

Cooperative Connections



**Energizing
Careers:
Energy Sector
Seeks Talented
Workers**

Page 8

**Celebrating
Cooperatives**

Page 12

October is National Cooperative Month

Cooperative Principles



Ken Schlimgen

General Manager

The co-op business model is unique. It is mission-oriented and puts people first.

Every day you count on your local electric cooperative to deliver the safe, reliable and affordable electric power we all need to live, work, and yes, even enjoy. Your cooperative uses seven principles that guide the cooperative to do business in a better way every single day. I want to touch on just a few of those principles to remind all of us of the cooperative advantage.

As a co-op member, you already know the benefits of doing business with a not-for-profit, locally controlled company that shares your values and gives back to your community. Central Electric was founded as a way to bring electricity to our rural area and the cooperative has been a cornerstone for community and economic development for decades.

October is National Cooperative Month, a time to recognize the value of cooperatives. Your cooperative is seeing changes that are transforming the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is increasing. Members want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. Smart phone apps and technology for the home is increasing, and electric vehicles are becoming more common place. Central Electric is positioned to meet these changes because we utilize the seven cooperative principles to guide how we operate.

Central Electric is open to anyone who is able to use the cooperative's services (Principle #1 Voluntary and Open Membership). This means anyone regardless of race, religion, gender, or political affiliation can be a member of our cooperative.

District and Annual meetings serve as a way for members to meet the cooperative staff and elect their board of directors. It is also where members are updated on business matters and the services offered by the cooperative (Principle #5 Education and Information). This newsletter is another way the cooperative provides education and information to our members.

Your cooperative is democratically controlled by a board of directors, who are elected by the members to govern the operations of the cooperative (Principle #2 Democratic Member Control). Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

The third principle that guides Central Electric is Members' Economic Participation. This principle says that every member contributes equitably to the capital of their cooperative. The cooperative allocates to the members in an equal and fair way all surplus income earned by the cooperative. The surplus income is invested back into the member-owned cooperative until it is retired or paid to the membership. As of January 1, 2018, Central Electric has paid \$13.5 million back to our membership. Member economic participation helps the cooperative to deliver electricity at a much lower cost.

Central Electric belongs to our member-owners and this awareness allows the cooperative to adapt to member expectations. Our closeness to our members and our communities ensures a better response to the needs of the people we serve.

The co-op business model is unique. It is mission-oriented and puts people first. Your cooperative strives to be a trusted voice, and we constantly try to earn that trust because, while not perfect, we are here for our member's best interest, now and in the future.

Harvest season has started and some of you will be putting in long hours. Take the time needed to be aware of your surroundings. When driving equipment, be aware of overhead power lines, poles and ground mounted electrical equipment. Let's bring everyone home safe this harvest season.

Until Next Month – Be Safe



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

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

General Manager: Ken Schlimgen

Editor: Courtney J. Deinert -
 courtneyd@centralec.coop

Assistant Editor: Patrick Soukup

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

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

Subscription information: Central Electric Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301, and at additional mailing offices.

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; website: www.centralec.coop.

Office Information

M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 800-477-2892 or
 605-996-7516
www.centralec.coop



Mission Statement

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

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH
 WE'RE PROUD TO SERVE OUR MEMBERS



October is
 National
 Co-op Month

**SAFE, RELIABLE,
 AFFORDABLE
 ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.
 ALWAYS.**

**The energy
 landscape may be
 changing, but we'll
 never lose sight of
 who we're working
 for.**

Employee Years of Service

Heather Wieczorek

October 11 - 2 years

Dwight Keegel

October 16 - 28 years

Jesse Baker

October 21 - 16 years

Thank you for your service to the cooperative!

S.D. Fire Marshal: Know That Fires Can Start Anywhere

This year's Fire Prevention Week encourages people to be mindful that fires can start anywhere. Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7-13 and will be observed by fire departments throughout South Dakota. This year's theme is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware - fire can happen anywhere."

"It is easy to take fire safety for granted, especially if we are staying in a new hotel or working in a new building," says State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman. "But it is important to be aware of your surroundings and know where the exits are if a fire starts."

Merriman says the three "L's" in this year's theme signify essential ways people can reduce their risk to fire:

- Look for places fire can start
- Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm
- Learn two ways out of each room

At the same time, Merriman says individuals and families should make sure they have two ways out of their home in case of fire. He says people need to remember that fires can start anywhere in the home due to an electrical problem or another issue.

"Families should hold fire drills in their homes at least twice a year; once during the day and another time at night," Merriman says. "It is important that everyone, especially children, know how to get out of a burning structure using more than one exit."

Another emphasis during the week will be the use of smoke alarms. Merriman says the importance of smoke alarms can't be stressed enough.

"We have seen too many house fires where there were no smoke alarms present or the alarms in the homes were not properly working," he says. "Smoke alarms can help save lives. But they do no good when not properly maintained."

Smoke alarm messages for this week include:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the Fire Department from outside the home.

To learn more, go to www.firepreventionweek.org.

The state Fire Marshal's Office is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Farm Bill Conference: Electric Co-op Priorities



Strengthen RUS electric loan program



Support House broadband provisions



Promote innovative rural development programs

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't plant trees below power lines."

Erin Kangas, 10 years old

Erin is the daughter 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.



Perfect Pasta

Pasta Rings and Deviled Ham Salad

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1 (7oz.) pkg. macaroni rings, cooked and drained | 1/3 cup dill pickle relish |
| 2 cups ground cooked ham | 1-1/4 cups mayonnaise |
| 3 hard-boiled eggs, chopped | 1 tsp. mustard |
| 1 cup finely chopped celery | 1/4 tsp. pepper |

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Chill thoroughly before serving.

Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD

Hamburger-Macaroni Casserole

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef, do not brown | 1 can tomato soup |
| 1 T. instant onion | 1 can cheese soup |
| 1/2 cup diced celery | 1 tsp. sugar |
| 1/2 cup diced green pepper | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 cup uncooked macaroni | 1/4 T. basil, optional |

Combine all ingredients in casserole; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour. Serves 6.

Shirley Thedorff, Centerville, SD

Easy Chicken Noodle Dish

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/3 cup chopped onion | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 T. butter | 1 cup sour cream |
| 3 cups noodles, uncooked | 2 cups cooked chicken |
| 2-3/4 cups chicken broth | 1/4 cup silvered almonds |
| 1/4 tsp. lemon extract | 3 T. snipped parsley |

Sauté onion in butter. Add noodles, chicken broth, extract and salt. Bring to a boil. Cover and cook on low heat for 25 minutes or until noodles are tender. Stir in sour cream, chicken, almonds and parsley. Serve hot in bowls. Serves 4.

Verna Knapp, Waubay, SD

Creamy Parmesa and Sun-dried Tomato Chicken Penne

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 cups penne pasta | 1 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Italian Seasoning |
| 2 T. butter | 1/2 tsp. McCormick® California Style Onion Powder |
| 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped | 1/2 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Sicilian Sea Salt |
| 1 lb. chicken tenders | 1/4 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Black Pepper, Coarse Ground |
| 1 cup half-and-half | 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese |
| 2 T. cornstarch | |
| 1 (14.5 oz.) can petite diced tomatoes, undrained | |
| 1/4 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes | |

Cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, melt butter in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add garlic; cook and stir 30 seconds. Add chicken; cook and stir 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Mix half-and-half and cornstarch in small bowl until smooth. Add to skillet along with tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes, seasonings and Parmesan cheese. Bring to boil, stirring constantly with wire whisk until well blended. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Stir in pasta; toss gently to coat. Serve with additional Parmesan cheese, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

Shrimp variation: Use 1 lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined, in place of the chicken. Cook and stir shrimp in melted butter 2 minutes. Continue as directed.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 292, Total Fat 12g, Saturated Fat 7g, Cholesterol 66mg, Sodium 486mg, Protein 22g, Carbohydrates 24g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Please send your favorite slow cooker, holiday favorite or soup 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



TAXES FOR SCHOOLS

Local schools receive over \$1 million in tax revenue from electric cooperative

Central Electric Cooperative's 2017 kwh sales taxes amounted to over \$1 million. The tax is based on total kwh's sold to the members in each school district.

Our wholesale power suppliers, East River Electric Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, also pay the tax on the amount of kwh's purchased by Central

Electric Cooperative. The tax paid to school districts grows as members use more electric power and more members receive service.

The amounts listed include the contribution from Central Electric Cooperative, East River Electric Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

KWH Tax Listed by School District

CHAMBERLAIN	110,007.27	MOUNT VERNON	30,415.64
CORISCA-STICKNEY	16,272.68	OLDHAM-RAMONA	1,438.95
ETHAN	15,157.11	PARKSTON	4,638.84
HANSON	50,979.24	PLANKINTON	47,090.09
HOWARD	327,544.51	PLATTE-GEDDES	14,873.29
HURON	1,638.75	SANBORN CENTRAL	35,165.44
KIMBALL	47,558.01	WESSINGTON	48,798.53
MADISON CENTRAL	623.73	SPRINGS	
MCCOOK CENTRAL	960.46	WHITE LAKE	18,247.02
MILLER	215.83	WOONSOCKET	18,035.29
MITCHELL	277,924.68		\$ 1,073,675.95

Sealy Joins Wessington Springs Outpost



Craig Sealy has joined the Wessington Springs outpost as a journeyman lineman.

He is originally from Colome, SD, and his parents are Glenn and Cindy Sealy. He attended Mitchell Technical Institute and previously worked at Union County Electric Co-op in Elk Point, SD. He has also worked at LaCreek Electric Co-op in Martin, SD, and Watts Electric in Waverly, NE.

His wife, Kasie (Engel), works as a graphic designer, and is originally from Winner, SD. They have a nine-month-old son, Kaysen.

In his spare time, he enjoys camping, hunting, and riding his Harley. We welcome Craig and his family to the cooperative!



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

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) **Genevieve's Print*Art*Design, Wessington Springs, SD;**
15% off labor for services.
- 2) **M & H, Mitchell, SD;**
5 cents off a gallon of gas.
- 3) **Mega Wash, 800 E Kay or 1911 N Main, Mitchell, SD**
\$1 off automatic car wash.
- 4) **Merchandise Outlet, Mitchell, SD;**
10% off pair of boots. Some exclusions apply. Not valid with other discounts.
- 5) **Miedema Sanitation, Mitchell, SD;**
10% off roll-off construction boxes.
- 6) **Mitchell Econolodge Motel, Mitchell, SD;**
10% discount.
- 7) **Mitchell KOA, Mitchell, SD;**
10% discount, May 1 through October 25.
- 8) **Mueller Lumber Company, Mitchell, SD;**
10% off regular priced hardware store merchandise and lumber. Cash and carry only.
- 9) **Napa Auto Parts, Chamberlain, SD;**
10% off non-sale items.
- 10) **New Leaf Body Spa, Mitchell, SD;**
\$5 off a 60 minute massage.

For a full list of ways to save, visit www.connections.coop.

To request a card or become a participating business, visit www.centralec.coop or call 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516.





Line workers account for a portion of energy-related careers.

ENERGIZED JOBS

Careers in Energy Fields Hold Potential

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

America's energy sector looks to put a spotlight on careers within the field during Careers in Energy Week Oct. 15-19.

According to information from the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD), key jobs in the energy workforce – line workers, technicians, plant/field operators and engineers – represent 44 percent of the energy workforce. And, demand for these jobs has remained steady.

Industry leaders work to ensure there is a balance in the supply of qualified workers with specific demands. The goal is to have the right number of workers with the right skills at the right time and in the right place.

A 2015 CEWD report noted that while the workforce is getting younger in these key jobs, gaps still exist for engineers and technicians and, in some areas, especially small, more rural areas, utilities, in particular can struggle with attracting

Jobs in the energy sector hold potential for many seeking careers.



Photo by iStock/Getty Images/Theerapong28

talent and replacing expertise lost by retiring workers.

According to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, more than 116,000 people work as electrical power line installers and repairers. In South Dakota 850 people have such jobs, representing about 2.04 jobs per 100,000 jobs in the state, ranking it among the highest location quotients in the nation. (The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.)

Another visible energy job in the area deals with wind energy. According to United States Department of Labor statistics, there are 4,390 wind turbine service technicians nationwide, with 510 calling the Dakotas and Minnesota home.

The *U.S. Energy and Employment Report* released in May 2018 by the National Association of State Energy Officials and the Energy Futures Initiative noted that

the traditional energy and energy efficiency sectors employed approximately 6.5 million Americans out of a total workforce of approximately 145 million. The report noted this was a 2 percent increase from the previous year, adding 133,000 net new jobs.

The report noted that within the traditional energy sector, electric power genera-

Electric power generation and fuels directly employed more than 1.9 million workers in 2017.

tion and fuels directly employed more than 1.9 million workers in 2017, an increase of 15,000 jobs from 2016. In 2017, 55 percent – or 1.1 million – of these employees worked in traditional coal, oil and gas electric power generation and fuels, while almost 800,000 workers were employed in other generation technologies including renewables, nuclear and natural gas.

Firms covered by the survey anticipate about a 6 percent growth in jobs in 2018.

But while these sectors are anticipating growth, more than 70 percent of employers reported difficulty in hiring qualified workers in the past 12 months.

Two South Dakota technical schools – Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, S.D., and Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D., offer energy-sector career training and have received national recognition for the educational programs and Minnesota's technical schools have strong energy-related programs.



OCTOBER 15-19, 2018

Among energy sector workers are the nation's 4,300 wind service technicians, 510 of which are in the Dakotas and Minnesota.



Photo by iStock/Getty Images/ aydinmutlu

Stickney Receives Funding

VFD Gets Creative with Grant Money

The Stickney Volunteer Fire Department makes every penny count.

The VFD received a grant for \$2,250 from the Operation Round-Up program. Funds were used for special washing and drying equipment

The price tag of the new dryer alone was \$7,899. However, after some online research, EMT Cherie Sauvage realized they could build their own. She took the idea across the street to the local lumber yard, and the department began engineering their new dryer with PVC pipe and a blower fan. As opposed to nearly \$8,000, members from the department built their new dryer for under \$900.

The need for the washing and drying equipment stems from new regulations from the National Fire Protection Association. The NFPA will require gear to be washed after each use to remove any toxins.

"The chemicals and toxic fumes released during a fire are directly related to causing cancer," Sauvage stated. "The number of firefighters with cancer is growing at an alarming rate."

In the future, Sauvage hopes to secure funding for a second set of gear for firefighters so a set is always available. During certification, firefighters are required to fully dress in under 60 seconds. However, Sauvage also nods to the economic environment for local farmers. Therefore, she has been actively applying for grants and funding to avoid asking for additional donations.

"Our department is a small department with 25 volunteers. We do our best with our limited budget to try to keep up to date on our equipment and with the rules and regulations," Sauvage said.



Firefighters' gear required heavy duty washers and special "no heat" dryers. Heat can damage the protective layers.

Senior Citizens Center Makes Upgrades

The Stickney Senior Citizen Center is dedicated to making updates and continuing to serve the community.

The center recently received a grant for \$1,500 from the Central Electric Operation Round-Up program towards the purchase of new LED lighting. The former lighting needed to be replaced and also was not energy efficient. The building was constructed in 1989 and has had other updates completed such as a new furnace, appliances, flooring and exhaust system.

Site Manager and Cook Sheila Crater says the center offers breakfast, dinner, and even delivers meals when needed. In addition to a meal, it offers a place to go in town, or a "check in" on those who might not have a daily visitor otherwise.



Ken Schlimgen presents a check to Sheila Crater--the site manager, cook, and always smiling face at the Senior Citizens Center.

"[The center] has served the community very well by many people eating their noon meal each day and fellowshiping with others and possibly keeping many from having to live elsewhere," says Crater.

The center not only serves our local community members but has appealed to tourists in the area. Crater reminisced about a couple from Tennessee who stopped in once. The couple asked someone on the street if there was a place to eat breakfast in town, and they told them, "Stop down at the Senior Citizens Center, and Sheila will cook you something!" The couple was tickled by their experience and the small-town charm.

Best Wishes



Cody Poppen

Poppen & Hoffer say farwell

Cody Poppen has moved on from Central Electric to farm full-time with his family near Howard, SD. Cody worked for Central for 10 years as Appliance Repair Technician and Journeyman Electrician.



Daren Hoffer

Daren Hoffer has accepted a position with Sioux Valley Energy. Daren served as a Journeyman Electrician for 18 years and managed the load management receiver installs.

We thank Daren and Cody for their years of service, and wish them the best in their next chapter!

ENERGY VAMPIRE WORD SEARCH

Are energy vampires lurking in your home? Energy vampires are appliances and electronics that consume energy even when they aren't being used.

Circle all potential energy vampires in the word search below. Tip: Use the word bank as a guide.



T	R	H	P	D	C	Y	A	T	M	Y	T	Q	B	V
E	W	M	E	P	H	C	Z	I	R	S	Y	D	G	R
L	M	C	S	C	U	T	C	G	R	B	H	A	E	O
E	A	X	O	A	G	R	F	S	M	E	L	G	I	I
V	C	K	F	F	O	K	V	Y	U	F	R	X	H	E
I	X	B	Y	W	F	S	L	Z	A	A	E	J	L	C
S	Q	O	A	Z	X	E	F	Q	H	T	K	X	J	P
I	C	V	B	G	A	M	E	C	O	N	S	O	L	E
O	E	G	G	E	R	Y	E	M	M	G	P	O	Y	I
N	E	P	O	N	L	N	V	I	A	R	O	V	D	D
S	C	M	R	O	O	B	G	A	L	K	P	Q	Y	U
J	W	S	M	H	Q	M	A	W	W	Z	E	B	H	N
M	E	J	P	F	X	A	X	C	R	P	B	R	V	F
N	Z	I	D	M	R	E	Y	A	L	P	D	V	D	X
K	S	R	V	I	B	K	I	R	R	F	P	H	U	Y

Word Bank

GAME CONSOLE
COFFEE MAKER
PHONE CHARGER
CABLE BOX

MICROWAVE
DVD PLAYER
TELEVISION

To save energy, unplug these items when they are not in use.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

#WhoPowersYou Contest

Nominate someone in your community!

The #WhoPowersYou contest honors the unsung heroes in our communities.

The 3rd annual contest begins October 1, and allows co-op members to nominate the person who inspires them and makes a difference in their co-op community.

In addition to receiving national recognition, the winner may be awarded up to \$5,000.

To nominate someone, visit www.WhoPowersYou.com.

Sponsored by Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives.

INSPIRED BY A MEMBER OF YOUR CO-OP COMMUNITY?

YOUR NOMINEE COULD WIN UP TO \$5,000

#WHOPOWERSYOU

Pictured:

2017 Grand Prize
Winner,

Bob Bardwell of the
Ironwood Springs
Christian Ranch,

People's Energy
Cooperative,
Oronoco, MN



Celebrating Cooperatives

Co-ops Play Important Role in Economy

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sirea.coop

**Cooperatives
generate jobs in
their communities,
keep profits local
and pay local taxes
to help support
community services.**

CO-OP CARLA'S AMAZING DAY

HOW COOPERATIVE IS YOUR DAY?

Cooperative Carla knows that joining and supporting cooperatives helps to make her community stronger and build a better world. She also knows that the owners of cooperatives are the ones closest to the business and she's proud to benefit from membership in cooperatives and happy to support cooperatives around her.

Carla's typical day is pretty amazing.



COOPERATIVES FOR A
**BETTER
WORLD**



From the moment one wakes up to the minute one falls asleep – and throughout the night – cooperatives play a role in the daily lives of most South Dakotans and many Minnesotans.

Power from electric cooperatives charges phones, illuminates lights, heats homes and provides the electricity integral to many farms and businesses in the area. Telecommuni-

cation cooperatives across the region connect families and businesses with internet, phone and cable services, keeping them informed and connected to the world around them.

Gasoline, ethanol and propane are often bought from regional cooperatives that are among the largest cooperatives in the nation.

Grains and other products are bought and sold through farmer cooperatives big and small.

Hundreds of financial transactions occur daily at the areas credit unions.

In fact, there are more than 40,000 cooperative businesses in the United States with 350 million members (many people belong to more than one co-op). These cooperatives generate \$514 billion in revenue and more than \$25 billion in wages, according to a study conducted by the Univer-



Carla is also planning on making some updates to her living room. She stops by her local hardware store for some paint samples and takes a look at her options at the local flooring and lighting stores - all cooperatives!

Did you know, purchasing cooperatives like **Ace Hardware, Carpet One Floor & Home** and **Lighting One** help independent, local businesses compete with big box stores?

sity of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, with support from USDA Rural Development (<http://reic.uwcc.wisc.edu/default.htm>).

- Cooperatives represent a strong business model and greatly contribute to both the national and local economies.
- Studies show that consumers want to do business with companies that share their values, making today's environment ideal for cooperatives and their commitment to the communities in which their members live and work.
- Co-ops don't have to answer to outside shareholders; they care about meeting their members' needs.
- Co-ops represent democracy in action, with control exercised by a board of directors elected from the ranks of members; the board hires and directs management and is ultimately responsible to the members;
- Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience.

Co-op Month Fun Facts

- Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Co-op Month proclamation in 1948.
- Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former Minnesota governor, proclaimed October Co-op Month.
- The first national theme in 1964 was "Cooperatives: USDA Helps Build a Better America."
- The U.S. Government sponsored Co-op Month from 1964-70.
- Since 1971, cooperatives, statewide associations and the National Cooperative Business Association have fueled their own events and promotions.



RISE & SHINE

As Carla turns off the alarm clock and turns on the lights she thinks about her membership in her local electric co-op.

Carla is one of
42 Million Americans
whose homes are powered by local **Electric Co-ops!**



Carla always starts off the day with coffee and breakfast from the local food co-op where she always finds fresh, healthy options for her family. Food co-ops spend more revenues locally - by buying more products locally and contributing more to the local economy than conventional grocery stores.



For every **\$1,000** spent at a **food co-op**,

\$1,604

goes back into the local economy.

Food co-ops buy more organic produce and recycle more plastic than conventional grocers too!

Over **2 million farmers** own the companies that cooperatively market their dairy products. **Organic Valley, Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Land O' Lakes** sound familiar? They're all Co-ops!



Even the milk in her cereal is from a farmer-owned dairy cooperative.



OFF TO WORK

Carla works at a worker-owned cooperative that produces paper products. She takes pride in her work knowing that she is able to weigh in on big decisions and owns a share of the business.

Carla is one of
100 Million People
who work for **Co-ops** around the world!



October: National Cyber Security Awareness Month

Keeping Your Info Safe.



Ryan Mueller

Systems Coordinator

No matter how robust your security software may be, human error or deception can open the door wide open for potential threats.

Technology breaches seem to be a common national headline—Yahoo. Target. Experian.

However, you don't need to be a major company to be at risk. Studies show that small to mid-size organizations are targeted since they may not have access to security measures.

Keeping Your Information Safe

Central Electric takes the security of our grid and your information very seriously and has pursued numerous cyber security measures:

- **Partnered with outside cyber security consultants.** We have contracted with a firm who specializes in cyber security to assist with our security measures.
- **Network audit for vulnerabilities.** Our systems are scanned for potential vulnerabilities to better protect our data.
- **On-site training for employees.** Our consultant has also provided in-person training for all employees, including info on safely using company devices and a monthly e-newsletter with security tips.
- **Email phishing campaign.** We send false "phishing" emails to educate our employees on what to look for and allow them real-life opportunities to screen for potentially harmful emails.
- **Secure payment system.** Members can securely make payments online via SmartHub or over the phone on a secure line by calling 855-730-8707. These systems are in compliance with credit card use requirements.

What can you do to protect yourself?

No matter how robust your security software may be, human error or deception can open the door wide open for potential threats. Use the following tips to protect your personal data:

Don't open an attachment in an email unless you are expecting the information.

Don't click on links in emails. Links can appear harmless but actually redirect you to a harmful site. When possible, open a new browser and go directly to the site.

Only download information from web pages you trust.

Don't share personal information on social media games or posts. There are fun games or photos floating around social media that encourage you to "comment with the first concert you attended," for example. However, many of these games may be phishing for answers to security questions or other personal information.

Don't post current location. You might be thrilled about the vacation beach photo you just took, but wait until you are home to post updates. Announcing that you are away from home can be an invitation to burglars.

There's no such thing as a "free" app. When downloading any app, read the terms and conditions carefully. Some apps will sell your information to marketing companies.

Use caution when making direct person-to-person purchases. For example, let's say you are selling a boat for \$800. A scam artist may pose as a buyer, write a cashier's check for \$1,000, and then ask for \$200 cash in change. You take the check, give \$200 cash in change, and allow the "buyer" to take the boat, only to find out later that the check is fake when you attempt to deposit it.

The idea that the next threat is always lurking around the corner can be overwhelming. However, remember that a little caution goes a long way, and while no cyber security plan is perfect, we are doing our best to protect you.

What is the true impact livestock development could have on our region?

How can farm families and communities take advantage of these new opportunities?

What is the most economically feasible and environmentally sound path forward?

These and other important questions will be discussed at the first:

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

*Hosted by your local
Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives*

**NOVEMBER 15, 2018
SDSU CAMPUS, BROOKINGS, S.D.**

South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota farm families as well as community leaders who are interested in learning more about emerging livestock development opportunities are encouraged to attend.



Featured Speaker

Barry H. Dunn, PhD
President, South Dakota State University

Featured Speaker

Governor Dennis Daugaard



Panel Discussions

Economic Impact
Young Farmers and Agribusinesses
Financing
Siting, Zoning and Permitting



Networking

Talk with industry experts and other livestock developers

TO REGISTER: visit www.yourcoopower.com/LivestockSummit

COST: FREE! Please RSVP before November 1

Together we are

**RE-ENERGIZING
LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT**



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives



September 20 and 27

Mitchell Farmers Market, 4:30 to 7 p.m., Corn Palace Plaza, Mitchell, SD, Contact Maria Payne at 605-995-8048 or mpayne@cityofmitchell.org

September 21-22

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show, Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

September 21-23

14th Annual OutKasts Car Show, Saturday 11 a.m. Show, 8 p.m. Dance, Corn Palace, Mitchell, SD, Call Dave at 605-996-7913 or Dan at 605-999-9134

September 20-23

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

September 20-23

South Dakota Festival of Books, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6113

September 21-23

South Dakota Quilt Guild, Crossroads Event Center, Huron, SD, 605-352-9953

September 21-23

Annual Sturgis Off Road Rally, Ballpark Road, Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800

September 22

Harvest Fest, Spearfish, SD, 605-717-9294

September 22, October 6

Lawn Mower Races, Pukwana, SD, 605-680-1718

September 25-29

Black Hills Plein Air Paint-Out, Hill City, SD, 605-645-7196

September 27-29

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival, Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

Your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative presents the first

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 15, 2018
SDSU CAMPUS, BROOKINGS, S.D.
yourcoopower.com/LivestockSummit




September 28-29

PREMIER Rodeo, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

September 28-30

SiouxperCon, Sioux Falls, SD, admin@siouxpercon.com

September 29-30

Northern Plains Indian Art Market, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-856-8193

September 30

Fall Volksmarch, Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

October 5-7

Black Hills Powwow, Rapid City, SD, 605-341-0925

October 6

Pumpkin Train, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

October 11-12

South Dakota Women in Ag 2018 Conference, The Lodge, Deadwood, SD, 605-390-4241, amy.pravecek@zoetis.com, southdakotawomeninag.com

October 20-21

South Dakota State and National Cornhusking Contest, State is on the 20th and National on the 21st, 9 a.m., Flandreau, SD

October 20-January 6

Pheasant Hunting Season, Statewide, Pierre, SD, 605-223-7660

October 26-28

Autumn Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889

November 8-10

Ringneck Festival and Bird Dog Challenge, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

November 10

MVP Vendor and Craft Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., James Valley Community Center, Mitchell, SD

November 10

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Davison County Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD, Contact Cindy Foster at 605-996-8563

November 11

Trinity Lutheran Church Lutefisk, Lefse and Meatball Supper, 4 to 7 p.m., Chamberlain, SD, Contact Jeff Tveit at 605-730-0553

November 16-17

Holiday Arts Christmas Craft Show, Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

December 1

A Poker Alice Christmas, 8 p.m., Gayville Hall, Gayville, SD, 605-267-2859

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.