

# South Dakota Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Cooperative Connections

SEPTEMBER 2017 VOL. 69 NO. 9



## Game On!

Page 8-9

**Co-ops Use Football Season  
to Connect with Members**



# Be the light.

There are many reasons we reclaim land previously used for mining coal to as good or better than it was before. One, however, has just a little more buzz, and it's a whole lot sweeter. To provide a home for bees.



**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Your energy starts here.

[basinelectric.com/bethelight](http://basinelectric.com/bethelight)



# South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

ISSN No. 1067-4977

Produced by the following electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota:

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.  
Cherry-Todd Electric, Mission, S.D.  
Clay-Union Electric, Vermillion, S.D.  
Codington-Clark Electric, Watertown, S.D.  
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.

*South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections* is published monthly for \$6 annually for member cooperatives, \$12 annually for non-members by South Dakota Rural Electric Association, 222 W. Pleasant Drive, Pierre, S.D. 57501. Correspondence to: Editor, *South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections*, PO Box 1138, Pierre, SD 57501; telephone (605) 224-8823; fax (605) 224-4430; e-mail editor@sdrea.coop

Brenda Kleinjan, Editor  
Dawn Trapp, Communications Specialist  
Jocelyn Romey, Staff Communications Professional

## Editorial

Sept. 17-23 is National Farm Safety Week

# Practicing Safety



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

Each year since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week. This recognition has been an annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council and has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the first document. Over the years, the development and dissemination of National Farm Safety & Health Week materials has shifted to the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety. NECAS is the agricultural partner for NSC and has been serving the agricultural family and business community since 1997.

The 2017 theme for National Farm Safety & Health Week is "Putting Farm Safety into Practice."

Go to the website [www.necasag.org](http://www.necasag.org) for information and public service announcements related to this year's theme.

The theme "Putting Farm Safety into Practice" is one that hits home and reminds us that it is everyone's responsibility for safety both on the farm and the rural roadways of America. Data from the Department of Labor shows the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 475 fatalities, which equals 21.2 deaths per 100,000 workers. When combining all labor sectors, the death rate was 3.2 percent.

For many cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, one of the most concerning safety situations occurs when farm equipment comes into contact with power lines. As newer models of farm implements eclipse their predecessors in size, the risk of contacting overhead lines increases. But that is not the only danger. The operating width of some equipment makes it hard for the producer to be aware of what lies far to the sides of the tractor. Many co-ops have seen an increase in underground transformers, guy wires and even stretches of power lines being damaged or tore down by equipment.

As we recognize National Farm Safety & Health Week this September, please join us in promoting safe and healthy practices on our farms and ranches across the U.S. and in our neighboring countries as producers enter the harvest season. We welcome your collaboration and participation.



Be aware of what's overhead and  
know what to do if you hit a power line.

PoweringYourSafety.com

Touchstone Energy  
Cooperatives

# Back To School Electrical Safety

**As many prepare** for this upcoming school year, we want to share some electrical safety tips that are useful for students of all ages.

## Elementary School Students

Electricity can be exciting and interesting to learn about, but it is important that kids learn about electrical safety.

Remind your children of the following tips:

- Never throw shoes onto power lines, and definitely don't try to get them off of the lines.
- Writing utensils and other supplies like paperclips should never be placed in or near electrical outlets, even if you think the outlet isn't working.
- Make sure your hands and the area around you are dry before plugging something in. This is especially important in science labs where there are usually several sets of sinks, an eye wash, chemicals, etc.
- When unplugging things from an electrical outlet, always hold the plastic base to pull the plug out. Never yank it out by the cord.

## Middle/High School Students

- If you've just received the privilege of driving to school with your newly-obtained driver's license, pay close to attention on those morning and afternoon drives for utility crews at work. Should you be involved in an accident involving a power line or pole, assume live electricity is outside of the car and use extreme caution.
- Always steer clear of pad-mount transformers – the big green metal boxes. All electrical equipment on school property should be avoided due to the possible dangers of electrical shock.
- Always be cautious in science classes, specifically the ones with labs. Sinks, eye washes, chemicals – it's likely your hands or the area near you will be wet. Keep everything dry and use

caution when plugging in equipment.

## College Students

- Get in the habit of unplugging what's not in use. It's common practice, unfortunately, for college kids to load up electrical outlets and power strips with electronics and appliances. Many dorm and apartment rooms are fairly small there isn't much room to spread these out. Many campus housing options are dated and aren't equipped to handle today's amount of electricity usage.
- Use only approved electrical products with the mark of a recognized certification agency.
- Choose a power strip 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.
- Keep gadgets and cords away from bedding and curtains. The heat from a laptop charger or mini-fridge can start an electrical fire if left in contact with flammable material for too long.
- Avoid overloading outlets or circuits as this can cause overheating that may lead to fire.

Source: [www.twielectric.com/recent/school-electrical-safety/](http://www.twielectric.com/recent/school-electrical-safety/)



**Editor's note:** As part of his senior experience project, Connor Guenot, a New Underwood High School senior, gave an electrical safety demonstration to the second-grade class at New Under-

## Kids' Corner Safety Poster

**"Don't put your finger in an outlet."**

**Paeton Thin Elk, 8 years old**

*Paeton is the child of Samantha Janis, New Underwood, 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.

wood Elementary School with a goal of teaching the kids about electrical safety in their daily lives. After the presentation, the kids made safety posters summarizing their learning experience. Above is one of the posters that was drawn.

# Garden Goodness



## Zucchini Cobbler

8 cups chopped, seeded and peeled zucchini  
 2/3 cup lemon juice  
 1 cup sugar  
 1 tsp. ground cinnamon  
 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg

**Crust:**  
 4 cups all-purpose flour  
 2 cups sugar  
 1-1/2 cups cold butter, cubed  
 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

In a large saucepan over medium-low heat, cook and stir zucchini and lemon juice for 15 to 20 minutes or until zucchini is tender. Add sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg; cook 1 minute longer. Remove from heat; set aside. For crust, combine flour and sugar in a bowl; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir 1/2 cup into zucchini mixture. Press half of remaining crust mixture into a greased 10x15-inch baking pan. Spread zucchini over top; crumble remaining crust mixture over zucchini. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake at 375°F. for 35 to 40 minutes or until golden and bubbly. Yield: 16-20 servings.

**Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN**

## Saucy Chicken and Asparagus

1-1/2 lbs. fresh asparagus spears, cut-up  
 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
 2 T. cooking oil  
 1/2 tsp. salt  
 1/4 tsp. pepper

1 can cream of chicken soup  
 1/2 cup mayonnaise  
 1 tsp. lemon juice  
 1/2 tsp. curry powder  
 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Place asparagus in a greased 9-inch square baking dish. Brown chicken in oil; season with salt and pepper. Arrange chicken over asparagus. Mix soup, mayonnaise, lemon juice and curry powder. Pour over chicken. Cover and bake at 375°F. for 40 minutes or until chicken is tender and juices run clear. Sprinkle with cheese. Let set 5 minutes before serving.

**Shirley Miller, Winfred**

## Refrigerator Pickles

7 cups sliced, unpeeled cucumbers  
 1 cup sliced onion  
 2 cups sugar

1-1/4 cups vinegar  
 1 T. non-iodized salt  
 1 T. celery seed

Layer cucumbers and onions in pint jars. Dissolve sugar, vinegar and salt over low heat. Stir in celery seed. Pour over cucumbers. Refrigerate 2 days; will keep for months in refrigerator.

**Jane Ham, Rapid City**

## Cheesy Vegetable Spaghetti Pie

8 oz. spaghetti  
 1 T. olive oil  
 2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms  
 1/2 cup thinly sliced green bell pepper  
 1/2 cup thinly sliced onion wedges  
 1 1/2 cups thinly sliced zucchini  
 1 (14.5 oz.) can diced tomatoes, undrained  
 2 tsp. McCormick® Rosemary Leaves

1 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder  
 1 tsp. McCormick® Oregano Leaves  
 1 tsp. McCormick® Thyme Leaves  
 1/2 tsp. salt  
 8 eggs  
 1 (8 oz.) pkg. shredded mozzarella cheese (2 cups), divided

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, heat oil in large ovenproof skillet on medium-high heat. Add mushrooms, bell pepper and onion; cook and stir 5 minutes or until tender. Add zucchini, tomatoes, rosemary, garlic powder, oregano, thyme and salt; cook and stir 10 minutes until most of the liquid has evaporated. Beat eggs in large bowl. Add spaghetti and 1 cup of the cheese; mix well. Stir into vegetables in skillet. Cook on medium-low heat 5 minutes or until bottom is set. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 8 to 10 minutes or until center is just set and cheese is melted. Cut into 8 wedges to serve.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 306, Total Fat 14g, Sodium 500mg, Cholesterol 234mg, Carbohydrates 27g, Dietary Fiber 3g, Protein 18g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Sweet and Sour Onions

4 large onions  
 1/4 cup vinegar  
 1/4 cup butter

1/4 cup boiling water  
 1/4 cup sugar

Slice or chunk onions in baking dish. Mix remaining ingredients. Pour over onions. Bake at 300°F. for 1 hour or until onions are cooked through.

**Elaine Rowett, Sturgis**

## Pepper Salad

1 small sweet onion  
 1 red pepper  
 1 yellow pepper  
 1 green pepper  
 1 orange pepper (when in season)

4 large tomatoes  
 1 pkg. Good Seasons Zesty Italian Dressing  
 1 (16 oz.) bottle Kraft Italian Dressing

Cut onion and peppers into 1-inch chunks. Marinate in Italian seasonings and dressing several hours or overnight. Add chunked tomatoes just before serving. May add sliced black olives if desired.

**Caroline Bochman, Tyndall**

*Please send your favorite garden produce, pasta or slow cooker 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 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.*



# Ductless Heat Pumps

*Heat and cool your home without blowing your budget*



**Patrick Keegan**  
Collaborative Efficiency

**Dear Pat:** My husband and I are tired of paying such high electric bills during the winter. We think our winter bills are high because of our baseboard heaters and our summer bills are high because of our window AC units. Our neighbor just installed a ductless heat

pump system in their home. Do you think that would work for us? – Karen

**Dear Karen:** Mini-split ductless heat pumps are becoming more popular for good reason. They can heat efficiently even when winter temperatures drop below the freezing point, and they are an economical and energy efficient replacement for window AC units.

Ductless heat pumps are often installed as the primary heating source and paired with a backup system that kicks in when outside temperatures are extremely cold. Baseboard heaters are an electric resistance system and use much more energy than a heat pump, which is just moving heat in or out of the home. If you make this change, you should reduce your heating costs considerably. Heat pumps work harder as the outside air temperature drops, but combining the heat pump with a backup heating system solves that problem.

I recently spoke with Joe Hull, an energy services advisor with Midstate Electric Cooperative in Oregon. Members there have found that ductless systems with a backup heating system can work effectively to as low as -28 Fahrenheit.

Ductless heat pump systems could be an ideal solution if your home doesn't have a duct system. If your existing ductwork is in poor condition, installing a ductless heat pump may be more practical or less expensive than repairing, sealing and insulating ducts.

A ductless heat pump has two main components: the outdoor compressor and the indoor air handler.

Coolant and electrical lines run through a conduit from the compressor outside the home through the wall to the inside air handler(s).

Ductless heat pumps can be configured in different ways. A common approach that could deliver the most value is to provide heating and cooling to one large zone in the home by using a single compressor and a single air handler. Or you could use one compressor to power as many as four inside air handlers, each with its own thermostat. A home could even have more than one outside compressor.

Scott Mayfield, an expert from Kootenai Electric Cooperative in Idaho, said installing a ductless system in his home had benefits beyond cost savings. "With baseboard heaters, the heat used to rise along the walls, but with the new ductless system, it flows throughout the rooms evenly. It would have been worth switching to ductless for the comfort alone."

In some parts of the country, ductless mini-splits are becoming more popular in new home construction as well. In fact, a friend of mine in Hood River, Ore., had a ductless system installed in her new home.

Ductless heat pumps are often a great solution, but as you explore this option, it would be wise to consider:

- What are the other investments you could make to reduce your energy costs or improve comfort? Is the ductless heat pump the best option? A thorough energy audit of your home will help answer these questions.

- Are rebates offered by your electric co-op?

- What is the best size and efficiency level for a ductless heat pump in your situation?

- Are there contractors in your area with experience installing ductless heat pumps?

Contact your local electric co-op for a list of recommended contractors and visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for tips on hiring contractors.

# Duo to Be Inducted into Cooperative Hall of Fame

**Two men who have** dedicated their careers to South Dakota telecommunications cooperatives will be inducted into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame Sept. 13 in Watertown, S.D.

Jerry Heiberger, general manager of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC) in Clear Lake, S.D., and Clair Bonebright, board director and secretary for Venture Communications Cooperative in Highmore, S.D., will become the 75th and 76th inductees into the Hall of Fame, which was established in 1985.

Heiberger began his career in 1979 working as a repairman for McCook Cooperative Telephone, now known as TrioTel Communications. In 1981, he served as a central office technician for Brookings Lake Telephone Company, and in 1983, he was promoted to central office supervisor. He held this position until being promoted to operations manager in 1991. From then until 2001, Heiberger played a vital role in the merger between Interstate Telecommunications and Intrastate Telephone Company as well as integrating new technology and services to the co-op's staff and members.

In 2002, Heiberger became ITC's general manager, a position he held until his 2017 retirement. In this position, he has demonstrated a vision of continual growth and improvement. Heiberger has strived to provide quality, reliable and affordable services for ITC's members, while keeping the cooperative business model and technology at the forefront.

Bonebright has served on the Venture Communications Cooperative board of directors since 1984, making this his 33-year anniversary.

During his years of service, Bonebright has been part of the ever-changing and fast-paced industry of telecommunications. He has witnessed much change in technology and services provided to cooperative members, but has never failed to embrace change and successfully endure industry challenges.

Currently, Bonebright serves as board secretary for Venture Communication. Before that, he served as board president for Venture Vision from 1996 to 2015 and as a board member for Western Telephone Company from 2008 to 2014. Bonebright also served on the Resolutions Committee and Marketing Committee for the South Dakota Association Telecommunication Cooperative and the Legislative Advisory Committee for the South Dakota Telecommunications Association.

Bonebright has played an active role in his community and worked diligently to bring reliable and advanced services to co-op members. His loyalty and vision for cooperatives in this state has made him an integral part of Venture Communication's success and the effectiveness of a statewide telecommunications network.

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



**Jerry Heiberger**



**Clair Bonebright**



The South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame provides recognition for a person contributing in especially significant ways to the enhancement of the cooperative idea, its broader acceptance or to the substantial advancement of cooperative enterprise in any of its various forms.

— From the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame Nomination Form

## 1985

Arthur Jones  
(1905-1985)  
Emil Loriks  
(1895-1985)

## 1986

Albert Schramm  
(1916-2000)  
Herman D. Holt  
(1909-1986)

## 1987

John Riedy  
(1911-2001)  
August Dahme  
(1901-1980)

## 1988

J. Evan Rasmussen  
(1905-1990)  
John Skage  
(1904-1989)

## 1989

Darrell Moseson  
Warren G. Grebner  
(1920-2014)

## 1990

J.E. Krull Sr.  
(1909-1999)  
Lawrence Stoley  
(1901-1987)

## 1991

Clifford G. Bell  
(1904-2000)  
Warren Moe  
(1925-2011)

## 1992

Ken Holm  
(1915-1998)  
John A. Cink  
(1911-2002)

## 1993

Clement J. Kloucek  
(1925-2005)  
S. Douglas Murphy  
(1904-1996)

## 1994

Philip Testerman  
Max Farrar  
(1897-1980)

## 1995

Quentin E. Loudon  
Oscar C. Johnson  
(1880-1965)

## 1996

Vernon L. Berg  
(1920-1998)  
Leo P. Flynn  
(1908-2001)

## 1997

Ben Radcliffe  
(1915-2014)  
G.L. Moseson  
(1894-1973)

## 1998

J.D. Lynd  
(1933-2013)  
George A. Hargens, Jr.  
(1921-1999)

## 1999

Raymond M. Judy  
(1919-1997)  
Virgil Fodness  
(1922-2013)

## 2000

Keith Taylor  
(1923-2002)  
Joseph Hieb  
(1924-2017)

## 2001

Robert A. Johnson  
(1921-2014)  
Donald N. Olson  
(1928-2006)

## 2002

Vincent Erz  
(1926-2012)  
Donald Wynia

## 2003

Brian Meyer  
(1943-2003)  
Don Paulsen

## 2004

Ed Fritzsche  
(1923-2005)  
Dean Rasmussen

## 2005

Robert Ching  
(1924-2012)  
Darrell Henderson  
Alex Stoesser  
(1925-2000)

## 2006

Dennis Haggy  
Robert Rademacher

## 2007

Leroy Schecher  
Ralph Schreurs  
Merlin VanWalleghen

## 2008

Charles Olsen  
Donald Fieber

## 2009

Delbert Bushong  
Owen Jones

## 2010

Jake Boomsma  
Milo Gilbertson  
Barry Jensen

## 2011

Jeffrey L. Nelson  
Wayne Wright

## 2012

Luverne Crosser  
Gary French  
Ron Minnaert  
Larry Wilson

## 2013

Thomas Hueners  
John D. Johnson  
Loren Noess

## 2014

Gene Kroell  
John Van Beek  
Harvey Wollman

## 2015

Keith Hainy  
Roy Ireland  
Rodney Renner  
Carlyle Richards

## 2016

Bill Bielmaier  
Mark Hofer  
Ronald Sandine



# A Co-op Twist to Football Tailgating

**W**HEN THE FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GLOW ON HIGH school football fields this fall, many electric cooperatives take the opportunity to reach out to their members.

Since 2009, Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., along with its telephone cooperative arm, West River Cooperative Telephone Co., have made the rounds at area high school football games to meet their members face-to-face.

"We started our tailgate parties in 2009, but prior to that, we hosted "block parties," which were held at noon," said Rachel Eggebo, marketing/tech specialist for the two cooperatives. She believes the block parties were started around 2003.

"We wanted to get out and converse with our members face-to-face rather than over the phone," she said.

"We started our tailgate parties because we realized not everyone could leave at noon to attend the block party. And, we wanted to communicate with our youth as well as our members," Eggebo continued.

So, armed with hotdogs, chips, ketchup and the rest of the fixings, co-op employees and directors made the rounds at high school games in northwestern South Dakota. This fall, the co-ops will make games in Lemmon, Buffalo, Faith, Newell and Bison. The grills churn out food about an hour

**Brenda Kleinjan**





before game time, which varies by town and timing in the season.

Adding a t-shirt gun to the mix just adds to the tailgating fun.

"The interaction has been great for both our members and employees. Community involvement is a big part of our organization," said Eggebo.

To the south, West River Electric Association, headquartered in Wall, also uses area football games as a way to connect with members.

The co-op hosts member appreciation days in some of its communities, but was looking for an inroad into the New Underwood area east of Rapid City, S.D.

"We didn't have anything in our New Underwood area. We started doing an appreciation day there, but we weren't getting the younger crowd there," said Veronica Kusser, manager of member services.

In 2013, the cooperative decided to host a tailgate party before the Wall/New Underwood game.

"We chose to do the Wall/New Underwood game because we serve both communities," said Kusser.

"We really got to meet the parents with kids – that age group that you have the toughest challenge to get ahold of," she said.

The 2016 game between the Tigers and the Eagles was held in Wall.

"We set up tables and tents and served right at 1,000 hamburgers and hotdogs in a two-hour time frame," Kusser said.

The cooperative was also able to hand out Operation Round Up® checks to various organizations during the game.

"We gave out our ORU funds at halftime of the football game – it really allows spotlight on involvement in community," Kusser said.

"We're just there to visit with our members. At our appreciation events we're promoting our different programs but at the football game, we're there just to show our commitment to the community and our support to the younger generations," said Kusser. "It gives them an opportunity to see that we are in their community."

The co-op also makes a donation to the local

school's concession stand to offset any decrease in sales the stand may see.

"We wanted to show that we care, that we appreciate them," Kusser said.

This year, the two teams face off on Aug. 18, so WREA was already planning its tailgate in the early summer.

In northeastern South Dakota, FEM Electric Association in Ipswich starts the school year off with a truckload of bottled water.

For the last eight to 10 years, the co-op has ordered bottled water labeled with the co-op's logo and one of four safety messages.

Each of the six schools in their service area are given about 60 cases of water which they can then sell at concession stands, use at school functions or however they see fit.

"Several schools sell it at sporting events – it's pure profit for them," said Scott Moore, FEM's general manager. "We're getting our name out there, but more importantly, we're getting a safety message into the hands of those holding a bottle."

The co-op also makes an appearance at basketball games between its area schools.

At select games, boxes of Cracker Jacks snacks, with a co-op sticker on them, are tossed out into the crowds.

"That's really gone over well," Moore said.



**Above:** West River Cooperative Telephone Company area journeyman combination technician Bill Anders checks the aim of his son, Zack, as a t-shirt gun sends a prize flying at a Harding County Ranchers game back in 2012.

**Left:** Ann Ulrich of Faith arm wrestles Grand Electric Cooperative's Steve Senn while GEC board president John Long looks on during the tailgate party hosted by GEC and WRCTC before a Faith football game in 2016. Also pictured are employees Bonnie Sander and Colle Nash. **Right:** Directors and employees of West River Electric Association in Wall served 1,000 hot dogs and burgers to fans attending the Wall Eagles/New Underwood Tigers football game in October 2016.





# Exploring the Energy Trail

**Forty-one South Dakota** students representing 12 electric cooperatives traveled to North Dakota to witness energy production and learn about cooperatives on July 24-27. This Youth Excursion is an investment made in young community leaders. This state's cooperatives believe that investing in young members is an investment in the future and in the safety and success of our future energy and cooperative business model.

**By Jocelyn Romey**

On the first day of touring, the students toured Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the National Energy Center of Excellence at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, N.D. There, they learned how energy is produced, marketed and delivered.

This process was seen on a larger scale the next day when the students toured the North Dakota Energy Trail in Beulah, N.D. Stops were made at the Coteau Properties' Company Freedom Mine, the Antelope Valley Station and the Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

When asked about what she thought about the tour, Abby Moon from West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D., said, "It was really eye-opening."

Josie May from Lacreek Electric Association in Martin, S.D., said, "I didn't realize how big it

was and how much went into it – the people, the poles...the distance they go."

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 the students will remember when they become active community leaders and cooperative members.

The following South Dakota cooperatives made the investment to sponsor young members from their co-op: Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association in Tabor, Clay-Union Electric Corporation in Vermillion, Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative in Watertown, FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, H-D Electric Cooperative in Clear Lake, Lacreek Electric Association in Martin, Lake Region Electric Association in Webster, Northern Electric Cooperative in Bath, Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, West River Electric Association in Wall and Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative in Milbank.



**Participants on the 2017 South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion pose for a photo in front of the Bismarck State College National Energy Center of Excellence building.**





**Above:** A participant peaks inside the boiler at Antelope Valley Station. **Top right:** During the career fair, students discuss different jobs with Basin Electric Power Cooperative employees. **Above right:** A participant tries her skill in the driver's seat in the commercial driving simulator. **Left:** A participant pedals to see how much electricity he can generate in a period of time. **Below left:** During sessions at Bismarck State College, students did experiments with electrical circuits. **Below right:** A stop at BisMan Food Cooperative give students a look at a different type of cooperative. **Bottom left:** During the tour at AVS, students started their tour in the model room where they had a chance to look at tube pipe used within the power plant's massive boiler. **Bottom right:** A Basin Electric employee demonstrates the cooperative's commitment to community with the Basin Garden.





# Killer Korn Camo

## *Langford man develops new camouflage pattern*

**S**OMETIMES THE BEST IDEAS SHOW UP IN the strangest places. Just ask Jordan Deutsch, who came up with a new camouflage idea while farming.

Three years ago, during harvest season, Deutsch was sitting in a tractor cab, grain cart in tow, as he waited for the combine to make its rounds in the cornfield. That's where the idea to start Fallin' Fowl Camo was born.

"I was looking at the field and wondered why someone hadn't come out with a corn or cornfield camo pattern," he said. "I always felt other camo patterns were too dark and stuck out too much. I love Realtree and Mossy Oak for deer hunting and all that, but some of their newer waterfowl patterns don't look anything like where we hunt up here, like cornfields."

Once harvest was complete, Deutsch took the initiative to explore what options were available for an upstart to introduce a corn-themed camo pattern, which he named Killer Korn, to the waterfowl market.

"I checked with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and they told me to submit my ideas with some pictures to get the patent going," said Deutsch, who is 25 and returned to the Langford area to farm with his extended family after receiving an agriculture degree from Lake Area Tech in Watertown. "We took a bunch of pictures, picked three, and a graphic designer from the USPTO meshed them together. Then we tweaked it three or four times from there until we got it where I wanted it and put a patent on it."

**Andrew Johnson**  
*Farm Forum*





## Next steps

After receiving a patent on the Killer Korn pattern, Deutsch decided to also trademark his Fallin' Fowl Camo brand name.

"The next step was how to get the actual pattern onto clothing," he said. "That was the tough part."

Deutsch said some exhaustive online research finally led him to Jest Textiles, a New Jersey-based company that offered the printing and design services he'd need to screen the Killer Korn pattern onto material.

"I got in touch with them and sent them the file for my camo," he said. "They ran a sample, and once I got that back I wanted to tweak it a little bit more."

He said minor adjustments were necessary, as there were slight differences in color and size from how the pattern's image looked on a computer screen compared to how it actually printed on clothing. As a result, Deutsch altered the color and scale of his pattern several times prior to settling on a final design.

"As far as scale goes it really depends on the ground, but we averaged out what a corn ear would normally be," he said. "Some are 7 or 8 inches, and some really big corn is 13 inches. We settled on 9 to 10 inches and went from there, blowing up the husk size so it was lifelike and would mimic what actual corn looks like in a field."

Through the process, Deutsch said he also came to another important realization.

"There's corn from North Dakota all the way to Texas, and not all corn is the same," he said. "Some might have more green in it, while some varieties might be more red. Plus, corn in the fall has a totally different color than it does in spring after it's been sitting around all winter. I finally had to bite the bullet and settle on a design."

## Long time coming

With the help of Jest Textiles, Deutsch had the Killer Korn camo pattern printed on some pants, hooded sweatshirts and beanies, and the first batches of his product started arriving in November and December.

It's been a long process for Deutsch, who said the idea for Fallin' Fowl Camo first took off in January 2014.

"Here it is, three years later, and I finally got it where I want it," he said. "Now that I have my product, I'm trying to figure out which direction to go. I don't want to go too far in the direction of selling it myself, but would rather have a licensing deal where companies can put it on whatever they want."

Deutsch said he's working on a potential partnership with Heavy Hauler Outdoor Gear, a company from Kingsley, Iowa, that specializes in waterfowl products.

"I've actually been working with Heavy Hauler and trying to work out a deal with them," he said. "They've put the pattern on a sample blind, blind bag and gun case, and we're working out the details. They make the Scheels-brand blinds along with some other products, and that was part of my dream, to invent something and see it in a store like Scheels or Cabela's."

For Deutsch, a camo pattern that looks identical to corn fills a vacant need in the waterfowling world. He also believes it could mean less work in the long run for duck and goose hunters who



don't take the time to properly stuff their blinds. Stuffing corn stalks and husks, wheat stubble and other vegetation into a layout blind's exterior to help it melt into its surroundings is necessary while field hunting, but Deutsch said some hunters fail to do it properly.

"Staying hidden is the key to waterfowl hunting, and I was sick and tired of people not stuffing blinds and ruining the hunt," he said. "That's why I came up with the pattern. I wanted something that blended in a lot better, because most of the time we hunt waterfowl in corn."

## Where to find Fallin' Fowl Camo

RC Hunting Store in Aberdeen is selling Fallin' Fowl Camo hoodies and beanies from its warehouse as well as through its online business at [rchuntingstore.com](http://rchuntingstore.com).

For more information on Killer Korn and other Fallin' Fowl products, go to [Facebook.com/fallinfowlcamo](https://www.facebook.com/fallinfowlcamo).

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Corn is a primary crop** in the three counties near Fallin' Fowl Camo's Langford, S.D., base.

### Marshall County:

- 58.9 percent of the county's landmass is cropland.
- 38 percent of that cropland was planted to corn in 2013 (120,000 acres)

### Day County:

- 60 percent of that county's landmass is cropland (395,000 acres)
- 33.9 percent of the cropland planted to corn in 2013.

### Brown County:

- 77.9 percent of the county's land mass is cropland (854,000 acres)
- 43 percent (369,500 acres) was planted to corn in 2013.

# Investing in Educational Goals

## *Electric Cooperatives Award Hundreds of Scholarships*

**S**CORES OF COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL students heading to school this fall are having part of their tuition bill paid by scholarships from the region's electric cooperatives.

For the past 26 years, Basin Electric Power Cooperative has awarded scholarships to students in a nine-state area. More than 180 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each were awarded to students in the region through Basin Electric's Scholarship Program. A bulk of the scholarships are awarded to dependent children of Basin Electric member cooperatives.

Twenty-five scholarships are awarded to dependent children of Basin Electric and subsidiary employees, 20 scholarships are awarded to dependent children of Basin Electric's member cooperative employees, and 141 scholarships are awarded to

dependent children of member-system consumers.

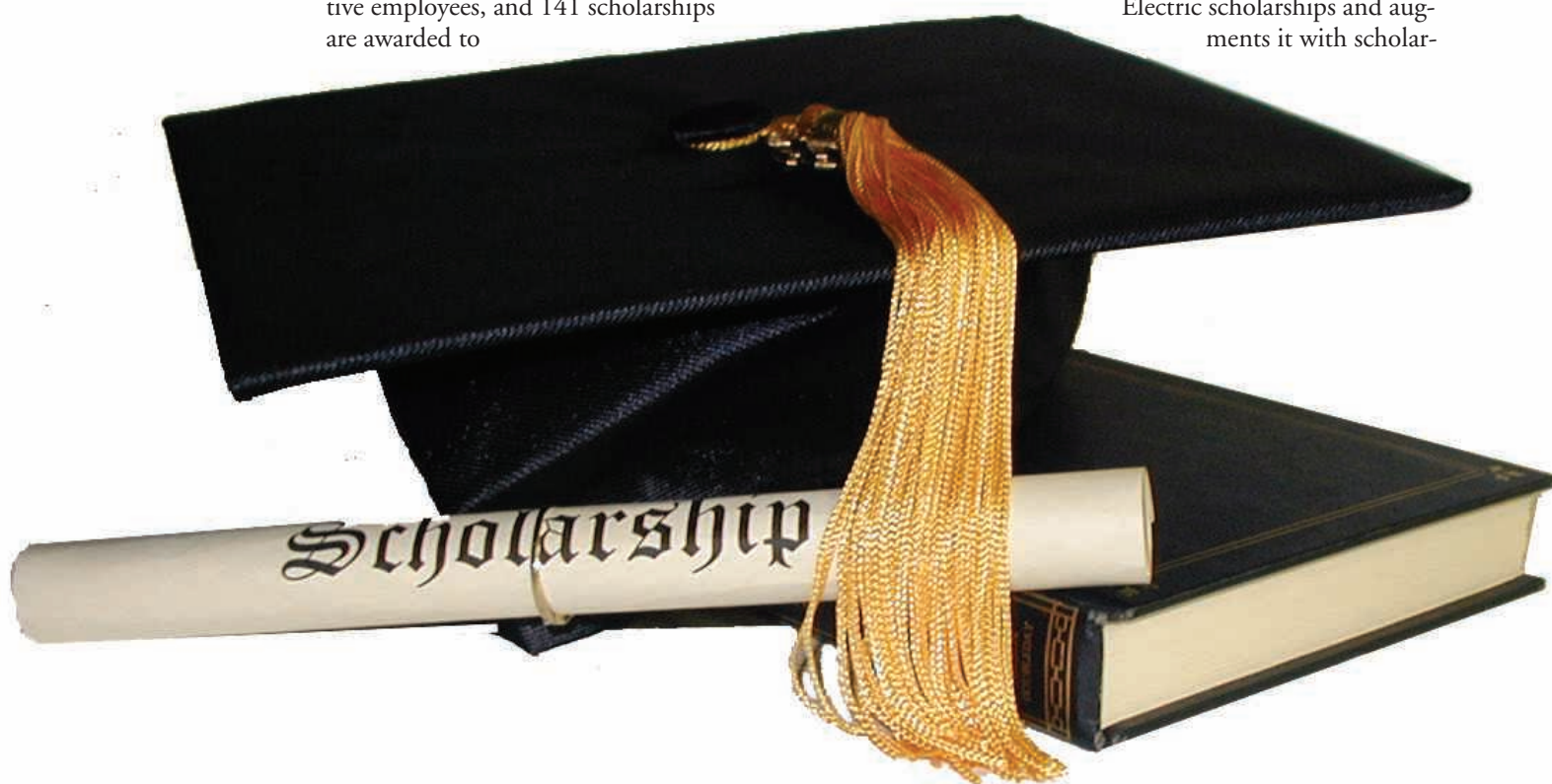
The Basin Electric scholarship program recognizes and encourages academic and community achievements of students in the region. It's also considered an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

Since the program's inception, Basin Electric has awarded 4,554 scholarships worth about \$4.5 million.

While Basin Electric's scholarships provide the foundation, electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western South Dakota have built even more opportunities for students.

In 2017, cooperative collectively awarded nearly \$120,000 in scholarships to 180 students. This amount includes the \$39,000 in Basin Electric scholarships and augments it with scholar-

By Brenda Kleinjan





ships from Operation Round Up monies, Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week and other resources.

While many of the scholarships are open to students in any discipline, some scholarships are targeted to encourage students to explore future co-op careers.

Each year, the South Dakota Line Superintendents Association awards \$4,000 in scholarships to future line workers, primarily at Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D. Other scholarships target engineering students.

Typically, electric cooperative scholarship deadlines are in late January or early February.

## Looking for more scholarships?

**Check out these tips** from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>)

### What kinds of scholarships are available?

Some scholarships for college are merit-based. You earn them by meeting or exceeding certain standards set by the scholarship-giver. Merit scholarships might be awarded based on academic achievement or on a combination of academics and a special talent, trait or interest. Other scholarships are based on financial need.

Many scholarships are geared toward particular groups of people; for instance, there are scholarships for women or high school seniors. And some are available because of where you or your parent work, or because you come from a certain background (for instance, there are scholarships for military families).

A scholarship might cover the entire cost of your tuition, or it might be a one-time award of a few hundred dollars. Either way, it's worth applying for, because it'll help reduce the cost of your education.

### How do I find scholarships?

You can learn about scholarships in several ways, including contacting the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend and checking information in a public library or online. But be careful. Make sure scholarship information and offers you receive are legitimate; and remember that you don't have to pay to find scholarships or other financial aid.

Try these free sources of information about scholarships:

- the financial aid office at a college or career school
- a high school or TRIO counselor
- the U.S. Department of Labor's FREE scholarship search tool
- federal agencies
- your state grant agency
- your library's reference section
- foundations, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups
- organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
- ethnicity-based organizations
- your employer or your parents' employers

## BASIN ELECTRIC MEMBER SYSTEM SCHOLARSHIPS

### Recipient

Cooper Timm  
Kristen Rezac  
Megan Andersen  
Logan Schaeffbauer  
Bailey Moody  
Kristan Soukup  
Troi Valburg  
Alexa Montagne  
David Wang  
Alexander Thyen  
Cassandra Koel  
Haley Bialas  
Anne Knofczynski  
April Hoffman  
Elisa Kaitfors  
Julianna Kari  
Devon Sievers  
Hallie Tolzin  
Samantha Loomis  
Alecia Vogl  
Trevor Sik  
Jadyn Woodward  
Roman Orr  
Porter Jones  
Jon Schulte  
Hannah Juracek  
Matthew Eigenberg  
Marissa Morris  
Jessica Lupkes  
Elena Giorgio  
Peyton Kuchenbecker  
Joslyn Jessop  
Cade Venhuizen  
Kadon Leddy

### Co-op

Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc.  
Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Cam Wal Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Charles Mix Electric Association, Inc.  
Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
City of Elk Point  
Clay-Union Electric Corporation  
Cody-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Dakota Energy Cooperative, Inc.  
Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.  
FEM Electric Association, Inc.  
Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Kingsbury Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Lacreek Electric Association, Inc.  
Lake Region Electric Association, Inc.  
Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association  
Rosebud Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Sioux Valley Energy  
Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Union County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
West River Electric Association, Inc.  
Wheatstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Member Cooperative Employee Scholarships

Mattisen Kelley	Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tori Gaer	Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Jocelyn Nestande	Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association
Michelle Lanam	Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.
Caylie Gronwold	Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Paige Johnson	Wheatstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Other Scholarships

In addition to these scholarships electric cooperatives awarded nearly \$79,000 in additional scholarships to 140 other students.

## Regional Dateline

### August 18-19

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

### August 18-20

Black Hills Steam and Gas  
Threshing Bee, Sturgis, SD  
605-490-2024

### August 18-20

Riverboat Days, Yankton, SD  
605-665-1657

### August 18-27

Central States Fair  
Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

### August 19-20

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

### August 24-27

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

### August 24-27

Prairie Village 55th Annual  
Steam Threshing Jamboree  
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644  
www.prairievillage.org

### August 26

Sizzlin' Summer Night  
Car and Motorcycle Show  
Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-3441

### August 26-27

Fall River Hot Air Balloon  
Festival, Hot Springs, SD  
605-745-4140

### August 29-September 3

Mustang Rally, Sturgis, SD  
605-490-1663



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

### August 23-27

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

### August 24-27

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

### August 31-September 4

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

### September 9

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

### September 13

South Dakota Cooperative  
Hall of Fame Banquet  
Watertown, SD, 605-945-2269

### September 2

20th Annual Southern Hills  
Triathlon, Hot Springs, SD  
605-745-3494

### September 9

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

### September 14-16

St. Joseph's Indian School  
41st Annual Powwow  
Chamberlain, SD  
605-234-3452

### September 3

Studebaker Car Show  
Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

### September 9-10

Harvest Festival, including  
Kuchen Festival  
Delmont, SD 605-505-0535  
www.twinriversoldiron.org

### September 15-16

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

### September 7-10

State Senior Games  
Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Howard  
Bich at 605-275-6891 or  
sdsrgames@gmail.com

### September 9-10

Annual Grape Stomp Festival  
With the Wind Vineyard and  
Winery, Rosholt, SD  
605-537-4780  
www.withthewindwinery.com

### September 15-16

Deadwood Jam, Main Street  
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

### September 8-9

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

### September 9-10

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

### September 15-17

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

### September 8-10

James Valley Threshing and  
Tractor Show, Andover, SD  
jvthreshers@gmail.com

### September 9-10

Quilt Show, Hill City, SD  
605-574-2810

### September 15-17

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