



Brandt S.'s Mad Cow Burger was first created in a moment of hunger after a bike ride.

"After a long bike ride, you tend to get kind of hungry," said Brandt, who is an avid mountain biker.

Brandt and a friend started discussing how to make the ideal burger. Since then Brandt has tweaked this recipe a few times and says it's still a work in progress.

"If people have suggestions, I want to hear them," he said. "I'm totally open to constructive criticism."

For Brandt, there are two critical components that make the Mad Cow a perfect burger - the pickled jalapenos and the dry curry rub. Both add spice and flavor.

"It's a good burger," Brandt said. "It's worth the trouble."

When he's not on a quest for the perfect burger, Brandt is working to find perfect energy solutions. He works as an innovation engineer with NorthWestern Energy. He joined the company in May after completing his master's degree at Montana State University.

In his position, Brandt looks at new technology and evaluates how it could fit into our electric and natural gas systems.

"It's really cool to be looking at new technology and seeing what the benefits might be," he said.

Brandt is involved in some of our solar pilot projects and our Montana meter upgrade project.

"It's a great mix of hands-on field work, and planning and research type work," Brandt said. "It's very engaging."

### The Mad Cow Burger

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

#### **Burgers:**

Ground beef (or bison. vegetarian or vegan options) Hamburger buns of choice Cheese of choice Sliced bacon (as desired) Tomato

Avocado Lettuce

#### **Quick-Pickled Jalapenos:**

6 jalapenos, sliced thin rings 2 cloves of garlic, minced 2/3 C. cider vinegar 14 C. hot water 34 tsp. salt 1 Tbsp. sugar

#### **Drv Rub:**

6 Tbsp. curry powder (if you don't love cúrry go lighter.) 1 ½ -2 Tbsp. dill, (can use fresh or dried) minced finely 2 Tbsp. dry ground mustard ½ - 1 Tbsp. cayenne Salt and pepper to taste

Aioli: 1 C. mayonnaise 2-4 Tbsp. sriracha hot sauce (or your preferred hot sauce) The juice of 1 lime (and the zest if you like) 2 cloves finely-minced garlic 1 Tbsp. ketchup A large pinch of salt/pepper

### **DIRECTIONS:**

#### **Advanced Preparations:**

**Quick-Pickled Jalapeno Preparation:** Add hot water. sugar and salt into an 8 oz. Mason jar and stir to dissolve. Add the vinegar and then add the sliced jalapenos. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour before using.

**Bacon Preparation:** Cook desired amount of bacon (between 2-8 slices) in a heavy skillet over medium heat until crisp. Cut to appropriate lengths to fit on burgers. Set aside.

**Aioli Preparation:** Add mayo, hot sauce, ketchup, lime juice and garlic to a medium bowl, stirring to combine. Season to taste with salt and more sriracha if needed.

**Dry Rub Preparation:** Add all dry ingredients into a bowl, mixing to combine. Adjust any seasonings to taste preference - these are approximates.

#### **Burger:**

▶ Preheat grill to 350°. Divide the burger into equal portions, I roll them into balls then flatten them into patties slightly larger than the buns, making a slight indentation in the middle.

**?**Sprinkle the patties on both sides with equal amounts of Lethe dry spice rub and rub in slightly to set.

 $\bigcirc$  Place the patties on the hot grill and cook for 5 – 7 Ominutes on each side for medium doneness.

 $\begin{tabular}{l} 4 \label{table with the burgers} While the burgers are cooking, slice the avocado, tomato, lettuce and place on a plate. \end{tabular}$ 

A couple of minutes before the burgers are finished Ocooking, top each patty with a slice of the Muenster (or vour selected) cheese.

 $6 \mbox{Remove}$  the patties from the grill and transfer to a serving plate, cover and keep warm.

**7**Spread the bottom of the buns with equal amounts of the spicy aioli, add the patty, and then top with tomato slices, avocado, bacon, lettuce, pickled jalapenos.

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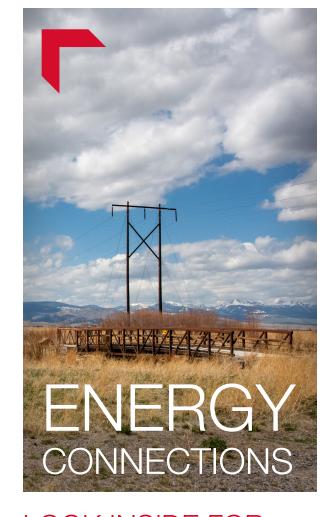
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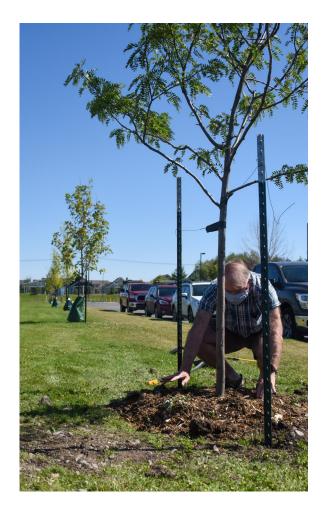
- 5 things to check out on our website
- Is your furnace ready for winter?
- Fall tree planting
- Hunter safety
- Power line safety
- Mad Cow Burger recipe



## 5 things to check out on our new website

We recently launched a newly redesigned website that is easier to use whether you're on a desktop computer, mobile device or tablet. Here are five things we recommend you check out on our new site, NorthWesternEnergy.com:

- 1. Report an outage If you're experiencing a power outage, you can report it online. From the home page, click the "Report an Outage" button.
- 2. View our real-time outage map Find up-todate information on our interactive outage map. You can find estimated restoration times and other information, and sign up for outage alerts.
- 3. Select your service area When you first visit our new site, you'll be prompted to select your service area. That will allow you to see information specific to your state.
- 4. Watch videos We have videos throughout our site to give customers a look at some of the amazing work we're doing. Check out a collection of videos at NorthWesternEnergy.com/BrightFuture
- 5. Access your My Energy Account While our website has changed, My Energy Account still offers the same services you can pay your bill online, see past bills, sign up for paperless billing and more. Soon My Energy Account will be updated for an even better user experience.



### Plan before you plant

Fall is a great time to plant trees. It allows the roots to get established before winter sets in. Then in the spring, the tree is ready to adjust to extreme heat or drought in the summer.

However, keep these important safety reminders in mind:

- Know where overhead power lines are located and plant at least 15 to 20 feet away. Trees that grow taller than 40 feet should be planted more than 35 feet away.
- Call 811 at least two working days before you dig to have underground utilities marked.
- Once you know where underground utilities are located, plant at least 25 feet away.

## Is your furnace ready for winter weather?

When was the last time you had your furnace inspected? Not sure? That means it's probably time for an inspection.

You should have all natural gas appliances, furnaces, vents, flues, chimneys and gas lines in your home or business inspected every year or two by a qualified industry professional.

Also, be sure you're changing your furnace filter monthly.



## Use caution around overhead power lines

When working on ladders or anywhere near overhead power lines, always be aware of where lines are located and keep your distance. Keep yourself, your ladder and any other equipment more than 10 feet from overhead power lines. Contact with power lines can result in serious injury or even death.

If equipment comes into contact with a power line, do not attempt to remove it. Call 911.

If your vehicle comes into contact with a line, stay in the cab and call 911 for help. Trying to exit the vehicle can result in an electrical shock that could be deadly. A call to 911 could save your life.



# Please don't shoot at power equipment

As hunting season gets underway, we want to remind all customers not to shoot at power lines, insulators, signs or any above-ground natural gas equipment – and to report any damage they might spot. Unfortunately, every year during hunting season, some of our infrastructure is damaged by gun shots. This damage is costly and may also cause significant safety hazards for hunters and hikers.

Please call 911 to report illegal activity to law enforcement. Call NorthWestern Energy immediately if you spot damaged electrical or natural gas lines.

## Teachers, enter to win a \$100 gift card!

NorthWestern Energy offers free classroom teaching materials focusing on electric and natural gas safety.

After ordering the materials, you can fill out a survey to be entered to win a \$100 gift card or one of two \$50 gift cards. To order, visit NorthWesternEnergy.com/kids