

The purpose of New Holstein Utilities (NHU) Farm Rewiring Program is to assist dairy farmers in reducing the cost of rewiring projects and promote electric safety at the farmstead.

### **Grant Description:**

Up to and including \$5,000 is available for a grant. This is a matching fund grant.

### **Requirements:**

- Working Dairy Farms Only (having a Wisconsin Milk Producer License)
- Existing Homestead
- Pre-project Inspection by a State Certified Commercial Electrical Inspector
- Electrician's Estimate from a Utility Approved Electrician
- Post-project Inspection by a State Certified Commercial Electrical Inspector

### **Process:**

- A dairy farmer requests a farm rewiring grant from NHU in writing.
- NHU schedules an appointment with an approved State Certified Commercial Electrical Inspector. The Inspector completes a pre-project inspection on the farm to determine the extent of the project.
- Customer pays the Inspector's fee.
- Copies of the pre-project inspection form are given to the dairy farmer and NHU.
- The farmer schedules an appointment with a Utility Approved Electrician to obtain the cost of the project. Completed work must comply with the Wisconsin state electrical code.
- The farmer or electrician provides a copy of the projected cost to NHU.
- NHU determines if the project meets the program's requirements and limits, and if so, gives the farmer preliminary approval.
- The farmer notifies NHU when the rewiring project is completed, provides invoices, and a wiring affidavit.
- NHU schedules a post-project appointment with an approved State Certified Commercial Electrical Inspector and a NHU representative. NHU will pay the Inspector's fee for the pre & post inspection if the rewiring project is completed.
- Copies of the post-project inspection form are given to the dairy farmer and NHU. When an inspection meets Wisconsin state electrical code, NHU will issue the grant.

### **New Holstein Utilities Farm Rewiring Program Checklist**

- Are wires protected from mechanical damage?
- Is all wiring and conduit surface-mounted rather than located inside walls?
- Are wires protected from water?
- Are wires free of scrapes, breaks or cracks in insulation?
- Do all electrical receptacles contain grounding terminals?
- Are switches enclosed in sealed boxes?
- Are fixtures tightly secured?
- Are lamps guards installed where required?
- Are light sockets in good working order?
- Is water kept out of electrical boxes?
- Is all electrical kept free of debris?
- Are all electrically heated waterers serviced with a cable or conduit equipped with an equipment grounding conductor?
- Is all metallic equipment within eight feet (8') of the floor or soil surface bonded?
- Are enclosures in areas subject to wash-down waterproof, dust-proof and made of corrosion-resistant materials?
- Are all cables of a type designed for use in a wet or damp environment?
- Are nonmetallic boxes and fixtures with appropriate fittings used throughout the facility?
- Are all thermostats UL-listed, watertight, dust-tight and made of corrosion-resistant material?
- Are all cable fittings of a watertight design?
- Is all equipment UL-listed?
- Do lamps maintain steady light when motors start?
- Are all motors totally enclosed and rated for the wet conditions of farm service?
- Is a disconnect switch located within sight of all motors, fans, waterers, etc.?

- Are circuits protected by property sized fuses or circuit breakers?
- Is a properly wired double-throw transfer switch provided for safe use of a standby power sources?
- Does each building have only a single electrical service entrance?
- Is the service entrance equipped with two ground rods?
- Is there at least three feet (3') of clearance in front of all panels?
- Can all electrical panel doors be opened at least 90 degrees?
- Are rainproof enclosures used in all outside areas?
- Are all cords used outdoors of a type able to resist damage from sunlight? (Label designation includes the letter "E".)
- Are the conductor attachments to building made with adequate clearance around building openings?
- Is the building equipped with a lightning protection system?
- Is the lightning rod system bonded to the electrical system grounding network as required by the Wisconsin state electrical code?
- Are surge arrestors provided to protect computers, electronic controls, etc.?

## **New Holstein Utilities Farm Rewiring Program: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How much grant money is available?**

50% of the total cost of the project, up to a \$5,000 grant, is available from NHU.

### **Why are we offering this program?**

To assist dairy farmers in reducing the cost of rewiring their operation, to promote energy conservation and electric safety, and to help ensure that rewiring is completed according to the Wisconsin state electrical code.

### **Will the municipal electric utility offer a loan instead of a grant?**

No. For a loan, you will need to secure such from a financial institution. However, the utility could assist in applying the grant towards the buy down on the interest rate.

### **Who will do the electrical work?**

You can choose your electrician as long as he/she is a Utility Approved Electrician.

### **Can I get a grant for wiring a new barn?**

No. Only existing structures are eligible. New barns must be wired according to the latest version of the Wisconsin state electrical code.

### **When will I receive the grant money?**

Grant is awarded after a post-inspection. The wiring work must be completed according to Wisconsin state electrical code. All of the invoices and the wiring affidavit must be given to NHU.

### **Will funds be available to rewire my house as well as the barn?**

Only if the service for the house is fed off of a center yard pole metered service.

### **How do I apply?**

Contact the municipal electric utility. We will schedule an appointment with an approved State Certified Commercial Electrical Inspector and a representative of NHU to determine the extent of the project.

### **Do I have to have all farm buildings inspected?**

No. You may elect to upgrade your farm buildings on an individual basis (to do one or two structures, while not addressing others).

### **If I have any electrical work done, will I need to upgrade the 3-phase service to 4-wire?**

Yes. Any electrical work done to a facility served with a 3-phase service will have to be brought into full compliance with today's 4-wire code.

### **What happens next?**

You choose a Utility Approved Electrician to give you a bid on the project and provide us a copy of the bid. You may want to get multiple bids. If the bid meets the grant requirements, the project is given preliminary approval.

### **What happens after the rewiring is completed?**

We schedule the State Certified Commercial Electrical Inspector to inspect the work and he/she provides written documentation that the work was completed according to Wisconsin state electrical code. You provide invoices from the electrician and the wiring affidavit. You choose if you want us to pay the electrician or the electrician and yourself.

### **What expenses are covered under the grant?**

Labor and materials needed to rewire the farm (on the customer-side of the electric meter). Items such as isolation transformers, rings of life, and other systems not defined in the Wisconsin state electrical code are not eligible expenses under this program.

### **How long is this program available?**

The program will be reviewed annually.

### **How many times may I apply for a grant?**

Only one grant per account will be issued.

### **How is the grant program funded?**

The program will be funded either from the energy conservation monies collected by the municipal electric utility or from rate base - funding as approved and authorized by the PSC.

### **Is there unlimited money to fund the program?**

No. Generally, the program will operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Depending on the number of applicants, a waiting list will be created until enough grant money becomes available.