and Linda Carango helps a student consider food options within her personal budget and living circumstances at the April Reality Fair in Adrian. Linda and some of her Team Midwest colleagues worked in partnership with TLC Community Credit Union to provide high school students with a fun and hands-on crash course on financial literacy. Students are given a starting salary for their chosen career, and must navigate a series of financial choices from housing and transportation to insurance and food. It's another way we work in collaboration to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's co-op and community leaders.





Asparagus

REIGNS IN MICHIGAN

By Emily Haines Lloyd

In the second week of June, Oceana County, also known as “The Asparagus Capital of the Nation,” gears up for its annual Asparagus Festival. Started in 1974, it’s the longest running asparagus festival in the country. It boasts all the events you’d expect—a parade, 5k run, arts and crafts fair, and the annual Asparagus Queen pageant. Back in 2001, the grand marshal was a well-known figure in the industry—Dick Walsworth.

Walsworth, a second-generation asparagus farmer from Mears was happy to ride in the parade, but has always known that the real star is the asparagus.

“Oceana County produces two-thirds of the asparagus grown in the state of Michigan,” Walsworth says, proudly. “Considering Michigan is the second largest grower of asparagus in the country, that’s a pretty big deal.”

Walsworth got his start on the farm established by his parents, Walter and Anna Walsworth, in 1932, and purchased it himself in the early 1970s. He has since expanded the acreage. It is now owned by his son and daughter-in-law, Ryan and Janice, and at 260 acres, Golden Stock Farms is one of Michigan’s largest.

“The Lake Michigan shore is the perfect place to grow asparagus,” Walsworth explains. “The lake moderates the temperatures, keeping it from getting too hot or cold and preventing frost.”

The Michigan asparagus yields prove his point, producing up to 23 million pounds annually—an impressive harvest for a crop that produces primarily early May through late June. However, a short season isn’t the most difficult challenge facing the industry.

Walsworth identifies the increase in imported asparagus, labor demands, and the lack of local processing plants as pressing concerns. With countries like Peru and Mexico—



The Walsworth family (left to right) Ryan, Janice, Marcia and Dick work together to make Golden Stock Farms successful.



who have very favorable growing conditions all year and large processing companies like Del Monte and Green Giant that have moved their plants to Peru—things are tough. Additionally, asparagus is a hand-harvested crop, meaning that labor costs are very expensive—an estimated 25 percent of gross sales, Walsworth says. Altogether, it means Michigan's asparagus industry is facing real struggles.



As of 2005, those struggles are also faced by Ryan, who bought the farm from his father and mother.

"Ryan is confronted with a much different landscape than when I purchased the farm from my father," Walsworth says. "Things are difficult, but we keep working on solutions."

The Walsworths are most definitely problem solvers, as Ryan also recently took over his father's role as chairman of the Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board. Dick also served for 30 years on the Great Lakes Energy Board of Directors and 25 years on the Wolverine Power Cooperative Board—providing valuable knowledge and insight to both. Walsworth retires from his seats this year, but is in no way sitting on the sidelines as he focuses on promoting renewable energy, as a member of the Spartan Renewable Energy Board of Directors.

At 74 years old, why does Dick Walsworth keep working so hard? "Once a farmer, always a farmer," he says. ■

Contact Golden Stock Farms at 231-873-5248 or "like" them on Facebook.

Photos-Emily Haines Lloyd

A Walsworth Family Favorite: Asparagus Roll-Ups

- Fresh asparagus
- Thinly sliced ham
- Thinly sliced turkey, chicken or hard salami
- Softened cream cheese (plain or flavored)

Trim and clean asparagus spears. Blanche in boiling water for 2 minutes. Drain and submerge in ice water to cool. Drain well. Spread slices of meat with cream cheese, lay asparagus on top and roll up. Refrigerate in covered container.

Visit micoopkitchen.com for this recipe and others.



NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE TARIFF AND GENERAL RULES CHANGES EFFECTIVE FOR BILLS RENDERED JULY 2016

The Midwest Energy Cooperative Board of Directors adopted the following changes to the cooperative's tariffs and general rules at a special Board Meeting on April 26, 2016, in accordance with 2008 Public Act 167 (P.A. 167).

1. An increase of \$.00396 per kilowatt hour in the variable distribution charge for all rate classes.
2. Changes to special charges

Charge	Current Rate	New Rate
Special service at member request during working hours	\$40	\$80
Special service at member request outside of working hours	\$70	\$115
Meter reading	\$20	\$35
Meter Test (if less than 12 months since last test)	\$35	\$90
Disconnect/Reconnect		
At meter during regular working hours	\$35	\$65
At meter outside of regular working hours	\$70	\$100
At pole during regular working hours	\$45	\$90
At pole outside of regular working hours	\$85	\$115
Remote (non-prepaid) during regular working hours	\$35	\$10
Remote (non-prepaid) outside of regular working hours	\$70	\$15
Collection after disconnect	\$25	\$35
Bad Check handling	\$15	\$25

3. Availability for Large Power Rate changed from demand of 50 KW for six of the prior 12 months to nine of the prior 12 months
4. General Rules changes
 1. Allow use of credit score to determine deposit requirement (460.108)
 2. Eliminate interest paid on deposit (460.111)
 3. Eliminate language on customer meter readings (460.115)
 4. Change late fees penalty to a minimum of \$5 (460.122)
 5. Remove requirement of written consent to combine two or more accounts at one service location onto one bill (460.124)
 6. Change retroactive period for a billing adjustment to one year and eliminate interest paid (460.126 and 460.3309)
 7. Allow uncollected balance to be transferred to another active account for the same member (460.143)
 8. Remove requirement to provide 10 days of notice before shut off for default of a payment arrangement (460.156)
 9. Allow for Friday service shut-off and extend shut-off time to 5 p.m. (460.140)

These unapproved minutes are published in accordance with P.A. 167.



From our family to yours, have a happy and safe Independence Day.

Cooperative offices will be closed for the Independence Day holiday on Monday, July 4. Payments may be made at the drop box and will be posted on the next open business day.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Independent Auditor's Report

The following are excerpts from the audit report. The full report may be accessed at TeamMidwest.com or by calling 800-492-5989.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Midwest Energy Cooperative as of December 31, 2015, and the related statement of revenue, patronage capital, and cash flows for the year then ended. Another auditing firm reported on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014, and their figures are represented accordingly. These financial statements are the responsibility of Midwest Energy Cooperative's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's

judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Midwest Energy Cooperative and subsidiary as of December 31, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Moss Adams
April 18, 2016

Director's Compensation Disclosure

Elected directors are paid an annual retainer of \$1,200 and a per diem based on board position and years of service or credential status for meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative. The chairman is paid an annual retainer of \$2,200.

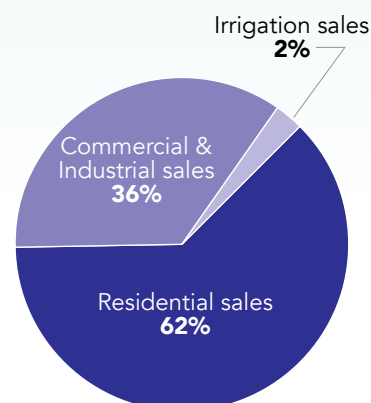
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES Years ending December 31, 2015 and 2014 (Dollars in 000)

	2015	2014
Operating revenues	\$ 75,823	\$ 76,464
Operation & maintenance expense	65,810	65,458
Depreciation, taxes, interest, etc.	10,805	10,526
Operating margin	(792)	480
Capital credits	3,180	1,597
Other non-operating income (exp)	(60)	533
Net Margins (Loss)	\$ 2,328	\$ 2,610

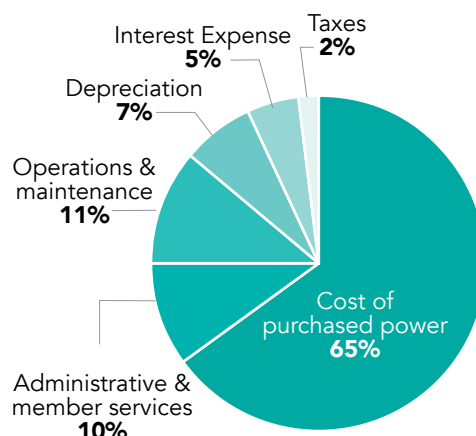
BALANCE SHEETS Years ending December 31, 2015 and 2014 (Dollars in 000)

ASSETS		
Utility plant in service, net	\$ 122,178	\$ 111,062
Other assets and investments	27,410	24,681
Current assets	12,582	11,757
Deferred charges	142	161
Total Assets	\$ 162,312	\$ 147,661
EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES		
Equities	\$ 48,978	\$ 46,783
Long-term debt	89,825	76,815
Accumulated operating provisions	4,647	5,038
Current liabilities	18,261	18,363
Deferred credits	601	662
Total Equity and Liabilities	\$ 162,312	\$ 147,661

Where Our Sales Come From



Where Your Dollar Goes



I Remember...

We invite *members* to share their fondest memories.

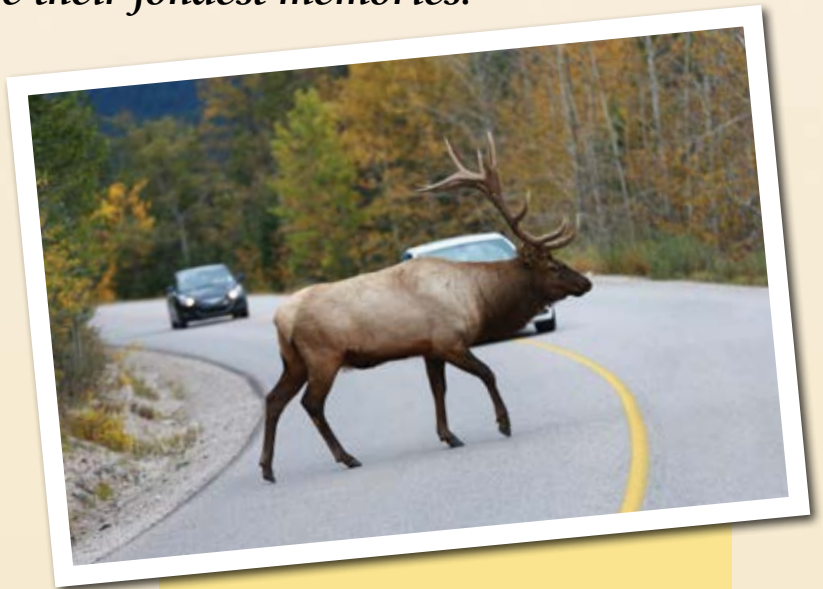
A Unique Driving Lesson

When my daughter was almost 15, I took her down a narrow traffic-free dirt road in northern Michigan to teach her gear shifting in our Volkswagen GTI. She quickly got the hang of using the clutch and gears and was quietly cruising down the road when, without warning, an enormous bull elk leapt into the road 20 yards ahead of the car!

The elk, with a full rack of antlers, proceeded ahead of us filling the road while my daughter, totally unfazed by the event, just drove behind this awe-inspiring animal. Its enormous body towered above us for about 200 yards before it sauntered back into the woods.

My wife, with our dog, was picking blackberries further down the road. Imagine her surprise when we told her what had happened. Since then, we have frequently seen the imprint of large cloven hooves on the same road but never another elk, which was likely part of the Pigeon River herd. (The road is just north of Vanderbilt to the west of I-75.) Has anyone else in northern Michigan, or the USA for that matter, been partnered by a bull elk on their first driving lesson?

*Ed Robinson, Thumb Lake
Great Lakes Energy Cooperative member*



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