

South Dakota Electric

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Cooperative Connections

SEPTEMBER 2016 VOL. 68 NO. 9



A New Home
for 4-H at the State Fair P8-9



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Black Hills Electric, Custer, S.D.
Bon Homme Yankton Electric, Tabor, S.D.
Butte Electric, Newell, S.D.
Cam Wal Electric, Selby, S.D.
Central Electric, Mitchell, S.D.
Charles Mix Electric, Lake Andes, S.D.
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Dakota Energy, Huron, S.D.
Douglas Electric, Armour, S.D.
East River Electric, Madison, S.D.
FEM Electric, Ipswich, S.D.
Grand Electric, Bison, S.D.
H-D Electric, Clear Lake, S.D.
Kingsbury Electric, De Smet, S.D.
Lacreek Electric, Martin, S.D.
Lake Region Electric, Webster, S.D.
Lyon-Lincoln Electric, Tyler, Minn.
Moreau-Grand Electric, Timber Lake, S.D.
Northern Electric, Bath, S.D.
Oahe Electric, Blunt, S.D.
Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, Danube, Minn.
Rosebud Electric, Gregory, S.D.
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.
Whetstone Valley Electric, Milbank, S.D.
City of Elk Point, S.D.

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Brenda Kleinjan, Editor
Dawn Trapp, Communications Specialist

Electrical Safety Lessons for Kids



Ed Anderson
General Manager, South Dakota
Rural Electric Association

We all know electricity plays a major role in our everyday lives, and it is a powerful resource that should be respected. Unfortunately, our children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. Electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota encourage you to share electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible. We also understand their attention spans run short, so here are a few creative ways to get them involved.

- Depending on the age of your child, consider designating an “electronics deputy.” The deputy should be responsible for pointing out electronics in your home that are not in use and keeping appliances safe from liquids. Reward your deputy for pointing out overloaded outlets or other potentially dangerous situations.

- Emphasize the importance of fire prevention with your children, and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution. Incentivize your children by rewarding those who followed the plan and made it safely out of the home.

- While it is fun and engaging to turn safety into a game, it is important to ensure your children understand the risks they are facing if they do not practice electrical safety.

One of the most important safety tips you can give your kids is to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers and substations in general. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed power line or low hanging wire. And, if they encounter a downed power line, ask them to tell you or another adult to call [Insert co-op/PPD/PUD name].

Here are a few other safety tips you can share with your kids:

- Never put metal objects in outlets or appliances.
- Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.
- Never mix water and electricity.

No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, your local electric cooperative is here to help. To learn more about electrical safety, contact one of the cooperatives listed to the left.

Back-to-School Electrical Safety

When hooking up computers, appliances, TVs, game consoles and other electronics, it pays to be safe. Students and parents who know what electrical hazards to look for and how to address them will start the school year with peace of mind.

Protect yourself from injury and keep electronics running safely by taking the following precautions:

- Use only approved electrical products with the mark of a recognized certification agency.
- Choose power bars with a heavy-gauge cord that are approved by a recognized certification agency.
- Replace frayed or damaged extension cords with new ones.
- Keep extension cords out from under carpet, rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and also present a fire hazard.
- Keep flammable materials such as books, paper and clothing away from



heaters, stoves and other heating sources.

- Never leave cooking appliances unattended.
- Plug portable heaters and air conditioners directly into the outlet. If an extension cord is needed, to prevent overheating and risk of fire, use only one that is rated for this purpose to ensure that the cord can handle the electrical current.
- Never remove the third prong from an electrical product. The third prong is the grounding device and is a critical safety feature.
- Avoid overloading outlets or circuits as this can cause overheating that may lead to fire.

Off to College

Every fall, thousands of students move away from home to attend college. When renting off-campus accommodations, have the landlord correct any electrical hazards before you move in, such as:

- Exposed electrical wiring;
- Loose or damaged plugs and switches or outlets and switches with missing cover plates;
- Dim, flickering or surging lights;
- Fuses that blow or circuit breakers that frequently trip or outlets that don't work when fuses are replaced or breakers reset; and
- Fuses and switches that are warm or hot to the touch.

Source: esasafe.com

Election Watch: Amendment R

When South Dakota voters head to the polls this fall, they will have a voice in the state's technical education program.

Many South Dakota industries are facing a critical shortage of skilled workers — they are in need of more of these specialized and well-trained employees — which has cut into their ability to grow and has had a negative impact on the state's economy, supporters say.

In November 2014, a number of industry leaders throughout the state organized the Skilled Workforce Advocacy Council (SWAC) to try and fix the problem. They have worked with the Legislature and Governor and are supporting the Constitutional Amendment initiated by House Joint Resolution 1003 from the last legislative session. The Amendment passed unanimously through committee and, but for one vote, on both chambers of the Legislature. The technical institutes, the South Dakota Board of Regents, industry and business leaders, the Governor's office and members of the state education system all testified in favor of the amendment. The wording of the amendment was drafted in a coordinated effort between the Board of Regents, the technical institutes, legislative leadership and the Governor's office.

SWAC sees this as the best way to bring the necessary support to businesses in need of a skilled workforce.

The needs of our technical schools are unique and should be a prime focus for funding and program development, supporters — including the state's electric cooperatives — say. As South Dakota's principal means for educating and training skilled workers, the technical institutes must be recognized as a distinct education and training system.



Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Call 8-1-1 before you dig."



Elizabeth Land, 9 years old

Elizabeth is the daughter of Greg and Anne Land, Dell Rapids, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, 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. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Garden Goodness



Ripe Tomato Relish

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12 cups ripe tomatoes, chopped | 3 green peppers, chopped |
| 7 large onions, chopped | 2 cups white vinegar |
| 3 cups celery, chopped | 4 cups sugar |
| 1/4 cup salt | 2 T. mustard seed |

Combine tomatoes, onions, celery and salt; let set overnight. The next morning, drain for 4 hours. Add remaining ingredients. Put in jars and refrigerate.

Laila Arndt, Glenham

Sweet & Sour Salad

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 12 cups watermelon, cut into cubes | Dressing: |
| 2 cucumbers, peeled and cubed | 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar |
| 2 green onions, coarsely chopped | 1/2 cup sugar |
| | 1 tsp. poppy seeds |
| | 1/4 tsp. salt and pepper |

Put watermelon in a colander to drain while preparing cucumbers and onion. Combine watermelon, cucumbers and onions in a large bowl. Mix together dressing ingredients in a shaker bottle until sugar is dissolved. Pour dressing over salad, gently stirring to coat. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Susie Trapp, Humboldt

Summer Garden 'N Pasta

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 lb. thin spaghetti, broken into 1-inch pieces | 1 red onion, diced |
| 1 pint cherry tomatoes, cut in half | Dressing: |
| 2 medium zucchini, diced | 1 (16 oz.) bottle Italian salad dressing |
| 1 large cucumber, diced | 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese |
| 1 medium green bell pepper, diced | 1 T. sesame seeds |
| 1 red bell pepper, diced | 1 tsp. paprika |
| 2 (2-1/4 oz. cans) sliced ripe olives, drained | 1/2 tsp. celery seed |
| | 1/2 tsp. garlic powder |

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse in cold water. In a large bowl, combine pasta, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumber, green and red bell pepper, red onion and olives. To make dressing, whisk together Italian salad dressing, Parmesan cheese, sesame seeds, paprika, celery seed and garlic powder. Pour over salad and toss until coated. Cover and refrigerate for 3 hours or overnight.

Ginny Jensen, Volga

Roasted Vegetables

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 tsp. garlic salt | 1 small zucchini, sliced |
| 1 tsp. Italian seasoning | 1 cup asparagus pieces |
| 1/2 tsp. fennel seed | 1 cup red potato chunks |
| 1 small green bell pepper, cut into chunks | 1 cup baby carrots |
| 1 small red onion, cut into thin wedges | 2 T. oil |
| 1 small yellow squash, sliced | 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese, optional |

Mix seasonings in small bowl. Toss vegetables and oil in large bowl. Add seasonings; toss to coat well. Spread vegetables in single layer on foil-lined 15x10x1-inch baking pan. Bake at 450°F. for 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. If desired, sprinkle 1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese over vegetables during last 5 minutes of baking. Makes 6 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 93, Total Fat 5g, Cholesterol 0mg, Sodium 342mg, Carbohydrates 10g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Protein 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Vegetable Pizza

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 tubes refrigerated crescent rolls | Garden vegetables of choice |
| 2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened | - carrots, peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, etc. |
| 1 pkg. dry ranch dressing | Shredded Cheddar cheese |
| 1 cup mayonnaise | |

Unroll crescent rolls and pat onto a greased jelly roll pan. Bake according to package directions; cool completely. Mix together cream cheese, dry ranch dressing and mayonnaise. Spread on crust. Top with cut up piece of vegetables, pressing down slightly. Top with shredded cheese. Refrigerate.

Eric Neville, Milesville

Zucchini Pancakes

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/3 cup biscuit baking mix | 2 eggs, lightly beaten |
| 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese | 2 cups shredded zucchini |
| 1/8 tsp. pepper | 2 T. butter |

In a bowl, combine biscuit baking mix, Parmesan cheese, pepper and eggs just until blended. Add zucchini, mixing well. In a large skillet, melt butter. Drop batter by about 1/3-cupfuls into skillet; press lightly to flatten. Fry until golden brown, about 3 minutes each side.

Lynn Holzerland, Waubay

Please send your favorite pasta, crockpot and holiday treat recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2016. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Is A Geothermal Heat Pump Right for You?



Patrick Keegan
Collaborative Efficiency

Dear Pat: I am planning to replace my current heating system with a geothermal heat pump. It is comparatively pricey to other options, but it seems like an efficient option and I like the fact that it includes air conditioning. Would a geothermal heat pump be a good choice for me? – Ralph D.

Dear Ralph: In most areas of the U.S., space heating and cooling account for a large

percentage of overall home energy use, so upgrading to a more efficient HVAC system is a great way to reduce your monthly energy bill. A geothermal heat pump, also known as a ground-source heat pump, is among the most efficient types of heating and cooling systems you can consider installing in your home.

Even when it is extremely hot or cold outside, the temperature a few feet below the surface of the ground remains relatively constant and moderate. A geothermal heat pump system uses this constant ground temperature to help heat and cool your home. As a result, geothermal heat pumps are quite efficient. For example, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, geothermal heat pumps use up to 44 percent less energy than traditional air-source heat pumps and up to 72 percent less energy than electric resistance heaters combined with standard air conditioners.

A geothermal heat pump system is made up of three main components:

1. The collector, or loop field, which is in the ground and cycles a liquid, like antifreeze, through dense plastic tubing
2. The heat pump that is in your home
3. The duct system that distributes the heated or cooled air throughout your home.

During the winter, the collector absorbs the heat stored in the ground and the liquid carries that heat to the heat pump, which concentrates it and blows it into the duct work, warming your home. In the summer, the heat pump extracts heat from the home and transfers it to the cooler ground.

The collector that exchanges heating and cooling with the ground can be set up in one of three main ways:

Horizontal system: Plastic tubing is placed in trenches four to six feet below the surface of the ground. This system works well when a home or business has sufficient available land, as these systems may require up to 400 feet of trenches to be dug.

Vertical system: If the site does not have sufficient space for a horizontal system, a collector can be placed vertically. In this system, a drill digs 100 to 400 feet below the surface and places the tubing. This system can be more costly than a horizontal system, but will have less impact on any existing landscaping and can be used on smaller lots.

Pond system: If a home has access to a pond or lake, a pond system (also known as a water-source heat pump) may be possible. The loop field is connected to the heat pump and then placed at least eight feet below the surface of the water. If a homeowner has access to a pond that is sufficiently wide and deep, this option can be the lowest cost.

Geothermal systems typically cost more than other heating systems, largely because of the collector and the associated digging or drilling, but their high efficiency can help reduce the payback time. The cost will vary based on whether new ductwork is needed and the type of collector you install, among other factors. However, there are incentives available for those who install qualified geothermal heat pumps. Most notably, there is a 30 percent federal tax credit for installing an ENERGY STAR®-rated system before the end of 2016 – so, if your system and installation cost \$20,000, you could take \$6,000 directly off your federal tax bill. Some states also offer tax incentives and your electric co-op may offer rebates or financing to help you pay for the system.

Geothermal systems typically cost more than other heating systems, largely because of the collector and the associated digging or drilling, but their high efficiency can help reduce the payback time.

For those with high energy bills resulting from heating and cooling, an efficient geothermal system is a good option to consider. In addition, those building new homes should consider at the outset whether to install a geothermal heat pump. With new construction, the system can be included in the mortgage and installing it before the home is completed means no disruption to your landscaping.

Talk with a qualified energy auditor who can help you evaluate the different heating and cooling options that would be best for your home.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheelless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on how to test and seal your ductwork, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Trio to be Inducted into Cooperative Hall of Fame

Three cooperative leaders who have dedicated their careers to bettering the state's cooperatives and their communities will be recognized Sept. 13 for their contributions when they are inducted into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame.

Bill Bielmaier has served on the board of directors of West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D., since October 1983. He served six years as the board's treasurer and as the secretary since 1996. He also serves as the secretary of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, Pierre, S.D., board of directors.

Mark Hofer became a director for Intercounty Electric Association, Mitchell, S.D., in 1990 and continued to serve when the cooperative merged with a neighboring cooperative to form Central Electric Cooperative in 2000. He has served on the SDREA board of directors since 1999 and has been South Dakota's representative on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association board since 2006.



Bill Bielmaier



Mark Hofer



Ronald Sandine

Ronald Sandine joined to the board of directors of TrioTel Communications in Salem, S.D. in 1975, serving the past 19 years as president.

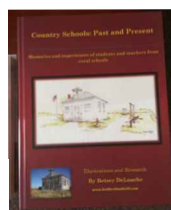
For tickets to the induction banquet, call the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives at 605-945-2548.

Books Galore!

The South Dakota Festival of Books heads east in 2016 with events scheduled Sept. 22-25 in Sioux Falls and Brookings.

The Festival annually attracts more than 4,000 writers and readers with varying interests around books and reading.

Among the authors who will set up as an exhibitor during the festival is Pierre author Betsey DeLoache, a member of Oahe Electric



Cooperative of Blunt, who has written a book about country school houses in the state called, "Country Schools: Past and Present."

Another budding co-op author won't be at the festival, but has been making the rounds with her new children's book. Danika Gordon, an eighth-grader from Sturgis, S.D., has written a book called, "Great Faces from South Dakota: How Big Can a Kid Dream." The inspiration for Gordon's book was a fourth-grade history project where school children research and portray historical figures.

Gordon's family are members of Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D.



Rural Entrepreneurs Encouraged to Apply for \$10,000 Opportunity

Rural entrepreneurs across the state are expanding their businesses, hiring more staff, making more money and learning how to work less and live more through the Dakota Rising Fellowship. Dakota Rising encourages qualified rural entrepreneurs to apply for a 2016 Dakota Rising Fellowship between Aug. 1 and Sept. 15. The impactful experience is life changing – and the \$10,000 grant is icing on the cake.

Dakota Rising is an initiative of Dakota Resources, a statewide organization designed to enrich communities and empower people across rural South Dakota. Through Dakota Rising, rural business owners can learn how to boost their businesses through an experience that challenges people to think differently. Dozens of Dakota Rising graduates testify to the powerful coaching, resources, networking and business advice gained through the fellowship.

"Thanks to Dakota Rising, I am now sole owner of my business," said Barbra Pechous of Pechous Publications in Wagner. "Dakota Rising has made me a much stronger person and also helped guide me to learn more about my business as a whole."

Applicants interested in the Dakota

Rising Fellowship should be:

- The owner or primary decision maker of a business that has progressed beyond survival or has filed a business tax return for at least two years.
- A full-time entrepreneur with at least one full- or part-time employee or contract laborer with some possible exceptions.
- Operating a business within a rural community with the potential to draw from beyond the immediate service area or a rural business owner providing an essential community product or service.
- Be willing and excited about participating in all Dakota Rising Fellow activities, gatherings, networking and learning opportunities.

Becoming a Dakota Rising Fellow has changed the lives and helped accelerate the growth of rural businesses across South Dakota, with benefits that include a like-minded support network, hands-on business coaching, access to valuable tools and resources and a \$10,000 grant. For more information or to apply, visit www.dakotaresources.org and click under the Dakota Rising tab. You can also contact Beth Davis, president of Dakota Resources, at beth@dakotaresources.org.

Nordby Exhibit Hall:

4-H's New Home at the State Fair

By
Brenda
Kleinjan

4-H MEMBERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH PLEDGES.

At meetings across the country, members pledge their head, hands, heart and health to ideals that serve society well. But, for the past three years, South Dakota 4-H members have undertaken a different type of pledge: to raise resources to construct a new home for the program that has been synonymous with state and county fairs for more than a century.

On Sept. 4 at 4 p.m., the Nordby Exhibit Hall on the South Dakota State Fair Grounds in Huron, S.D., will be dedicated.

The \$4.7 million building is multi-purpose in that it was constructed for 4-H, youth and community. It contains 30,000 square feet of exhibit space,

four classrooms, a large demonstration kitchen and offices for State Fair and Beadle County Extension staff.

The building will be a statewide home for South Dakota 4-H year-round and will be utilized for meetings, training sessions, various competitions and other gatherings. When not in use by 4-H, the building will be available for events such as conventions, trade shows, performances, receptions, etc.

"When we did the strategic plan a few years ago, one of the things identified was the need for this type of building," said Loren Noess, a member of the State Fair Board and chairman of the drive to construct Nordby Exhibit Hall.

The South Dakota State Fair Foundation was



created in 1992 with a mission to support activities designed to enhance, improve, expand and continue the South Dakota State Fair. As part of that mission, the Foundation has embarked on an important venture to further strengthen the State Fair's future.

As summer barreled to the deadline for the building's opening, organizers were nearing the end of the fund-raising for the project. At the beginning of August, \$4.36 million of the \$4.7 million goal had been raised.

There may be a few loose ends to tie up, but organizers are confident that the building will be open to greet the thousands of visitors and exhibitors at the fair.

"It will be open and usable for the State Fair. Some of the classrooms won't be completely ready, but the main exhibit hall will be," said Noess, who retired in 2015 after nearly four decades working for electric cooperatives in South Dakota.

The versatile, open-layout building replaces Clover Hall, which had been utilized since the 1950s for 4-H exhibits and competitions.

Noess noted that the building is named for Earl Nordby.

"We've had lots of help with this. Earl Nordby has been very generous providing an additional donation and then offering the challenge for additional money," said Noess.

For Noess, who said 4-H played a big role in his childhood and teen years, investing in the program makes sense for an ag-based state.

"4-H is one of the big anchors for the South Dakota State Fair," said Noess. "I have always said our No. 1 industry in South

"4-H is one of the big anchors for the South Dakota State Fair."



Dakota is agriculture. Not everyone in 4-H is going to farm and ranch, but there are so many opportunities in the ag sector – agronomists, ag lenders, rural electricians – where these members will one day contribute."

Noess said that in addition to the building's function during the State Fair, its presence is providing a foundation for other activities on the grounds.

"That type of a building has been a plus in getting other things to come to the state of South Dakota," said Noess, noting that the building was a part in securing the National Junior High Rodeo Association finals in June 2018 and 2019. "It was built for 4-H plus to be used for other activities as well such as farm shows

"One of the things that we'd like and the Legislature would like too is for the fair to have year-round activities," said Noess.

To raise the final monies needed for the building, organizers have launched The Final Brick Countdown, which is the push for the last \$500,000 of the building's \$4.7 million campaign. Any donation of \$1,000 toward the capital campaign is recognized with an engraved Sioux quartzite paver located on the grounds of the new exhibit hall. Multiple bricks can be created for one donor – for example, a donation of \$3,000 is recognized with three bricks. Call 605-553-4251 or visit www.sdstatefair-foundation.com to learn more. Online donations can be made through this site.

About Nordby Exhibit Hall:

The new 48,000 square-foot exhibit hall features:

- More than 30,000 square feet of exhibit space
- Multiple classrooms
- A versatile conference room/work room, available for activities during the fair and in the off-season
- A large kitchen for 4-H Special Foods competitions and year-round concessions
- A performance stage
- Year-round office space for the State Fair staff.



Experiencing Energy

An Investment in Youth

By Jocelyn Romey

IT WAS SAID BEST BY JOHN KEATS – “NOTHING EVER becomes real ‘til it is experienced.”

On July 25-28, 12 South Dakota electric co-operatives sent a group of young people to North Dakota to experience energy production and the process by which it is delivered to their homes and businesses. These cooperatives believe that investing in this state’s young community members is an investment in the future. In order to secure the safety and success of our future energy and cooperative business model, an investment was made in 56 young community leaders throughout the state during the 2016 Youth Excursion.

On the first day of touring, the students were able to visit Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the National Energy Center of Excellence at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, N.D. At these stops, they learned how energy is produced, marketed and delivered.

In order to witness the process of energy production, the students were also able to dedicate a full day to tour the North Dakota Energy Trail in Beulah, N.D. On this tour, stops were made at the Dakota Gasification Company’s Great Plains Synfuels Plant, the Coteau Properties’ Company

Freedom Mine and the Antelope Valley Station. Wind turbines were also inspected and discussed on the return trip after making a pit stop to gain a closer look at a few.

When asked about the trip, Kendra Schweer from Whetstone Valley Electric in Milbank said, “It was fun seeing the gasification process and different energy facilities. My favorite was the coal mine.”

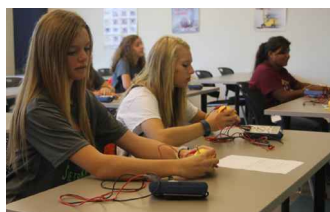
Harlee Mitchell and Alex Thyen from Codington-Clark Electric in Watertown and Kerry Cosman from H-D Electric in Clear Lake commented on how different the experience was from what they were expecting. They were amazed at the size of the facilities and equipment used while producing power.

This excursion not only provided the students with an education on energy production, but it also offered valuable understanding about the importance and influence of their local cooperatives. Topics such as the co-op’s business model and the benefits accrued by being a cooperative member were discussed and witnessed during the tours. It was an engaging experience that these students will remember when they become active community leaders and cooperative members.





Jacob Nierman from FEM Electric in Ipswich, S.D., holds a lineman's shotgun during a presentation at the National Energy Center of Excellence in Bismarck, N.D.



Above: Students listen to a presentation at Antelope Valley Station on generating electricity. **Left:** Harlee Mitchell from Codington-Clark Electric and Kerry Cosman from H-D Electric pose at the top of Antelope Valley Station. **Above Left:** Students learn to generate electricity using lemons. **Below:** Kaleb Crownover and Dallas Lee from B-Y Electric and Alex Thyen from Codington-Clark Electric create a model wind turbine.



2016 S.D. Youth Excursion Participants

Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Tabor
Kaleb Crownover Weston Frank Dallas Lee

Butte Electric Cooperative, Newell
Kamryn Brunner Logan Smith

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Watertown
Harlee Mitchell Joshua Roberts Alex Thyen

FEM Electric Association, Ipswich
Bailey Hammrich Jacob Nierman Aaron Schaible
Jaden Melius Jadon Onken Ashlee Thorson

Grand Electric Cooperative, Bison
Robert Timmons

H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake
Kerry Cosman

Lacreek Electric Association, Martin
Fawn Cross Gabe Fanning

Lake Region Electric Association, Webster
Connor Fischer

Northern Electric Cooperative, Bath
Desiree Burggraff Riley Evans Seth Howell

Sioux Valley Energy, Colman

Kassidi Bailey	Jacinda Hustoft	Anna Nuss
Riley Blissmer	Morgan Johnson	Lila Ockenga
Ashlee Boltjes	MacKenzie Ketcham	Jack Olson
Elizabeth Braley	Lauren Laphorn	Nathan Overgaard
Erika Christopherson	Maci Law	Emma Roling
Kaitlyn Draper	Madison Lee	Garrett Satterly
Marina Du	Bethany Malsam	Ashley Skeels
Emma Eichelberg	Emily Malsom	Danielle Spencer
Elizabeth Hofer	Maria Martinez	Adrienne Towne
Nicole Huebner	Autumn Mendro	Kayla Triebwasser
	Nevaeh Munce	Brody Wanner

West River Electric Association, Wall
Tyler Matt

Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Milbank
Kendra Schweer

Cooperatives Demonstrating Cooperation

COOPERATION, THE VERY ACT OF WORKING WITH one another is an intrinsic quality of cooperatives. It's one of the seven cooperative principles (Cooperation Among Cooperatives.)

Everyday, local electric cooperatives embody this principle.

Cooperation is evident in times of severe weather. When storms – whether ice storms, wind events or tornadoes – disrupt power to any of the more than 350,000 people served by electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, help from a neighboring cooperative is only a phone call away.

Local cooperatives ably and skillfully deal with most of their weather-related issues on their own. But, on occasion, Mother Nature deals out a bit more than a single cooperative can quickly deal with on their own. The ability to call in extra personnel who are trained and knowledgeable about rural electric systems can help restore power faster

than if the co-op couldn't count on that help.

And cooperatives demonstrate cooperation in other ways, too. Nearly 75 years ago, cooperatives recognized the need to speak with a common voice in the legislative arena. Minnesota cooperatives formed the Maple Grove-based Minnesota Rural Electric Association in 1941 to represent their member cooperatives' interest in front of that state's legislature. In 1942, seven cooperatives formed the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, now located in Pierre, S.D., to help fight not only legislative battles but to jointly buy wire and supplies needed to electrify rural South Dakota.

Today, both organizations continue to provide legislative representation along with safety and other training and other services that are strengthened by working together.

Also in the 1940s and 1950s, cooperatives realized that their growing systems would need more

By
Brenda Kleinjan

Below: Crews from several cooperatives assist West Central Electric Cooperative in Murdo, S.D., with repairs following a summer storm.





Left: Each spring, during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference, co-ops work together to make sure that cooperative issues are heard by our nation's leaders.

power, so generation and transmission cooperatives – such as East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D., L&O Power Cooperative in Rock Rapids, Iowa, – were created. Today these cooperatives may also assist cooperatives with engineering, information technology, economic development, advertising partnerships and other needs.

By 1961, the formation of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D., allowed these cooperatives to work together on a regional basis to generate electricity through power plants owned by cooperatives in several states. Today, Basin Electric operates a diverse energy portfolio: coal, gas, oil, nuclear, distributed and renewable energy, including wind power and is consumer-owned by 137 member cooperative systems in nine states. These cooperatives in turn provide power to more than 2 million individuals.

Throughout the year, groups of cooperatives can

be found working together promoting their services and answering members' questions at a variety of events such as the Black Hills Stock Show, Brown County Fair, South Dakota State Fair, Farmfest, Dakotafest and numerous regional farm and home shows.

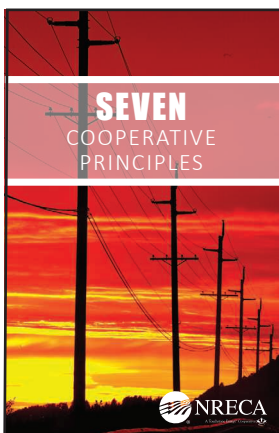
Cooperatives' commitment to education, especially providing learning opportunities to the region's youth, is yet another way that cooperatives work together.

Classroom education programs such as The Story Behind the Switch and Co-ops in the Classroom travel from school to school in cooperative territory throughout the region.

And for decades, cooperatives have provided the region's teenagers with opportunities to travel to Washington, D.C., for the Rural Electric Youth Tour. There, students truly witness the power of working together as student representatives from hundreds of cooperatives nationwide gather to learn about cooperatives, politics and the sights of the Nation's capitol.



Above: Students from cooperatives in South Dakota and Wisconsin discuss the role of cooperatives during a workshop at the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. **Left:** Festivals and shows such as Dakotafest allow cooperatives to work together to deliver safety, energy efficiency and other messages to co-op members.



VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Safety FIRST

Look Up, Look Down and Look Around

By Brenda
Kleinjan

THE APPROACH OF FALL BRINGS HARVEST, END-OF-the-year home improvement projects and other activities that can bring people outdoors near power lines and other electrical equipment.

In 2015, the insurer of electric cooperatives reported that there were 99 electrical contacts nationwide that year. Unfortunately, these contacts led to numerous injuries and 13 fatalities.

The largest number of reports came from things – from booms, cranes and buckets to antennas, flag poles, ladders and trees – making contact with overhead power lines.

Electric cooperatives strive to keep these contacts at zero. Cooperatives have these tips for staying safe:

Stay Clear

- Do not store equipment near or under power lines. Not only can the equipment be damaged in an accident, but workers climbing on the equipment can be harmed as well.
- Lastly, be careful when working around bushes

or trees as they can easily hide electrical lines and other equipment.

Be Careful Around Trees

If you plan to cut down a tree, make sure now power lines are nearby. If you cut down a tree and it falls on a power line, don't touch it or try to move it. Contact your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative immediately.

Finally, you should never plant trees directly under power lines. Short trees should be planted at least 25 feet away from power lines, while medium trees should be planted at least 40 feet away.

Always call 8-1-1- before you dig to have underground lines, pipes and cables identified.

Vehicle Accidents: Stay in your Vehicle

Accidents between vehicles and power lines can be extremely dangerous. If you are ever involved in an accident that includes downed power lines, follow these simple steps:



Every 6 minutes

an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

Digging in to electric and other underground utilities can pose problems and possibly fatal situations. Being aware of where the above ground components – such as green cable boxes shown below, pad-mount transformers and other devices is also important.



- Do not leave your vehicle; it's the safest place for you to be.
- Wait for emergency workers and local electric crews before exiting as they will ensure the lines are completely de-energized.
- If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without

touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, "bunny hop" to safety. Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.

- Be aware that, after an accident with a pole, wires can fall at any time.
- Downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, but this is not always the case. Treat all downed wires as though they are energized.
- Remember, most power lines are not insulated. The coating on the lines is for weather proofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current.

• The tires of the vehicle do not insulate it from electrical dangers. Follow the above safety precautions even if the car has rolled and is upside down or on its side. The vehicle is the path to ground for the electrical current. So while you remain in the car, you are safe. If you step out of the car, you are in danger of becoming the path to ground.

• If you come upon the scene of an accident involving downed power lines, avoid the area around the downed line entirely and do not touch the vehicle, as everything from trees to manhole covers can become energized.

If you have any questions, contact your local electric cooperative.



Before operating farm machinery including grain augers, sprayers or combines, check for sufficient space around overhead power lines; the general rule is at least 10 feet. If you are operating a tall piece of equipment, make sure to lower any retractable piece of the machine.

Regional Dateline

August 19-21

Frontier Days Rodeo
White River, SD, 605-669-3310

August 19-21

Riverboat Days, Yankton, SD
605-665-1657

August 20

Wing & Brew Festival
Brookings, SD, 605-692-7539

August 20-21

28th Annual Threshing Bee
Rosholt, SD, 605-537-4426
www.rosholtthreshingbee.com

August 24-28

Corn Palace Festival
Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

August 25-28

Hugh Glass Rendezvous
Lemmon, SD, 605-393-5832

August 25-28

Kool Deadwood Nites
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

August 25-28

Prairie Village 54th Annual
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

August 25-28

State S.D. Senior Games
Aberdeen, SD, 605-275-6891

August 26-27

Southern Hills Music and
Arts Festival, Custer, SD
605-440-0640

August 27

McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme
Event Rodeo, Sioux Falls, SD
605-339-1203



SUBMITTED PHOTO

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.

Events of Special Note

September 4

Studebaker Car Show
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
6th and Mt. Rushmore Road
Custer, SD, 605-431-4502

September 9-10

Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll
Vermillion, SD, 605-624-2021

September 1-5

South Dakota State Fair
Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

September 2-4

LifeLight Festival
Worthing, SD, 605-338-2847

September 3

Pieces and Patches Quilt Show
Bull Riding & Ranch Bronc Ride
Winner, SD, 605-842-1533

September 4

Billy Bolander Memorial
Demolition Derby, Winner, SD
605-469-6232

September 9-11

James Valley Threshing and
Tractor Show, Andover, SD
605-281-5663

September 9-10

Badger Clark Cowboy Music &
Poetry Festival, Hot Springs, SD
605-745-4140

September 10

Beef N Fun Festival
Mobridge, SD, 605-845-2500

September 10

Sidewalk Arts Festival
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7397

September 10

Foothills Bud Light Bull Bash
Wessington Springs, SD
605-770-4370

September 10-11

Harvest Festival, Downtown
and 1/4-mile west
Delmont, SD, 605-933-0393
www.twinriversoldiron.org

September 15-17

St. Joseph's Indian School
Powwow, Chamberlain, SD
605-234-3452

September 16

Dakota Western Heritage
Festival Wagon Train & Trail
Ride, Fort Pierre, SD
605-223-7690

September 16-17

Deadwood Jam, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

September 16-17

NESD Celtic Faire and Games
Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-5828

September 16-18

North Country Fiber Fair
Watertown, SD, 605-956-7909

September 16-18

German-Russian Schmeckfest
Eureka, SD, 605-284-2332

September 17-18

Dakota Western Heritage
Festival, Fort Pierre, SD
605-222-0079

September 21-25

South Dakota Film Festival
Aberdeen, SD, 605-725-2697

October 15

Dare to Dream Conference
Rapid City, SD, 605-361-3171
www.sdparent.org