

## Cooperative Connections

United States®  
**Census  
2020**

**Census 2020:  
Be Counted.  
It Matters.**

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**Safety Shines  
at Stock Show**

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## "Walking the Talk" in Making Safety a Priority

# Year-round Safety Efforts



**Ken Schlimgen**

General Manager

**Your cooperative has met the highest standards of safety among electric cooperatives since 1971 as set by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.**

Central Electric's Mission Statement is "To provide reliable energy services with an emphasis on safety and member satisfaction." At Central Electric, safety is not something taken lightly, and safety is a part of all the cooperative's activities. Some of these activities are for the benefit of our members and members of our communities, and some are specific to our employees.

In January, we shared a power line safety video at all eight of our district meetings. The video was difficult to watch as it centered on a real tragedy that occurred near Yankton a few years ago. A young farmer on a family operation lost his life when the farm equipment he was using contacted a power line. Electricity does not offer second chances. The video stressed we all need to be more aware of our surroundings and explains what to do if you get caught in this situation.

Every spring your cooperative dedicates employee time to schools, farm safety events, and first responder training to educate everyone who will listen on staying safe around electricity. We have safety clings, pamphlets and stickers free for your use. Our website is loaded with safety information and links to other safety-oriented websites.

The cooperative has a nine-person safety committee and provides monthly safety training for employees. The committee reviews all accident reports to make recommendations on future training and accident prevention. Trainings are conducted by experts from the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, Avera Queen of Peace Hospital, and our own employees. These meetings cover a wide range of topics including CPR, first aid, lineman pole top rescue, proper lifting techniques, and many more.

We send employees to the campus of Mitchell Technical Institute to participate in refresher training on the proper use of personal protection equipment and working safely around high voltage. These training sessions allow our employees to learn the newest techniques and share best work practices among other cooperative employees.

Inspections are conducted daily, weekly, and monthly on vehicles and tools to identify problems before they arise. Before every job, our employees must conduct "tailgate" meetings, which ensure every employee understands their responsibilities, potential hazards, and that the group functions as a team.

The Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program includes onsite inspections of safety policies, procedures, and facilities. As part of this process, a three-person inspection team visits Central Electric to look for safety deficiencies and to provide recommendations for improvement.

Occasionally, our personnel find a public safety violation that requires us to contact you. These include stacking hay bales or building a grain bin too close to a power line. Each problem must be fixed, and sometimes there are costs associated with these issues. Please contact your cooperative before any construction or activity occurs near a power line.

Safety is everyone's responsibility and thinking about your safety before you operate equipment might save a life. The bottom line is at the end of each day, we work to make sure everyone goes home safely to their families.

Until Next Month, Be Safe.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(USPS 018-963)

## Board of Directors

Duane Wolbrink - President, East River  
Todd VanWalleghen - Vice President  
Bernetta Burghardt - Secretary  
Mark Reindl - Treasurer  
Mark Hofer - NRECA  
Roger Campbell  
Donita Loudner - SDREA  
Darwin "Butch" Morrison  
Jim Headley

**General Manager:** Ken Schlimgen

**Editor:** Courtney J. Deinert -  
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**Assistant Editor:** Patrick Soukup

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop).

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found on-line at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202 690-7442) or e-mail at [program\\_intake@usda.gov](mailto:program_intake@usda.gov).

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Postmaster: Please send address changes to Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Address all other correspondence to: Cooperative Connections, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301 Telephone: (605)996-7516; Fax: (605) 996-0869; e-mail: [cec@centralec.coop](mailto:cec@centralec.coop); website: [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop).

## Office Information

M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
800-477-2892 or  
605-996-7516  
[www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop)



## Mission Statement

Provide Reliable Energy & Services  
with a Commitment to Safety and  
Member Satisfaction

## BOARD MEETING

### Board Meeting Summary

The board of directors met on January 20, 2020 at the Betts Road Service Center for the regular board meeting.

The board approved the December 16, 2019 meeting minutes and the December safety meeting minutes. The board then reviewed monthly reports by management including details on operations, member services, communications, the service department and the financials.

### Board Report

Manager Schlimgen updated the board on the following:

- Senate Bill 227 update from the legislative summer study on electric service territory.
- Progress on goals determined at the 2018 Strategic Planning session.
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative's load forecast for the next 10 years.
- East River Electric Cooperative Load Management research.
- Trend for utilities to provide environmental, social and governance report information to investors.
- Update from the East River Power Factor Committee.
- Field Representative Rebecca Herman's visit from Senator Rounds' Sioux Falls Office.
- Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund board meeting update.
- 2020 Contributions for Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE).
- Review of district meetings being held in each county and upcoming annual meeting.

*Please contact the cooperative office for more information regarding the board meeting.*

■ Requested an attendance count for Co-op Day at the Capitol in Pierre on February 18.

■ Presented a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) training opportunity in Pierre in March.

Manager of Finance and Administration Dean Uher gave a report on 2019 Physical Inventory.

Director Donita Loudner gave a report on the SDREA board meeting.

Director Mark Hofer gave a report on the NRECA board meeting.

Director Duane Wolbrink gave a report on the East River board meeting.

### Board Action

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved an agreement with Dalager Engineering.
2. Approved an agreement with Morgan Theeler LLP.
3. Approved revising Policy 721 to update employee benefits.
4. Approved revising Policy 602 to reflect energy efficiency incentive updates.
5. Approved 4th quarter legal fees and expenses.
6. Approved the auditing committee's report which reviewed 4th quarter board and general manager expenses.
7. Approved Inventory of Work Orders No. 226 for \$168,663.45.

The next board of directors meeting will be held February 17, 2020 at the Betts Road Service Center.

Financial Report	December 2019	Year-to-Date
kWh Sales	33,482,234 kWhs	349,412,740 kWhs
Electric Revenues	\$2,997,744	\$34,116,582
Total Cost of Service	\$2,986,499	\$32,813,192
Operating Margins	\$11,245	\$1,303,390

## Extension Cord Safety Tips

Not enough cord for your lamp or radio to reach the nearest outlet? Just plowing through the junk drawer for an extension cord? This may not be a good idea. Extension cords can be very helpful in delivering power right where we need it. However, regardless of the gauge or rating of the cord, an extension cord is a temporary solution, and is not meant to be used as a long-term extension of your household's electrical system.

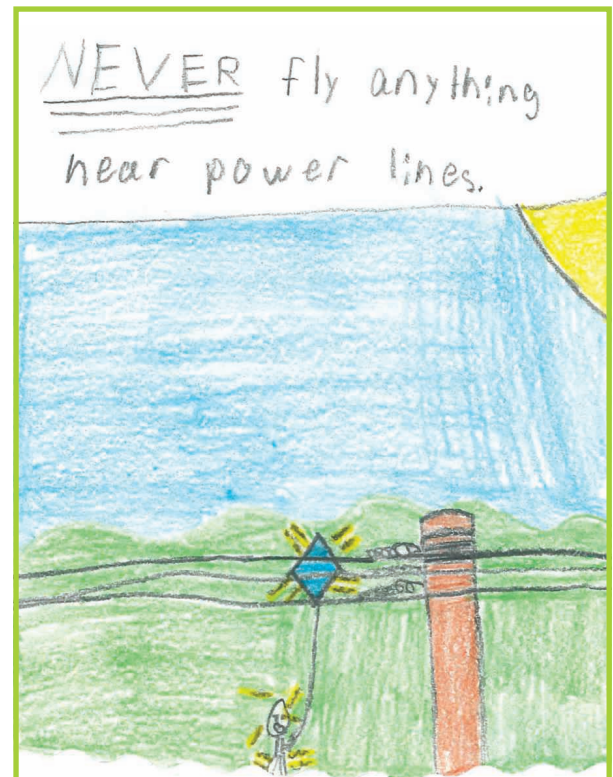
Using extension cords properly is critical to your safety. With continuous use over time, an extension cord can rapidly deteriorate, creating a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips for staying safe from electric shock and electrical fires:

- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.
- Do not substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- Do not run through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a fire hazard.
- Do not use an extension cord for more than one appliance.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.
- Multiple plug outlets must be plugged directly into mounted electrical receptacles; they cannot be chained together.
- Make sure the extension cord or temporary power strip you use is rated for the products to be plugged in and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- The appliance or tool that you are using the cord with will have a wattage rating on it. Match this up with your extension cord and do not use a cord that has a lower rating.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can give you an electric shock or burn.
- Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug. Do not cut off the ground pin to force a fit. This defeats the purpose of a three-prong plug and could lead to an electrical shock. Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Use extension cords with polarized and/or three-prong plugs.
- Buy only cords approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Intertek (ETL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Source: esfi.org



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Never fly anything near power lines."**

**Gage Cumbow, 12 years old**

Gage is the son of Ryan and Kiley Cumbow, Pierre, S.D. They are members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Blunt, 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.



# Seafood Sensations

## Hot Crab Dip

- |                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 1/2 tsp. ground mustard         |
| 1 cup mayonnaise                      | 1 lb. lump crabmeat             |
| 2 tsp. OLD BAY® Seasoning             | 1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, Old Bay Seasoning and ground mustard in medium bowl until well blended. Add crabmeat; toss gently. Spread in shallow 1-1/2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese and additional Old Bay Seasoning, if desired. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serve with assorted crackers or sliced French bread. Makes 28 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 110, Total Fat 10g, Cholesterol 30mg, Sodium 181mg, Protein 5g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Seafood Casserole

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 (6 oz.) pkg. crab, tuna or salmon, drained | 4 eggs, beaten            |
| 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese                | 1 cup milk                |
| Onions, chopped                              | Salt and pepper, to taste |
|  | Paprika                   |

Spray an 8x8-inch pan or casserole dish. Combine seafood, cheese and onions. Put in pan. Beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over casserole; sprinkle paprika on top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Let stand a few minutes before serving.

**Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel, SD**

## Red Salmon Spread

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 (14 oz.) can red salmon, drained | 1 tsp. liquid smoke  |
| 6 oz. cream cheese, softened       | 1/2 tsp. garlic salt |
|                                    | Parsley flakes       |

Remove skin and bones from salmon; cut into small chunks. Combine cream cheese, liquid smoke and garlic salt. Add salmon. Shape into 2 or 3 balls. Sprinkle with parsley flakes. Refrigerate. Serve with assorted crackers.

**June Herke, Watertown, SD**

## Crab Lasagna

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/4 cup chopped onion                | 12 oz. cottage cheese       |
| 1 stick butter                       | 1 egg                       |
| 1 quart half-and-half                | 1 T. parsley                |
| 1/2 tsp. minced garlic               | 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese     |
| 4 T. cream cheese                    | 12 uncooked lasagna noodles |
| 24 oz. pkg. imitation crab, shredded | 2 cups mozzarella cheese    |

Saute onions in butter. Add half-and-half, garlic and cream cheese. Prepare 9x13-inch pan. Assemble layers as follows: 1 cup sauce, top with lasagna noodles, 1/2 of cottage cheese mixture, 1/2 of crab, 1 cup sauce, lasagna noodles and 1 cup mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers. Cover with foil; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour. Remove foil and bake an additional 20 minutes until bubbly and cheese starts to brown. Let set 10 minutes before serving.

**Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD**

## Crab or Shrimp Salad

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 (7-oz.) pkg. ring, shell or spiral pasta | 1 cup diced cucumber           |
| 1/2 cup diced celery                       | 1 cup Miracle Whip             |
| 1/4 cup diced onion                        | 1/2 cup Dorothy Lynch dressing |
| 1 (8 oz.) container mock crab or shrimp    | 1/2 tsp. salt                  |
|  | 1/2 tsp. pepper                |

Prepare pasta according to package directions. Toss together celery, onions, crab or shrimp and cucumbers. Add Miracle Whip, dressing, salt and pepper. Chill.

**Joyce Hermans, Milbank, SD**

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage, casserole or dairy 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.

Can you help us locate these former members?

# Unclaimed Capital Credits

The following list of former members have unclaimed capital credits from Central Electric Cooperative.

If you have an updated phone number or address for any of the following people, please contact our office.

Adams, Chantelle	Glaus, John B	Marks, Randy	Spaulding, Alan
Azure, Johnnie	Godfrey, Joyzelle	McBride, L P	Cashal-Spalding Properties
Bad Moccasin, Dawn or Glydon Bad Moccasin	Goldstein-Charbon, Christi	McDonald, William	Speck, Edna & Hine, Kate
Bad Moccasin, Glydon	Granite Springs Lodge % Kevin Yeo	Mendenhall, Mandy	Spider, Marissa
Benter, Joey	Grimli, Gerald	Mengenhauser, Jack	St John, Sheldon
Berg, Gerald E	Grovenburg, Larry	Mentzer, Jason	St John, Wade
Big Bend Grocery	Guinn, Travis	Metcalf, Kally	Strand, Suzanne
Bolle, Justin	Haag, Wayne	Miller, Carl B Sr	Sternhagen, Tammy
Boswoth, Cal	Haberer, Chuck	Mosemann, Melvin	Stunes, Del
Brakke, Alberta	Hackett, Mike	Myott, Tim	Swenson, Brad
Carlson, Patricia for Theodore Rasmussen Estate	Hall, Robert	Nearhood, Harold	Swenson, Brent
Christensen, Frances	Hall, Roger or Robert	Olivier, Janice	Tammeus, Dr J T
Coleman, Bonita	Hauk - Sholutz - Knudson	Overweg, Denise F	Taylor, Shelley
Coleman, Perry	Henrichsen, Georgia	Packard, Joseph C III	Thompson, Erick
Colombe, Tally	Hoffman, Randy	Peterson, Don C	Thompson, Phyllis
Constant, Dave	Home Service Co	Phillips, Kira	Tille, Henrietta
Cross, Peter	Jacobson, Perry	Picek, William D	Tobin, Josh
Cummins, Bobby	Jenkins, Arvil	Pooler, Paul	Totton, Douglas
Drapeau, James	Johnston, WM D	Preimesberger, Doug	Touche, Mariana
Eddy, Brad	Keizer, Willard	Rank, Mel D Sr	Trebil, Delbert
Ekstrum Brothers	Kelsey, Cheryl	Ratcliff, Tori	Vaad, Travis
Erickson, Martha or Elaine Erickson	Knutson, Greg	Rilling, Neil	Wells, Wallace
Fortenberry, Valerie	Koenig, Laverne	Roby, Marion	Westberg, Randy
Glanzer, Ralph & David	Kokesh, Troy	Rogers, Mark	Wheeler, Mason
	Kollman, Ronald	Ross, Donald G	Williamson, Lloyd & Shirley
	KTTM	Ross, Glenn	Winker, George
	Kuckleburg, J C	Royalty, Ronald	Wipf, Lonnie & Mary
	Lakota Inc % Larson, Jerome	Sara Lee Bakery	With Horn, Jerrica
	Linafelter, Rodney	Schmid, George	Wolfcale, Lee
	Loon, Stanley	Schmitt, John W	Wounded Knee, Lerory
	Machovsky, Dennis	Schabow, Walter	Wulff Land & Livestock or Wulff, Robert & Berdie
	Maeschen, Randy	Scott, Henry	Yost, Dorothy
		Smith, Jon	Young, Robert or Laverne

# Employee Years of Service



**Norton Truman**

Journeyman Lineman  
March 1 - 14 years



**Lindsey Wilson**

Customer Service Rep.  
March 2 - 5 years



## WATCH OUT THIS WINTER!

- *When plowing, avoid electrical cabinets, poles, wires and other equipment*
- *Never touch a downed power line*
- *Treat everything near downed power lines—such as trees or debris—as dangerous*

**RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY**

# Local Discounts with your Co-op Connections® Card



Your cooperative membership earns you discounts at local participating businesses.

Simply show your Co-op Connections Discount Card and save.

- 1) M & H, Mitchell, SD;**  
\$.05 off gallon of gas.
- 2) Merchandise Outlet, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% off pair of boots - some exclusions apply. Not valid with other discounts.
- 3) Miedema Sanitation, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% off rolloff construction boxes.
- 4) Mitchell Econolodge Motel, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% discount.
- 5) Mitchell KOA, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% discount May 1 - October 30, excluding holiday weekends.
- 6) Mueller Lumber Company, Mitchell, SD;**  
15% off regular priced hardware store merchandise and lumber; excludes power tools.
- 7) NAPA, Chamberlain, SD;**  
10% off non-sale items.
- 8) New Leaf Body Spa, Mitchell, SD;**  
\$5 off a 60 minute massage.

For a full list of ways to save, visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

To request a card or become a participating business, visit [www.centraleccoop.org](http://www.centraleccoop.org) or call 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516.







Self-responses to the 2020 census begin March 12 online, by phone or by paper.

# GET COUNTED

## Census 2020 Will Shape Region's Future

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

Census Day is coming April 1 and a push is being made in March to get people counted.

The census counts people where they are at on April 1, 2020.

The process opens March 12 when people can begin the online completion of the census. Most people will have received an invitation to respond to the census. The form will be mailed to USPS mailable addresses. Hand delivery will take place in cases where addresses are a rural/PO Box or non-USPS household unit. The card will have an address-specific code for responders to use, but they can still go online without the card.

"The goal on March 12 is to have as many people as possible go online and complete the census," said Rob Timm, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Timm has been focusing on western South Dakota businesses and government agencies in preparation for Census 2020.

People can also complete the census by phone or complete a paper form.

On May 1, the labor-intensive process of sending enumerators

### The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.

We're making sure that **however you choose to respond**—online, by phone, or by mail—that **the census is accessible**. You'll receive an invitation to respond **beginning in mid-March**. You choose how you want to respond.



You can respond **online** in English or in 12 additional languages. The online questionnaire is accessible, following the latest web accessibility guidelines. We'll also have a video in **American Sign Language** available to guide you through responding online.



You can respond by **phone** in English or in 12 additional languages. You can also respond in English by **TDD** at 844-467-2020.



By mid-April, we'll mail a **paper questionnaire** to every household that hasn't already responded. (Some households will receive a paper questionnaire along with the first invitation in March.)

We'll have **braille and large print guides** available online to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire.



If necessary, you can respond **in person** beginning in mid-May. Census takers will visit all households that have not yet responded.

We'll have census takers available who can communicate in **American Sign Language** and additional languages. When the census taker visits to help you respond, you can request that another census taker who communicates in American Sign Language returns, if you prefer.

If you prefer, you may also choose to have another member of your household interact with the census taker.

**Responding is important.** A complete count helps ensure that services like Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and public transportation can support those who need them.

**Responding is safe.** All of the information you share with us is protected by law and cannot be used against you.

**Responding is accessible.** We're doing everything we can to ensure the ways to respond are accessible for everyone.

Any questions? Please visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). This website is 508 compliant and accessible to people of all abilities.

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States  
Census  
2020



tors door-to-door to count people begins. An estimated 1,200 people will be serving as enumerators through July.

“We know there are tracts with low response areas,” said Timm. Census officials are working to improve those response rates.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on U.S. Census Bureau data. According to the report, “Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds” by the GW Institute of Public Policy, South Dakota was allocated more than \$2.3 billion in 2016. This money represented the allocation of funds from 55 large federal spending programs guided by Census 2010 data. Of that \$2.3 billion, nearly one-quarter was for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs while one-third went to U.S. Health and Human Services programs.

## Census Key Dates

**March 12:**  
Self-response begins  
and continues  
through July 2020.

**April 1: Census Day**  
**Dec. 31: Census  
Counts Delivered  
to President**

The report, by Andrew Reamer, a research professor at The George Washington University, noted that census-derived datasets help define eligibility criteria for various programs, compute formulas that geographically allocate funds, rank project applications based on priorities and set interest rates for federal loan programs.

Officials in Sioux Falls estimated that the community missed out on nearly \$1,600 per person for every person missed in the 2010 census.

The value of the census goes beyond dollars.

In Minnesota, the fate of the state’s 8th Congressional District is at stake. The U.S. House of Representatives is based on population. Minnesota currently has eight seats while Nebraska has three and South Dakota and North Dakota have one seat each.

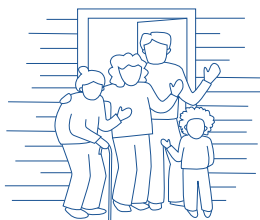
“It’s not going to take a ton of your time and it makes a difference for South Dakota,” said Jake Droge, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Droge has been working with government agencies and businesses in eastern South Dakota.

## CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!  
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

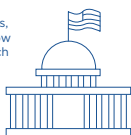
### Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.



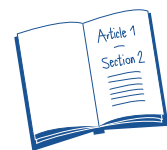
### It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



### It's in the Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

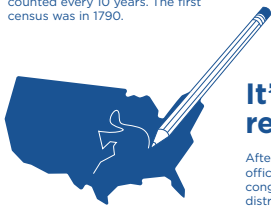


### It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.



### It's about redistricting.

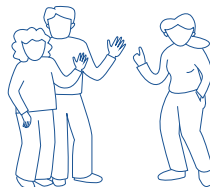
After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

### Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



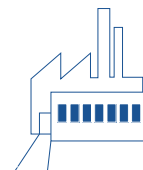
### Census data are being used all around you.



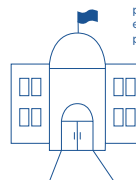
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.



Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs.



Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.



Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



### Your privacy is protected.

It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.



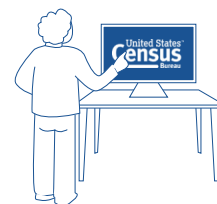
### You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.



### 2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



United States®  
**Census**  
Bureau

FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT  
2020CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS

United States®  
**Census**  
2020



The bus tour allows attendees to see equipment in action in a working coal mine.

## BASIN ELECTRIC BUS TOUR

Join our member exclusive tour on July 15-17, 2020

### Courtney J. Deinert

courtneyd@centralec.coop

Flip a switch and the lights come on. Behind this simple action is a complex network of people, power plants and transmission lines that work around the clock.

Your electric cooperative, through East River Electric Power Cooperative, is a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative's power supply system. This regional wholesale power supply cooperative has nearly 7,000 megawatts of generating capacity and 2,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines - all managed with you, the member-owner, in mind.

Members of Central Electric Cooperative have an exclusive opportunity to experience the "story behind the switch" first-hand and attend the Basin Electric Bus Tour for only \$25 per person! The three-day tour will be held July 15-17, 2020.

Patrick Soukup, Manager of Member Services/Marketing and the tour guide, of Central Electric encourages members to get the inside story of how electricity is made.

"Learning about the big energy picture helps us all make smart choices from our households and businesses to the public policy arena," Soukup says.

Too close for comfort? This member is located near the steam drum on top of the coal-fired boiler at Antelope Valley Station. This is where the steam separates from the water and can reach well over 120 ° F!





The trip includes stops at the following:

### **OAHE DAM**

The Missouri River provides a series of powerhouse hydroelectric dams across the state. Members will tour the Oahe Dam near Pierre, SD and stop by the Capitol Visitor's Center for brunch.

### **ANTELOPE VALLEY STATION**

The tour includes an overview in the model room as well as a guided walking tour of the power plant. The walking tour includes stops at the turbine deck, control room, boiler and observation deck on the 17th floor.

### **GREAT PLAINS SYNFUELS PLANT**

Learn how coal can be refined into natural gas and a variety of other products. The visitor center tour includes a model room tour where a guide walks participants through each step in the coal gasification process and describes the various products that result.

### **THE COTEAU PROPERTIES COMPANY FREEDOM MINE**

Learn how lignite coal is produced at a surface mine and how the land is returned to its original state at the largest lignite mine in the country. A guided drive-through tour will bring you to active mining areas where you can see giant earthmoving equipment in action.

### **CATHEDRAL ON THE PRAIRIE**

The bus makes a stop at Hoven's "Cathedral on the Prairie," a stunning replica of Bavarian (German state) cathedral and declared a worldwide destination for Catholic pilgrims.

**Members have an  
exclusive opportunity  
to experience the  
"story behind the  
switch" first-hand  
and attend the Basin  
Electric Bus Tour for  
only \$25 per person!**

### **MYSTERY TOUR**

While the bus tour is educational, there is plenty of fun, food, games and socializing to entertain attendees as well! One evening includes a "mystery tour" to be arranged by Soukup. Past mystery tours have included the Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and historical buildings at Buckstop Junction.

To register or inquire about the tour, contact Soukup at 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516 or visit [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop).

## **Renewable Energy Credit Program Available**

Central Electric members now have the opportunity to power their homes or businesses with 100% renewable energy harnessed from wind power.

### **How does it work?**

To participate, members purchase renewable energy credits (RECs).

RECs are produced when wind farms generate power. The RECs represent the valuable renewable attributes of that energy form.

### **How much does it cost?**

The cost is \$1.00 per REC, which equals 1 MWh (or 1,000 kWhs).

If your monthly usage is 1,200 kWhs, your cost is \$1.20 plus tax, in addition to your regular electric bill.

To sign up or for more information, contact our office or visit [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop)!



Attendees can witness the earthmoving equipment in action at the largest lignite mine in the country.



# Boots, Broncs and Safety

## Electric Safety Remains a Tradition at Black Hills Stock Show®

Courtney J. Deinert

courtneyd@centralec.coop

**"We're just selling safety."**

During the first week of February, people from across the region pull on their boots and gather in Rapid City, S.D., to celebrate the area's deep history of cattle ranching at the Black Hills Stock Show.

The Black Hills Stock Show is the second largest event in the state, after the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

On the vendor floor, you can find anything a cowboy or cowgirl would dream of. Among the leather boots, hides, saddles and hats for sale, you can also find the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota booth.

"We're just selling safety," said Todd Eliason, assistant general manager at Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D. "We've been doing this for more than 20 years."

The booth features a tabletop safety demonstration, also known as "Neon Leon" or "Power Town." The table demonstration features a model farmyard with a barn, house, overhead power lines, ground transformer and props such as tree branches, a ladder, backhoe and line down on a tractor.

With the step of a pedal, the operator can conduct electricity through the lines and produce a shock or arch with the props.



With the step of a pedal, Central Electric's Pat Soukup illustrates the effects of electricity when contacting a power line.

The presentation is designed to educate elementary-aged children about the dangers of electricity, but all ages gather to see the demonstration.

As parents and grandparents pass by the booth, they'll smile and nod, likely remembering the presentation from their earlier days. Parents with young cowboys and cowgirls along will nudge them towards the booth to hear about the importance of respecting electricity on the farm.

Eliason recalls working at the safety booth one year and a young boy pointed at him and yelled, "That's him!"

Eliason admits that his first thought was, "Oh, no. What did I do?"

However, the mother approached him in tears, gave him a big hug and said, "My son hit a power line with a tractor, and



"Neon Leon" and "Lightning Liz" illustrate how electrocution can occur when approaching a tractor with a downed power line on it.





The demonstration is designed for elementary-aged children but draws crowds of all ages.

because he saw your presentation, he knew to stay in the tractor. He is here today because of you."

Many cooperative representatives across the state can share similar stories where children, farm wives and equipment operators knew exactly what to do in a dangerous situation involving electricity because they saw one of the cooperative's electric safety presentations.

"When watching the demonstration, the kids probably don't understand everything right away," says Patrick Soukup, manager of member services/marketing at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D. "But it might get them asking questions about electricity and they'll go look it up or bring it up in conversation."

Kids rarely leave the booth empty-handed. Attendees can count on taking home a souvenir including pencils, rulers, band-aids, plastic hardhats, stickers and a variety of different hand-outs to remind them about the presentation.

Representatives from the electric cooperatives from across South Dakota take turns operating the demonstration at the booth.

During the Stock Show, the electric cooperatives also facilitate the high voltage

trailer demonstration held Thursday evening in conjunction with the sheep dog trials and mutton busting.

In addition to the Stock Show, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South

Dakota provide energy efficiency and safety education at other events across the state, including the South Dakota State Fair and Dakotafest. You can also likely find them at your local home and farm shows, town festival, school

events and more.

To request a safety demonstration in your community, contact your local electric cooperative.



A young girl at the booth gets a closer look at overhead and underground conductor samples.



## Ranch Rodeo Events

One of the most popular events at the Black Hills Stock Show is the Ranch Rodeo. Teams from a five-state region compete for more than \$21,000 in cash and prizes.

Preliminary and final events represent real-life chores on the ranch and provide unique entertainment.

- **Steer Loadin'**  
Teams must sort and load a steer into the trailer and shut and latch the trailer.
- **Range Doctorin'**  
Teams must head and heel a cow, lay it on its rib cage, "doctor it" on the neck with medicine on a paint stick and remove the ropes.
- **Stray Gatherin'**  
Teams must head and heel a steer and tie any three legs.
- **Blake's Trailer Loading**  
Teams will have trailers loaded with horses in the arena. They must unload their horses, rope two steers and load them into the trailer.
- **Rope, Mug and Tie**  
Teams must lay and tie down a designated steer.
- **Head, Heel and Brand**  
Teams must head and heel two steers, lay each on its side, and brand them.
- **Pendleton Ranch Bronc Ride**  
A team member must ride a bronc for 8-seconds and can hang on with both hands if desired.

Looking to the future of your operation:

# Growth & Your Electrical Needs



**Brian Bultje**

Manager of Operations



**Patrick Soukup**

Manager of Member Services/Marketing

Growing up in farming families, we both understand the drive to continually expand and improve your farming operation.

Many of you have future plans of adding additional facilities, including grain bins, dryers, shops, or even building a new home. Our request is that you involve your electric cooperative and your electrician in that conversation prior to making any decisions or purchases. We can make sure that you have the electricity available when and where you need it on your operation.

## Ensuring the Right Size Equipment

After adding a grain bin or a heated shop, your current electrical equipment might not be able to power everything that it could before. Don't wait until you damage equipment or can't power your load until you contact us.

When you're busy on the farm, the last thing you need is an inconvenience that's completely preventable. We will work with the member and their operation to ensure that you have the proper equipment size for your needs and understand your electric rate.

## Avoiding Unexpected Costs

We do our best to manage our costs at your cooperative and know that you do the same for your operation. Overloading the cooperative's transformer or damaging your own personal equipment can be very expensive.

For larger members exceeding 50 kVA transformer capacity, they pay a demand charge on their electric bill, and those demand charges can also add up quickly. If you are on a demand rate or have the potential to be, we can work with you on how and when to run your equipment for maximum efficiency.

Adding to your operation can also impact the location of electrical equipment. Having to move electrical equipment or trench wires can add additional costs to your project. We will assist you in placing the equipment where it will meet your current and future needs.

In summary, we ask that you visit with your electric cooperative for any addition or change on your farm that could impact your electric needs.





**SAFE, EFFICIENT AND AFFORDABLE  
HEATING AND COOLING.**

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TO LOVE?**



*Electric heat pumps can be up to two times more efficient than gas furnaces in the winter - and provide high-efficiency cooling in the summer. Ask us about energy savings with an electric heat pump today.*

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Lincoln Feistner



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Air Quality Solutions • Annual Maintenance



**FUJITSU**



**605-996-7516 • 800-477-2892**  
**[www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop)**

## February 21-22

Mardi Gras Weekend,  
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

## February 27-29

SD High School State  
Wrestling Tournament, All  
Classes, Denny Sanford  
Premier Center, Sioux Falls,  
SD, 605-224-9261

## February 27-March 1

35th Annual SD State Dart  
Tournament, Rushmore Plaza  
Civic Center, Rapid City, SD,  
605-394-4111

## March 12-14

SD State B High School Girls  
Basketball Tournament,  
Donald E. Young Center,  
Spearfish, SD, 605-224-9261

## March 14

28 Below Fatbike Race, Ride  
and Tour, Lead, SD,  
605-641-4963

## March 14-15

Dakota Territory Gun  
Collectors Gun Show, Davison  
County Fairgrounds, Mitchell,  
SD, 701-361-9215

## March 18, June 11, August 13 and October 8

Kids Mystery Dinner Theater,  
Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

## March 19-21

SD State A High School Boys  
and Girls Basketball  
Tournament, Rushmore Plaza  
Civic Center, Rapid City, SD,  
605-224-9261

## March 19-21

SD State AA High School  
Boys and Girls Basketball  
Tournament, Sanford Premier  
Center, Sioux Falls, SD,  
605-224-9261



**February 20-25: Black Hills Film  
Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454**

Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

## March 19-21

SD State B High School Boys  
Basketball Tournament,  
Barnett Center, Aberdeen, SD,  
605-224-9261

## March 20-21, 27-28

Annual Schmeckfest,  
Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

## March 21-22

Gun Show, Codington County  
Ag Building, Watertown, SD,  
701-361-9215

## March 28

Annual Ag Day at the  
Washington Pavilion,  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

## March 28

SD High School All-State Band  
Concert, Mitchell Fine Arts  
Center, Mitchell, SD,  
605-224-9261

## April 4

Mitchell Lion's Club Annual  
Pancake & Sausage Feed,  
7 a.m. to 1 p.m., All you can  
eat, \$7/ticket, Age 5 & under  
free, John Paul II School  
Gymnasium, Mitchell, SD

## April 4-5

Annual USD Wacipi,  
Vermillion, SD

## April 11

Eggstravaganza, Rapid City,  
SD, 605-716-7979

## April 17-19

First Dakota Classic Archery  
Tournament, Yankton, SD,  
605-260-9282

## April 18

Black Hills Gold & Treasure  
Show, Rapid City, SD

## April 18

Design Challenge, Sioux Falls,  
SD, 605-731-2348

## April 25

River Rat Marathon, Yankton,  
SD, 605-660-9483

## June 4-7

Wheel Jam, SD State  
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD

## June 5-6

SD BBQ Championships, SD  
State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD

## June 25-27

31st Annual Red Power Round  
Up, auction, parade, quilt  
show, children's activities,  
tour and entertainment  
to celebrate the history of  
International Harvester and  
ag memorabilia, SD State  
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,  
Call 605-460-0197 or visit  
[redpowerroundup2020.com](http://redpowerroundup2020.com)

## August 22

World of Outlaws Race, SD  
State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD

**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.**