

Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

SEPTEMBER 2017 VOL. 18 NO. 5



Game On!

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

Have a Safe Harvest



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

What if you were told that something you use every day without even thinking about it could leave you disabled or even worse, dead. What would be the first thing that popped into your mind? Would you even think about electricity? We use it every day and each year dozens

of farmers are killed and hundreds are injured in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment.

I grew up on a farm and I know it is easy in the busy days of farming to forget about the power lines overhead, but failure to notice them can be a deadly mistake. Your cooperative has seen a dramatic increase in how often our members contact a power line with their equipment. This is all due to a lack of awareness and you need to know this can kill you. Even if you survive, you could be permanently injured. If you aren't going to be safe for yourself, please be safe for those that care about you.

Some steps you can take to be safe around power lines are first review safety rules with everyone involved in farm activities. Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance and keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines – above, below and to the side – a 360-degree rule. Take these additional steps to ensure your safety:

- Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet. Variables like wind, uneven ground, or shifting weight can create an unexpected result.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
- As with any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust

and dirt contamination.

- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins. Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- If a power line is sagging, call Central Electric and report it.
- Operators of farm equipment or vehicles must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line: **Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so.**

If the power line is energized and you step outside, touching the vehicle and ground, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire.

Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance and keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines – above, below and to the side – a 360-degree rule.

- If you absolutely must leave the vehicle, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.
 - Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Some electrocutions have occurred after the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.
- Please take time to become aware of your surroundings. For more information on farm electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Central Electric Cooperative Connections

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Co-op News

KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE



PoweringYourSafety.com



Employee Years of Service

Jon Reichert

September 1 - 7 years

Ryan Mueller

September 1 - 2 years

John Vetch

September 6 - 29 years

Andrew Baier

September 12 - 1 year

Lincoln Feistner

September 17 - 16 years

Thank you for all you do for the cooperative and our members!

Office Hours

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

24 - Hour Service
1-605-996-7516 or
1-800-477-2892

www.centralec.coop



Mission Statement

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



WE WILL BE CLOSED SEPTEMBER 4TH FOR LABOR DAY

Back To School Electrical Safety

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

Elementary School Students

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

Remind your children of the following tips:

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

Middle/High School Students

If you've just received the privilege of driving to school with your newly-obtained driver's license, pay close attention on those morning and afternoon drives for utility crews at work. Should you be involved in an accident involving a power line or pole, assume live electricity is outside of the car and use extreme caution.

- Always steer clear of pad-mount transformers – the big green metal boxes. All electrical equipment on school property should be avoided due to the possible dangers of electrical shock.
- Always be cautious in science classes, specifically the ones with labs. Sinks, eye washes, chemicals – it's likely your hands or the area near you will be wet. Keep everything dry and use

caution when plugging in equipment.

College Students

- Get in the habit of unplugging what's not in use. It's common practice, unfortunately, for college kids to load up electrical outlets and power strips with electronics and appliances. Many dorm and apartment rooms are fairly small there isn't much room to spread these out. Many campus housing options are dated and aren't equipped to handle today's amount of electricity usage.
- Use only approved electrical products with the mark of a recognized certification agency.
- Choose a power strip with a heavy-gauge cord that are approved by a recognized certification agency.
- Replace frayed or damaged extension cords with new ones.
- Keep extension cords out from under carpet, rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and also present a fire hazard.
- Keep flammable materials such as books, paper and clothing away from heaters, stoves and other heating sources.
- Never leave cooking appliances unattended.
- Plug portable heaters and air conditioners directly into the outlet. If an extension cord is needed, to prevent overheating and risk of fire, use only one that is rated for this purpose to ensure that the cord can handle the electrical current.
- Never remove the third prong from an electrical product. The third prong is the grounding device and is a critical safety feature.
- Keep gadgets and cords away from bedding and curtains. The heat from a laptop charger or mini-fridge can start an electrical fire if left in contact with flammable material for too long.
- Avoid overloading outlets or circuits as this can cause overheating that may lead to fire.

Source: www.twielectric.com/recent/school-electrical-safety/



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

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

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

Paeton Thin Elk, 8 years old

Paeton is the child of Samantha Janis, New Underwood, S.D.

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

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

Garden Goodness



Zucchini Cobbler

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

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

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

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Saucy Chicken and Asparagus

- 1-1/2 lbs. fresh asparagus spears, cut-up
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 T. cooking oil
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. curry powder
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

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

Shirley Miller, Winfred

Refrigerator Pickles

- 7 cups sliced, unpeeled cucumbers
- 1 cup sliced onion
- 2 cups sugar
- 1-1/4 cups vinegar
- 1 T. non-iodized salt
- 1 T. celery seed

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

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Cheesy Vegetable Spaghetti Pie

- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 1 T. olive oil
- 2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced onion wedges
- 1 1/2 cups thinly sliced zucchini
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 tsp. McCormick® Rosemary Leaves
- 1 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder
- 1 tsp. McCormick® Oregano Leaves
- 1 tsp. McCormick® Thyme Leaves
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 8 eggs
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. shredded mozzarella cheese (2 cups), divided

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

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

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Sweet and Sour Onions

- 4 large onions
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 1/4 cup sugar

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

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis

Pepper Salad

- 1 small sweet onion
- 1 red pepper
- 1 yellow pepper
- 1 green pepper
- 1 orange pepper (when in season)
- 4 large tomatoes
- 1 pkg. Good Seasons Zesty Italian Dressing
- 1 (16 oz.) bottle Kraft Italian Dressing

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

Caroline Bochman, Tyndall

Please send your favorite garden produce, pasta or slow cooker recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Understanding The Cost of Electricity



Patrick Soukup
 Manager of Member Services and Marketing

Members of the Central Electric Cooperative traveled to North Dakota to see where our electricity comes from. We visited Oahe Dam just north of Pierre, toured Dakota Gasification, Antelope Valley Power Station and Coteau Coal mine.

What did the members come away with from these tours?

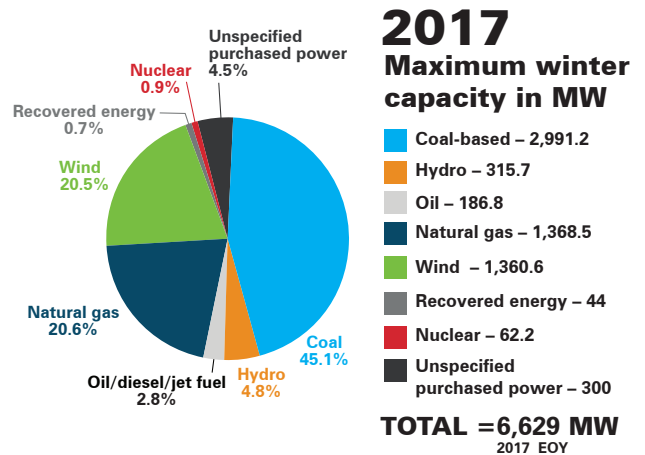
The guides at Oahe Dam site were very informational on how and why the dams

were put into place. We came to find out it is just not about generation of electricity but also recreation, flood control, water supply, waste management, river navigation, and irrigation.

Prior to visiting the Dakota Gasification Company, I only thought we used coal only for power generation. That is not the case. With coal, the plant can produce synthetic natural gas (SNG), ammonium sulfate, anhydrous ammonia, xenon gases, liquid nitrogen, tar oil and urea this fall. These commodities are commonly used products.

Antelope Valley Station is the newest of our coal based power plants. The plant is capable of delivering 900 megawatts of power (which means it produces 9 million watts per hour if running at 100 percent 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.

BASIN ELECTRIC GENERATION PORTFOLIO



Basin Electric's Resource Portfolio (above) consists of generation in megawatts (winter ratings) from owned facilities and purchased power contracts longer than 3 years. The renewables percentage includes wind, recovered energy generation, and flare gas totals.

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. The group of members were awesome and asked many great questions. Their interest showed me that they are concerned for our future of our coop and the 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 to numerous cooperatives in nine state, including our supplier, East River Electric Cooperative in Madison, S.D. East River owns transmission lines and substation in eastern South Dakota that brings power to our members.

The generated power that travels down the high voltage lines from Basin Electric 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 next tour next year, dates will be July 18-20, 2018.

Participants on the Basin Electric tour stand in a drag line bucket capable of holding four Chevy Suburbans.



Letcher Town & Kountry Kids Club Receives Operation Round-Up Grant

The Town and Kountry Kids Blue Group received a \$3,500 grant from the Central Electric Cooperative Operation Round-Up program for a playground area. The Town & Kountry Blue Group serves approximately 40 kids in the Letcher area.

The playground area is being constructed next to the expanded community center. Prior to this area, children were playing close to the road and cars. Also, the area had been an undeveloped space on Letcher's Main Street. The new fence

and rock add an aesthetic appeal to the heart of town.

In addition to the Operation Round-Up grant, the project received funding from the City of Letcher and community support during fundraising events.

The application deadline for the next round of Operation Round-Up applications is November 1, 2017. Applications can be found on our website at www.centralec.coop or by calling 800-477-2892.



Director Butch Morrison and General Manager Ken Schlimgen present the check to Janet Maeschen and the Town & Kountry Club.



Town & Kountry Club kids "break ground" on their new playground location.

Tree Trimming in Davison & Hanson Counties

There are some things we can't stop—high winds, ice storms, or thunderstorms—but we do what we can to prevent other outage culprits. Trees growing too close to power lines is a major cause of power interruptions.

Central Electric Cooperative has contracted with Asplundh Tree Expert Co. to assist with our annual tree trimming efforts. Our goal is to remove all types of "danger" trees that could contact or pull down a power line if they fall. The crews will be operating in orange and white colored equipment with Central Electric signage. Their work will be concentrated in Mitchell, Beulah and Propser townships in Davison county and Rosedale, Hanson, and Jasper townships in Hanson county through this fall. In areas where trees cannot be completely removed, regular maintenance is required. These areas were last trimmed about four to six years ago.

Please allow Central Electric and Asplundh crews to remove problem trees located on your property. Let us know if you



Asplundh will operate in orange and white equipment with Central Electric signage.

notice trees or branches that might pose a risk to our power lines. Even more important, before planting trees, think about how tall they may grow and how wide their branches may spread. As a rule of thumb, 25 feet of ground-to-sky clearance should be available on each side of our utility poles to give your trees and our power lines plenty of space. Choose tree varieties with care and plant with power lines in mind.

A Co-op Twist to Football Tailgating

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brenda Kleinjan



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The co-op also makes a donation to the local

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“That’s really gone over well,” Moore said.



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



Notify Your Co-op of Upgrades



Brian Bultje
Manager of Operations

We understand that planning an addition on your farming operation can involve numerous phone calls and site visits. However, we ask that you add one more phone call to your list—your electric cooperative.

Supplying Your Electricity Demands

When adding a grain bin or drying system, new shop or home, or upgrading existing equipment (including A/C units or electric heat), your electric needs can change as well. For example, a larger electric load might demand a larger transformer. Running farm or home equipment on too small of a transformer can cause expensive damage to both your equipment and the cooperative's equipment. To avoid a costly and inconvenient mistake during the buzz of a busy day, call us to make sure the correct electric equipment is in place to serve your needs.

For Your Safety

At the very least, please contact us to ensure your upgrade will not put you or your workers at risk near power lines.

Grain bins are required to be a certain distance from overhead power lines. Call us well before construction begins to avoid installing a structure that violates code. A violation could require moving either power lines or farm structures at the expense of the land owner. Do not assume that your contractor will contact your power company on your behalf.

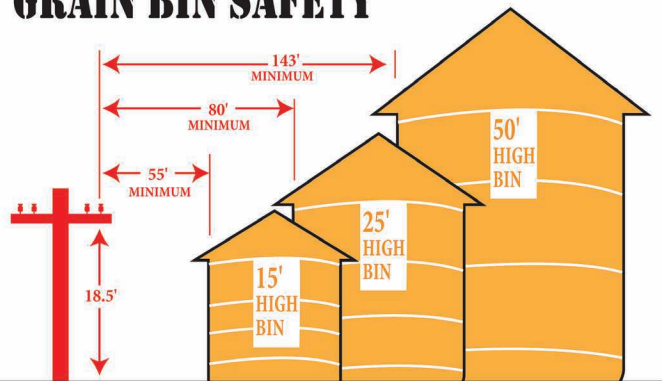
New Machinery

Another upgrade of concern could be new machinery or breaking new ground. Machinery is getting larger, which is great for efficiency, but puts operators at risk near power equipment. Scout out field approaches for power lines. If you are concerned about a clearance, please contact us for an evaluation. Do not try and measure the clearance yourself.

We value the safety of both our employees and members. We appreciate your efforts to stay safe around power equipment, and welcome your phone calls. You can reach us at 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516. Have a safe season as we approach harvest.

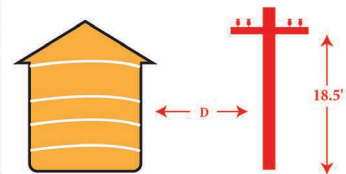
To avoid a costly and inconvenient mistake during the buzz of a busy day, call us to make sure the correct electric equipment is in place to serve your needs.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY



DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.



*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

Above: Building grain bins too close to power lines violates code, is extremely dangerous and could require that the line be moved at the cost of the land owner. Contact your electric cooperative well before construction begins.



Adding a new building to your farm?

Plan ahead for safety!

*We care about the safety of you, your family and farm workers.
That's why we urge you to call us before you break ground
on a new grain bin, barn, or other building.*

*Building a structure too close to overhead power lines can create
an electric shock danger during and after construction.*

*Call us first. We'll work with you to ensure safe
power line clearances for your addition.*



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

800-477-2892
605-996-7516
cec@centralec.coop

Killer Korn Camo

Langford man develops new camouflage pattern

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

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

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

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

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

Andrew Johnson
Farm Forum



Next steps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Long time coming

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Where to find Fallin' Fowl Camo

RC Hunting Store in Aberdeen is selling Fallin' Fowl Camo hoodies and beanies from its warehouse as well as through its online business at rchuntingstore.com.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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

Marshall County:

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

Day County:

- 60 percent of that county's landmass is cropland (395,0007 acres)
- 33.9 percent of the cropland planted to corn in 2013.

Brown County:

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

Your Co-op. Your Service Department.



Lincoln Feistner
Sales & Project Manager

As a member-owner of Central Electric Cooperative, you have a share in cooperative margins based on the electricity you buy. Additionally, Central Electric is unique in that we not only deliver electricity to our members, but we offer a full service department. So what does that mean for you as a member-owner?

Central Electric Cooperative began offering appliance, heating and cooling, and electrical wiring services to serve a need. Many of our members live in remote areas with limited access to these services. While the main goal of our service department is to provide a service to our members and “break even,” we also benefit when these departments generate revenue.

Revenue from our Service Department Impacts Your Rates

Any excess revenue generated from the service department is used to offset cooperative costs and stabilize your electric rates.

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- Kohler® Standby Generator Installations
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Regional Dateline

Saturdays thru September 23

Farmer's Market and Flea Market, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Corner of 5th and Main St., Mitchell, SD, Contact Maria Payne 605-995-8048
www.facebook.com/MitchellMarket

August 19

5th Annual Forestburg Melon Festival, 3 p.m., Bean bag toss silent auction car show, kids activities live music, Forestburg, SD Find us on Facebook at ForestburgMelonFest

August 24-27

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

August 24-27

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

August 26

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

August 26-27

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

August 29-September 3

Mustang Rally, Sturgis, SD
605-490-1663

August 31-September 4

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

Events of Special Note

August 23-27

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

September 15-16

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show, Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD
605-248-2526

September 7-10

State Senior Games
Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Howard Bich at 605-275-6891

September 8-9

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

September 8-10

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

September 9

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

September 9

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

September 9-10

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

September 9-10

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

September 9-10

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

September 13

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

September 14-16

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

September 15-16

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

September 15-16

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

September 15-17

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

September 15-17

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

September 30

Chamberlain-Oacoma Fall Festival, 9 a.m. Chamber of Commerce, 112 N Main St. Chamberlain, SD
605-234-4416
chamberlaininfo@midstatesd.net; www.chamberlainsd.com

October 7

Third Annual Kiwanis Zombie Glow Run, 7 p.m., Corn Palace 5K or 10K race, 1 mile fun run for kids, Post-race party at the Palace, Mitchell, SD
Register online at
www.allsportcentral.com/EventInfo.cfm?EventID=64680