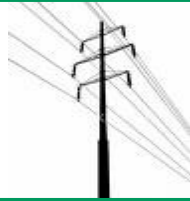




This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



CATSKILL HI-LINE

Newsletter - May 2026

Message from the desk of CEO John Gasstrom

April was a busy month for the co-op, and May has started out just as busily. We were very excited to visit Washington, D.C. in the last week of April to carry the co-op message to Capitol Hill. While we visited many congressional and senate offices, we were especially appreciative of the time Congressman Josh Riley spent with us, as well as the staff in Senator Schumer's office.

A highlight of this visit was being accompanied by Makenna Wehrli, an outstanding student from Bainbridge-Guilford High School, who was selected as the Youth representative from DCEC, and will be the New York delegate for NRECA's Youth Leadership Council. Makenna has won two scholarships already and is in the running for the national Glenn English Leadership Scholarship offered through NRECA.

This scholarship program is open to high school juniors in a school that serves DCEC members. If you know a student who would be a good candidate for the Youth Leadership scholarship, please encourage them to participate. You can get more information through your school's guidance office, or by contacting the cooperative at 607-746-2341 or emailing memberservices@dce.coop.

We continue with our upgrade of our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) which is replacing aging and unsupported infrastructure in the field in favor of newer hardware with better capabilities to notify us of outages and provide enhanced information back to the membership through SmartHub. If you haven't yet enrolled in SmartHub, please scan the QR code below to get started.

Please note that cooperative staff have been steadily installing the meters throughout our service area and will be accessing our equipment located on your property. Your home or business may experience a very brief service interruption when the meter is changed, and we do our best to notify anyone at home when this is about to occur. We apologize for any inconvenience as we do this necessary work to update this component of our critical infrastructure.

Additionally, our schedule for upgrading meters is highly variable based on weather, emergencies, and other work that is also being performed by co-op staff, making it very difficult to give an exact day and time that we will be in your area upgrading meters. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we perform this very necessary upgrade. For the safety of our crews, we don't publicly post the locations where they will be working.

Speaking of critical infrastructure, please also see the article on page 2 regarding meter tampering. Please be aware that there may be fines, fees, and possible criminal charges for tampering with an electric meter.

Have additional questions for us? We will be at the Meredith Dairy Fest with key staff to help address Member questions and concerns. Please stop by and visit us, and you can even bring your bill if you have specific issues you'd like us to address.

Cooperatively Yours,
John Gasstrom



Pictured above: DCEC Student Delegate Makenna Wehrli and Board Secretary Laurie Wehmeyer pause for a photo with Congressman Josh Riley. Also pictured are Gretchen Meyer of Otsego EC and DCEC CEO John Gasstrom.



Powering Our Rural Communities

5 North Depot Street
PO Box 471
Delhi, NY 13753

AUTOMATED LINE (payments & outage reporting): (855) 939-3672
Office Phone: (607) 746-2341
Fax: (607) 746-7548

Upgrading Our Metering Infrastructure:

Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) is currently upgrading aging Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters across our service area. Our existing system has exceeded the vendor’s supported lifespan, and replacement parts are no longer readily available. Transitioning to a modern metering solution ensures continued reliability and positions our grid for future improvements.

Why AMI Matters

Our AMI system plays an important role in maintaining a strong and efficient electric distribution network. These meters allow us to:

- Improve outage detection and response times
- Better manage system loads
- Operate more efficiently, helping to keep costs—and ultimately members’ bills—lower
- As a critical infrastructure provider, DCEC is committed to delivering safe, reliable service to every member we serve.

Important Safety Notice: Meter Tampering

Meter tampering includes any attempt to remove, interfere with, or disrupt the recording, communication, or operation of an electric meter. This activity is strictly prohibited and carries serious consequences:

- **A \$500 tampering fee per occurrence**
- Additional associated costs
- Potential criminal charges
- Tampering is not only illegal—it is extremely dangerous. Illegally accessing a meter can produce an arc flash intense enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to send red-hot, shrapnel-like debris outward. Such incidents can result in severe injury or death due to electrocution, explosion, or fire.

Stay Safe & Stay Informed

If you have questions about your meter upgrade or notice any issues, please contact DCEC directly. Never attempt to handle or alter electric metering equipment yourself.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue improving our system for the benefit of all members.

Do you want to go 100% Green with your electricity use?

In 2025, the cooperative as a whole consumed over 90 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. About 85% of that amount was from our hydroelectric allocation from Niagara Falls. That means about 15% of our power was purchased on the NY Independent System Operator’s market – indicating that the power could have come from any source (fossil, nuclear, or renewable). If you want to ensure that 100% of the power you used at your home or business was from a responsible, renewable source we recommend joining our “GO 100% GREEN” program. Under this program, the cooperative purchases Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on your behalf in proportion to your total energy use. For the coming year, that means 15% of your total monthly energy use would be matched to RECs purchased by the cooperative. For the coming year, we will be adjusting the cost of RECs from the current rate to \$0.02396 (or about 2.4 cents), which would be applied to 15% of your total energy use – if you opt-in to this voluntary program.

If you are interested in signing up for the GO 100% GREEN program, please call the office at 607-746-2341 or email us at office@dce.coop.

THUMB UP	THIS	NOT	THAT	THUMB DOWN
✓	REUSABLE TOTE OR BAG		PLASTIC OR PAPER BAG	✗
✓	REUSABLE BOTTLE OR CUP		PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE	✗
✓	KITCHEN TOWEL		PAPER TOWEL	✗
✓	METAL STRAW		PLASTIC STRAW	✗
✓	REUSABLE CUTLERY		PLASTIC CUTLERY	✗

Even if you are not removing water bottles from the ocean and recycling every shred of paper and plastic you use, there are easy ways to reduce waste, use less energy and help keep America beautiful.

SafeElectricity.org

Building the Future of Our Electric System

On April 14, the SUNY Delhi campus became a hands-on learning environment where innovation, education, and the future workforce of our industry came together in a meaningful way.

At the college's Electric Utility Lab, students in the Electrical Utilities Construction program worked alongside professionals from the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) to install a new type of utility pole that could play an important role in the future of our electric system.

Exploring a New Kind of Pole

The focus of the demonstration was a 45-foot distribution pole made of ductile iron, offering a modern alternative to traditional wood poles.

Unlike wood, ductile iron poles are designed to bend under stress rather than break, making them more resilient in challenging conditions such as falling trees or severe weather. They are also resistant to common issues like rot, insect damage, and woodpecker activity. With an expected lifespan of 80 to 100 years, these poles could provide long-term reliability benefits in select areas of our system.

For DCEC, innovations like this are about continuously evaluating new technologies that can improve service for our members, especially in locations that are difficult to access or prone to repeated outages.

Investing in the Next Generation

Beyond the equipment and technology, the day highlighted something even more important: people.

Programs like SUNY Delhi's Utility Line Worker Training are helping meet the growing demand for skilled workers in the energy industry. Students gain real-world experience operating equipment and working in conditions that closely mirror what they will encounter in the field.

Many of these students move directly into careers with organizations like DCEC and other regional utilities, creating a strong local workforce pipeline. As the energy industry evolves, these skilled professionals will play a key role in maintaining and improving the reliability of the electric grid.

A Strong Future for Our Cooperative

As a member-owned cooperative, DCEC is committed to exploring new technologies while investing in the people who will support our system for years to come. Events like this demonstrate how partnerships with local educational institutions can strengthen both our workforce and our service to members.

By combining innovation with hands-on training, we are helping build a more reliable and resilient electric system for our communities.





Celebrating our roots during June's "Dairy Month," DCEC to sponsor and attend the:

MEREDITH DAIRY FEST!

June 13th and 14th
10am-5pm

When DCEC (then called REA) first started in July 1941, there were only 12 members all of which were dairy farmers! Under the Roosevelt Administration's Rural Electrification Administration in 1935, farmers were urged to create electricity cooperative companies to bring electricity to rural areas.

The Meredith Dairy Fest's mission is to create a festival that celebrates our dairy history, our local businesses and crafts, and the individuals, families, and animals that make it all possible.

We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, visit:
www.meredithdairyfest.com



Got Electric Fencing?

INSPECT IT REGULARLY



1. Make sure that fencing is visible.
Use electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.

Inspect electrical fencing regularly.
Ensure everything is tight, secure and free from frays.

2.



3. Make sure your electrical fence is tight and well-supported.
A lack of support can cause it to sag.

Cap posts, especially metal T-posts.
This prevents an animal (or human) from being impaled.

4.



5. Check for a loose or sagging fence.
Not only can animals escape, but wires can fall out of insulators.

Learn more about electrical safety at:



GRILL SMART:

Tips for a safe BBQ



Grilling outdoors saves energy and makes summer meals more fun. Grill safe with these simple tips:

LOCATION MATTERS:

- Place grills on a stable, flat surface.
- Keep away from homes, decks and branches.
- Grill outdoors only — never inside garages or enclosed spaces.
- Keep kids and pets at least 3 feet away.
- Never leave the grill unattended.

FOR GAS GRILLS:

- Check for gas leaks before each season.
- Open the lid before lighting to prevent gas buildup.
- Turn off gas if the flame goes out; wait five minutes before relighting.

FOR CHARCOAL GRILLS:

- Only use charcoal starter fluid.
- Never add lighter fluid to a lit fire.
- Let coals cool after use, then dispose in a metal container.

FOR ELECTRIC GRILLS:

- Use outdoor-rated grills when cooking outside.
- Never grill in rainy or wet areas.
- Plug into a GFCI outlet for shock protection.
- Check cords for damage before use.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE:

- Clean grease buildup to prevent fires.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- A clean grill = fewer fires + better flavor.

Safe Electricity.org®

B L T P a s t a S a l a d



Directions

- Cook the bacon in a large skillet over medium heat, turning as needed, until the fat has rendered and the bacon is golden and crispy, 8 to 10 minutes. (You may need to cook the bacon in two batches, draining the rendered fat from the skillet between batches.) Let the bacon cool to room temperature, then crumble up into bite-sized pieces.
- Bring a large pot of water to a boil over high heat. Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain, rinse with cold water, and let cool
- Meanwhile, whisk together the mayonnaise, milk, ranch seasoning, lemon juice, parmesan cheese, and black pepper in a large bowl. Add the pasta, tomatoes, lettuce, onion, herbs, and half of the crumbled bacon to the bowl with the dressing. Gently fold together to coat. Top with remaining bacon and serve.

Ingredients

- 1 (12-oz.) package bacon
- 1 (16-oz.) box fusilli or curly pasta
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 1 (1-oz.) packet ranch seasoning mix
- Juice of one lemon
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 pint grape tomatoes, halved
- 2 cups thinly sliced romaine lettuce
- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh herbs, such as dill and/or parsley

Servings: 8-10

Prepping Time: 25 min



Recipe from The Pioneer Woman



HEAT UP THE GRILL

TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER

Using your grill in the great outdoors helps lower your energy bill. If you cook outside, less energy is needed to cool your kitchen.

Safe Electricity.org®



DCEC is Committed to Helping Members During Financial Hardships

DCEC encourages members currently struggling to meet their monthly payment obligation to contact the local agencies listed below for payment assistance.

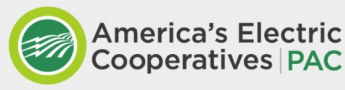
1. Contact DCEC’s Billing Department to set up payment arrangements: 1-607-746-2341
2. Contact your local County Social Service program:
 - a. Delaware County 1-607-832-5300
 - b. Schoharie County: 1-518-295-8334
 - c. Otsego County: 1-607-547-4200
 - d. Delaware Opportunities provides assistance through certain agencies and can be reached at 1-607-746-1600
 - e. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Hotline: 1-800-342-3009

DCEC can provide supporting documentation regarding your account to these agencies that can assist in expediting your application.

Contributions to the NRECA America’s Electric Cooperatives PAC are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to America’s Electric Cooperatives PAC are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits contributions from foreign nationals who lack permanent resident status. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.

DCEC Office Closures:

- Monday, May 25, 2026 - Memorial Day**
- Friday, July 3, 2026 - Independence Day**
- Monday, September 7, 2026 - Labor Day**
- Wednesday, November 11, 2026, - Veterans Day**
- November 26-27th, 2026 - Thanksgiving**
- December 24-25th, 2026 - Christmas**
- Thursday, December 31, 2026 - New Years Eve**



<input type="radio"/> Bill Addition *	<input type="radio"/> \$1/Month (\$12/year)
<input type="radio"/> One-Time Contribution	<input type="radio"/> \$2/Month (\$24/year)
<input type="radio"/> \$ _____	<input type="radio"/> \$5/Month (\$60/year)
	<input type="radio"/> \$10/Month (\$120/year)

I affirm that my contribution has been made with personal funds:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COOPERATIVE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

*Federal law requires the following information for contributions exceeding \$200:

EMPLOYER: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

Also sign me up for Voices for Cooperative Power

*Monthly contributions will continue until you notify us to discontinue



It’s garage sale season but power poles aren’t bulletin boards. Posting signs can put utility crews at risk and interfere with maintenance work. Help protect lineworkers by keeping poles free of signs, staples and nails.