



NEWS RELEASE

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Dairyland Power Partners with Bush Bros. on Renewable Energy Plant *Methane digester located in Eau Claire Energy Cooperative's service territory*

LA CROSSE, WI— Dairyland Power Cooperative has signed an agreement with Bush Brothers & Co. to purchase the renewable energy and capacity from a new anaerobic wastewater system located in Augusta, Wis. The system will be served by Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, a Dairyland member.

Construction on the renewable energy facility is nearing completion, and commercial operation is expected in early 2012.

“It is a significant milestone when three entities work together to create yet another renewable energy facility for the benefit of the communities we all serve. Renewable energy facilities, including the new one at the Bush Brothers facility at Augusta, have added a positive element to the way we provide electricity for our co-op members,” said Eau Claire Energy Cooperative CEO and President Lynn Thompson.

The digester plant at the industrial wastewater facility is designed to process biogas produced in a covered lagoon to power a 635 kW generator. This is projected to produce enough renewable energy to power nearly 500 homes in the Dairyland system.

“The anaerobic digester represents a responsible method for handling plant waste and we are glad to have it as a part of our manufacturing process,” said Joe Breid, Director of Operations for the Bush Brothers plant in Augusta.

Once operational, the Bush Brothers facility will represent the seventh methane digester within the Dairyland system, and the first industrial use. The first six digester facilities are “cow power” plants, utilizing dairy cow manure as the source from which methane gas is derived to fuel the generators and create renewable energy.

“We are pleased to be in partnership with Bush Brothers and Eau Claire Energy Cooperative on this renewable energy facility, which provides benefits to both the environment and industry. We continue to seek opportunities to expand our renewable resources and look forward to the Dairyland system's first industrial-use methane digester plant coming online in 2012,” said Craig Harmes, Dairyland Manager, Business Development.

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About Bush Brothers

Founded in 1908, Bush Brothers & Company is a privately owned food processor headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn. Best known for their baked beans, Bush's also offers more than 30 varieties of canned beans including kidney, pinto and black. Bush Brothers & Company is still family owned and operated, working for the same ideals that were set forth by A.J. Bush more than 100 years ago – ensuring the highest quality and best taste can be found in all their products. Bush's sells one-third of all canned beans in the U.S., making it the top bean brand in the country. Its signature commercials of Jay Bush and his Golden Retriever, Duke, have made Bush's Beans a familiar household name. For more information, visit www.bushbeans.com.

About Dairyland Power Cooperative

With headquarters in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 25 member distribution cooperatives and 16 municipal utilities in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois). Dairyland's generation resources include coal, natural gas, hydro, wind, landfill gas, biomass, solar and animal waste. For more information, visit www.dairynet.com.

About Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

With the headquarters located between Eau Claire and Fall Creek, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and its subsidiary, Energy Connections, provide reliable and affordable electricity, propane gas, and related energy services to over 10,000 residential, business and farm members in Eau Claire County plus portions of Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties. As a Touchstone Energy Partner, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative prides itself in the personal service it offers to its members. Find out more about Eau Claire Energy Cooperative at www.ecec.com.

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