

Brand New Day for Dairy

Milk Processing Facility Benefits from \$403,000 Incentive

Last spring, Foremost Farms broke ground on a new \$57.9 million milk-condensing operation in Greenville.

Now, nearly a year later they are ramping up production – with an assist from Consumers Energy in the form of \$403,451 in energy efficiency incentive payments.

Representatives from Greenville Venture Partners, doing business as Foremost Farms, recently received the payment from Consumers Energy as part of the new construction energy efficiency program.

Working with Consumers Energy has allowed us to reduce our costs and create a more sustainable facility.

“Working with Consumers

Energy has allowed us to reduce our costs and create a more sustainable facility,” said Glen Kienitz, Greenville Plant Manager. “We have certainly realized the benefits of Consumers’ energy efficiency program.

Consumers Energy has helped Michigan customers save more than \$2 billion through energy efficiency programs since they



Watch for Overhead Power Lines

Be on the look out for overhead lines and stay at least 10 feet away from them when doing work on a farm.

In the event equipment does contact overhead electric lines, Consumers Energy offers these important safety tips:

- Remain in the vehicle until help arrives.
- Call 911 or Consumers Energy immediately at 800-477-5050.
- Warn others to not come near the equipment.
- If fire or other imminent danger forces you off the equipment: jump clear without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time to avoid an electric shock. Land with



your feet together and shuffle away, keeping both feet together and on the ground.

- Never attempt to move any electric lines by yourself – wait for qualified utility personnel to help.

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FROM FRONT PAGE

were created in 2009. Last year, the company announced it will reduce carbon emissions by more than 90 percent and no longer use coal to generate electricity by 2040.

The 55,000 square foot building had energy efficient heating and a cooling system installed. Also variable frequency drive motors, LED lighting and compressed air systems were installed.

Consumers Energy works every day to help businesses like Foremost Farms reduce energy waste because it's good for people, the planet and Michigan's prosperity.

The equipment is expected to save the company more than \$200,000 a year in electric costs.

Headquartered in Wisconsin, Foremost Farms is a farmer-owned milk processing and marketing cooperative with about 1,300 members and annual net sales of \$1.6 billion.

"Consumers Energy works every day to help businesses like Foremost Farms reduce energy waste because it's good for people, the planet and Michigan's prosperity," said Fred Alatalo, Consumers Energy director of business energy efficiency programs.

"This project is beneficial for Foremost and the Greenville community."



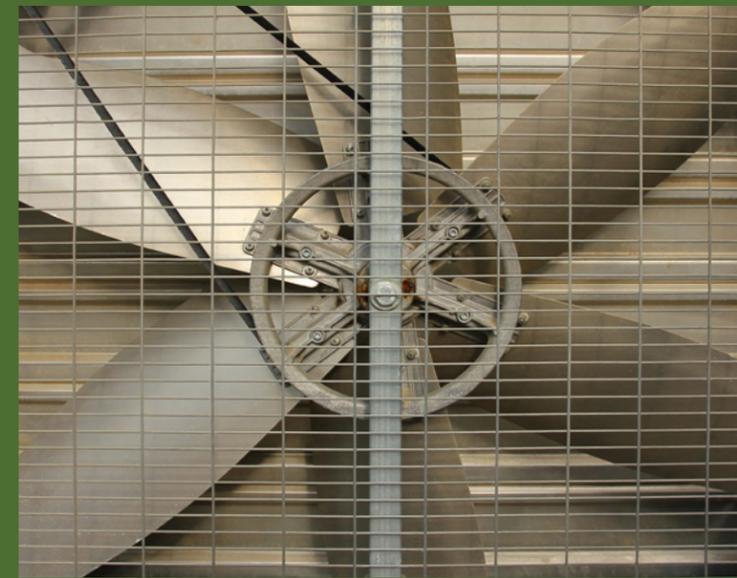
From left: Brent Hare, Foremost Farms Vice President of Operations and Supply Chain; Glen Kienitz, Greenville Plant Manager; Ralph Briggs, Foremost Farms Chief Operating Officer; Doug Roberts, Director of Business Customer Experience; Lindsey Ballard, Economic Development Manager; Duane Watson, Agriculture Program Specialist | Energy Advisor II



At Your Service

Consumers Energy has an agricultural website that addresses the energy needs of farmers around the state.

Visit [ConsumersEnergy.com/farm](https://www.consumersenergy.com/farm)



Save Energy and Money Through Fan Maintenance

Ventilation fans in livestock buildings, greenhouses, crop storage barns are an efficient way to exhaust moist air while providing summer cooling.

Before using fans this summer, keep in mind the following tips to improve energy efficiency:

- Keep fan blades and shutters clean.
- Perform maintenance checks and cleaning of fans at least every two months. Look for:
 1. Loose belts that are misaligned
 2. Shutters that won't open fully due to dirt or lack of lubrication.
 3. Fan belts with a film of dust.
 4. Weeds near the fan discharge that block airflow.
- To clean fan blades and shutters, first disconnect power to fan. This is a critical safety step.
- Use compressed air or a stiff brush to remove dust buildup.
- If moisture has caused caked-on dirt, try a warm detergent solution or a plastic putty knife.
- Check all electrical wiring for rodent damage.

Are You on the Right Plan?

Make sure you are on the proper energy plan to fit your businesses needs.

If you are a small or medium business, you're likely taking service between 120–600 volts and if you are a big business your business is taking service at 2,400 volts or greater.

Confirm you are on the correct residential electric and natural gas service by comparing the rate code on your bill with its rate description.

If you're still not sure if you're on the best rate, contact our Business Center 800-805-0490.



Work Smart, Work Safe

Just because you can't see natural gas pipelines or power lines doesn't mean they aren't buried below your work site or hiding behind trees.

The best way to stay safe from them is to be aware of their location and call Miss Dig 811 to zero in where they are located.

Farmland owners can get a free MISS DIG 811 membership which gives notifications whenever excavations occur near their property so they'll know when buried utilities are being placed on or near their land.

Farmers are exempt from calling MISS DIG 811 when performing the following activities: plowing, cultivating, planting, harvesting, replacing fence/signs/guard rails in its existing location and similar operations routine to most farms.

Even though these exemptions exist, farmers are still required to call when installing drainage tile, underground irrigation lines, drilling a well, or any agricultural work done near or in a pipeline right-of-way or road right-of-way or within 6 feet of any utility structure.

Energy Efficiency AG Program Sets Record

For the second consecutive year, Consumers Energy has broken its annual record for how much money its saved Michigan farmers on energy costs.

In 2018, we helped our agricultural customers by distributing more than \$1.9 million in incentives for energy products. Since the energy efficiency program started in 2009, Consumers Energy has saved the agricultural community about \$6.7 million. Overall during that time period, we helped all residential and business customers save more than \$2 billion.

Consumers Energy has saved the agricultural community about \$6.7 million.



“Our goal every year is to provide as much energy efficiency incentives and technical support as possible to farmers and the agricultural industry,” said Fred Alatalo, Consumers Energy director of business energy efficiency programs.

There are 43 agricultural-related incentives that are available through our energy efficiency program. There are more than 400 available for the whole program.

For More Information:

Visit: ConsumersEnergy.com/startssaving and click on “Special Programs” to learn more about our agricultural incentives.

Call: 877-607-0737

Email: ConsumersEnergyBusinessSolutions@cmsenergy.com

Helping You Roll Out Your Goods

No matter what you grow, we can help with:

- Farm energy service requests or upgrades.
- Free stray voltage electrical inspections.
- Advising clients on equipment needs.

Visit ConsumersEnergy.com/farm or call 800-252-8658