



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
April 22, 2013

For more information, contact:  
Katie Thomson at (608) 787-1323  
OR  
Deb Mirasola at (608) 787-1378

### **Dairyland Power's Peregrine Falcon Restoration Program**

*85 falcon chicks have fledged from Dairyland's nesting sites since the mid-1990s*

LA CROSSE, WI— A slow start to spring hasn't stopped the annual return of Peregrine falcons to the Coulee Region and Dairyland Power's nesting boxes. The 2013 Peregrine falcon season began at Dairyland in late February with the sighting of a falcon at Dairyland's Genoa (Wis.) power plant nesting box. Falcons arrived at the Alma (Wis.) power plant site in early March.

Mating pairs of falcons at both Alma and Genoa Site nesting boxes are incubating a full clutch of eggs, with hatching expected in early to mid-May. Fledging of the chicks will likely occur in late June or early July.

#### **Keep up with the falcons via Dairyland's online Bird Cam**

Cameras are installed at both the Alma and Genoa power plant locations to capture "real time" online birdwatching at the nesting boxes. Click on the Bird Cam on the bottom left side of the home page at [www.dairynet.com](http://www.dairynet.com) for images of the falcons' 2013 nesting season.

#### **About the Peregrine Falcon Restoration Program**

Dairyland has been fostering the return of the Peregrine falcon to its natural territory along the Upper Mississippi since the 1990s. Once commonly seen in our region, the use of the pesticide DDT put the falcon on the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species list in 1975. Nesting boxes were installed hundreds of feet up the stacks at Dairyland's Alma and Genoa generating stations, and in 1997, a pair of Peregrine falcons produced chicks, marking the first successful Peregrine hatch in Western Wisconsin in 25 years. Since then, 85 chicks have fledged from Dairyland nesting sites.

In recent years, another major milestone in the Peregrine program has been reached, as the "power plant birds" have chosen to nest on a natural cliff dwelling near Alma. "The first time that power plant nesters relocated to the wild and successfully produced offspring was in 2007. They have chosen the cliff dwelling two more times since then, which is a thrill to witness," said Brad Foss, Dairyland Senior Environmental Biologist.

*With headquarters in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 25 member distribution cooperatives and 16 municipal utilities. A Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Dairyland's service area encompasses 62 counties in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois). Dairyland's generation resources include coal, natural gas, hydro, wind, biomass, landfill gas and animal waste. For more information, please visit [www.dairynet.com](http://www.dairynet.com).*

###

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 