


# Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Cooperative Connections

JULY 2015 VOL. 16 NO. 3



# CELEBRATING THE FOURTH

Pg. 8



# Looking Back on My Cooperative Career



**Loren Noess**  
General Manager

college. For anyone who remembers those days, the Vietnam War was on everyone's mind. If you were a male in your late teens or early 20's, you had two choices back then—either college or military.

I started my career at Sioux Valley Electric in the spring 1969 as a Junior Accountant/Material Clerk. During my years there, I lived in Brookings, SD. At that time, Sioux Valley employed 70 employees, and because of its central location, employees lived in several different communities. From Brookings, we were usually in a car pool of 4 employees.

I was at Sioux Valley about 6 months, and the military did come-a-calling. I joined the Brookings National Guard unit. I was on military active duty from November 1969 to March 1970 and then resumed my job at Sioux Valley Electric.

At Sioux Valley Electric, I had the opportunity to work in several areas of the coop, holding three different positions in my 10 years of employment. I was a billing clerk, work order clerk and in accounts payable. I thank the office manager Lloyd Hollister for giving me those opportunities.

Also, while working at Sioux Valley Electric, I met my wife, Nancy, who was teaching kindergarten at Sioux Valley School in Volga, SD. We were married in 1976, and our first son

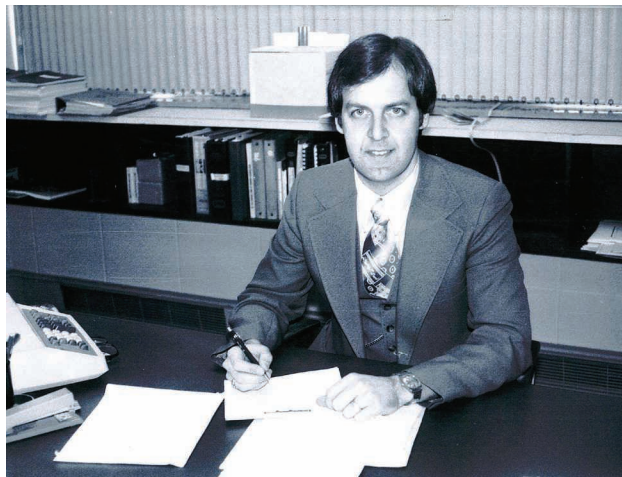
When I was finishing my two years of business school in the spring of 1969, my father called and informed me that there was a job at Sioux Valley Electric in Colman, SD. I indicated to him I wasn't very interested. When my dad called the second time, I did apply and was offered the position that spring.

By then, I'd already been applying for jobs out-of-state, but because of not having my military duty completed, it was difficult to get a job after

was born in Brookings. We had three boys to follow, born in Mitchell. I want to thank my wife and sons for their support. Many times the job takes you away from home, but they always understood.

After working with the Rural Electric Coop, I realized I really enjoyed working for and with the members. The manager of Sioux Valley Electric at the time was Virgil Herriott, who was a true advocate for the membership and managed the coop for 30 plus years. I always respected his dedication to the membership and belief that change and good member relations are very important for the success of the coop.

Then, I knew I wanted to get into management so I started looking at openings within the cooperatives around the area. When the position of Office Manager/Staff Assistant came open at former Intercounty Electric, I applied and was offered the position by then manager Loyd Oleson. After 11 years with Intercounty Electric, the board of directors at the time gave me the opportunity of being the General Manager of Intercounty Electric starting January 1, 1990. I thank them for this wonderful opportunity I had.



**Loren Noess as Office Manager of Intercounty Electric in 1979**

Many changes have taken place in the last 25 years, and I thank the employees and directors for their support and dedication. After the consolidation in 2000, I'm very glad we held the district meetings each year. I really did enjoy attending those meetings, and without them, I never would have had the opportunity to meet so many members of Central Electric. It was a busy month visiting each district, but it was worth the effort.

It has been a pleasure working for and with everyone. I really enjoyed what I was doing, otherwise I probably would of retired a few years ago. It was a tough decision, but it's time to do other things. My wife travels frequently, staying with grandchildren either in Minneapolis or Atlanta. Now I'll have the opportunity to go with on occasion.

I would like to congratulate Ken Schlimgen as the next General Manager of Central Electric and send my best wishes with the cooperative as it moves forward.

# Central Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-963)

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Vice President - Todd VanWalleghen  
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Mission Statement  
Providing Reliable Energy and  
Services at a Good Value

This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and  
employer.

## Co-op News

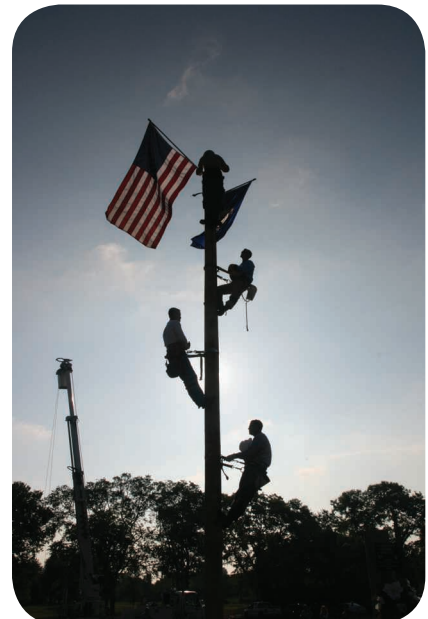
**JOIN US FOR  
AN OPEN HOUSE HONORING  
GENERAL MANAGER LOREN NOESS  
ON HIS RETIREMENT.  
FRIDAY, JUNE 26  
2:00 – 4:30 PM  
BETTS ROAD SERVICE CENTER  
25487 403RD AVE, I-90 EXIT 325,  
MITCHELL, SD  
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.**

## Office Closed Friday, July 3

Our office will be  
closed Friday, July 3  
in observance of  
Independence Day.

In case of an outage,  
call our after-hours  
dispatch at  
800-477-2892.

We wish our  
members a safe holiday!



## Fourth of July Safety Tips

**Using fireworks** on our nation's birthday is as traditional as cookouts and parades.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety offers these common sense safety tips for using fireworks in the hopes that injuries to consumers can be greatly reduced this season.

- Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
- A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
- Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.

### Keep your pets safe

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center offers the following tips for your pet:

- Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended where pets can reach them.
- Do not apply any sunscreen or insect repellent product to your pet that is not labeled specifically for use on animals.
- Always keep matches and lighter fluid out of your pets' reach.
- Keep your pets on their normal diet.
- Do not put glow jewelry on your pets or allow them to play with it.
- Keep citronella candles, insect coils and oil products out of reach.
- Never use fireworks around pets!
- Loud, crowded fireworks displays are no fun for pets, so please resist the urge to take them to Independence Day festivities. Instead, keep your little guys safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area at home.

Source: [fireworkssafety.org](http://fireworkssafety.org); [aspc.org](http://aspc.org)

### Kids' Corner Safety Poster

**"Mom, we need to buy some outlet covers."**



**Gracie Zeeb, 11 and Deni Zeeb, 13**

*They are the daughters of Brian and Shannon Zeeb, 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.

### Contacting Washington, D.C.

**As Americans celebrate Independence Day** this July, it's important to note that with our form of government involves the people to get – and stay – involved in the political process.

Electric cooperative members can engage with their Senators and Representatives in Washington, DC, through [action.coop](http://action.coop) and voice their opinions on a variety of matters affecting electric cooperatives. Here's contact information for reaching your elected officials in Washington, DC.:

#### South Dakota Congressional Delegation

Senator John Thune  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2321, [www.thune.senate.gov](http://www.thune.senate.gov)

Senator Mike Rounds  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5842, [www.rounds.senate.gov](http://www.rounds.senate.gov)

Representative Kristi Noem  
2422 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-2801, <http://noem.house.gov>

#### Minnesota Congressional Delegation

Senator Al Franken  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5641, [www.franken.senate.gov](http://www.franken.senate.gov)

Senator Amy Klobuchar  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2344, [www.klobuchar.senate.gov](http://www.klobuchar.senate.gov)

Rep. Timothy Walz, 1st Minnesota Congressional District  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-2472, <http://walz.house.gov>

Rep. Collin Peterson, 7th Minnesota Congressional District  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-2165, <http://collinpeterson.house.gov>

#### Nebraska Congressional Delegation

Senator Deb Fischer  
454 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2705  
Phone: 202-224-6551, [www.fischer.senate.gov](http://www.fischer.senate.gov)

Senator Ben Sasse  
340E Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-4224, [www.sasse.senate.gov](http://www.sasse.senate.gov)

Rep. Adrian Smith, 3rd Nebraska Congressional District  
2241 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-6435, <http://adriansmith.house.gov>



# Delicious Desserts



## Rhubarb Dessert for Two

- 1-1/2 cups cut-up rhubarb
- 1/2 apple, cut-up
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup frozen strawberries
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. strawberry gelatin
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3 T. butter, melted
- 3/4 cup oatmeal

Spray a 1-1/2-quart baking dish with cooking spray. Put rhubarb, apple, water, strawberries, sugar and gelatin in bottom of pan. Mix flour, brown sugar, butter and oatmeal. Put on top of rhubarb mixture. Bake at 350°F. for 35 minutes. Very good while still warm with ice cream or whipped cream.

**Darlene Price, Prairie City**

## Easy Strawberry Pie

- 2 cups water
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 T. cornstarch
- Strawberries
- 1 (3 oz.) box strawberry gelatin
- 1 graham cracker pie crust or baked pie shell

Combine first 3 ingredients; boil until clear. Add gelatin. Cool and add strawberries. Pour into pie shell.

**Marianne Thompson, Colome**

## Wanda's Fluffy Lemon Dessert

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 4 oz. (1 stick) margarine, melted
- 1 (3 oz.) box lemon gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 (13 oz.) can evaporated milk, chilled

Mix graham cracker crumbs and margarine; press into a 9x13-inch pan. Dissolve gelatin in boiling water; cool until starting to set. Blend together cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until smooth. Combine cream cheese mixture with partially set gelatin. Using chilled bowl and beaters, whip evaporated milk until consistency of whipped cream. Fold cream cheese/gelatin mixture into whipped milk, then spread on crust. Chill until set. Serve topped with cherry or blueberry pie filling, if desired.

**Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre**

## Heath Bar Dessert

- 12 graham crackers, crushed
- 12 soda crackers, crushed
- 1 stick margarine, softened
- 2 pkgs. instant vanilla pudding
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups chopped Heath bars

Mix together crackers and margarine. Pat into a 9-inch glass pan. Combine pudding and milk; fold in Heath bars. Spread on crust. Refrigerate.

**Shirley Dreher, Clark**

## Pumpkin Pie Squares with Cinnamon Yogurt Topping

- Crust**
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 2 T. low-fat milk
- Cooking spray
- 3/4 cup low-fat vanilla yogurt
- 1/2 cup low-fat milk
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. pumpkin spice
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped

### Topping

- 2 T. sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 cup plain nonfat yogurt

### Filling

- 2 cups canned pumpkin
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar

In a large bowl, mix together graham cracker crumbs, oats, brown sugar, butter and 2 T. milk. Press into a thin layer in a 9x13-inch pan greased with cooking spray. Bake at 350°F. for 10 minutes. While the crust is baking, in another bowl, beat together pumpkin through salt. Pour over crust and bake for 40 minutes or until set. Sprinkle pecans over pumpkin filling and bake an additional 10 to 15 minutes or until center is set. Cool slightly in pan. Mix together sugar and cinnamon. Mix in yogurt. Top each square with 1 T. of yogurt topping. Yield: 16 servings

*Nutritional information per serving: 182 calories; 6g total fat (3g saturated fat); 35mg cholesterol; 28g carbohydrates; 2g fiber; 4g protein; 108mg sodium*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Ice Cream Sandwich Dessert

- 2 boxes ice cream sandwiches
- 12 Oreos, crushed
- 2 (8 oz.) containers whipped topping

Layer enough ice cream sandwiches to cover the bottom of a 9x13-inch pan. Cover with half the whipped topping and then half the crushed Oreos. Repeat steps 1 and 2. Keep in freezer until ready to serve.

**Jillian Nedved, Harrisburg**

## My Family's Favorite Dessert

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup cocoa
- 2 cups water
- Miniature marshmallows
- Chocolate cake mix
- Broken nut meats

Mix brown sugar and cocoa in a 9x13-inch pan. Add water. Cover this with miniature marshmallows. Prepare chocolate cake mix according to package directions. Spoon batter over mixture in pan. Top with nut meats. Bake at 350°F. for 45 to 60 minutes. If using a glass baking pan, reduce heat to 325°F. Serve with whipped topping.

**Elaine Rowett, Sturgis**

*Please send your favorite salad, garden produce and pasta 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 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.*

# Schlimgen Named General Manager



On May 26, the Board of Directors announced Ken Schlimgen would be the next General Manager of Central Electric Cooperative. Schlimgen will officially assume the title on July 1, 2015.

Schlimgen has worked for the cooperative for thirty years. Schlimgen, originally from Dimock, SD, attended Mitchell Technical Institute, and joined the cooperative in 1985 as an electrician. In 1990, Schlimgen began his current position as Director of Member Services and Marketing.

Schlimgen and his wife, JoAnn, currently live in Mitchell. They have two children, Kelli and Neil.

Schlimgen said he is excited and looking forward to the opportunity and, “is grateful for the confidence the Board of Directors has placed in me. We are going to continue the cooperative’s record of providing outstanding customer service, and reliable electric service with an excellent safety record.”

# Central Electric Adds Summer Help

Central Electric has hired three temporary employees for the summer to assist during our busy season. Chase Phillips and Dalton Nohr will work with the operations department as 1,000 hour employees, and Aaron Sudbeck will work with the wiring department.

Chase began working at Central Electric on May 4, and has previously worked for Central Electric as a summer employee. Chase is originally from Mitchell, SD, and his parents are Larry and Karla Phillips. Chase graduated from Mitchell Technical Institute in 2013 with his Associate’s Degree in Power Line Construction and Maintenance and Propane and Natural Gas Technologies. Chase has also previously worked for Dakota Energy in Huron, SD. In his spare time, Chase enjoys hunting and fishing.

Dalton began working at Central Electric on May 11. Dalton is from Rapid City, SD, and recently graduated in May from MTI with his diploma in Power Line Construction and Maintenance. Dalton’s parents are Willy and Linda Nohr and also come from a cooperative background. Dalton’s father, Willy, has been a lineman at West River Electric and now works in their Member Services and Marketing department. Dalton’s hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Aaron began working with the electricians on May 11. Aaron is from Mitchell, SD, and his parents are Larry and Michelle Sudbeck. Aaron recently completed his first year of the Electrical Construction and Maintenance program, a two year program, at MTI. In his spare time, Aaron also enjoys hunting and fishing.

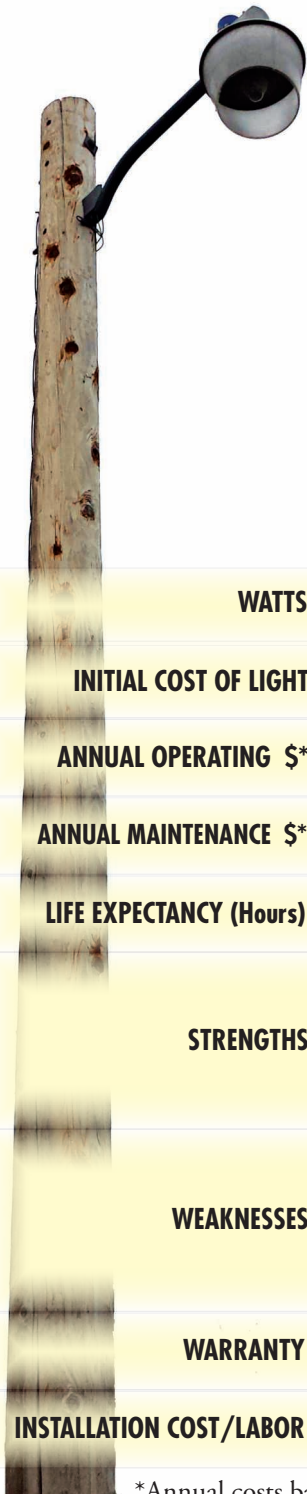


Dalton Nohr (left) and Chase Phillips (middle) will be assisting the operations linecrews this summer. Aaron Sudbeck (right) will be assisting the wiring department.

# HPS vs. LED: Your Security Light Options

Central Electric is now offering LED light options in addition to the traditional high pressure sodium (HPS) and mercury vapor security lights.

Currently, most members with lights serviced by Central Electric will have HPS lights. We will continue to replace these bulbs and cells for no cost. The new LED lights are options that can be purchased. See the information below to determine which light option best fits your needs. To request an installation or for more information, call our office at 800-477-2892.



**HIGH PRESSURE SODIUM (HPS) VAPOR**



**COOPER CARETAKER 73 WATT - LED**



**MATECH 90 WATT - LED**

<b>WATTS</b>	150	73	90
<b>INITIAL COST OF LIGHT</b>	\$100	\$159.75	\$321.23
<b>ANNUAL OPERATING \$*</b>	\$80.41	\$31.39	\$38.70
<b>ANNUAL MAINTENANCE \$*</b>	\$28.76	\$6.88	\$7.91
<b>LIFE EXPECTANCY (Hours)</b>	24,000+	87,000	100,000
<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most efficient HID light</li> <li>- Excellent lumen maintenance</li> <li>- Most HPS lamps can operate in any position</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instant On</li> <li>- Excellent color rendition</li> <li>- Long Life Photo Cell</li> <li>- Convertible wall/arm mount</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Instant On</li> <li>- Excellent Color Rendition</li> <li>- Long Life Photo Cell</li> <li>- Extra lightening protection</li> </ul>
<b>WEAKNESSES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Golden light color</li> <li>- Requires ballast</li> <li>- Requires 5-10 min startup &amp; 1 min cool down</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expensive up front cost</li> <li>- Repair requires entirely new light</li> <li>- New technology/unproven record</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expensive up front cost</li> <li>- Repair requires entirely new light</li> <li>- New technology/unproven record</li> <li>- Dated design</li> </ul>
<b>WARRANTY</b>	5 year	5 year	5 year
<b>INSTALLATION COST/LABOR</b>	\$90/1 hr of labor + \$45 per .5 hr of bucket truck use (assuming a pole is already installed)		

\*Annual costs based on \$.10/kwh and 4300 hours/yr; Lamp/fixture replacement at manufacturer's life exp. ratings



# Hometown Traditions Put Sparkle and Pop into Fourth of July Celebrations

By Brenda  
Kleinjan

**F**ROM FULL-FLEDGED PARADES TO BIKE PARADES, thrilling rodeo action to the song of the drum at wacipis, communities in South Dakota and western Minnesota offer a variety of traditions each Fourth of July.

In eastern South Dakota along U.S. Highway 212, Kranzburg, population 210, will see crowds gathering in the early morning for the community's mid-morning parade. While organizers don't have

an actual head count, the county sheriff has estimated the crowds to exceed 6,000 people by the time the parade commences.

Parade participants aren't given a number, they just show up and queue up in the line.

"It keeps getting bigger and bigger," said organizer Brian Zaug. "It starts at the turkey sheds at the east side of town."

By the time the first parade entry finishes its one-





mile trek across town, there is still more parade to come.

“We have no entry numbers. They just show up and line up. There are tractors, semis, firetrucks, clowns, area fire departments, lots of politicians, concrete trucks and usually a U.S. Senator,” said Zaug. A professional football player has also been spotted at past gatherings, he said.

While the traditional candy is dispersed from some floats, other floats offer hot dogs and beverages to the spectators.

“Once you’ve been there, you don’t skip it, you just don’t miss it,” said Zaug.

For Zaug, the thrill of the event is reuniting with friends and family from across the country who return for the annual event.

“It’s just nice to be in my hometown and hanging out with friends and family. It’s a good family gathering,” Zaug said.

Those attending the parade may decide to cap off the evening at nearby Watertown, S.D., for that community’s annual fireworks display.

Head north to Agency Village near Sisseton, S.D., the Sisseton-Wahpaten Oyate 148th annual contest wacipi will be held July 3 through 5, gathering large crowds for arguably one of the longest-held gatherings in the state.

Across the state at Crazy Horse Monument outside of Custer, S.D., the traditional fireworks show is exchanged for a production blast (weather permitting) as tons of rock are shed from the mountain as the carving progresses. The Monument’s celebration activities include having a huge American flag displayed on the mountain while visitors can meet with Native American artisans, watch American Indian dancers perform and participate in many other planned events.

Those seeking a bit of the wild west will find plenty of rodeo action that weekend.

This year will be the 96th annual Black Hills Roundup Rodeo in Belle Fourche, S.D.

Head back to the east and one can catch Fort Pierre, S.D.’s Fourth of July parade, rodeo and fireworks displays.

A trip to the Rosebud Casino just north of Valentine, Neb., will bring one to the 16th annual Rosebud Casino Wacipi and Great Plains Indian Rodeo Association Rodeo.

**Opposite Page:** The Kranzburg Fourth of July Parade in eastern South Dakota will gather thousands of people to the community of just 200 people. Photo Courtesy *Watertown Public Opinion*

**Inset:** Fireworks at Mount Rushmore have been discontinued due to the pine beetle devastation and fire risk, but plenty of other celebrations across the region exist. Photo Courtesy S.D. Tourism/Chad Coppes

**On the cover:** Fireworks light the sky above the Missouri River separating Fort Pierre and Pierre, S.D. Cover Photo Courtesy S.D. Tourism/Chad Coppes



## A Sampling of Events

- Aberdeen, Aberdeen Aqua Addicts Water Ski Show, July 3-4
- Aberdeen, Uncle Sam Jam, July 4
- Aberdeen, Wylie Park Fourth of July Celebration, July 4
- Agency Village, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate 148th Annual Wacipi, July 3-5
- Bear Soldier Wacipi, McLaughlin, July 3-5
- Belle Fourche, 96th Annual Black Hills Roundup Rodeo, July 2-5
- Bird Island, Minn., Polka Fest Days, July 4-6
- Centerville, Tornado Days, July 2-5
- Crazy Horse, Independence Day at Crazy Horse Memorial, July 4
- Custer, Old Time Country Fourth Celebration and Country Fair Arts and Crafts, July 3-4
- Deadwood, Joe Nichols, July 4
- Eureka, Freedom Dayz, July 3-5
- Faulkton, Wild West Days, July 3-5
- Fort Pierre, Fourth of July Parade, Rodeo and Fireworks, July 3-4
- Kranzburg, Fourth of July Parade, July 4
- Lake Norden, Independence Day Celebration, July 4
- McLaughlin, Bear Soldier Wacipi, July 3-5
- Menno, July 4 Celebration, July 4
- Milesville, 20th Year Anniversary July 4th BBQ at Milesville Hall, July 4
- Miller, Fourth of July Celebration, July 3-5
- Mobridge, 70th Annual Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo, July 2-5
- Morton, Minn., Independence Day Celebration, July 4
- Philip, Volunteer Fire Department Fireworks at Lake Waggoner, July 3
- Piedmont, 125th Celebration, July 3-4
- Rapid City, Independence Day Celebration, July 4
- Redfield, Fourth of July Spectacular Celebration, July 3-4
- Redfield, Fourth of July at the Depot, July 4
- Spearfish, Great Western Cattle Trail and Day of the American Cowboy, July 3-4
- Timber Lake, Volunteer Fire Department Fourth of July, July 4
- Valentine, Neb., 16th Annual Rosebud Casino Wacipi and GIRA Rodeo, July 3-5
- Watertown, Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks, July 4
- Wessington Springs, Fourth of July Parade, July 4
- White River, Community Celebration, July 4
- Worthington, Minn., Old Fashioned Fourth of July, July 4
- Yankton, Summer Pops Concerts, July 4

*This is just a partial listing of events taking place in the region on July 4.*

# Electricity and Livestock

**Central Electric Cooperative's** delivery system and the electrical systems in homes, farms and businesses are grounded to the earth to make the systems as safe and reliable as possible. Both the National Electric Safety Code and the National Electric Code require grounding.

Electrical systems that are grounded to the earth for safety and reliability have a small amount of current flowing through the earth when electrical power is used. Associated with this current is a small voltage. This voltage is called neutral-to-earth voltage (NEV).

Most of the time, NEV levels are very low (less than one volt) and are not considered dangerous to humans or a problem for animals. High voltage levels do indicate a serious electrical problem that needs immediate attention. A level of NEV found at animal contact points and linked to abnormal animal behavior is frequently called stray voltage.

The United States Department of Agriculture and several universities have conducted considerable scientific research on the subject of NEV/stray voltage over the past 30-plus years. The research has established recognized levels of concern and remedies when it comes to dealing with stray voltage issues.

It is important to note that livestock

symptoms often associated with stray voltage can be the result of numerous other animal production, health or behavioral problems. Below are a few ideas that will help prevent stray voltage issues.

- Have a qualified electrician inspect the whole farmstead for electrical problems and correct them in accordance with the National Electric Code.
- Balance ALL 120-volt loads as much as possible in an effort to reduce neutral currents.
- Size service wires according to the electrical load they are serving.
- Install an equipotential grounding plane in the floor for all new livestock buildings.
- Install ground rods and insulated wire to all electric fences/cow trainers.

Any Central Electric member who suspects a neutral-to-earth voltage problem is encouraged to contact the co-op's office. An investigation will be conducted and if needed, remedial action taken.

*Sources: Midwest Rural Energy Council, Wisconsin Farm Electrical Council and Michigan State University publications.*





# Bryant “Dealer of the Year”

Central Electric Cooperative was named “2014 Dealer of the Year” and “2014 Evolution Extreme Dealer of the Year” at the Bryant Annual Dealer Meeting in May.

The awards were given by Bryant Heating and Cooling systems along with Comfort Products Distributing, Central Electric’s distributor.

Each award is given to one dealer in each region. Our region consists of South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska.

For “2014 Dealer of the Year,” Central Electric demonstrated the most sales growth in our region from the previous year.

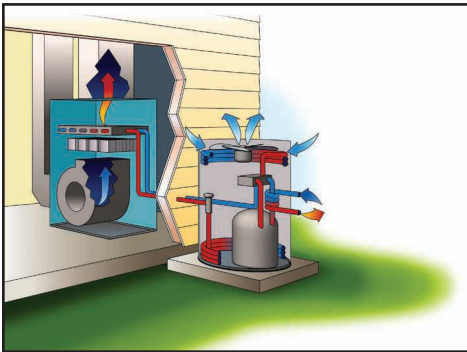
For “2014 Evolution Extreme Dealer of the Year,” Central Electric demonstrated the most overall sales in our region of the Evolution Extreme Heat Pump.

In previous years, Central Electric has earned “2013 Dealer of the Year,” “2008 Top Growth,” “2007 Top Growth,” and “2006 Top Five Dealer Performance” awards.

Central Electric and the HVAC team strive to meet the heating and cooling needs of our members and those around our service area. We thank you for your support as we continue to grow and develop to better serve those needs.



## Electric Heating



Install ENERGY STAR heat pumps\* and save big!

- A \$600 rebate will be given for an ENERGY STAR air-to-air or geothermal heat pump!
- Receive a reduced electric rate for heating, a/c and water heating.
- Cost to meter electric heating equipment \$30!

*\*Members who install a non-ENERGY STAR heat pump or other types of electric heating equipment can receive a reduced electric heating rate. Rebates and loans are not available for residential systems that are not rated as ENERGY STAR. Contact Central Electric for information on program requirements and rebates for non-residential heating equipment.*

## ELECTRIC HEAT LOANS

In addition to the rebate, members can take advantage of low interest financing for their ENERGY STAR electric heating equipment. Loans are available for 80% of the installed cost not to exceed \$20,000 at 5% interest with a 7-year term.

# Solving the Solar Puzzle

**A**S SURE AS THE SUN SHINES, SOLAR POWER IS COMING. The costs of photovoltaic (PV) technologies are tumbling. Government mandates for renewable energy are expanding. Options for adopting consumer-level solar are increasing. And member demand is exploding.

“I’ve never, never seen this kind of enthusiasm and excitement” from consumers, said Wright-Hennepin Cooperative President and CEO Mark Vogt, a 35-year co-op veteran.

Add to that a 30 percent federal tax incentive for solar projects that will be reduced to 10 percent at the end of 2016 and you have a rush toward a technology that’s already seen triple-digit growth over the past five years.

Electric co-ops nationwide have about 105 MW of solar energy in their generation mix, but a recent survey shows they’re planning to add nearly 300 MW over the next two years, and more co-ops are announcing plans nearly every day.

But for cooperatives venturing into solar for the first time, deciding which options are best for the co-op and the membership can be daunting.

“There are multiple options for each phase of a solar project,” said Andrew Cotter, a project manager in NRECA’s business and technology strategies division. “First, you have to find out if your membership wants solar and if meeting the demand is worth the investment. Then, there’s financing, planning and design, installation and interconnection and operation and maintenance. Making the right call on all these facets and getting them to fit properly can really be like solving a puzzle.”

The landscape becomes even more complex when co-ops are faced with individuals or third par-

ties installing rooftop solar and with net-metering laws that compel utilities to compensate residents at retail rates instead of wholesale for solar power they feed back into the grid.

“When a member puts solar on a house on his own or through a third party, the traditional rate model is broken,” Cotter says. “Utilities recover most of their fixed costs through kilowatt-hour sales. Without major changes in the way we charge for power, the effect of rooftop solar and net metering is to transfer these fixed costs to members who can’t afford or don’t want solar or whose homes aren’t suitable for it.”

## Community Solar

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative created a for-profit subsidiary, WH Solar, to install and maintain its solar projects.

Vogt and his team at Rockford, Minn.-based Wright-Hennepin studied those competitors for a couple of years before deciding on a business model to bring solar to the co-op’s power mix. That model was community solar, a highly successful option being deployed by dozens of co-ops across the country, where the utility builds a large solar power installation and sells or leases individual panels or their output to members.

The co-op built Minnesota’s first community solar power project in 2013 at its headquarters. Soon after, it created a for-profit subsidiary, WH Solar, to install and maintain its solar projects. The company is now on its third community solar installation and looking to develop and sell solar energy outside the co-op’s territory by the end of 2015.

WH Solar customers lock into a 20-year solar

By  
**Cathy Cash**  
*RE Magazine*





electricity rate that covers the cost of the panel with no money down. They pay a higher retail rate than non-solar customers during the first few years but can potentially net thousands of dollars in savings as the term matures, Vogt says. Customers also have the option of paying \$2,695 per panel upfront and \$0 per kilowatt-hour where the production essentially offsets their usage at the retail rate.

With electricity prices from traditional sources forecast to increase about 3 percent a year and likely to be compounded by new federal power plant-emissions rules, Vogt says solar will become even more attractive to consumers and utilities.

## Listening to Members

Vogt says for Wright-Hennepin, the driving force into solar energy has been the “tremendous interest” among its 46,000 consumer-members, based on recent surveys the co-op has conducted. Minnesota’s 25-by-25 standard – 25 percent renewables by 2025 – is also a contributing factor.

“There is a romance with solar, an intangible there that doesn’t exist with central-station power,” he says. “If we can tap into that, I think co-ops can be in the driver seat for an awful long time. That is something we, as an industry, better not miss.”

Owen Electric Cooperative, located in northern Kentucky teamed up with the SUNDA Project, a U.S. Department of Energy-sponsored collaboration between NRECA, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation and several co-ops to establish technical and financial guidelines and best practices for utility-scale solar installations.

“What [SUNDA and NRECA] brought was a team of experts from a financial standpoint as well as from a technical standpoint,” said Mark Stallons, Owen Electric’s president and CEO. “If we did it ourselves, we would have to go to a local provider of solar energy and we would be subject to whatever they wanted to provide us with.”

The Owenton, Ky., cooperative has begun work on its first solar energy project: a community solar array on a three-acre site owned by the co-op. The project, slated to be operational by the end of 2016, will be sized according to member demand.

Stallons says the imperative of solar energy is to find a balance that both meets member needs and makes financial sense for the cooperative. Failure to get the solar formula right, he says, could negatively impact the relationship with members and the co-op’s bottom line and invite competition from outside sources.

“Our goal is to provide all of our members with the power supply they desire, whether it is from traditional or renewable sources, and at an equitable price point that is not subsidized by other members,” he says.

Vogt agrees, saying co-ops have a “natural advantage” over outside competitors that must be leveraged: “We are the trusted power supplier in our communities.”

## Keeping it in the Family

Where co-ops like Wright-Hennepin elect to outsource the building and management of their community solar facilities, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) looked at the expertise it already had on staff and decided to go it alone.

“Think about our history: We build substations. A solar array is simple, low-voltage, on-the-ground panels, rails and racking,” says Tim Thompson, CEO of the 26,000-member

co-op. “Why would we want to pay someone else to come into our territory and build a small power plant? Doing it ourselves saves money.”

LREC, based in Pelican Rapids, Minn., built its first community solar array of 96 panels, 410 kilowatts, in 2013, and it sold out quickly. All told, the co-op devoted 368 hours of labor to building the project.

“We are proud that a variety of employees contributed significantly to the construction, including our linemen, electrical technician, facilities supervisor, staking supervisor, CAD technician, meter tech and warehouseman,” Thompson says. “We leveraged our skills and the equipment we already have and applied them to solar and it turned out to be a success.”

The co-op sees the project as a way to maintain the long-standing bond it has with its membership. “If we don’t get in on the ground floor and build this, someone else will,” Thompson says. “Community solar has now become a part of our business.”

Panels cost \$1,500 each and members can use a payment plan to spread the costs over 36 months. LREC recovers all its costs – panels, labor and lost kilowatt-hour sales revenue – in the price, plus a small margin.

“The new revenue coming in pays for the project,” he says. “If a third party came in and started building solar, they would really extract value.”

Thompson says there’s another intangible in offering solar that you can’t put a dollar value on: member trust.

“Our members really do look to us; they trust us,” Thompson says. “As long as there is member demand, we’ll keep doing it.”

## ‘Cooperative Solar’

Seminole Electric Cooperative is taking community solar to a new level.

The Tampa, Fla.-based G&T found that among its nine member co-ops, there was high interest in developing solar power and the member co-ops wanted to find the most cost-effective option to meet the demand. With this in mind, the G&T has embarked on a project that co-op officials are calling “cooperative solar.”

Under the plan, Seminole Electric would build and operate a utility-scale solar project and allow member co-ops to sell the array’s output to consumers.

“What we’re trying to do is provide our member cooperatives access to that solar facility at a rate structure that allows each to design a program to meet their needs,” says Lisa Johnson, the G&T’s CEO and general manager. “This approach gives them an opportunity to access an affordable solution without having to put their own capital out on the front end.”

Development of the project is in the early stages, but plans are to build a 2-MW PV system on Seminole Electric property adjacent to its natural gas plant by the end of 2016.

## Members First

In the end, the solution to the solar puzzle comes down to something co-ops have thrived on since the beginning: listening to members.

Luis Reyes, CEO of Taos, N.M.-based Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, a national leader in utility solar deployments, agrees.

# Is Your Cooling System Ready For Summer?

Air conditioning takes a big chunk out of your summer operating budget; accounting for nearly 15 percent of total annual electricity use in a typical commercial building. By taking steps to ensure that your cooling system and your facility are operating at peak efficiency, you'll stay cool and realize some hot savings.

## Optimizing cooling system performance

Maintenance, combined with small upgrades, will help to ensure that your cooling system is ready to handle the hot, humid days of summer.

**Maintain your system.** Winter can be hard on rooftop air conditioning units and other outdoor system components. Have your air conditioning system cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional before the start of the cooling season. Regular maintenance practices include:

- Clean all heat exchanger surfaces, water and refrigerant coils, condensers and evaporators
- Check air filters monthly and clean or change as needed
- Inspect air intake screens and clean if necessary
- Check motors, bearings and fans, and lubricate when needed

**Seal ducts.** Leaky duct systems can result in energy losses of 15 to 30 percent, increasing cooling costs and reducing comfort. Test ductwork with fan pressure or flow meters to identify the extent of leakage. Seal accessible ducts with mastic tape. Hire a qualified contractor if you suspect a significant problem.

**Install economizers.** Economizers bring in outside air to provide free cooling. Connected to the outdoors, an economizer is comprised of a sensor and a damper. When outdoor temperature and humidity levels are right, the damper opens and brings in outside air. Economizers are most effective in moderate climates.

## Around your facility

Cooling efficiency does not stop at the air vents. There are plenty of things you can do around your facility to save this summer.

• **Adjust temperatures.** Set building temperatures to accommodate your hours of operation or occupancy schedule. This is the simplest and most cost-effective method for controlling cooling costs. Programmable thermostats automate the process, adding convenience and helping to optimize savings.

• **Circulate the air.** Circulating air fans reduce the need for air conditioning by making people feel cooler. Large ceiling fans are particularly effective in circulating air throughout a space. In some cases, using a ceiling fan allows you to raise the thermostat four degrees with no loss in comfort.

• **Cool the roof.** Your roof absorbs a substantial amount of heat from the sun, reducing comfort on hot summer days and making your air-conditioning system work harder. Cool roofs are made with special coatings or materials that reflect sunlight and absorb less heat, lowering surface temperatures and keeping your building cooler.

• **Weatherize.** Air leaks reduce the effectiveness of your cooling system, costing you money. Check for air leaks around doors and windows and seal with caulking or weatherstripping. Ensure that your building is insulated according to levels recommended in ASHRAE 90.1 - Energy Standard for Buildings or your local energy code.

If your cooling system is more than 15 years old, or in need of repair, consider upgrading to a new, energy-efficient unit. While the installation costs can be substantial, the energy savings can lead to a quick return on your investment.

*Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. has secured the right to publish this article.*





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## Energy Star Rebates

Members earn the following rebates on qualifying ENERGY STAR purchases:

Refrigerator	\$100
Freezer	\$100
Dishwasher*	\$50
Clothes Washer*	\$50

\*qualifying appliances require an electric water heater in the home



Appliances do not need to be purchased from Central Electric Cooperative. However, the appliances do need to be on Central Electric's service. To apply for a rebate, find the form at [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop) or call 800-477-2892.



## Regional Dateline

### June 19-20

Prairie Hills Art Show  
Friday 7 to 9 p.m. and  
Saturday noon to 4 p.m.  
Opera House,  
Wessington Springs, SD  
Contact Julie Barber  
at 605-539-9471

### June 26-28

Scavenger's Journey from  
Plankton to Presho  
Contact Amy Bultsma at  
605-942-7781  
[scavengersjourney.com/#!](http://scavengersjourney.com/#!)

### June 29

Jerauld/Bufalo County 4-H  
Horse Show, Jerauld County  
4-H Rodeo Grounds  
Wessington Springs, SD  
Contact Julie Barber  
at 605-539-9471

### July 3-5

Dakota Running Irons (Cowboy  
Mounted Shooters), Jerauld  
Co. 4-H Rodeo Grounds  
Wessington Springs, SD  
Contact Craig Shryock  
at 605-730-1979

### July 4

Annual Wessington Springs 4th  
of July Parade & Events  
Contact Area Chamber and  
Development at 605-539-1929

### July 4

W.S. Fireman's Street Dance  
9 p.m. to 1 a.m., WS Fire Hall  
Wessington Springs, SD  
Contact Fire Chief Jim Vavra at  
605-539-9018



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEILA HURST

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

### June 18

Tornado Remembrance Event  
5 p.m., Wessington Springs  
Contact Wessington Springs  
City Hall at 605-539-1691

### July 3

Blue & Gold Golf Tournament  
Wessington Springs, SD  
Contact Springs Country Club  
at 605-539-1944

### July 4

Patriotic Organ Concert  
4 p.m., David Salmen  
Residence, 38569 SD Hwy 34  
Wessington Springs, SD  
Tickets \$25, Contact David  
Salmen at 605-354-1694 or  
[orgn2nr@aol.com](mailto:orgn2nr@aol.com)

### July 9-12

Hot Harley Nights  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-334-2721

### July 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26

Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant  
"By the Shores of Silver Lake"  
DeSmet, SD, 800-776-3594  
or 800-880-3383

### July 11-12

Archeology Awareness Days  
Mitchell, SD, 605-996-5473

### July 11-12

Arts Expo, SD Hall of Fame  
Building, Chamberlain, SD  
605-234-6149

### July 11-12

Annual Gem & Mineral Show  
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center  
Rapid City, SD, 605-269-2015

### July 17-18

The Gathering of People, Wind  
& Water Native Art Market &  
Cultural Celebration  
Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

### July 17-18

Black Hills Corvette Classic  
Spearfish, SD, 605-759-4530

### July 17-19

Horse & Buggy Days  
Sisseton, SD

### July 24-26

Honey Days, Bruce, SD

### July 31-August 2

Desperado Days 2015  
Rodeo Grounds, Kimball, SD  
[kimballsd.org](http://kimballsd.org) or Facebook  
"Desperado Days"

### August 13-16

American Island Days  
American Creek Campground  
Chamberlain, SD  
<http://americanislanddays.com>

### August 15

21st Annual Lakers  
Mighty Mo' Car Show  
Registration 10 a.m. to noon  
Car Show noon to 4 p.m.  
American Creek Campground  
Chamberlain, SD, [boyd@thielscollisioncenter.com](mailto:boyd@thielscollisioncenter.com) or  
[dallasthompson@gmail.com](mailto:dallasthompson@gmail.com)

### September 12-13

Twin Rivers Old Harvest  
Festival, Kuchen Festival  
Uptown, Delmont SD  
605-779-5291

### September 25-26

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show  
Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD  
Contact Nancy VanOverschelde  
at 605-248-2526 or email  
[nanvan@santel.net](mailto:nanvan@santel.net)