


Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

SEPTEMBER 2016 VOL. 17 NO. 5



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

Wholesale Power Rates Increase



Ken Schlinggen
General Manager

If you are like most, each month you budget for your phone, electricity, house, car and other expenses with a goal of being able to put some money aside for those unexpected expenses. Your cooperative also prepares a monthly budget that guides us through the year, but sometimes we also have those unexpected expenses. We received news in late June from Basin Electric Power Cooperative that due

to a number of reasons, wholesale electric rates will be increasing unexpectedly in August of 2016.

In case you are new to the cooperative, I should explain that your electric cooperative family consists of three independent electric cooperatives working together to deliver reliable electric service to you. The three cooperatives are Basin Electric Power Cooperative, East River Electric Power Cooperative and Central Electric Cooperative.

To get through this, Basin Electric is increasing the wholesale electric rate to East River Electric by nearly \$9.5 million for the remainder of 2016.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative's role is to generate the electricity that you ultimately receive. They also build and maintain transmission lines and substations that deliver electricity across nine states.

Paul Sukut, Basin Electric's General Manager, says "Basin Electric has essentially encountered the perfect storm, and it happened suddenly and rapidly. The cooperative is taking several steps to mitigate the impact, but ultimately, we need the membership's help."

The general drivers impacting Basin Electric's rates are lower than anticipated sales due to the weather and due to the decline in the oil industry. Basin has also seen an increase in the cost of operations due to the

additional environmental controls that have been added to their plants and due to the additional generation and transmission facilities built to serve the oil industry in North Dakota.

"From an electricity perspective, very mild weather conditions have greatly impacted our consumer energy usage. We also saw a drop in commodity prices, which had a significant effect on electric sales and Dakota Gasification Company's revenue levels," Sukut says.

Dakota Gasification Company is a subsidiary of Basin Electric which has typically contributed financial support to Basin Electric. With depressed commodity prices, however, Dakota Gas is unable to provide this same level of support in 2016. "This is a highly unusual situation, and I can't remember another time in Basin Electric where we've seen this," Sukut says. "There is no doubt; this is a challenging time for the membership. We will get through this, and we will be stronger than ever."

To get through this, Basin Electric is increasing the wholesale electric rate to East River Electric by nearly \$9.5 million for the remainder of 2016. East River Electric's role in our cooperative family is to build and maintain transmission lines and substations that bring electric power to Central Electric. East River purchases electric power from both Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Western Area Power Administration.

Fortunately, East River Electric is having a strong financial year and has some funds for those unexpected expenses. They will be using those funds, along with some cost cutting measures to get through 2016 with a very minimal change in electric rates to Central Electric.

Central Electric is also having a better than expected year financially. Hopefully, the rest of 2016 is kind to your cooperative and our hope is to maintain existing rates through the end of the year. We are also hopeful to have funds available to help with 2017. Over the next few months, we will take a hard look at the new wholesale power rates, our load forecast, and our budget needs for 2017.

I would have preferred to offer better news to you, especially when our area economy is struggling. I believe that electricity is still a tremendous value for all of us. Your cooperative family is working together on your behalf to deliver reliable and affordable electric power to you every day. It's why we were created, and it is a commitment we aim to keep.

Central Electric Cooperative Connections

Co-op News

(USPS 018-963)

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Join Us For An Open House & Ribbon Cutting

Wessington Springs New Outpost Building
1105 2nd NE St
Wessington Springs, SD

Monday, August 22
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Join us for a meal and view the new facility.
There will also be a ribbon cutting by the
Wessington Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Office Hours

Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

24 - Hour Service
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Mission Statement
Providing Reliable Energy and
Services at a Good Value

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer.



WE WILL BE
CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 5TH
FOR LABOR DAY

Back-to-School Electrical Safety

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

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

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



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

Off to College

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

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

Source: *esasafe.com*

Election Watch: Amendment R

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

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

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

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

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



Kids' Corner Safety Poster

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



Elizabeth Land, 9 years old
Elizabeth is the daughter of Greg and Anne Land, Dell Rapids, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Garden Goodness



Ripe Tomato Relish

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

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

Laila Arndt, Glenham

Sweet & Sour Salad

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

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

Susie Trapp, Humboldt

Summer Garden 'N Pasta

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

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

Ginny Jensen, Volga

Roasted Vegetables

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

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

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

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Vegetable Pizza

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

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

Eric Neville, Milesville

Zucchini Pancakes

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

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

Lynn Holzerland, Waubay

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

Generation and Our Members

By Patrick Soukup

Members of Central Electric Cooperative traveled to North Dakota to see where our electricity comes from. We were able to visit a hydropower plant on the Missouri River, tour Antelope Valley Power Station, Dakota Gasification, and Coteau Coal mine.

What did the members come away with from these tours?

Antelope Valley Station is the newest of our coal-based power plant. The plant is capable of delivering 900 megawatts of power (which means it produces 9 million watts per hour if running at 100% capacity). I was surprised how clean the plant was and had no visual signs of carbon discharge. The only signs of any discharge was the evaporation of water from the cooling towers.

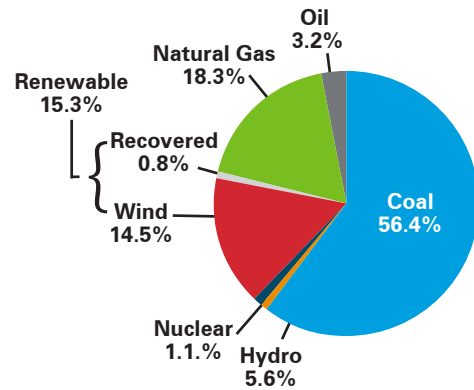
Prior to visiting the Dakota Gasification Company, I only thought we used coal for power generation. With coal, the plant can produce synthetic natural gas (SNG), ammonium sulfate, anhydrous, ammonia, xenon gases, liquid nitrogen, tar oil and soon urea. These are commonly used products.

The last tour was the Coteau Coal Mine. We stayed on the bus for this part of the tour and were right next to the large coal trucks, payloaders and the dragline shovel. We experienced how the coal was mined and then how the areas were recovered and reclaimed. There is only one word—amazing.

The members that came on this tour saw the history of generation and where we are headed into the future. All of the questions that were asked showed how great of a group that I really had. Their interest showed me that they are concerned for our future in generation of electricity.

The places we toured all factor in what we pay for electric rates. How can that be you ask? Basin Electric Power Cooperative is the not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative that produces wholesale power. Basin sells power numerous cooperatives in nine states, including our supplier, East River Electric Cooperative. East River owns transmission

BASIN ELECTRIC GENERATION PORTFOLIO



Maximum winter capability in MW

- Coal-based – 3,154.1
- Hydro – 315.7
- Recovered – 44
- Nuclear – 62.2
- Natural gas – 1,026.5
- Wind – 810.7
- Oil, diesel and jet fuel – 180.8

TOTAL = 5,594 MW
2015 EOY

lines and substations in eastern South Dakota that bring power to our lines and members.

The generated power that travels down the high voltage lines from Basin comes from many forms, including wind, nuclear, natural gas, hydro and coal.

The ability to understand how our electricity is produced and at what cost enabled our members to understand the coop message. We continue to educate and find ways for our members to conserve and manage the use of electrical power.

Plan on coming on our tour next year; dates will be July 19-21, 2017.



Boyd Retires after 20 years



Materials Coordinator Charles (Chuck) Boyd will retire from Central Electric Cooperative on September 1, 2016, after 20 years with the cooperative.

Prior to joining Tri-County Electric, Chuck began farming with his dad in 1974 for 15 years and later joined National Foods in 1989 when they began building their laying farm.

During a bad ice storm in 1995, Chuck stopped into Tri-County to ask if they needed any help. And they did. Chuck helped haul poles out to crews until everyone's power was restored.

Chuck says, "I was given an old 2-wheel drive service truck to haul poles with. That made for a real interesting drive. I can remember times my speed was down to 25 mph, and I still wasn't sure I was going to keep it between the ditches."

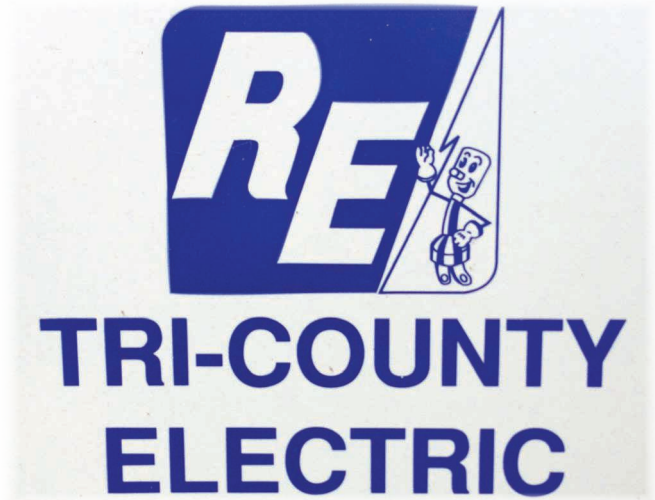
After the storm, several of the helpers were hired as 1,000 hour employees to help with line maintenance and clean-up. Following that, the coop hired Chuck full-time.

During storms to follow, Chuck was in charge of unloading, verifying and keeping inventory of material. He'd also manage a temporary stocking area for crews and make sure they had all the material they needed to complete the work.

Since he started, Chuck says the greatest change has been the technology. They now have less paperwork and do more on the computer. Every outdoor employee has an iPad, and the material has a bar code to scan for inventory or reordering. Additionally, the equipment now used is bigger, better, and safer.

After retirement, Chuck plans on doing more golfing and fishing. He also has an old '46 Ford Coupe that he hopes to spend more time on and get it working in a year or two.

General Manager Ken Schlimgen said, "Some employees play a large role behind the scenes in our cooperative and seldom get recognition for that. [Chuck] is one of those employees." We wish Chuck a happy retirement, and thank him for his years of service.



Above: Logo for former Tri-County Electric, where Chuck began in Plankinton

Below: Chuck manages incoming and outgoing material during the November 2005 ice storm.



Nordby Exhibit Hall:

4-H's New Home at the State Fair

By
Brenda
Kleinjan

4-H MEMBERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH PLEDGES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The South Dakota State Fair Foundation was



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

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

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

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

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

Noess noted that the building is named for Earl Nordby.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

About Nordby Exhibit Hall:

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

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



Hofer to Be Inducted into South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame

Mark Hofer will be recognized for his service to cooperatives during the 2016 South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on September 13 in Pierre.

Hofer has served on the Central Electric Board of Directors since 1990. He also currently serves on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) boards. Mark and his wife, Kathy, live on the family farm near Spencer, where they enjoy farming with their son. They have three children and 12 grandchildren.

Other 2016 inductees include Bill Bielmaier from Wall, SD who has served on West River Electric's board and Ronald Sandine of Salem, SD who has served on TrioTel Communications' board.

Induction into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame is the highest honor that the cooperative community bestows on those men and women whose endeavors in the cause of the cooperative form of enterprises have been genuinely heroic. The South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame provides recognition for a person contributing in especially significant ways to the enhancement of the cooperative idea, its broader acceptance or to the substantial advancement of cooperative enterprise in any of its various forms.

For information on the induction banquet, contact the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives at 605-945-2548.



Mark Hofer, Spencer, SD, currently serves on the Central Electric Cooperative, SDREA, and NRECA boards.

Operation Round Up[®] Applications Available



Do you know an individual or charitable organization in need?

Funds through Operation RoundUp are available now.

The funds collected are used to address charitable community needs, whether it is for an individual who has experienced a great personal misfortune, or an organization funding a special project.

Applications are available at www.centralec.coop or can be requested by calling 800-477-2892. Applications are due by November 1, 2016.

New Member Highlight: ShopKo Hometown Opens in Chamberlain

While Central Electric frequently welcomes new members, rarely do we have the opportunity to welcome a new business to our service territory.

ShopKo Hometown—Chamberlain opened its doors on the morning of Friday, July 22nd. Chamberlain previously had an ALCO store which closed in January 2015. The new ShopKo Hometown fills this void and provides numerous new jobs. Located right off Interstate 90 at exit 265, the store will greatly benefit not only the community but the local tourism as well.

At the opening ceremony, ShopKo General Manager Lowell Peterson also presented the Chamberlain High School a donation for \$2500.

Central Electric applauds the addition to the Chamberlain community, and welcomes Shopko Hometown as a new member.



ShopKo General Manager Lowell Peterson visits about the new store with General Ken Schlimgen at the Grand Opening

A line of people gathered around 9:00 am in front of the new ShopKo Hometown--Chamberlain prior to their ribbon-cutting and grand opening on Friday, July 22nd.



Cooperatives Demonstrating Cooperation

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

Everyday, local electric cooperatives embody this principle.

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

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

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

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

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

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

By
Brenda Kleinjan

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





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

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

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

Throughout the year, groups of cooperatives can

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

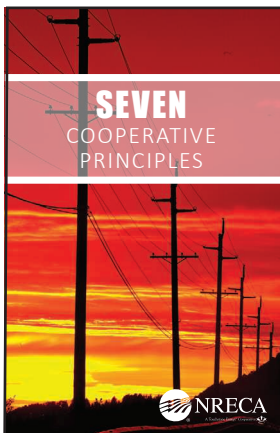
Cooperatives' commitment to education, especially providing learning opportunities to the region's youth, is yet another way that cooperatives work together.

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

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



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



VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

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

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

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

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

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

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

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

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

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

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

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

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

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

Trending: Smart Thermostats



Patrick Soukup
Manager of Member Services & Marketing

What is a smart thermostat? They are the latest trend in home heating and cooling. Smart thermostats allow you to control your usage wherever you are at, monitor your usage, and optimize savings.

Heating and cooling represents the biggest portion of most domestic energy bills - especially during the winter months. Smart thermostats are connected via your Wi-Fi/internet, so you can use your smart phone to control your heating even when you're

not at home—or if you can't be bothered to get up from the sofa to turn the thermostat down. In addition to turning the heating on and off, you can program a smart thermostat, just as you would a traditional thermostat. Except instead of having to go to your actual thermostat and work out what the buttons do, you can use your phone or computer to program it.

Some smart thermostats can control themselves by learning your routine or tracking you via GPS, switching on your heat when you're near home. Depending on which smart thermostat you buy, they come with a whole host of different features. Some are able to provide you with a detailed breakdown of how much energy you use and store your heating history. The hope is that giving you greater control will save you money, as you won't end up heating an empty home.

There are many different brands that are out there ranging in prices from \$200.00 up to \$500.00. These brands work in slightly different ways, but ultimately, they are very similar in operation. Some of the more popular brands are Nest, Hive, Honeywell and Bryant.

Note—For systems that are either heat pumps (air to air) or geothermal units (ground source) with a back-up heat source, the smart thermostat must only be adjusted by no greater than 2 degrees or the auxiliary heat will come on, and your savings will disappear.



The Bryant Housewise Thermostat offers the local 4-day weather forecast, usage reporting, programming as well as learning your lifestyle, reminders/alerts for service or filter changes, and much more. The Bryant Housewise Thermostats are available for purchase and installation through Central Electric.

How can a smart thermostat save me money?

Although many thermostats come with a hefty price tag, the potential savings could make it a worthwhile investment for you. Here are just a few ways that smart thermostats save you money:

- You can switch your heating on when you are on your way home. A typical thermostat won't account for the times you're stuck at work or decide to go out for the evening.
- You can also switch your heating /cooling off from anywhere if you forget to switch it before you leave home.
- Some smart thermostats learn your daily routine and switch themselves on and off automatically.
- Some smart thermostats encourage you to turn your heating down by a degree or two, as you'll see exactly how much you can save.
- There are even smart thermostats that allow you to control individual rooms in your home, so you can heat only the rooms that you frequently use.
- So you don't unintentionally end up heating your home on a warm day, some smart thermostats can adjust themselves depending on the weather.
- Certain smart thermostats can even track you and your family via GPS. They can tell when you leave your home, and when you're on your way back, so will switch off the heating or cooling when it's not needed.

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August 19-21

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

August 19-21

Riverboat Days, Yankton, SD
605-665-1657

August 20

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

August 20-21

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

August 24-28

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

August 25-28

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

August 25-28

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

August 25-28

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

August 25-28

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

August 26-27

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

August 27

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

Events of Special Note

August 20

Forestburg Melon Festival
and Classic Car Show, Old Ball
Park, Forestburg, SD, Contact
Adam Alt at 605-770-8512

September 4

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

September 1-5

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

September 2-4

LifeLight Festival
Worthing, SD, 605-338-2847

September 9-11

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

September 9-10

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

September 9-10

Kyle Evans Memorial Wagon
Train Ride, Horseback or
Wagon Train teams invited
Contact Mark Reindl at
605-350-3742 or email
mreindl@venturecomm.net
or Brian Bergeleen at
605-539-0014

September 10

Foothills Bud Light Bull Bash
6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Jerauld
County 4-H Rodeo Grounds
Wessington Springs, SD
Contact Larry Powell at
605-770-4370 or Brian Berge-
leen at 605-539-0014

September 10

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

September 10

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

September 10-11

Twin Rivers Old Iron Festival
Parade, Kids pedal pull
tractor pull, church service
homemade pie and kuchen
and more, Delmont, SD, Call
605-779-5291/605-779-2211

September 15-17

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

September 16-17

Deadwood Jam, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

September 16-17

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

September 16-17

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show
Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD
605-248-2526

September 16-18

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

September 16-18

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

September 17-18

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

September 21-25

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