



NEWS RELEASE

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Dairyland Collaborating to Improve Fish Habitat on Lake Flambeau

LADYSMITH, WI— Dairyland Power Cooperative is again collaborating with the Rusk County Wildlife Restoration Association (WRA) to improve fish habitat in Lake Flambeau, near Ladysmith. This stewardship project, led by the WRA and supported by Dairyland, follows the 2007 major effort to enhance fish habitat. That original project resulted in the construction of 150 deep water fish structures, which were placed on the lakebed. The structures were comprised of rock, logs and brush.

The recent project, which began in July 2009 and will continue through 2012, focuses on shoreline fish habitat improvement. WRA staff, volunteers from local communities and Dairyland personnel constructed over 75 fish structures along the lake shoreline. Whole pine trees were cut and anchored parallel to the lake bed with cinder blocks. Field stone was laid on top of the trees to complete the habitat structure. Numerous “spiders”—pine trees cut in thirds and anchored perpendicular to the lakebed—were also created and placed along the shoreline.

The shoreline structures should help forage species such as troutperch and emerald shiners flourish. Forage fish are fed upon by game fish, such as smallmouth bass, walleye and muskie. Yellow perch should also benefit as they can seclude themselves more readily in the structures during the spawning period. Dairyland and WRA staff will be conducting a survey of the lake’s habitat this spring to gather information on any changes to fish populations resulting from the structure installations.

“Deep water fishing on Lake Flambeau has already been enhanced through our original partnership with the WRA. Now, the shallow water habitat work will further benefit lake health and create still more opportunities for sporting enthusiasts,” said Dairyland Environmental Biologist Brad Foss.

“This stewardship project has really been a community effort, and it is satisfying to know that area fishing enthusiasts will also be the ones to reap the benefit of that hard work,” said Foss.

Dairyland’s Flambeau Hydroelectric Station, a water-powered facility located on the Flambeau River five miles northeast of Ladysmith, has been generating electricity since 1951. Dairyland encourages the public to visit and enjoy Lake Flambeau. The 2,000 acre lake, surrounded by 24 miles of shoreline offers a variety of recreational opportunities.

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 and animal waste. For more information, please visit www.dairynet.com.

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