

# South Dakota Electric

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

## Cooperative Connections

MARCH 2013 VOL. 65 NO. 3



# BUILDING ON TRADITION

PG. 6



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IN MY SECOND FRIDGE. AND  
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Rushmore Electric, Rapid City, S.D.  
Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.  
Southeastern Electric, Marion, S.D.  
Traverse Electric, Wheaton, Minn.  
Union County Electric, Elk Point, S.D.  
West Central Electric, Murdo, S.D.  
West River Electric, Wall, S.D.  
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# The Power of Cooperation



**Ed Anderson**  
General Manager, South Dakota  
Rural Electric Association

**“Cooperation Among Cooperatives,”** the Sixth Cooperative Principle, serves as the driver behind such activities as mutual-aid agreements, where electric co-ops help one other during natural disasters or large outage situations. It also underpins a vast nationwide network that allows co-ops to share information and ideas – and pack a grassroots punch.

“Cooperation Among Cooperatives” isn’t limited to staff at your local electric cooperative, either. Each co-op member has a vote in how business is conducted. But to truly have our collective voice heard, the 42 million electric co-op consumers in America – includ-

ing nearly 300,00 in South Dakota – must cooperate, too.

When most electric co-ops began organizing in the 1930s, it wasn’t CEOs or managers who turned the lights on. It was the members. Neighbors came together to achieve a common goal – bringing central station electric service to their homes, farms, and businesses – and with it the promise of a better life.

**The mission of electric co-ops then, as now, is to empower members to improve the quality of life in their communities. Electricity was just the start.**

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Across the country, electric co-op members are finding their own ways to make life better, with the aid of their co-ops. Some are working to bring high-speed broadband Internet to their service areas; others are involved in economic development. This is true in South Dakota as well where co-ops helped create 3,100 new jobs and retain more than 3,000 existing jobs through sponsorship of revolving loan funds. Co-ops also invested more than \$2.4 million in business and economic development activities during 2007-2009. South Dakota’s electric cooperatives also donate millions of dollars to civic and community development activities and, in 2009 alone, provided more than 62,000 hours on volunteer projects in the communities they serve.

In South Dakota, electric co-ops have a significant impact on the state’s economy and are proud of the involvement we have with our local communities. A 2010 study found that the \$248.8 million in expenditures by the 30 South Dakota electric cooperatives generated an additional \$111.3 million in economic activity throughout the state.

By working together, co-ops and members achieved the greatest engineering marvel of the 20th century – electrifying rural America. Imagine how much more we can accomplish together.

# Rodeo Athletes Capture National Titles



Photo Courtesy of Schaffer's PhotoExpress LLC®

**Highmore, S.D.'s Drew Cowan** joined an elite crowd last summer when he roped in a win at the National High School Rodeo Association

Finals held July 15-21 in Rock Springs, Wyo.

Cowan became the 2012 NHSRA Tie-Down Roping Champion, emerging from a field of 142 competitors that included other state champions and rodeo athletes from Canada and Australia to win the title. Cowan is the 40th South Dakotan to capture a national title in the program's history. (By the way, South Dakota has a long line of saddle bronc champs at the national level, having captured the title 13 times since 1952.)

Cowan graduated from Highmore-Harrold High School in May 2012 and is attending Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, S.D.

Two other South Dakota rodeo athletes captured national titles in the National Junior High School Rodeo Association finals held in June in Gallup, NM. Rickie Engesser of Spearfish became the NJHSRA Barrel Racing Champion while Bonesteel's J.D. Kirwan took home the NJHSRA Boys Breakaway Roping title.

For more about South Dakota High School Rodeo, go to [www.sdhsra.com](http://www.sdhsra.com)

**Editor's Note: Watch this space in coming months as we feature kids and teens in South Dakota and western Minnesota who are standing out in their communities. Know someone that should be considered? Let your co-op know. The editor's contact information can be found on Page 3**

# Poison Prevention Suggestions for Spring

**It is important** to keep safety in mind as you begin your spring cleaning and gardening. Almost anything can be poisonous if used in the wrong concentration and in the wrong way. Children are especially sensitive to many of the products we use during spring cleaning, painting, gardening and automobile maintenance. In case of a possible poisoning, call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 to talk to a poison expert.

Here are some hints for keeping your self and family safe:

- Keep household cleaning products and other chemicals in the containers they came in and always store them away from food and out of the reach of children.
- Never use empty food containers to store leftover chemicals. Never use empty chemical containers to store food.
- Read and follow directions for use and disposal of any cleaning compounds, pesticides, fertilizers or any other chemical product.
- Never mix chemicals, including household cleaners, or detergents.
- Turn on fans and open windows when using chemicals or household cleaners.
- Don't sniff containers to see what is inside.
- When spraying chemicals, direct the nozzle away from people and pets.
- Bug and weed killers can be taken in through the skin or inhaled and can be poisonous. Even leather shoes and gloves do not offer full protection, so stay away from areas that have been sprayed for at least an hour or until the spray has dried.
- Wear protective clothing when using any chemical products. Information on the type of personal protective equipment and safe use guides can be found on the label for the product. If you have questions, contact the manufacturer or call the poison control hot line.
- If pesticides are splashed onto the skin, rinse with soap and running water. Wash your clothing after using chemicals too.
- Remember to always put every medicine and vitamin up and out of a child's reach and sight – every time they are used.

Source: [maricopa.gov](http://maricopa.gov)

## Kids' Corner Safety Poster



**"Don't fly kites into electric poles."**

**Jewel Jones, 12 years old**

*Jewel is the daughter of Jon and Jennifer Jones, Midland, S.D. They are members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Murdo, S.D.*

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents.



# Seafood Specialties

## Cheesy Tuna Pie

- |                                                 |                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 cups cooked rice                              | 1/2 cup sour cream                |
| 2 (6 oz. each) cans tuna,<br>drained and flaked | 1/2 cup thinly sliced celery      |
| 1 cup mayonnaise                                | 1 (4 oz.) can sliced black olives |
| 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese                   | 2 T. dried onion flakes           |
|                                                 | 1 refrigerated pie crust          |

Spray a 9-inch deep dish pie pan with cooking spray. Combine all ingredients except pie crust in medium bowl and mix well. Spoon into prepared pie pan. Place pie crust over tuna mixture, pressing edge to pie pan to seal. Cut slits for steam to escape. Bake at 350°F. for 20 minutes or until crust is browned and filling is bubbly.

**Sophia Hoff, Tripp**  
**Cooperative Connections**

## Salmon and Biscuits

- |                  |                                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 4 T. butter      | 3 T. stuffed olives, chopped                 |
| 4 T. flour       | 3 T. mayonnaise                              |
| 1 tsp. salt      | 1 (16 oz.) can salmon, drained<br>and flaked |
| 1/4 tsp. pepper  | 2 slices cheese                              |
| 1/2 tsp. paprika | Baking powder biscuits                       |
| 2 cups milk      |                                              |

Melt butter in pan. Add flour, salt, pepper and paprika; blend well. Add milk gradually. Cook over slow heat, stirring constantly until thick. Add olives, mayonnaise and salmon; blend well. Heat thoroughly and add cheese to melt. Split hot baking powder biscuits and top with salmon mixture.

**Mary Jessen, Holabird**  
**Cooperative Connections**

## Dottie's Shrimp Salad

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 cups cooked shrimp    | 2 T. parsley          |
| 2 cups shredded cabbage | 2 T. minced onion     |
| 1 cup diced celery      | 1/2 tsp. celery seed  |
| 2/3 cup mayonnaise      | 1/2 tsp. basil leaves |
| 2 T. vinegar            | 1/2 tsp. salt         |
| 2 T. sweet cream        | 1/4 tsp. black pepper |

Combine shrimp, cabbage and celery; cover and cool. Blend together remaining ingredients. Mix with salad; chill.

**Martha Mehlhaff, Mina**  
**Cooperative Connections**

## Fish Baked in Creamy Milk Sauce with Onions and Herbs

- |                                                       |                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 T. olive oil, divided                               | 1/2 tsp. dried basil leaves                               |
| 1 small onion, sliced into thick rings                | 1/4 tsp. anise seeds, crushed                             |
| 1 lb. white fish of choice, cut into<br>2-inch pieces | 2/3 cup (5 oz. can) NESTLÉ®<br>CARNATION® Evaporated Milk |
| Salt and ground black pepper to taste                 | 1/4 cup water                                             |
| 1/2 tsp. dried thyme leaves                           |                                                           |

Heat 1 T. olive oil in large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion; cook, stirring frequently, until tender and golden brown. Remove from skillet; set aside. Season fish with salt and pepper. Add remaining oil to same skillet and cook fish until browned on both sides. Remove from heat. Place fish in greased 13x9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with thyme, basil and anise. Top with reserved onion rings. Combine milk and water in small glass measure; pour over fish. If desired, season with additional salt and pepper. Bake at 325°F. for 20 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Makes 4 servings.

*Nutritional information per serving: 330 calories; 170 calories from fat; 19g total fat; 6g saturated fat; 95mg cholesterol; 220mg sodium; 11g total carbohydrates; 0g dietary fiber; 9g sugars; 28g protein.*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Seafood Alfredo

- |                                                      |                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 garlic cloves, minced                              | 1/2 tsp. pepper                                      |
| 2 T. olive or vegetable oil                          | 1 (16 oz.) jar Alfredo sauce                         |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. imitation<br>crabmeat, flaked         | 1/2 cup frozen peas, thawed                          |
| 1 (5 oz.) pkg. frozen cooked<br>salad shrimp, thawed | 1 (12 oz.) pkg. bow tie pasta,<br>cooked and drained |
| 1 T. lemon juice                                     | 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese                              |

Sauté garlic in oil until tender. Stir in crab, shrimp, lemon juice and pepper; cook and stir for 1 minute. Add Alfredo sauce and peas. Cook and stir until heated through. Top pasta with seafood mixture and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

**Rachael De Rycke, Sioux Falls**  
**Cooperative Connections**

## Tuna Spread or Dip

- |                             |                                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 can tomato soup           | 1 large can or 2 small cans<br>tuna, drained |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese |                                              |
| 1 (3 oz.) pkg. lemon jello  | 1/2 cup mayonnaise or salad<br>dressing      |
| 1/2 cup diced celery        |                                              |
| 1/2 cup diced onion         |                                              |

In a saucepan, heat together tomato soup and cream cheese. Stir in lemon jello. Add celery, onions, tuna and mayonnaise; mix well. Refrigerate.

**Arlene Baanhofman, Corsica**  
**Cooperative Connections**

*Please send your favorite casserole and ethnic recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2013. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name*

# Get the Facts Before Installing Solar Water Heater



**Jim Dulley**  
www.dulley.com

**Dear Jim:** We have two teenage daughters who take long showers, so our water heating costs are high. Does using solar water heating make sense? What are my solar options and is there a system I can make myself? – Alan H.

**Dear Alan:** For a typical family of four, water heating can account for about 20 percent

of its annual utility bills. If you have two daughters taking long showers, yours may be somewhat higher, but don't expect a solar water heating system to cut your costs to zero. A target savings of 50 percent often provides a good economic payback.

Before you consider using solar or any other efficient water heating methods, install low-flow showerheads with shut-off tickle (lathering) valves – and have a talk with your family about taking shorter showers.

The two basic types of solar water heating systems are “active” and “passive.” Active systems require a storage tank, electric pumps and controls to function. Sometimes 12-volt pumps can be powered by a photovoltaic solar panel located near the solar water heating collectors on the roof.

In cold climates, the system has to include some type of antifreeze working fluid and heat exchanger so it does not freeze at night during winter. Other systems that circulate the actual potable water through the collector need a draining system to empty the collectors at night during winter.

Passive water heating systems rely on the natural upward flow of less-dense warm water to move the water through the solar collector. In these systems, the warm water storage tank is located above the solar collector – usually on the roof or in the attic, so there are some structural considerations with these types of devices. These systems are less expensive than more sophisticated active systems, but they tend to be less efficient, especially during cold weather.

There are many types of solar collector designs. The best one for your house depends on your climate, your hot water requirements and your budget. They can be as simple as black copper tubes in an insulated box with a glass top to ones with vacuum tubes, concentrating reflectors and heat pipe technology. Discuss the various types with your solar contractor.

Unless you are an accomplished craftsman, I suggest you build a passive solar water heater. Trying to build an active system – with collectors on the roof, plumbing and control systems and storage tanks – is beyond the skill level of most

homeowners. I am a design mechanical engineer and I don't think I could build a system myself from scratch. If you do decide to go with an active system, in general, use a system with an OG-300 rating from the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation ([www.solar-rating.org](http://www.solar-rating.org)). A knowledgeable, qualified installer is important too – look for contractors with certification by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners ([www.nabcep.org](http://www.nabcep.org)). And check the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency ([www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)) for local incentives on installing a solar water heating system, in addition to the federal tax credit – just remember to review specific program requirements regarding system types, sizing, certifications, installers and the like to make sure your system qualifies.

Otherwise, try building a passive “batch” system, which is a preheater for your existing water heater, with the simplest design called a “breadbox.” It uses a horizontal metal water tank inside a box with a clear top. The sun shines through to heat the water. Another slightly more efficient option uses a tall box tilted at an angle to face the sun. This allows the warmer water to be drawn first from the top of the tank.

You can buy a stainless steel water tank specially designed for this application with inlet and outlet water fittings. If you can find an old water heater that's not leaky, strip off the metal skin and insulation to use the inner tank. Paint it flat black to absorb more of the sun's heat.

It does help to insulate the solid sides and bottom of the box, especially if you plan to use it most of the year. Very heavy insulation is not needed because the tank will not get extremely warm, especially if you are using hot water throughout the day. One-inch thick foil-faced rigid foam sheets should be fine. Attach them inside the box so they reflect the sun's heat to the tank.

Install water valves and plumbing so the solar tank can be drained and bypassed during cold weather. Install heavy insulation around any exposed pipes and bury as much as possible underground.

For more information, see these resources:

- [www.find-solar.org/](http://www.find-solar.org/) includes a directory of installers and a calculator to estimate the performance of solar water heaters and PV systems
- <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/solar-water-heaters> has basic graphics that describe various designs
- <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/siting-your-solar-water-heating-system> has links to other resources

The following companies offer solar kits and components: Alternative Energy Store, 877-211-8192, [www.altestore.com](http://www.altestore.com); Build It Solar, [www.builditsolar.com](http://www.builditsolar.com); and Solar Components, 603-668-8186, [www.solar-components.com](http://www.solar-components.com).

Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, *Cooperative Connections*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com).

# Residential Energy Efficiency Tax Credit Returns

A tax credit that expired at the end of 2011 has been brought back and may save you money if you're making energy efficiency improvements to your home.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 retroactively renewed the Residential Energy Efficiency Tax Credit effective Jan. 1, 2012, and will expire again on Dec. 31, 2013. Any qualified equipment installed in 2012 or 2013 is eligible for this credit. As in previous years, the cumulative maximum amount of tax credit that can be claimed by a taxpayer in all years combined is \$500. If a taxpayer has already claimed a tax credit of \$500 for purchases made in any previous year, they are ineligible for additional tax credits for any new equipment purchases.

The credit applies to energy efficiency improvements in the building envelope of existing homes and for the purchase of high-efficiency heating, cooling and water-heating equipment. Efficiency improvements or equipment must serve a dwelling in the United States that is owned and used by the taxpayer as a primary residence. The maximum tax credit for all improvements made in 2011, 2012 and 2013 is \$500. The cap includes tax credits for any improvements made in any previous year.

## Building Envelope Improvements

Owners of existing homes may receive a tax credit worth 10 percent of the cost

of upgrading the efficiency of the building's envelope. Installation (labor) costs are not included and the credit is capped at \$500 for all improvements. To be eligible for the credit, the improvement must meet the prescriptive requirements established for it under the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (including supplements). The following improvements are eligible for the tax credit:

**Insulation materials** and systems designed to reduce a home's heat loss or gain

**Exterior doors and windows (including skylights)** – no more than \$200 in total credits can be claimed for windows in years 2006 to 2013

**Pigmented metal roofs** designed to reduce heat gain and asphalt roofs with appropriate cooling granules.

## Heating, Cooling and Water-Heating Equipment

Taxpayers who purchase qualified residential energy-efficient property may be eligible for a tax credit. The credit is equal to the full cost of the equipment up to the caps listed below. Among items eligible are:

- Advanced main air circulating fan: \$50
- Electric heat pump water heater with an energy factor of at least 2.0: \$300
- Electric heat pump which achieves the highest efficiency tier established by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency: \$300
- Central air conditioner which

achieves the highest efficiency tier established by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency: \$300

- Biomass stoves that use "plant-derived fuel available on a renewable or recurring basis, including agricultural crops and trees, wood and wood waste and residues (including wood pellets), plants (including aquatic plants), grasses, residues and fibers": \$300

(Other equipment is also eligible.)

## Background

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 established the tax credit for energy

improvements to existing homes. The credit was originally limited to purchases made in 2006 and 2007, with an aggregate cap of \$500 for all qualifying purchases made in these two years combined.

This credit was unavailable for purchases made in 2012. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 retroactively renewed this tax credit effective Jan. 1, 2012, expiring again on Dec. 31, 2013.

Geothermal heat pumps were originally eligible for this credit, with a \$300 cap. However, geothermal heat pumps are now eligible for the residential renewable energy tax credit, with no cap.



# Teachers Become Students at Seminar

The Lignite Energy Council is conducting a teacher seminar June 17-20 for 130 elementary and secondary teachers from Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota, Iowa and North Dakota. This seminar will take place at the National Energy Center of Excellence on the campus of Bismarck (N.D.) State College.

The seminar is designed to provide teachers with a broader understanding of the lignite coal industry, giving teachers the information and educational materials they need to teach their students about how lignite is mined and used to produce electricity for homes, farms and businesses in the Upper Midwest. The seminar covers lignite's economic impact on the region, as well as environmental issues affecting the lignite industry. It also includes a tour of a lignite mine, a lignite-based power plant, and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

Jeremy Woeste, Basin Electric communications and media specialist, said

teachers in the region should plan to attend this valuable seminar. "The cost of the seminar and associated travel expenses will be paid by Basin Electric for teachers selected from South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Iowa."

Started in 1986, and now in its 28th year, more than 2,800 teachers have attended the Lignite Energy Council's teacher education seminar. The seminar was totally revamped in 2009 and made into a two-credit class which spans four days. Teachers can also receive credit from the University of North Dakota (economics), North Dakota State University (education) or Minot (N.D.) State University (science). This means that teachers who took the class when it was a one-credit course can take it again if they need a refresher as a lot of new information has been added.

For further information, contact Jeremy Woeste at 1-800-242-2372 or e-mail him at [JWoeste@bepc.com](mailto:JWoeste@bepc.com).

# Building On Tradition

**“A look at the expertise behind the construction is on that speaks of decades of experience.”**

**by Brenda Kleinjan**

**T**HERE'S A RELATIVE NEW-COMER TO THE custom-built ready-to-move homes market in the state: ProComm Builders. But, a look at the expertise behind the construction is one that speaks of decades of experience.

The main ProComm sales center is at the junction of Highways 12 and 281 in Aberdeen, S.D. But the homes showcased there are built at the Brentwood Colony northwest of Faulkton, S.D.

The 33,000-square-foot indoor production facility graces the colony's west entrance. Pulling off the road one encounters spec homes and sold homes that are in the final finishing stages awaiting transport to either the Aberdeen sales center or their permanent location. Behind the homes is the new production facility complete with an observation deck where clients can check in on their home under construction.

The large grain leg common at Hutterite colonies can be seen toward the heart of the colony and hog barns housing 3,400 sows are seen behind a shelterbelt.

While the traditional ag-based enterprises are an essential part of the colony's economy, the expansion to include manufacturing can be seen across the state.

“We needed to get the guys busy,” said Jonathan Stahl with a bit of humor. Stahl is the lead electrician. The ProComm shop employs eight to 10 workers, or about a tenth of the colony's population.

There are about 60 Hutterite Bretheren Colonies in South Dakota, with the Brentwood Colony being one of the western-most. And, most of these colonies are served by rural electric cooperatives.

“We serve nine Hutterite Colonies,” said FEM Electric Member Services Director Rich Johnson of Ipswich. And, Johnson noted, many have ventured beyond their ag-based enterprises.

“We have one colony that makes granite countertops. Brentwood builds the ProComm homes and another has a laser cutter for making machine parts.”

Like the other business endeavors undertaken by the colony, frequent production meetings keep the workforce humming along as they work to finish the







**Top:** From an observation room, clients can watch the progress of a home under construction in the ProComm's 33,000-square foot production facility. This house measures 71 by 32 feet. The width of the homes is limited by the building's 36-foot wide door. **Bottom:** Jacoby Kleinsasser and Zach Stahl mark rafters in preparation of the next phase of the home's construction. **Opposite page:** Completed and nearly completed houses can be seen between the road and the ProComm production facility on the west edge of the Brentwood Colony northwest of Faulkton, S.D.

homes, which can be built in three months from start to finish if everything goes right.

In 2012, ProComm built 11 houses; in the future, Stahl said they'd like to ramp up to 25 homes a year.

Part of keeping to their three-month goal is the timely delivery of supplies.

"The suppliers say six weeks and it takes nine," said Stahl. "We're getting better at it."

"When we first started we had a backlog of three months waiting for supplies," said Stahl. "That was very frustrating."

Now, those parts of the process are ironing out, but it can still be a waiting game.

Depending on the size of the house, the production facility can easily accommodate three houses under construction indoors. There is one limiting factor though: houses can't be more than 36 feet wide or they won't fit out of the production facility's giant door.

Under each of the houses in the production facility are several hover mats. Each square – which is less than 2 feet by 2 feet, is filled with air when it is time to move the house. The house then levitates – or hovers – as it is moved toward the building's exit or is moved to the side so that work can start on the next house.

ProComm uses a double-wall construction method that consists of a six-inch insulated exterior wall that is sealed in plastic. Electric lines, plumbing and audio visual infrastructure are placed in a channel between the exterior wall and the second interior wall that contains another three inches of insulation.

"Because the envelope is sealed, you never feel air around the outlets," Stahl explained.

All told, the house's walls have an R-29 value while the ceilings boast an R-value of 60.

"The homes are air-tight so you need an air exchanger," Stahl said. The construction method allows for a very energy efficient house.

Stahl noted that one ProComm house that is in the Faulkton area cost the owner \$95 a month to heat and cool the 4,400-square foot home (2,200 on main level and 2,200 in the basement) with a geothermal system.

The ProComm's double-wall construction also minimizes cracking that happens when houses are moved.

ProComm uses a house mover that has experience moving homes that are more than 2,400 square feet. The ProComm flier says homes can be delivered up to 500 miles from the production facility.

Another benefit of the indoor facility: the home never gets wet while under construction.

"The first house we did outside, it got snowed on seven times," said Stahl, noting that those challenges have been eliminated with the production facility.

The crews building the homes are proud of another aspect of their houses: they can be truly customized.

"We have basic plans for a customer to work off of and expand from there, but it's custom to them. It's not just customizing the finishes," said Stahl.

The ProComm Builders Sales Center is staffed four days a week. For more information, contact Jerry at [reifprojectservices@gmail.com](mailto:reifprojectservices@gmail.com)

## Hutterites in South Dakota

**The Hutterite Bretheren** have been a part of the Dakotas since before statehood.

The first Hutterite Colonies were established in the southeast corner of what would become South Dakota in the early 1870s. (Statehood would not come until 1889.)

Today, an estimated 6,000 people live on one of the state's approximately five dozen colonies.

"When you consider that South Dakota has 60,000 people living on farms as identified in the Census, having 6,000 at colonies is significant," said Dr. Michael McCurry, the state demographer at the South Dakota State University Rural Life and Data Center in Brookings, S.D. (By Census of Ag definitions, living on a farm does not include the colony residents.) "When you look at what's real for us, you're sitting on about 10 percent of that rural population is Hutterite."

He noted that three counties in South Dakota – Faulk, McPherson and Hanson – have more than 10 percent of the county population living at a Hutterite Colony. (In Faulk County, nearly one in five county residents lives in a colony.)

In as yet unpublished paper McCurry is working on with PhD. Candidate Prekchya Singh, the duo write that while South Dakota farm populations have declined at a fairly constant rate in the last half of the 20th century, one group of South Dakota agriculturalists has continued to grow in both population and agricultural operations.

"These people, the Hutterites, are an Anabaptist religious group to whom living communally is an essential component of their faith," Prekchya and McCurry write.

Their research shows that in 1957, 17 colonies in the state has 1,870 residents, a number that would grow to 5,930 in 61 colonies, the duo report.

# Certainty In Uncertain Times

**S**OUTH DAKOTA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES GATHERED IN PIERRE Jan. 10 and 11 for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association's 71st annual meeting. During the meeting, the 317 cooperative leaders, which represented each of the state's 31 electric cooperatives, heard presentations that focused on grassroots advocacy, the importance of an energized cooperative culture and other aspects impacting electric cooperatives.

On Thursday, cooperative directors attended an "In the Boardroom" training session presented by NRECA focusing on Planning Among Regulatory Uncertainty. A session on the importance of grassroots advocacy was also held, which included a state legislative update prior to the evening's Legislative Dinner, which saw more than 420 people attend.

"This year will be a great opportunity to know the new legislators," said SDREA board president Don Heeren. "Our Co-op Day at the Capitol on Feb. 26 will provide an additional occasion for co-op members, directors and employees to get to know our lawmakers and become more familiar with the legislative process."

The importance of co-op members being involved in their cooperatives was stressed by SDREA's general manager.

"There is so much going on in our industry right now that

these meetings take on special meaning," said SDREA general manager Ed Anderson. "Bringing electric co-op leaders from around the state to discuss issues and spend time with their local legislators adds tremendous value to our organization."

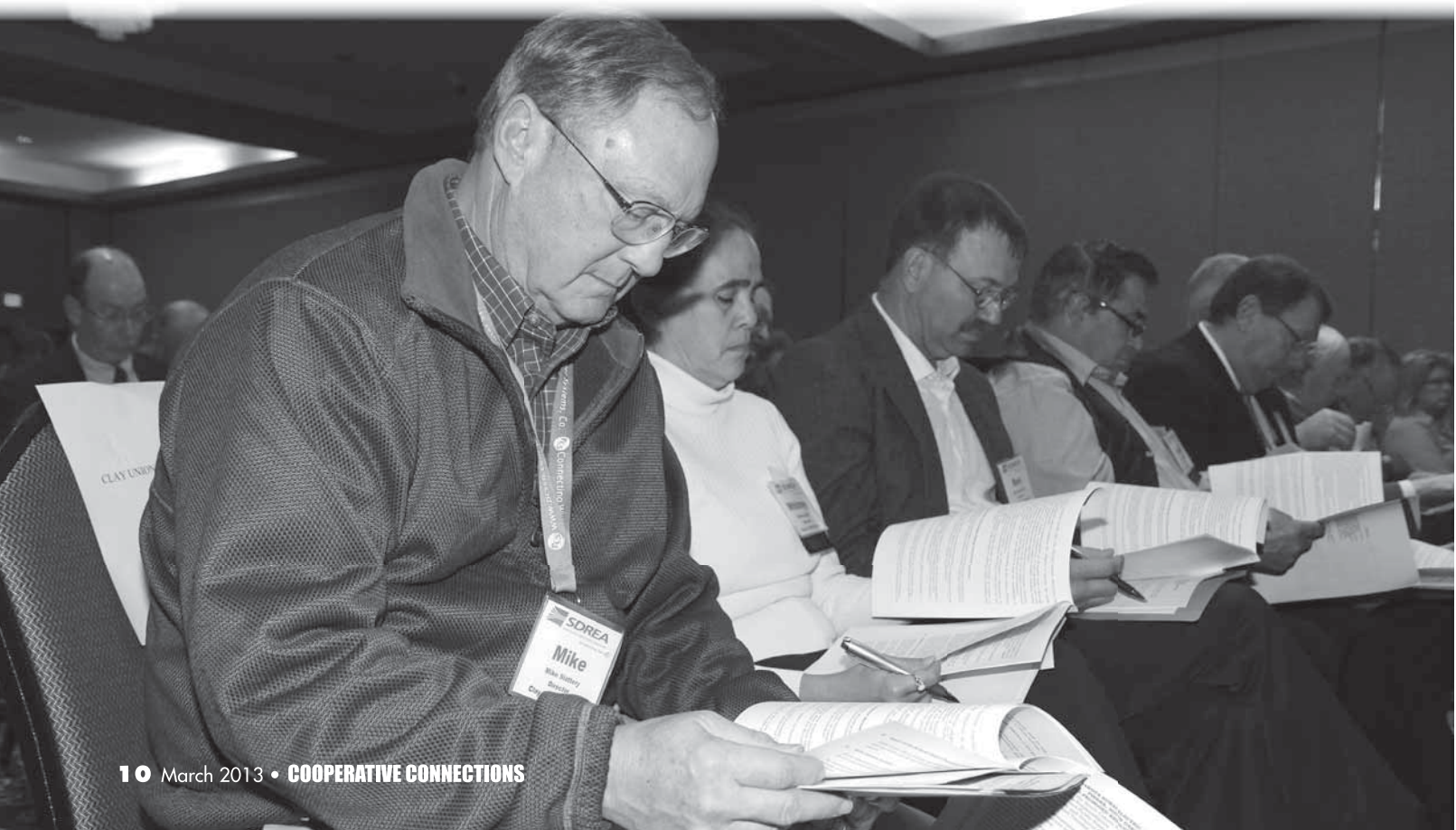
Gov. Dennis Daugaard spoke to the group on Friday morning and commended their work in the state.

"You go the extra mile for your members and you're persistent. We, as a state, need to be persistent in solving our budget issues," said Daugaard.

On Friday morning, representatives of Sen. Tim Johnson, Sen. John Thune and Rep. Kristi Noem spoke to the group and gave an update on issues from a national perspective.

## Board Reorganizes

Following the meeting, the board of directors held its re-organizational meeting. Southeastern Electric director Don Heeren of Parker was re-elected as the association's president while Lacreek Electric director Butch Livermont of Martin was re-elected as the association's vice president. West River Electric director Bill Bielmaier of Wall was re-elected secretary of the association and West Central Electric director D.J. Mertens of Kennebec was elected as the association's treasurer.





**Above:** SDREA Lobbyist and Board Attorney Darla Rogers, left, speaks with Dist. 20 Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, at the SDREA Legislative Dinner in Pierre.

**Above, Top Photo:** Dist. 26A Rep. Troy Heinert, D-Mission, discusses issues with Richard Schneider, left, and other members of the Cherry-Todd Electric board.

**Above, Middle Photo:** Dist. 21 Rep. Julie Bartling, D-Gregory, talks with Charles Mix Electric Directors Wally Johnson, left and Joseph Rysavy, right.

**Opposite Page:** Voting delegates at the SDREA annual meeting consider resolutions and bylaws amendments to guide the association's efforts. Pictured from left are Mike Slattery (Clay Union Electric, Vermillion), Whitney Meek (Cherry-Todd Electric, Mission), Ron Samuelson (Charles Mix Electric, Lake Andes), David Gaulke (Central Electric, Mitchell) and Tom Brunner (Butte Electric, Newell).

## South Dakota Co-ops Honored

During the 71st South Dakota Rural Electric Association annual meeting Jan. 10 and 11, numerous South Dakotans were recognized for their dedication to the electric cooperative program in the state.

SDREA's 28 electric cooperative distribution systems and three generation and transmission electric cooperatives serve nearly 300,000 people across 90 percent of South Dakota's land mass. These systems are member-owned utilities established to provide at-cost electric service to more than 114,000 farms, homes, schools, churches, businesses and other establishments across the state.

SDREA is the service association of the state's electric cooperatives and is devoted to unifying, promoting and protecting the interests of member electric cooperatives in South Dakota by providing leadership, training, communication, legislative representation and other member services. Each of the 31 SDREA member cooperatives selects a director from their local board, which is elected by the cooperative's membership, to represent the cooperative on the SDREA board of directors.

### Years of Service Recognition

**Fifty-eight cooperative** directors and employees were recognized for 25 or more years of service to the state's electric cooperatives. Those recognized, along with their years of service and the cooperative they are affiliated with, include:

**25 Years of Service:** Glen Reaser, Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Custer; Floyd Burbach, Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Tabor, Cris Miller, Butte Electric Cooperative, Newell; Geoff Byrd and Alan Spader, Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell; Sally Florey and Bob Struck, Charles Mix Electric Association, Lake Andes; Darrell Scott, Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative, Mission; Alan Gauer and James Ryken, Clay Union Electric Corporation, Vermillion; Tammy Popham, Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Watertown; Randy Hoffman, East River Electric Power Cooperative, Madison; Jerry Reisenauer and Bonnie Sander, Grand Electric Cooperative, Bison; Pat Kirby, H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake; Duane Pearman, Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Timber Lake; Kenny Swanson, Northern Electric Cooperative, Bath; LeRoy Littau, Rosebud Electric Cooperative, Gregory; Bruce Halverson, Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Marion; and Byron Frank, Ross Johnson and Joel Stephens, West River Electric Association, Wall;

**30 Years of Service:** Gene Popkes, Cherry-Todd Electric; Mike Kruse, Clay Union Electric; Doug Engbrecht, East River Electric; Tom Lundborg, Lake Region Electric Association, Webster; Darvin Dickhaut, Northern Electric; Susan Hilmoie, Sioux Valley Energy, Colman; and Marvin Moor, West Central Electric Cooperative, Murdo;

**35 Years of Service:** Robert Ulmer, Bon Homme Yankton Electric; Curt Guindon, Central Electric; Julie Labrie, Dakota Energy Cooperative, Huron; Ken Booze, Jim Iversen and Val Manthey, East River Electric; Alden Flakoll, FEM Electric Association, Ipswich; Gladys Jackson, Grand Electric; Doug Lynch and Trudy Smith, Lake Region Electric; Greg Selken, Sioux Valley Energy; Doug Bartling and Bob Schrag, Southeastern Electric; and Steve Reed, West Central Electric;

**40 Years of Service:** Robert Weisz, Central Electric; and Richard Luke, Southeastern Electric;

**50 Years of Service:** Ray Osburn, Cherry-Todd Electric

### Safety Recognized

**Seven cooperatives** were recognized for their 2012 safety accomplishments during the SDREA annual meeting.

Bon Homme Yankton Electric; Butte Electric; East River Electric; Grand Electric; H-D Electric; Sioux Valley Energy; and SDREA, each completed its three-year enhanced assessment process in 2012.

Other South Dakota cooperatives participating in RESAP include: Black Hills Electric; Central Electric; Charles Mix Electric; Clay Union Electric; Codington-Clark Electric; Dakota Energy; FEM Electric; Kingsbury Electric Cooperative, De Smet; Southeastern Electric; West River Electric; and Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Milbank.

The mission of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program is "to establish and promote the highest quality safety standards, best practices, and behaviors of a high performing safety culture."

# Lewis & Clark Regional Water System:

## *Working to Fulfill a Dream*

By Brenda Kleinjan

**I**N JULY 2012, THE LEWIS AND CLARK REGIONAL Water System hit an historic milestone when it began delivering water to 11 of its 20 member municipalities and rural water systems. When completed, the system will provide safe, reliable drinking water through its members to more than 300,000 people in South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota. Lewis & Clark's member systems will use this new source of water to either replace or supplement existing sources of supply.

Through careful engineering analysis, the Missouri River was determined to be the most viable source of water for Lewis & Clark. Utilizing a series of wells to tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River near Vermillion, S.D., the system will distribute treated water through 337 miles of pipeline to members in a roughly 5,000 square mile area, which is the size of Connecticut. In addition to a traditional lime treatment facility, the non-

looped system will also include a series of pump stations and reservoirs. The water treatment plant will be located three miles north of Vermillion.

Depending on federal funding levels, construction is estimated to be completed around 2019, but that target date is one that may prove elusive. The maximum capacity from the completed system will be 45 million gallons per day (MGD). The maximum capacity represents less than three-tenths of 1 percent of the average daily flow of the Missouri River.

Lewis & Clark will improve the quality of life for area residents by addressing water quality, supply and infrastructure problems. In addition, it will stimulate the regional economy for years to come. Besides the obvious long-term growth potential to its members, Lewis & Clark will have a positive impact on the local and regional economies during construction.



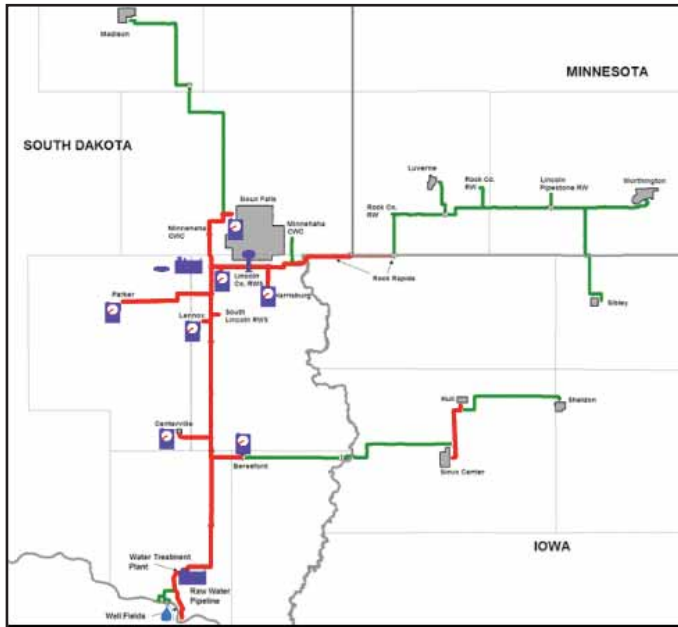
Based on the federal component of project expenditures, it's estimated that the economic impact to the region from construction of the project will total \$374 million, which includes the creation of 3,730 construction related jobs over the lifetime of the project. These jobs will mean a direct labor income of \$10.2 million annually to a region with an annual median income of \$37,814. Tax revenues generated from construction

are expected to be \$15.9 million. The direct, indirect and induced impact of the operation and maintenance of the facilities after construction is estimated to be over \$7 million annually for the region, creating 74 permanent positions.

When rural water leaders went to Washington, D.C., in February for their legislative rally, funding needs of the Lewis and Clark system were one of the points discussed.

The project, which is five years behind schedule, was again requesting \$35 million. Lewis & Clark's 20 member communities, along with the states of South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota, have prepaid 100 percent of their share of the project, which is a combined total of \$153.6 million. The federal government has appropriated \$207.5 million, but has a remaining balance of \$200.6 million – which is indexed each year for inflation. In 2012, the remaining federal cost share was \$194.3 million, which shows that federal funding is not even keeping up with inflation, let alone allow the project to make any meaningful construction progress.

Unless federal funding is increased, the only contract the system plans to



The red areas on the map indicate completed portions of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System while the green areas are yet to be completed. The system is 65 percent complete.

award in 2013 is a roughly \$300,000 meter house for Rock Rapids, Iowa. Lewis & Clark has exhausted all its prepayment funds, so from here on out it is entirely dependent upon federal funding for its construction schedule. The longer it takes to complete the project the more it costs the taxpayers due to lost economic development opportunities and increased inflation costs.

If hypothetically the project received \$10 million a year, Worthington, Minn., would not receive water until roughly 2030, Madison, S.D., not until 2035 and Sibley, Iowa, not until 2037. In terms of construction, Lewis & Clark is 65 percent complete and began delivering water to 11 of its 20 members in July 2012. When the remaining nine members are connected is entirely dependent upon future federal funding. Until the remaining members are connected, the first members receiving water are paying much higher water rates as they are paying all the operation and maintenance expenses of operating the System. In addition, Sioux Falls cannot access its full reserved capacity until all members are connected.

## Rural Water in S.D.

The first rural water systems began serving rural South Dakotans in 1967 and 1968 when the Rapid Valley Sanitary District began operation in Pennington County and the Butte-Meade SWD began serving water in Butte and Meade counties in western South Dakota. By the early to mid-1970s, systems in eastern South Dakota were also in operation.

Today, more than two-thirds of all South Dakotans receive their water from a rural water system in 65 of the state's 66 counties. (There is no rural water system serving in Harding County in the state's northwest corner.) Among the systems operating in South Dakota today are:

- Aurora-Brule RWS, Inc., Kimball
- BDM RWS, Inc., Britton
- Big Sioux CWS, Inc., Egan
- Brookings-Deuel RWS, Inc., Toronto
- Butte-Meade SWD, Newell
- Clark RWS, Inc., Clark
- Clay RWS, Wakonda
- Davison RWS, Inc., Mitchell
- Fall River WUD, Oral
- Grant-Roberts RWS, Inc., Milbank
- Hanson RWS, Inc., Emery
- Kingbrook RWS, Inc., Arlington
- Lewis & Clark RWS, Inc., Sioux Falls
- Lower Brule RWSS, Lower Brule
- Lincoln County RWS, Inc., Harrisburg
- Mid-Dakota RWS, Miller
- Minneaha CWC, Dell Rapids
- Oglala Sioux RWSS-OST DWM&C, Pine Ridge
- Perkins County RWS, Inc., Bison
- Rapid Valley Sanitary District/Water Service, Rapid City
- Rosebud RWS, Rosebud
- Sioux RWS, Inc., Watertown
- Southern Black Hills, Hot Springs
- South Lincoln RWS, Inc., Canton
- TM RWD, Parker
- Tri-County Water Association, Inc., Eagle Butte
- Tripp County WUD, Winner
- WEB RWS, Aberdeen
- West River/Lyman-Jones RWS, Inc., Murdo

Systems as listed on [www.sdarws.com](http://www.sdarws.com).

# Pumping for Oil:

## Oil Industry Has Growing Presence in Northwestern South Dakota

By Brenda Kleinjan

**W**HILE MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT THE OIL boom taking place in western North Dakota, oil wells have steadily been pumping out oil in northwestern South Dakota for years.

And for Bison, S.D.-based Grand Electric Cooperative, which serves Harding and Perkins counties in the extreme northwest corner of the state along with portions of Butte, Corson, Meade and Ziebach counties in South Dakota and part of Carter

County in Montana, the oil-related industry is a big part of the cooperative's energy sales and has been growing since the mid-1990s.

The co-op serves three compressor sites for Oklahoma-based Continental Resources in addition to 221 oil wells owned by one of 10 companies.

"About 75 percent of Grand's load goes to those compressors and the oil wells," said Colgan Huber, Grand Electric's finance director.



In December 2012, Grand Electric sold 19 million kilowatt hours of electricity, and nearly 14.8 million went to the oil wells and compressors.

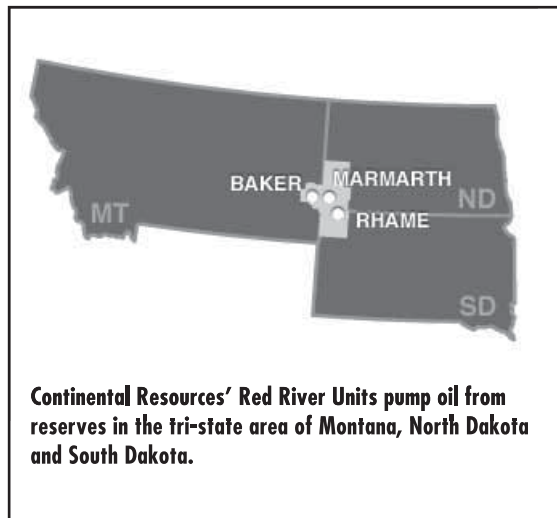
(By comparison, the average residential account served by the co-op used 1,238 kwh a month in 2012. The energy used by the oil industry is roughly the equivalent to powering nearly 12,000 homes and farms in Grand's service area.)

By far the biggest part of the electric load goes to Continental Resources, Huber said.

Continental Resources is a Top 10 petroleum liquids producer in the United States and the largest leaseholder in the nation's premier oil play, the Bakken Play of North Dakota and Montana. Based in Oklahoma City, the company also has a leading presence in the Anadarko Woodford Play of Oklahoma and the Red River Units Play of North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. Founded in 1967, Continental's growth strategy has focused on crude oil since the 1980s. The company reported total revenues of \$1.6 billion for 2011 and is on track to triple production and proved reserves from 2009 to 2014.

Continental Resources' Harding County presence is part of Continental Resources' Red River Units, located in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota, produce crude oil and natural gas from the Red River "B" formation, a thin, continuous dolomite formation at depths of 8,000 to 9,500 feet. The company's units comprise a portion of the Cedar Hills Field, the seventh largest onshore field in the lower 48 United States, ranked by liquid proved reserves. Continental has a one-rig drilling program in the enhanced oil-recovery units and is focused on extending the peak performance life of the field, primarily by increasing water and air injection capabilities.

Continental drilled the initial horizontal well in what was later described as the Cedar Hills North unit – the Ponderosa 1-15 and the company was



also the first to develop the Cedar Hills Field exclusively through precision horizontal drilling in 1995.

The Red River Units accounted for about 14 percent of the company's production in the third quarter of 2012. By comparison, the North Dakota Bakken Play accounted for more than 50 percent of the company's production that same quarter.

According to its web site, sinking a jump shot 4 miles away is similar to what Continental does when drilling a horizontal well. With advanced technology, Continental is able to place a drill bit in oil reservoirs about the size of a basketball hoop two miles away after drilling two miles down.

Continental says horizontal drilling gives it access to resource plays that were previously not economic to produce. With this technology, they unlock oil and natural gas reservoirs throughout the U.S., reducing the nation's dependence on foreign energy imports.

The oil and natural gas resources that Continental targets are usually located thousands of feet below freshwater sources. This below-ground water is mainly found in porous rock crevices or between particles of sand. The company notes that one of the reasons it puts special casings around its drilling pipe before extracting oil and natural gas is to protect the freshwater resources. The casing enables the company to confine the hydrocarbons so they don't mix with groundwater as they reach the wells.

*For more about Continental Resources, go to <http://www.contres.com/>*

**Power lines lead to one of Continental Resources' rigs in the Bakken Play in North Dakota.**

Photo by Continental Resources

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## Regional Dateline

### February 20-21

Ag Expo, Aberdeen, SD  
 605-725-5551

### February 23

Memorial Day weekend  
 reservations open for  
 S.D. state parks  
 Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

### February 23

Owl Moon Snowshoe Hike  
 Bruce, SD, 605-627-5441

### February 23

Snowshoe at Roughlock Falls  
 Spearfish, SD, 605-584-3896



## Events of Special Note

### March 15-17

South Dakota Horse Fair  
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-370-1607

### April 19-20

Bull Riding Classic  
 Aberdeen, SD, 701-663-4973

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

### March 2

Sylvan Lake Snowshoe Hike  
 Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

### March 6

Kids Voting-South Dakota  
 Liberty Ball Game  
 S.D. House of Representatives  
 vs. S.D. Senate  
 5:30 p.m. Tacos with Top Dogs  
 7 p.m. Game Time  
 Pierre Riggs Gymnasium  
 Pierre, SD, 605-341-4311

### March 7

Pearls, Pumps, and Purses –  
 Wild Safari Nights!  
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-336-9469

### March 9

Chamber Trade Show  
 Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

### March 9-10

Annual Home Builders  
 Home Show, Aberdeen, SD  
 605-225-2055

### March 9-10

2013 Gun Show  
 American Legion Hall  
 Philip, SD, 605-859-2635  
 605-859-2280 or  
 605-859-2892

### March 15-16, 22-23

Schmeckfest  
 Freeman, SD  
 605-925-4542

### March 16

Father's Day weekend  
 reservations open for  
 S.D. state parks  
 Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

### March 22-23

Holiday Arts Spring  
 Craft Show  
 Masonic Temple  
 Mitchell, SD, 605-248-2526

### March 23

S.D. State Taxidermy  
 Competition  
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-460-2133

### March 28-30

Yelduz Shrine Circus  
 Aberdeen, SD, 605-225-4841

### March 29

South Dakota Cowgirl  
 Public Art Reception  
 Hill City, SD, 605-574-3898

### March 30

Second Annual Spring Fling  
 Vendor Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 James Valley Community  
 Center, Mitchell, SD  
 605-770-6247

### April 5

Fourth of July reservations  
 open for S.D. state parks  
 Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

### April 6

Lunafest Film Festival  
 Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

### April 6-7

2013 Spring Big Boy Toy Show  
 Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-3632

### April 6-7

Hats off to the Artists 23rd  
 Annual Art Show  
 Community Center  
 Faulkton, SD  
 605-598-4482

### April 7

Farm Toy & Sports Card Show  
 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
 Davison County Fairgrounds  
 Mitchell, SD, 605-996-4494  
 or 605-996-5816

### April 12-14

Art Show, Mobridge, SD  
 605-845-2060

### April 13

Stampede Home Game  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-336-6060

### April 13

Spring Fling Home & Garden  
 Show, Hot Springs, SD  
 605-745-4140