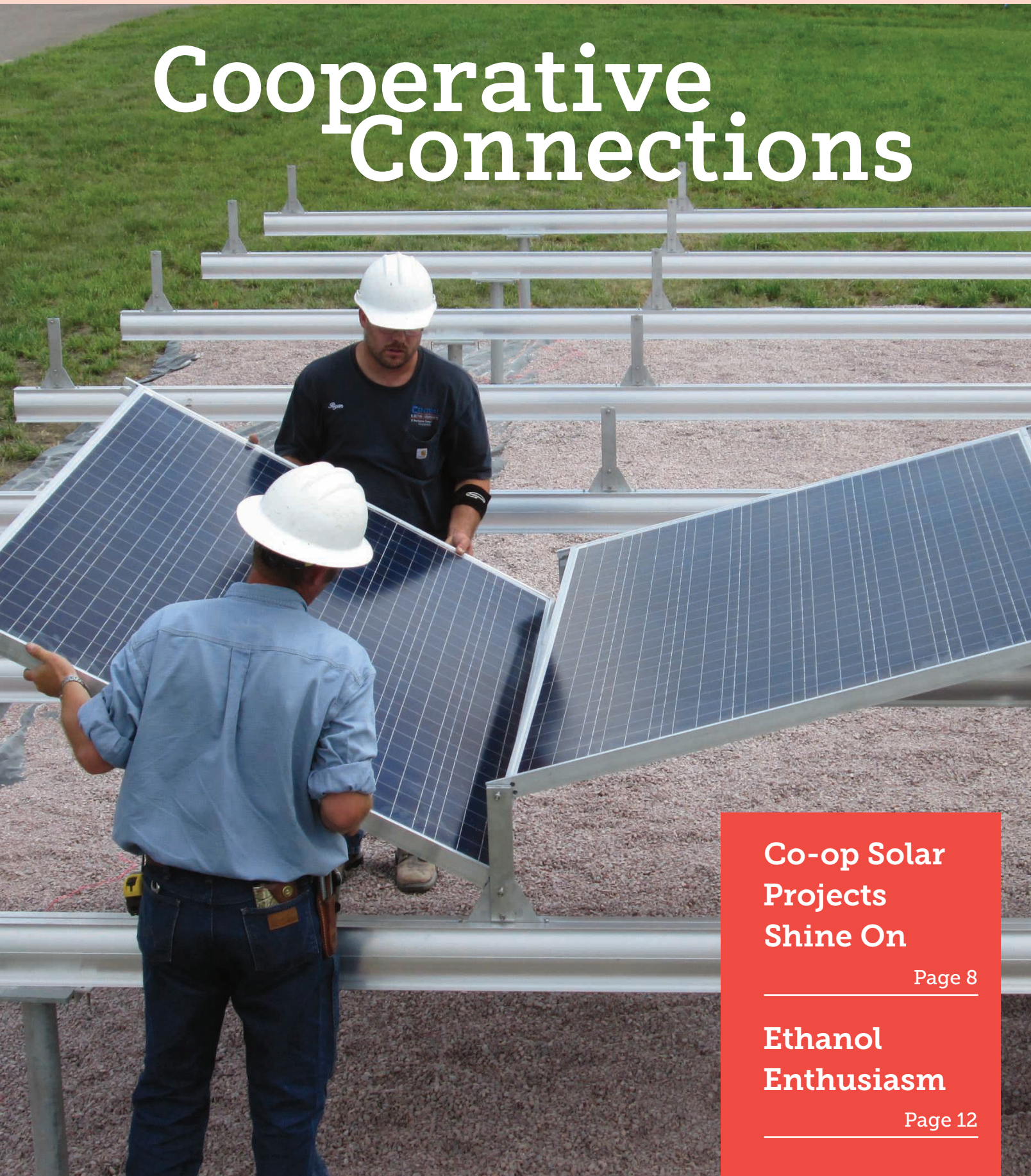


# Cooperative Connections



**Co-op Solar  
Projects  
Shine On**

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**Ethanol  
Enthusiasm**

Page 12



## The Theme for 2019:

# Be Flexible



**Ken Schlimgen**

General Manager

**The weather has also impacted your cooperative's plans for the year.**

I know this isn't breaking news but the weather has required flexibility in everyone's plans. I can't recall ever seeing so many acres of unplanted farm land on the first day of July. This one fact will have a ripple effect through our local economy that is very concerning.

The weather has also impacted your cooperative's plans for the year. In January and February, we faced bitter cold and fought a lot of snow. The cold weather caused our system to reach new all-time peaks in electrical demand and the snow kept our crews from completing tree trimming activities. March came with above average moisture and a late winter storm caused outages and repair expenses.

Our plans for 2019 include 67 miles of line replacement. This is our year to launch a more aggressive line replacement plan as we traditionally replace about 30 miles annually. The weather has delayed our plans by a solid six to eight weeks, so we are hoping winter has a very late start.

We have started line replacements in Buffalo and Brule counties as those areas have seen less rain. We are hoping to start a 30 mile replacement project in northern Sanborn County by the end of July. This is the largest project we have planned for the year.

Each year we hire subcontractors to test poles and trim trees. These activities would normally be completed by now. Because of the overall wet conditions we may not be able to complete these activities in 2019. This is a little concerning as these activities are necessary to maintain the reliability of our system.

Your cooperative is also installing a new meter system that will use cellular phone technology. The new system is planned to be installed over the next three to four years. We received our first shipment of 1,500 meters in early July and will begin installing those over the next few months. An identical shipment is planned to arrive later in the year.

On the positive side, the cooperative is doing well financially. The extreme cold in January through March resulted in above budget sales. Combine that with no tree trimming and pole testing expenses so far and the year to date margins look strong. However, the second half of the year will be interesting for your cooperative. We don't expect normal sales of electricity for irrigation and grain drying activities.

In other news, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is predicting the price of electricity generated by the dams along the Missouri River to remain unchanged in 2020. This is due to higher water levels and WAPA's expected higher electricity sales for the remainder of the year. WAPA represents a small part of our total power mix but as we look to next year this is welcome news.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the final Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule – replacing the Clean Power Plan (CPP). ACE adheres to the Clean Air Act and gives states the regulatory certainty they need to continue to reduce emissions and provide a dependable, diverse supply of electricity. When ACE is fully implemented, expectations are for the U.S. power sector CO2 emissions to fall by as much as 35 percent below 2005 levels. ACE was supported by the nation's electric cooperatives as a workable plan that helps protect our environment.

In closing I would ask you to include your electric cooperative in your plans for adding equipment, buildings or anything that will change your electrical usage. If we work together, we are more likely to avoid unexpected inconveniences, problems and expenses that could occur with your new project.

Until next time, be safe.



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(USPS 018-963)

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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).

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**Mission Statement**

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

# Ag Appreciation Day



Wednesday, August 7

W.H. Lyon  
Fairgrounds,  
Sioux Falls, SD

Free Admission with ticket  
until 1:00 PM

Free Lunch & High Voltage  
Trailer Demonstration  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Pick up your free ticket at the  
Central Electric Office located on  
Betts Road. Limited number of  
tickets available.

Gate sponsored by the Touchstone  
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## Employee Years of Service

**Tim Olinger**

August 6 - 1 year

**Patrick Soukup**

August 17 - 4 years

**Doug Schley**

August 26 - 34 years

**Craig Sealey**

August 27 - 1 year

**Thank you for your service to the cooperative!**

# Electrical Safety During Disasters

Electricity drives the modern world and we often take it for granted. And if a natural disaster occurs, there's a few things to remember to stay electrically safe during the storm.

- Before the storm hits, make sure to charge all phones and other communication devices. Then, unplug all electronics and move them as high as possible to avoid water damage from flooding.
- Turn off the main power breaker feeding the home to prevent any surges to the wiring and equipment.
- After the storm blows through, and you begin to evaluate the aftermath, it's important to avoid flooded areas as they may be electrified.
- Do not use any electrical equipment or electronics if they've been submerged.
- If flooding has occurred, have the electrical system inspected by a qualified electrical inspector.
- If you're using a generator, ensure a qualified electrician installed it and make sure to use a listed and approved transfer switch and GFCI protection.
- It's a good idea to protect your home with carbon monoxide detectors.
- When venturing outside, be very alert of your surroundings. If you encounter a fallen power line, stay at least 35 feet away. Avoid touching any objects the line may be laying on such as a fence, a car, or a light pole as the object could be energized.
- If others are around, alert them to stay away and call 911.

While storms can be devastating to a community, the aftermath can be challenging. However, could be an opportunity to renovate and upgrade your main power source with renewable energy such as solar.

Floodwaters and heavy winds aren't the only hazards during a storm. That's why it's important to treat electricity with extreme caution.

Source: esfi.org

Come visit your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives at one of these events!

MINNESOTA

# FARMFEST®

Aug. 6-7  
Gilfillan Estate  
28269 MN-67  
Morgan, MN

Aug. 20-22

2300 E Spruce St.  
Mitchell, SD

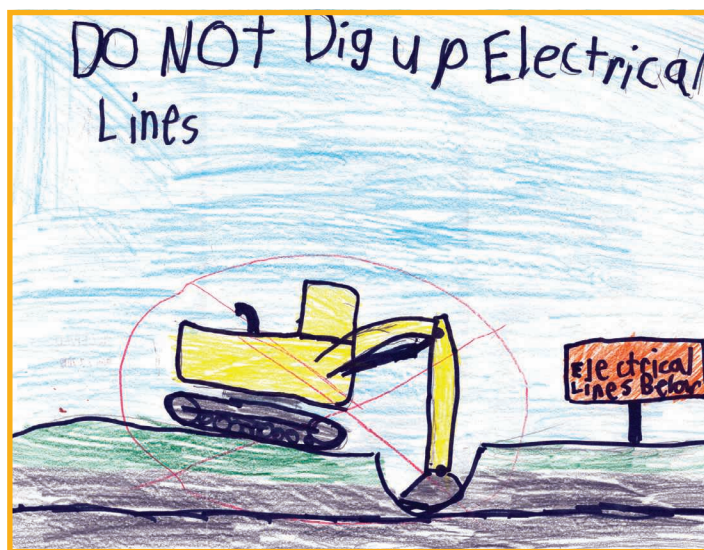
# DAKOTAFEST®



Aug. 29-Sept. 2  
1060 Third St. SW, Huron, SD

We'll see you there!

## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Do not dig up electrical lines."**

**Luke Kangas, 9 years old**

Luke is the son of Andrew and Gail Kangas, Lake Norden, S.D.  
They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake, 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.





# Very Vegetarian

## Southwest Brunch Casserole

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2 T. oil   | 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese |
| 1 medium onion, chopped                                      | 6 eggs                              |
| 1 red bell pepper, chopped                                   | 2 cups milk                         |
| 1 (8 oz.) loaf Italian bread, cut into 1-inch cubes (5 cups) | 1 tsp. chili powder                 |
| 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed               | 2 tsp. ground oregano               |
| 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese                               | 1 tsp. ground cumin                 |
|  | 1 tsp. salt                         |

Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Add onion and bell pepper; cook and stir 3 minutes or until softened. Spread 1/2 of the bread cubes in 13x9-inch baking dish. Layer with 1/2 each of the onion mixture, beans, Cheddar cheese and Monterey Jack cheese. Repeat layers. Beat eggs in medium bowl until foamy. Add milk, chili powder, oregano, cumin and salt; beat until well blended. Pour evenly over top. Press bread cubes lightly into egg mixture until completely covered. Let stand 10 minutes. Bake at 350°F. for 40 to 50 minutes or until center is set and top is golden brown. Makes 12 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 275, Total Fat 15g, Sodium 633mg, Cholesterol 121mg, Carbohydrates 21g, Protein 14g, Fiber 3g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Black Bean Burgers

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3 (15 oz.) can black beans, rinsed and drained | 2 T. seeded, minced jalapeno pepper (or pepper of choice) |
| 1-3/4 cups diced onion                         | 3/4 tsp. salt   |
| 1-1/2 cups uncooked regular oats               | 2 large eggs, lightly beaten                              |
| 3/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro                 | 1/4 cup all-purpose flour                                 |
|  | 1/4 cup cornmeal  |

In a large bowl, coarsely mash beans with a fork. Add next 6 ingredients; stir well. Shape into 8 patties. Combine flour and cornmeal in a pie plate; stir well. Dredge patties in mixture. Cook patties in a small amount of oil over medium-high heat until lightly browned – about 5 minutes on each side.

**Darcy Bracken, Hermosa, SD**

## Baked Pineapple

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 cup sugar                                      | 2 cups grated Cheddar cheese |
| 6 T. flour                                       | 1 stick butter, melted       |
| 5 T. pineapple juice                             | 1/2 cup cornflake crumbs     |
| 2 cans pineapple tidbits, drain, reserving juice |                              |

Mix together sugar, flour and pineapple juice. Add pineapple and cheese. Place in a greased casserole dish. Combine butter and cornflake crumbs; sprinkle over all. Bake at 350°F. until brown and bubbly. Serve hot or cold.

**Verna Nelson, Wakonda, SD**

## Bean 'n' Butter Bread

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans | 1 egg, beaten            |
| 1/3 vegetable oil           | 1 cup hot water          |
| 1/3 cup peanut butter       | 3 pkgs. yeast            |
| 1/3 cup molasses            | 4 cups all-purpose flour |
| 3 T. sugar                  | 1 cup whole wheat flour  |
| 1 tsp. salt                 | Egg white                |

Place first 7 ingredients in blender; blend until smooth. Pour into large mixing bowl. Stir in hot water. Combine yeast and 4 cups flour. Add to bean mixture, mixing well. Add wheat flour. Work in to form a stiff dough. Let rise 1-1/2 hours. Punch down and let rise 15 minutes. Shape into 2 loaves, placing on a greased cookie sheet. Mix egg white with 2 T. water for egg wash. Brush on loaves. Make 1/8-inch slash every 2-1/2 inches apart. Bake at 350°F. for 55 minutes. You may use crunchy peanut butter or add sunflower seeds.

**Anne Burlison, Lead, SD**

Please send your favorite garden produce, pasta and 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 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



# SMART USAGE



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SmartHub is available through [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop) and as a mobile app through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices). SmartHub provides many features that can help you understand your account or get a hold of us in a hurry.

Through SmartHub, you'll be able to view detailed usage information that will provide insight that can help better understand your bill. You'll be able to put yourself in the driver's seat of your account.

You'll also receive important news and information about Central Electric through the app. Any important news or alerts you need to know, you'll receive immediately. You can also contact us with any issues regarding your service.

Take control of your account and make interacting with Central Electric easy with SmartHub.

**Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.**



View your account at [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop)  
or download the mobile app.





## FIELD SAFETY

### Plan on Safety this Season

Overhead power lines can be easily overlooked, and deadly if ignored. Before you focus on fieldwork, review these important tips.

**BE ALERT.** With awareness, a little goes a long way. Remember to look up and look out for power lines.

**STAY ALERT.** Avoid distractions and get plenty of rest when operating farm equipment. While days can run long, failure to be aware of your surroundings can lead to accidents.

**SLOW DOWN.** Rain and cold weather has delayed progress in our region. If you get in the fields later than you had hoped, avoid the temptation to rush through your work.

**STUDY.** Educate yourself on new equipment you purchased recently. What cleared power lines in previous years may not now.

**SEARCH.** Trees or brush can make power lines difficult to see. Don't just glance up; really take a minute to search your surroundings when moving equipment.

**BE PREPARED.** Hitting a power line can be scary. Do you know what to do if you come in contact with a power line?

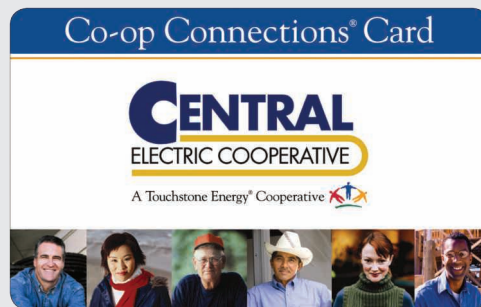
**STAY PUT.** Unless there is a fire, you need to stay calm and stay in the vehicle. Touching the ground and the vehicle at the same time (i.e. stepping out of the equipment) can be deadly. Don't risk becoming a conduit for the electricity.

**CALL FOR HELP.** Call 911 or your local utility. If someone comes to assist you, they need to stay at least 40 feet away until professional help has arrived.

**JUMP CLEAR.** If there is a fire forcing you to leave, jump clear of the equipment. Jump with your feet together, as far away from the vehicle as possible. Be sure that no part of your body touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Then, shuffle or hop with your feet together at least 40 feet away. Electricity spreads through the ground in ripples. Keeping your feet together prevents one foot from stepping into a higher voltage zone than the other foot, which could cause electrocution. Stay away from the equipment and keep others away until the authorities tell you it's safe to return.

Remember these life-saving tips while working in the fields this season and help spread the word about the dangers of large farm equipment and overhead power lines.

## 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) **AmericInn Lodge & Suites, Chamberlain, SD;**  
10% off rack rate (not valid with any other offer).
- 2) **America's Mattress, Mitchell, SD;**  
Free sheets with qualifying purchase of \$500 or greater (1 set).
- 3) **BBBB's Distributing, Mitchell, SD;**  
\$100 off any vinyl fence or railing purchase of \$1,000 or more OR \$100 off any regular priced stove or fireplace.
- 4) **Blessings Repeated Inc., Plankinton, SD;**  
20% off a purchase of \$10 or more.
- 5) **Buckshots, Letcher, SD;**  
\$1 off all Buckshot Burgers.
- 6) **Casey's General Store, 701 N Main, Mitchell, SD;**  
Free 12 oz coffee or 32 oz fountain pop with 8 gallon fuel purchase.
- 7) **County Fair Food & Fuel, Mitchell, SD;**  
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For a full list of ways to save, visit [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop).

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





Central Electric's Prairie Solar project can be seen in front of the co-op's office along Betts Road west of Mitchell, S.D. On the Cover: Central Electric employees install the Prairie Solar project in 2015.

# BRIGHT LESSONS

## Co-op Solar Projects Help Educate, Inform

**Brenda Kleinjan**

[editor@sdrea.coop](mailto:editor@sdrea.coop)

Co-op members across the area are able to get firsthand information about solar energy straight from their electric cooperatives.

“There were a number of vendors in the region promoting various technologies. We wanted to provide accurate, real-time information to our members. Our role as a trusted energy expert made us want to educate ourselves on behalf of the members,” said Brian Jeremiason, manager of marketing and external relations at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn.

So, in late December 2015, Lyon-Lincoln Electric installed its 8.4 kW AC solar system. The small project was designed to match a typical residential load for the southwestern Minnesota cooperative. The project consists of 28, 400 watt panels, each measuring 52.5 inches by 78 inches. The entire array measures 45.5 feet by 28 feet.

“It’s provided information about expected production versus actual production,” said Jeremiason, who noted that actual production for the system’s first three years has been “about 80 percent of what our vendor projected.”

Aside from a few inverters that failed within the system’s first two years, Jeremiason said the system has been mostly maintenance free.

An important lesson learned for the co-op was that companies in the industry tend to go out of business overnight.

“Overall, while the financial payback is long, it’s been a benefit to the cooperative members as an educational tool,” said Jeremiason.



Photo by Bob Felber/Bon Homme-Yankton Electric

Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., also installed a solar project in 2015 to learn firsthand how to plan and construct such a project and also how well it would perform in the area around Mitchell.

Similar to Lyon-Lincoln’s experience, the vendor the co-op used went out of business shortly after installation.

Fortunately, there has been little maintenance or upkeep needed for the system.



“The solar industry is still in its infancy and experiencing growth and change,” said Central Electric General Manager Ken Schlimgen. “As a result, the names in the industry come and go and the solar equipment you see today will be obsolete in a few years.”

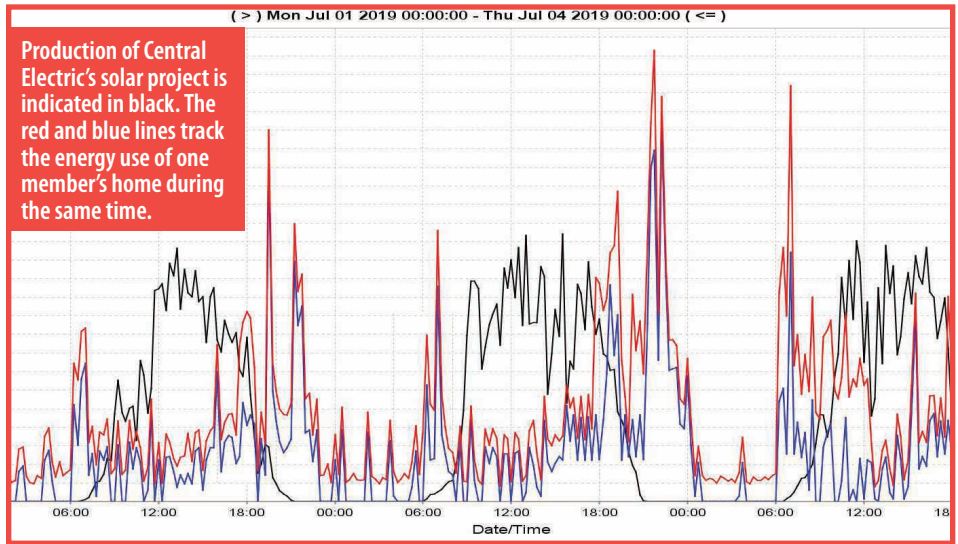
One lesson the co-op learned was to double check with building requirements in your county. The ground-mounted system they installed required a Davison County building permit.

A second lesson learned was the impact of cloud cover on the system.

“Any type of cloud cover reduces the kilowatt hour production of the system,” said Schlimgen.

“I believe the project has helped our employees better understand the equipment used in solar projects. We can also compare the production of our solar project and overlay that information onto a members actual consumption. This allows the member to better understand when a solar system would be offsetting their purchases and when they would still need to make purchases of electricity. Our solar project also helps to provide sizing information to members who are asking questions about installing solar,” said Schlimgen.

Central Electric’s Manager of Marketing and Member Services Patrick Soukup noted, “One of the biggest lessons that I had to learn is about time of use versus time of production. Once we overlaid the graphs together, it’s apparent how



solar works in our typical day and how important sizing the system to your needs would be.”

While the co-op invested more than \$32,000 in the system, the returns on the investment from an educational perspective have been worthwhile.

“The investment we had and the data collected is just priceless,” Soukup said.

Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, S.D., has the largest of the solar demonstration projects installed at its Brandon, S.D., service center. The cooperative constructed its 24.8-kilowatt project in April 2015 and had it operational by May 1 of that year. The project’s 80 panels were faced south, southwest and west, which allowed the co-op to examine how the orientations affected production.

“The output is very close to what was

planned. The difference in the output from facing the panels three different directions has allowed us to learn about which orientation will better match up with a member’s usage patterns. The project was fairly easy to assemble,” said Ted Smith, Sioux Valley Energy’s director of engineering and operations.

The entire array was installed for about \$3 per watt. In the project’s first four years, it produced 126,201 kilowatt hours, with a projected payback of 16 to 20 years. (The estimated life of the array is between 30 and 50 years.)

The new kid on the co-op solar block is Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association in Tabor, S.D, which installed its 5kw system in July 2018. The co-op publishes the project’s output each month in their magazine.



Solar panels at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn., have helped the co-op answer members’ questions about the resource.

Photo by Brian Jeremiason/Lyon-Lincoln Electric

Photo by Central Electric

# Defining Degree Days



**Patrick Soukup**

Manager of Member Services/  
Marketing

**Never heard of a degree day? Don't worry, you're not alone.**

Weather can have a major impact on energy bills, and when the outdoor temperatures become extreme, your heating and cooling equipment works harder to keep your home comfortable.

Did you know the energy advisors at your cooperative use degree days to anticipate heating and cooling needs for you, our consumer-members?

Never heard of a degree day? Don't worry, you're not alone. Let's take a look at what degree days are and why they're important for electric utilities.

Degree days measure how cold or warm a location is by comparing the average of the high and low (mean) of the outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65 F. The assumption is that we don't need heating or cooling to be comfortable when this is the outdoor temperature.

**So, the more extreme the outdoor temperatures, the higher the number of degree days. And the higher the number of degree days, the higher the amount of energy used for space heating and cooling.** Summer is in full swing, so let's look at cooling degree days.

Cooling degree days are a measurement of how hot the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. With summer temperatures rising, you'll likely require more cooling for your home or business,

which results in more cooling degree days. Variations in electric bills often follow closely with degree days, which is why electric utilities use this data to anticipate future energy demand.

Degree days are tracked for a variety of reasons. Farmers can better plan timing for pest control, and weather experts can better assess climate patterns.

To view degree days for our area, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and search "degree days calculator" or visit our website at [centralec.coop](http://centralec.coop) under "Energy Expertise."

If charts and data aren't your forte, no problem. Here are a few tips to help you save on energy bills this summer:

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your cooling costs will be. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 F when you're home and a higher setting for when you're away.
- Turn off ceiling fans when leaving a room.
- Close window coverings, like curtains and blinds, during the day to block sunlight.
- Use caulk and weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.

If you have questions about your energy use or for more ways to save, give us a call or stop by our office. Central Electric is here to help.

## U.S. COOLING DEGREE DAYS

Cooling degree days measure how hot the outdoor temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. The map below shows measurements of U.S. cooling degree days in 2018 by census region. Extreme outdoor temperatures bring a higher number of degree days, which results in higher energy use.



The map shown here includes data for cooling degree days (CDD), which are used to measure and compare outdoor temperatures over periods of time. For example, a day with a mean temperature of 80 F has 15 CDD (because the U.S. standard temperature is 65 F). If the next day has a mean temperature of 83 F, it has 18 CDD. So, the total for those two days is 33 CDD.



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# Ethanol in South Dakota

Courtney Deinert

cdeinert@centralec.coop

**Ethanol production continues to increase with a new large facility added every other year or so.**

The ethanol industry in South Dakota began a little more than 30 years ago when Jeff Broin and his family purchased a foreclosed ethanol plant in 1988 near Scotland, S.D.

The Broin family had been distilling ethanol as a way to make a little extra money on the farm after the 1970s, when corn production cost more than producers could sell it for. By purchasing the plant, the family had an opportunity to expand their process. This initial plant near Scotland became the pilot for POET Biorefining and is currently one of 15 operating plants in the state.

Last year, South Dakota ranked 6th nationally in ethanol production capacity and provided 7 percent of the nation's total ethanol production.

Rural South Dakotans know that in addition to providing an alternative fuel source, ethanol provides an additional market for corn producers. From 2002 to 2012, gross corn use for ethanol production increased from less than 10 percent to more than 40 percent (and the production process does kick back distiller grain to alleviate the need for corn and soybean meal for livestock). The same study claims for every 10 percent increase in ethanol production (or 1 billion gallons), average



About one-third, or 17 pounds, of every bushel of corn sent to an ethanol plant is used as livestock feed.

long-run corn prices increase by 2 percent to 3 percent (based on production from 2008-2013).

## Impact on Electric Cooperatives

Ethanol has also impacted local electric cooperatives. East River Electric Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Madison, S.D., includes a number of ethanol plants located within its system, and more than 11 percent of East River kilowatt hour (kWh) sales go to large ethanol production plants.

“Ethanol production continues to increase – with a new large facility added every other year or so over the last 15 years,” says Michael Volker, manager of rates and treasury at East



Blender pumps at South Dakota gas stations offer drivers a variety of choices of ethanol blends.



## Ethanol Plants in South Dakota

Company	City	Production Capacity MGY (million gallons/year)	Operating Production	Under Expansion MGY (million gallons/year)
ABE South Dakota LLC	Aberdeen	53	53	
ABE South Dakota LLC	Huron	32	32	
Dakota Ethanol LLC	Wentworth	48	48	
Glacial Lakes Energy LLC	Mina	100	100	
Glacial Lakes Energy LLC	Watertown	120	120	
NuGen Energy LLC	Marion	130	130	
POET Biorefining – Big Stone LLC	Big Stone City	79	79	
POET Biorefining – Chancellor LLC	Chancellor	110	110	
POET Biorefining – Groton LLC	Groton	53	53	
POET Biorefining – Hudson LLC	Hudson	56	56	
POET Biorefining – Mitchell LLC	Mitchell	68	68	
POET Research Center	Scotland	11	11	
Red River Energy LLC	Rosholt	25	25	
Redfield Energy LLC	Redfield	60	60	
Ringneck Energy & Feed LLC	Onida	-	-	80
Valero Renewable Fuels Co. LLC	Aurora	135	135	

River. Currently, there are new plants being constructed near Onida and Yankton, S.D.

The plants specifically served by East River and its member cooperatives can produce more than 500 million gallons of ethanol per year and consume approximately 200 million bushels of locally grown corn.

### Flex Fuels

South Dakota is a national leader in its use of ethanol in the state vehicle fleet. In 2017, South Dakota ranked third nationally in the gallons of E85 consumed by state fleet (behind No. 1 Texas and No. 2 Maryland).

Of the state fleet, approximately 65 percent use a blend of ethanol, from E15 to E85. In early 2019, Gov. Kristi Noem announced her intent to transition the state fleet to E30.

For the public, there are 87 stations in South Dakota that offer E85 (ethanol-gasoline blends containing 51 percent to 83 percent ethanol). Of the stations, 41 include some mid-level blend such as E15 or E30.

While E85 can only be used in flex fuel vehicles (FFVs), the EPA approved the use of E15 (gasoline blended with up to 15 percent ethanol) in model year 2001 and newer cars, light-duty trucks, medium-duty passenger vehicles (SUVs) and all FFVs. This includes approximately nine out of 10 of the vehicles on the road today.

On May 31, 2019, the EPA signed into action the rule allowing E15 to be sold

year-round, including the summer months and peak driving season, rather than eight months out of the year.

“For the ethanol industry and farmers, this means greater market access – more ethanol demand over the long term as additional retailers begin offering E15,” Brian Jennings, CEO of the American Coalition for Ethanol, responded after the EPA announcement.

Consumers will also see E15 marketed as “Unleaded 88” at the gas pumps.

**For the ethanol industry and farmers, this means greater market access – more ethanol demand over the long term as additional retailers begin offering E15.**

### Byproducts

According to ACE, about one third, or 17 pounds, of every bushel of corn sent to an ethanol plant is used as livestock feed. The kernels of corn are made of starch, protein and fiber. The protein stays in the food supply in the form of a high-quality feed called DDGS (Dry Distillers Grains with Solubles.) The concentrated corn protein is a high-value feed product for cattle, hogs and poultry. The ethanol production process uses only the corn’s starch (carbohydrates.)

# Know what's below Call **811** before you dig.



## AUGUST 11

Date Reminds Everyone to Call Before You Dig

**Brenda Kleinjan**

[editor@sdrea.coop](mailto:editor@sdrea.coop)

Three simple numbers on the phone – 8-1-1 – or a few keystrokes on a computer to [www.SD811.com](http://www.SD811.com) can potentially save your life – or your wallet - if you're planning any digging project.

The call, or click, takes you to the 811 One Call locate program to determine if any underground utilities are in close proximity to your project. Not only is it a good idea, it's also the law.

"You've got the dangerous ones – digging into power or gas can be quite dangerous," said Larry Janes, executive director of the South Dakota 8-1-1, explaining the importance of always calling before one digs.

"Then fiber can be expensive if you cut a fiber line," said Janes. He also noted that one should never look into the ends of a fiber line as the laser going through the fiber can burn one's retina.

Each year, 150,000 locates are requested in South Dakota, which result in more than 800,000 locates being done.

Janes said that each locate request typically

## Half of All Damages Occur in Summer

50 percent of reported damages occurred between June and September in 2017.



2017 DIRT Report • [CommonGroundAlliance.com/DIRT](http://CommonGroundAlliance.com/DIRT)



will generate locates for water, electrical and natural gas. Add in communications, and other facilities, and the number of locates generated by just one request expands.

“I’ve seen as many as 14 utilities on one locate ticket in Sioux Falls,” Janes said.

However, Janes notes, not all facilities are located.

“Only those utilities that are registered are located,” he said, noting that services entering the public right-of-way should be registered. However, sometimes private agriculture services such as drain tile aren’t always registered (but should be.)

Registering the facilities is also a good financial idea.

“If it’s not registered, then the digger isn’t liable,” said Janes.

Private home owners’ lines – whether electrical from the meter to buildings or propane lines or even water between the water meter and the buildings - are not located by the One Call ticket. Home-owners are responsible for getting those lines marked.

When planning a digging project, the request for a locate needs to be made at least two business before the digging is planned to be started. So, a project to start on a Monday morning would need to be called in by Wednesday night.

More than 60 percent of all locate requests are done online at [www.811.com](http://www.811.com), Janes said.

Once the locates are done, those digging need to hand-dig in the area 18 inches (in Minnesota the distance is 24 inches) from the mark.

“The tolerance zone is there to protect the person doing the work,” Janes said

“If they’re working anywhere near markers on the ground, they should hand dig over those marks to expose those facilities.

While all instances of digging need to be called in for a locate, there are some that are more worrisome for Janes.

“If someone’s putting in a culvert or drain tile that can go five to six feet deep – that really worries me. It would be very easy to get into something,” Janes said.

**EVERY DIG COUNTS!**

**Fewer than half of Americans believe they need to call 811 before simple projects like:**

- Installing deck or patio
- Planting trees, bushes and shrubs
- Installing a mailbox

2018 CGA Awareness Research

CommonGroundAlliance.com

One misconception he’s encountered is that people will see markers in road ditches indicating that water lines or gas pipelines are in the area.

“Don’t rely on eyeballing those markers,” Janes said. “They are not locates – they’re just saying that something is in the general vicinity.”

Even smaller jobs need to be located.

“I’ll get calls in the spring from homeowners wanting to put in a garden wondering if they need to call for a locate. I say it’s a good idea to call. It’s free to the homeowner to have the locate,” Janes said.

“Its always better to be safe rather than wishing it had been done,” said Janes.

The bottom line is pretty clear-cut for Janes: “Be safe. Know what’s below and call before you dig.”

**UNIFORM COLOR CODE FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES**

	PROPOSED EXCAVATION
	ELECTRIC POWER LINES, CABLES, CONDUIT AND LIGHTING CABLES
	GAS, OIL, STEAM, PETROLEUM OR GASEOUS MATERIALS
	COMMUNICATION, ALARM OR SIGNAL LINES, CABLES OR CONDUIT
	POTABLE WATER
	RECLAIMED WATER, IRRIGATION AND SLURRY LINES
	SEWERS AND DRAIN LINES
	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!**

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## Thursday, June-September

Mitchell Farmer's Market, Featuring fresh produce, meats, eggs, baked goods, handcrafted items and more, 4:30 to 7 p.m., Corn Palace Plaza, Main Street, Mitchell, SD

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## July 24-27

Senior Games, Rapid City, SD, Contact Kristi Lintz at 605-394-4268

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## July 26-27

Rock-N-Rumble Motorcycle Rally, Yankton, SD, 605-665-3636

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## July 26-28

Annual Bruce Honey Days, Bruce, SD, 605-627-5671

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## July 27

Folk Off & Rib Challenge, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

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## July 27

Miner Music Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2886

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## July 27

South Dakota Chislic Festival, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4444

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## August 2-4

Sioux River Folk Festival, Canton, SD, 605-261-7414

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## August 2-4

Foothills Days, Arts in the Garden, Volunteer Fire Department Family Fun Night, Foothills Classic, Ribfest, Dance, Community Church and Potluck, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-539-1929

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## August 2-10

Sioux Empire Fair, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7178

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## August 2-11

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800



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## August 3

Foothills Classic Car & Tractor Show, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-539-1805

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## August 16-18

Riverboat Days, Yankton, SD, 605-665-1657

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## August 16-25

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

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## August 17

American Island Days, American Creek Campground, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Donna at 605-680-1202

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## August 17

Melon Festival and Car Show, Free will admission, Gates open at 3 p.m., Pork loin supper, beanbag tourney, silent auction, live music, vendor fair and kids, activities, Forestburg, SD

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## August 17

15th Annual Pheasant Fest, Sample pheasant dishes on Main Street, Lawn mower races, 8 p.m., Plankinton, SD

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## August 17-18

Threshing Bee, Rosholt, SD, 605-537-4426

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## August 20-22

Dakotafest, Mitchell, SD, 800-827-8007

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## August 21-25

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

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## August 22-24

Senior Games, Watertown, Contact Andrew Magedanz at 605-949-0028

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## August 22-25

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

August 16-18: Black Hills Threshing Bee, Sturgis SD, 605-490-2024

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## September 9

Annual Antique Car and Tractor Parade, 10 a.m. to noon is registration with parade at 1 p.m., Lunch and refreshments will be available, 3 trophies for cars and 3 trophies for tractors, Farmer, SD, Contact Vonnie Krumm at 605-239-4498 or 605-215-8383

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.