



# Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## **2026 Dairyland Director Report (A 2025 Review)**

February 2026

Jump River Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider is Dairyland Power Cooperative. As a generation & transmission (G&T) cooperative, Dairyland is a cooperative owned by the 24 distribution cooperative members it serves – including our cooperative.

Dairyland serves its members and power supply customers with safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity to meet the needs of our local rural communities. Safety is Dairyland's top priority, as noted by President & CEO Brent Ridge, who says, if cooperative employees do not work safely, nothing else matters.

Dairyland generates and obtains electricity from solar, wind, natural gas, coal, hydroelectric and biomass facilities. Being part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) ensures electricity is delivered at cost-competitive rates through a balanced mix of renewable (intermittent) and traditional "baseload" resources.

In April 2025, Dairyland received confirmation from the Trump Administration that its \$595 million Empowering Rural America (New ERA) grant from September 2024 would be funded. Dairyland will pursue 500 to 1,000 megawatts (MW) of power purchase agreements for clean energy projects.

By being part of one of the largest transmission buildouts in history, Dairyland is supporting regional reliability to benefit our members. MISO has named Dairyland a developer for three projects in its Long-Range Transmission Plan – Tranches 1 and 2.1.

The Alma-Blair Transmission Project will be a 345-kilovolt [kV] transmission line that will span 33 miles between the Alma Substation near the Mississippi River in western Wisconsin, and the Tremval Substation near Blair, Wis.

In southeastern Minnesota, the Wabasha Relocation Project will relocate about 13 miles of 161 kV transmission lines in Wabasha County. Also, Dairyland and GridLiance Heartland, LLC, will jointly develop and co-own the MariBell Transmission Line. One segment of MISO's larger buildout, the proposed project is for a 765 kV/161 kV double-circuit line between Marion, Minn., and Bell Center, Wis. (about 140 miles).

At the end of 2025, Dairyland acquired the Rocky Road Energy Center (East Dundee) and Elgin Energy Center (Elgin) in Illinois. The purchase of existing natural gas-fired power plants supports the Cooperative's focus on sustainability and reliability for its members while transitioning to a lower-carbon future.

As part of its overall sustainable power supply plan, Dairyland continues to explore small modular nuclear reactors. With nuclear as a viable future energy option, Dairyland hired Grover Hettel in September to be their Executive Vice President & Chief Nuclear Officer.

Since 2012, Dairyland has spent millions of dollars annually overseeing the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) site that stores the spent nuclear fuel from the retired La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor. Until 2025, Dairyland had recouped its expenses through lengthy and costly litigation against the federal government. Last year, Dairyland was able to create a settlement process, which will recoup costs for Dairyland and its members in a more efficient manner.

In 2025, Moody's Ratings revised the outlook for Dairyland Power Cooperative to positive from stable and affirmed Dairyland's A3 rating, supporting their Strategic Priority of Financial Strength.

Dairyland works with elected officials, regardless of party affiliation, to advocate for policies benefitting electric cooperatives, including cybersecurity policies. In January 2026, Dairyland's Vice President & Chief Information Officer Nate Melby testified at a hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives focused on solutions for energy infrastructure that would help strengthen collaboration between the government and the private/independent sector, detect cybersecurity threats and increase physical security.

The Load Management Modernization project continues to make progress with the installation of new receivers throughout Dairyland's service territory. This project will enhance Dairyland's current load management program to reduce electricity use during periods of peak demand and higher market prices on the grid.

As we flipped the calendar to 2026, dangerously low temperatures and severe winter weather significantly impacted the Dairyland system, and the MISO and PJM (east coast) grid operators' footprints. In addition to the cold, forced generation outages resulted in MISO declaring a Maximum Generation Event Step 2c/Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) Level 2 on Saturday, Jan. 24, for the first time since 2009. Additionally, Dairyland declared several Full Load Control events at the end of January and early February to help reduce members' electricity use during times of both peak demand and peak prices. These coordinated efforts help the grid remain stable.

Dairyland and Jump River Electric Co-op have worked to mitigate the financial impact of the severe weather and forced generation outages. However, due to demand, operational and market challenges during the event, a power cost adjustment charge will appear on monthly electricity bills throughout the spring.

## **Community**

Through the Cooperative Contributions Program, Dairyland and its member cooperatives continuously strive to make a positive impact on our local communities. Annually, Dairyland donates \$1,000 to a charitable organization selected by each member cooperative. In 2025, Sawyer County Fire & Emergency Association was selected to be the recipient of the Cooperative Contributions donation. Jump River Electric matched Dairyland's \$1,000 for a \$2,000 impact.

We were also proud to participate in one of five Day of Service sites on Oct. 1. On that day, about 200 volunteers from Dairyland, its member cooperatives and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association traveled to five sites to offer helping hands on a variety of projects. We joined our neighboring co-op, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, at Camp Nawakwa, located in Cornell, Wisconsin. They day was spent outdoors painting/staining, winterizing cabins/shower house, deep cleaning the lodges, and wood splitting.

Beginning this spring, Dairyland is supporting an additional \$1,000 scholarship for Jump River Electric's

scholarship program, allowing us to award 34 scholarships. Jump River Electric has been awarding scholarships since 1984, with a total of \$331,550 given back to our members and their students through this program.

Dairyland's Economic Development team advocates for community growth and new business establishments. In 2025, member cooperatives gained more than 34 megawatts (MW) of load growth from 27 projects, which help increase local economic activity and add new jobs. Dairyland offers its member cooperatives access to the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG), as well as Dairyland's Revolving Loan Fund and cost-share program.

We live in dynamic times, and Dairyland's Board of Directors meets monthly to ensure our cooperatives' needs are heard, working together to achieve strong outcomes for our members. Ninety years ago, electric cooperatives were founded on the principle that collaboration improves quality of life—a value we proudly continue on your behalf.

## **SIDEBAR**

Dairyland Power Cooperative was created in 1941 to be the wholesale power provider to its member electric cooperatives. Today, Dairyland continues to deliver power to 24 member electric cooperatives and 27 municipal utilities throughout Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Just as directors are elected from our membership to govern your cooperative, the same applies to Dairyland's Board of Directors. JREC Director Jane Reich serves as your representative on the Dairyland Board.

## **SIDEBAR**

### **About MISO**

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is an independent, not-for-profit, member-based organization responsible for keeping reliable and cost-effective power flowing across 77,000 miles of transmission lines. MISO focuses on three critical tasks:

1. Managing the flow of high-voltage electricity across 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba
2. Facilitating one of the world's largest energy markets with more than \$40 billion in annual transactions
3. Planning the grid of the future

The MISO footprint has reduced its carbon intensity by 32% since 2014. In 2025, generation facilities in MISO produced 663 million MWh:

- 36% natural gas
- 29% coal
- 15% wind
- 14% nuclear
- 4% solar (solar peak of 14.5 GW on Sept. 7, 2025)
- 1% hydro
- 1% other (biomass, diesel, storage, demand response resources)

Learn more about Dairyland Power at [www.DairylandPower.com](http://www.DairylandPower.com). Also, follow Dairyland on Facebook and LinkedIn.