

Cooperative Connections

SDSU Extension
Master Gardener
Program

**Growing Master
Gardeners in SD**

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**Rodeo School is
in Session**

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Members Represent The Cooperative Difference

The Co-op Foundation



Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Electric cooperatives are unique because every member has representation in the decisions that affect their co-op.

You are a member. You are an owner. You are Northern Electric Cooperative.

Many people do not think twice about where their electricity comes from or who delivers it to them. As long as the lights come on when they flip the switch, they are happy. However, there is a difference between an electric customer and being a member of an electric cooperative.

If you are reading this column, you likely purchase electricity from Northern Electric Cooperative and you are a member-owner of the co-op. What does that mean? It means as a part-owner of the cooperative, the money you pay every month is your contribution to keep the cooperative operating so it can deliver electricity to you and your neighbors. A cooperative is not designed to make a profit. Cooperatives are designed to deliver a service. If there is money – or margins – left over at the end of the year that money is allocated back to member-owners in the form of capital credits. It is your share of the cooperative.

Electric cooperatives are also unique because every member has representation in the decisions that affect their co-op. Northern Electric Cooperative has a nine-member board of directors which represents nine districts that are geographically spread across the co-op's service territory. Members in every district can nominate and vote for their representatives. There are three board seats up for election at the annual meeting this year. One of those board members has reached the co-op's term limit of serving three consecutive terms, which means there will be a new board member after the 2021 annual meeting in September. Information about the open board seat and the cooperative's board districts can be found on **pages 14-15** of this issue. Please read through this information to learn about the process of nominating and electing your representatives to the board of directors. It is part of the foundation of the co-op business model.

Learning about Northern Electric's nomination and election process is just one of the responsibilities you have as a member-owner of the cooperative. Other ways to stay up to date on happenings at your electric cooperative are reading this publication, visiting the Northern Electric website to learn about programs and services, and attending the annual meeting in September. All these actions can help you become a better-informed member of the cooperative. It is what sets cooperatives apart from any other business model and it is what makes being a member of a co-op better than being just another customer.



(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Donna Sharp

Board of Directors

- Nolan Wipf – Vice President
- Ron Kaaz – Secretary
- Josh Larson – Treasurer
- Fran Esser
- Todd Hettich
- Kirk Schaunaman
- Mark Sumption
- Jeff Vander Wal

CEO/General Manager: Char Hager – info@northernelectric.coop

Chief Financial Officer: Cathi Podoll

Operations Manager: Jerry Weber

Manager of Member Services: Russel Ulmer

Manager of Information Technology: Derek Gorecki

Communications Director: Ben Dunsmoor - bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Executive Secretary: Kay Albrecht

NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held April 22, 2021, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present except for Ronald Kaaz. Eide Bailly, LLP Senior Audit Manager Luke Johnson was a guest for the meeting via video conference. As the first order of business, the Board approved the March 18, 2021, minutes, & March expenditures. The Board reviewed & accepted monthly reports by management.

Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the April 1, 2021, meeting. General Manager Char Hager reported on the East River MAC meeting held March 30, 2021. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported on the SDREA board meeting held March 25, 2021. Director Donna Sharp, General Manager Char Hager and Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor reported on the 2021 NRECA Legislative Conference held April 19-23.

Manager's Report

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Update on development projects.
- Update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund.
- Informed directors that 2021 District 1, 3 and 8 candidate petitions need to be submitted by July 23, 2021. Mark Sumption - District 1 – has reached his term limit.

Board Report

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, May 20, 2021.

APRIL BOARD REPORT

2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$1,511.77.
3. Approved Work Order Inventories #21-03 for \$317,952.08 and #21-03MC, \$79,192.55 to be submitted to RUS for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Received and approved the 2020 Audit Report presented by Luke Johnson of Eide Bailly, LLP.
5. Approved allocating \$1,988,275.48 of NEC's combined 2020 margins to member patronage capital credit accounts.
6. After repeated failed attempts by the cooperative to collect unpaid balances, the board approved a resolution to write off 25 uncollectable accounts in the amount of \$8,052.45. Any members remaining capital credit balances will be assigned against the outstanding amounts.
7. Authorized board attendance to the SDREA Co-op Board Leadership Summit, July 25-26, 2021, in Pierre.
8. Authorized Director Ronald Kaaz to attend the 2021 CFC Summer Summit, June 14-16, San Antonio, TX. Ronald will be the credentialed delegate for the CFC and NCSC annual membership meetings.
9. Held Executive Session.

Questions or more details on any of these matters? Please ask your cooperative manager, staff member or director.

Financial Report	March 2021	March 2020
kWh Sales	26,311,984 kWh	28,027,999 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,322,929	\$2,416,850
Total Cost of Service	\$2,457,084	\$2,413,047
Operating Margins	(-\$134,155)	\$3,803
Year To Date Margins	\$91,218	\$241,170

Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill

March 2021	2,041 kWh	\$208.07	.1019 per kWh
March 2020	2,867 kWh	\$258.84	.0903 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 83.5% of NEC's total cost of service.

Eight Tips to Help You Grow Your Garden Safely

Gardening may seem like a safe hobby - and for the most part it is. But it can potentially lead to injury. Emergency rooms treat more than 400,000 injuries each year related to outdoor garden tools, reports the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Trimming trees and tall bushes can take a deadly turn when electricity is involved. Never trim a tree that has grown into a power line. Metal and wood ladders can transmit electricity into your body if you come into contact with a live wire. Instead, ask your electric cooperative to send a professional to trim the tree.

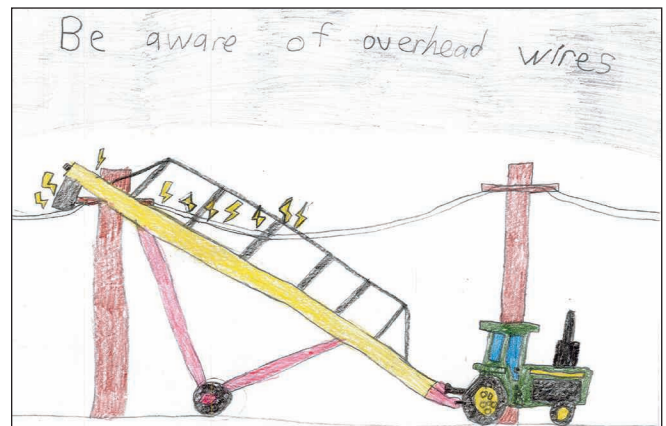
- At least three days before you begin a landscaping project that entails digging, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked.
- Never garden, trim trees or cut the lawn in bad weather. Wet and windy conditions can cause slipping and other hazards. Go inside immediately if you see lightning.
- Outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters should be used for electric tools and trimmers. Never use tools outdoors when it's wet.
- Whenever possible, work in pairs so you're not using electrical equipment when nobody else is around - in case of an accident. And hire a professional if you doubt your ability to complete the job safely.
- Always wear the proper clothing and safety equipment for the task at hand. Gloves, eye and hearing protection, and dust masks can help prevent injuries and illnesses.
- Use the right tools for the job and use them safely. If you are using electric tools, watch where the cord is and unplug tools when not in use.
- Keep garden tools and equipment in proper working order. Equipment that is not maintained properly leaves the door open for potential accidents.
- Stay hydrated, use insect repellent and sunscreen (don't forget your face, neck and ears), and take breaks as needed to rest those hard-working muscles.

Did You Know?

- All thunderstorms produce lightning.
- Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and can strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.

#StormSafety

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



Be Aware of Overhead Wires

Carter Intveld, 11 years old

Carter is the child of Glenn and Darci Intveld of Sioux Falls. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.



Dig in to These Dairy Recipes

Tuna Cheesettes

½ c. American cheese	2 tbsp. chopped dill pickles
2-3 hard boiled eggs, chopped	½ c. salad dressing
1 can (7 oz.) tuna	½ tsp. salt
2 tbsp. chopped onion	¼ tsp. pepper

Preheat oven to 350. Mix ingredients and pile on ½ of a hamburger bun to make an open-faced sandwich. Bake for 30 min. Serve warm.

Ruth Schilberg, Viborg

Crustless Cheddar Mini Quiches

Non-stick cooking spray	1 egg
1/2 teaspoon olive oil	1/3 cup sun-dried tomatoes, plus additional tomatoes for garnish
1 leek, cleaned and finely chopped (about 1 cup)	1/2 teaspoon fresh or dried thyme
1 cup reduced-fat shredded Cheddar cheese, divided	
1 cup fat-free milk	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly spray a 12-cup muffin pan* with non-stick cooking spray. Heat oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Cook leeks until softened, stirring frequently, about 5 minutes. Divide leeks among muffin cups and top with 2/3 cup of Cheddar cheese. Blend milk, egg, sun-dried tomatoes and thyme in a blender or food processor for about 20 seconds or until tomato is minced. Pour milk mixture over cheese in muffin cups and top each with remaining cheese. Bake 30 minutes or until tops and edges are browned. Cool in pan for 3 minutes; serve warm or cold. Top with additional pieces of sun-dried tomato, if desired.

*May substitute with aluminum muffin cups or individual custard cups, if desired.

usdairy.com

Scalloped Eggs and Bacon

1/4 cup chopped onion	6 hard boiled eggs, sliced
2 tablespoons butter	1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons flour	1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups milk	1 1/2 cups crushed potato chips
1 cup shredded American cheese	12 bacon strips
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard	

Cut bacon strips into 1 inch pieces and fry until crisp. Sauté onion in butter until tender. Stir in flour, gradually add milk and cook, stirring until thickened. Add cheese and mustard stirring until cheese melts. Place half of the egg slices in a greased 10 X 6 baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover with half of the cheese sauce, potato chips and bacon. Repeat layering. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Tips: Prepare eggs and bacon the night before and put together the next morning to save time. May also use ham cubes instead of bacon. Double the recipe and use a 9 X 13 baking dish.

Mary Jo Semmier, Chancellor

Very Berry Ice Cream

2 lbs frozen berries (raspberries, blueberries, strawberries or blackberries)	1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
1 tablespoon honey	1/2 teaspoon salt

In blender, pulse berries, condensed milk, honey and salt until smooth, scraping down sides. Pour mixture into 5-by-9-inch loaf pan. Freeze uncovered 4 hours, or until set.

Culinary.net

Please send your favorite dairy 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 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



The five Sumption brothers (left to right Warren, Taylor, Chris, Eric, Mark) have launched a new company called Anthem Oats. (Photo Courtesy: JaceJ Photography)

HOMEGROWN OATS

Frederick Brothers Hope 'Anthem Oats' Strikes A Chord With Consumers

Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Your next warm bowl of oatmeal may soon come from a local family that is bringing a hometown flavor to the breakfast table.

The five Sumption brothers (Warren, Taylor, Chris, Eric, and Mark) who farm near Frederick have launched a new company called Anthem Oats. The company will begin selling several varieties of oatmeal in stores this summer.

“There is a lot of anticipation to get that final product out,” Anthem Oats CEO and co-owner Taylor Sumption said.

The idea for the new company started with a crop that the Sumptions discovered is good for the land but also good for consumers. The Sumptions knew that straw from oats provided good feed for their livestock and that the grain was also good for the soil as they included the crop in their normal corn and soybean rotations. However, selling oats as a commodity was not necessarily a viable option.

“The biggest hurdle is you can’t make money growing oats,” Sumption said.



Taylor Sumption holds a bag of bulk oats in the Anthem Oats warehouse in Frederick.

So the Sumptions decided if they wanted to continue growing oats, they would also have to pursue selling oats to consumers. Oat products have become more popular because they are gluten free and have several health benefits.

The development of the Anthem Oats brand really started ramping up about three years ago after Taylor Sumption was in a car accident which limited him from doing most of the physical farm labor but gave him the opportunity to build the business.

“It just seemed oats is a crop that is making a little bit of a comeback,” Taylor Sumption said.

Anthem Oats recently completed construction of a 12,000 square foot warehouse and office on U.S. Highway 281 in Frederick to serve as the company’s headquarters. The Sumptions have been working with several consultants to launch the Anthem Oats brand, develop the product, and get their oatmeal in stores both locally and nationally.

Anthem Oats will start selling instant oatmeal packets this summer in four different flavors: peach cranberry, pumpkin spice, maple pecan, and vanilla chai. The packets will be about twice the size as typical instant oatmeal because market research showed most people eat two packets at a time.

Instant oatmeal cups will be available in dark chocolate brownie, super fruit, vanilla chai, and peach cranberry flavors. Anthem Oats will also sell raw old-fashioned oats, minute oats, and steel cut oats in bulk bags.

“One of the big things on consumers’ minds is where it (their food) comes from, none of the big companies can offer that.”

All the oats in the Anthem Oats products will come directly from the Sumption family farm near Frederick which is an aspect of the business they believe will set them apart from other brands.

“One of the big things on consumers’ minds is where it (their food) comes from,” Taylor Sumption said. “None of the big companies can offer that.”

The oats that are harvested in Frederick are trucked just across the Canadian border to be dehulled in Altona, Manitoba. Then the oats are shipped to a mill in

Fargo to be cut into the three varieties that will be sold in stores. The instant oatmeal is currently packaged in Michigan before it comes back to the Frederick warehouse. The Sumptions chose vendors that will ensure the oats from their fields can be traced to every Anthem Oats product. Eventually, they would like to move the processing and packaging to their facility in Frederick and employ more people in their hometown.

“Our plan is at some point to outgrow what they (the vendors) can do and then package it here. I want this town to start going the other way,” Taylor Sumption said about the prospect of bringing more operations to the small town of Frederick.

Sumption said Anthem Oats will be available at all local stores beginning in June or July and his family is excited for the crop they grow locally to end up on breakfast tables and in kitchens across the region.

“It is so neat to have that connection with the people with the grain you grow. This is not a new concept. The origination of agriculture is that you sell it to people,” Taylor Sumption said. “It is just kind of a movement back to that way of thinking.”

A harmony between a crop that is both good for the land and healthy for consumers.



Anthem Oats will be available in instant oatmeal cups and packets beginning this summer. The instant cups (pictured above) will come in four flavors: vanilla chai, dark chocolate brownie, super fruit, and peach & cranberry.



SDSU Extension Master Gardener Ruth Smith prepares for a local spring plant sale. Photos by Billy Gibson.

MASTER GARDENERS

Extension Program Seeks to Spread the Love of Gardening

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdua.coop

Sorry, Walt Disney. The happiest place on earth for Ruth Smith isn't located in Florida or California. It's found in the serene confines of her garden in Pierre, S.D.

A retired educator, Smith experiences relaxation and contentment while growing herbs, vegetables and florals in her terraced backyard garden. After spending a career in public education and dedicating herself to the development and guidance of local students, Smith now finds her bliss by focusing her efforts on cultivating fresh produce and plants.

She even confesses a proud affinity for something that most people absolutely abhor – weeding.

“I actually like weeding. I like tending to the plants and bringing them up with some tender loving care,” Smith said. “I always tell people this is my happy place. Some people like to take a boat out on the river or go hunting. This is what we like to do.”

The “we” Smith refers to includes her husband, Mark. Both enjoy gardening and both have been through the Master Gardener program administered by South Dakota State University Extension.

As current president of the Prairie Potters Master Gardeners Club based in Pierre, Smith is an enthusiastic proponent of serving as an ambassador for horticulture education both locally and throughout the state. She and Mark completed the training

and course work required to become Master Gardeners about 10 years ago, although Mark is currently on “inactive” status.

The goal of the program is to turn gardening enthusiasts into expert volunteers who share their research-based knowledge with community members across the state. Since the program's inception in 1985, more than 400 Master Gardeners have logged nearly 80,000 hours of volunteer service answering questions from the public and hosting community programs.

It's that public interaction that interests Smith. She enjoys attending local farmer markets, plant sales, workshops, school programs and other community events.

“The fun part is getting out among people and helping them solve



Mark Smith repairs a retaining wall in front of his home in Pierre.

Master Gardener Clubs in SD

Club Name	Area
Brookings Area Master Gardeners	Brookings
Coteau Prairie Master Gardeners	Watertown
Custer County Master Gardeners	Custer
Dakota Prairie Master Gardeners	Miller
Fall River Master Gardeners	Hot Springs
Garden Gate Master Gardeners	Winner
Harding County Master Gardeners	Buffalo
Huron Area Master Gardeners	Huron
Minnehaha Co.	Sioux Falls
Missouri Valley Master Gardeners	Yankton
Northern Hills Master Gardeners	Spearfish
Pennington County Master Gardeners	Rapid City
Perkins County Master Gardeners	Bison
Prairie Partners Master Gardeners	Aberdeen
Prairie Potters Master Gardeners	Pierre
South Central Master Gardeners	White River

any problems they're encountering and giving them suggestions on how they can get better results for their efforts," she said. "We love to have conversations with people and we're not afraid to say we don't know something. We can always find out the answers and get back with them."

So, what's the question she gets asked the most? "Hmmm. It's probably, 'Something is wrong with my tomato plants. What should I do?'"

Rhoda Burrows is a horticulture specialist with SDSU Extension and works frequently with Master Gardeners. She said interest in the program has grown since the pandemic struck in March of 2020. While participants weren't allowed to attend in-person events as representatives of the program through most of last year, online teleconferences were held with many new prospects joining in.

"It's just such a fun group to work with," she said. "They're so enthusiastic and they have a deep hunger for knowledge and a heart for helping out each other in their communities. After the pandemic when people were restricting their movements, they discovered that gardening can be a good, wholesome family activity. Gardening is a source of fresh produce and more people are appreciating the benefits of healthy eating."

More information about the Master Gardeners program can be found by visiting www.extension.sdstate.edu. Those interested in becoming part of the program can contact SDSU's Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Aimee House Ladonski at 605-782-3290.

McCrary Gardens is an Inspiration for Horticulture Hobbyists

Gardeners are typically passionate self-starters and don't require much outside motivation. But McCrary Gardens is an ideal place to go for those gardeners looking for an ounce of inspiration over the summer months.

Created in 2012 on the Brookings campus of South Dakota State University, McCrary Gardens features a 25-acre garden and 45-acre arboretum along with a 9,300-square-foot Education and Visitor Center.

While visitation was down in 2020, McCrary Gardens is expecting a busy summer and welcomes gardening enthusiasts to see the ever-changing display of flowers, vegetables, herbs and more.

New to the facility this summer is a Native American medicinal garden area, a "three-sisters" garden with beans, corn and squash, as well as a pollinator garden designed to attract bees and butterflies. Professors and instructors from the Native American studies department collaborated as consultants on the project.

McCrary Gardens is open to visitors on Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

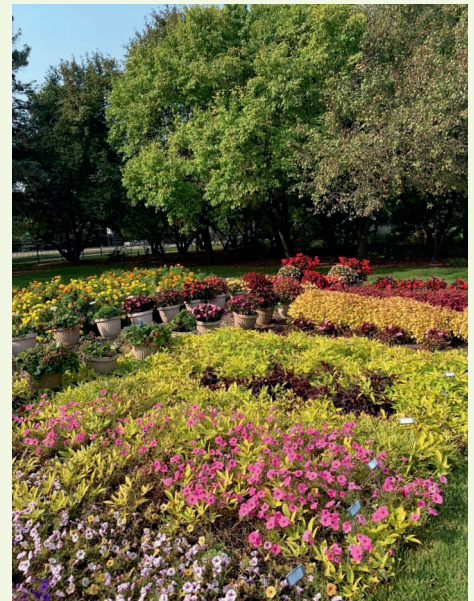
"There is always something new that's growing and blooming, and we have numerous annual beds that are planted each year," said Director Lisa Marotz.

What is expected to be a spectacular summer will culminate in the annual Garden Party held each year on the first Friday in August. While plans are still being finalized, past events have included food vendors, live music, games and free admission for the day.

"Pretty much everything we have is in bloom at that time. We want to invite everyone to come out and see what we have to offer," Marotz said.

McCrary Gardens is a privately-funded \$4.2-million facility that was the vision of founder and SDSU professor S.A. McCrary.

Last August, McCrary Gardens was named as a benefactor of an endowment from the estate of Frank and Mildred Denholm. A gift of more than \$422,000 went to the gardens while an additional gift of the same amount went to The South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, which is hosting an exhibit entitled, "Electrifying Rural South Dakota," through Sept. 1.



Northern Electric Accepting Sealed Bids For Skid Steer

Bids For Mustang Skid Steer Due By June 10, 2021

Northern Electric Cooperative is currently accepting sealed bids for a used skid steer.

The skid steer is a model-year 2000 Mustang 2050. It has been used for 948 work hours. The skid steer will come with a bucket attachment and snowblower attachment.

If you are interested in the skid steer please mail sealed bids to:

**Northern Electric Cooperative
Skid-Steer Bid
PO Box 457
Bath, SD 57427**

Bids can also be dropped off at the Northern Electric Cooperative offices in Bath and Redfield. Sealed bids must be received at one of the co-op offices by the close of the business day at **4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2021.**

The skid steer will be sold 'as is' and Northern Electric Cooperative reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Please call the Northern Electric office at 605-225-0310 with any additional questions.



Northern Electric is accepting sealed bids on a model-year 2000 Mustang 2050 skid steer.



The skid steer has been used by the co-op for 948 work hours.



The skid steer includes a bucket and a snowblower attachment.

2000 Mustang Skid Steer

- Model 2050
- 948 Hours
- Bucket Included
- Snowblower Attachment Included



BE ALERT. BE PREPARED. BE AROUND TO FARM AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

Fieldwork can feel like second nature. But, complacency when operating around power lines can be deadly.

Staying alert and being prepared can help prevent catastrophic accidents. Knowing what to do if an accident does occur can be the difference between life and death.

RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY

Contact your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative or visit [YourCoopPower.com](https://www.yourcooppower.com) to find safety tips and make a plan.





A student at the Korkow Rodeo School learns the “lift, charge and stay back” method of saddle bronc riding under the watchful eye of former champion Chad Ferley. Photos by Billy Gibson

Class is in Session

Rodeo School Teaches Youngsters the Basics of the Sport

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Jeff Reis saw that his son was in big trouble, so he quickly hurled himself over the heavy metal railing and sprinted across the rodeo arena toward the bucking chute.

That’s where Casey, a high school senior bull rider and student at the Korkow Rodeo School, was getting set for his final run of the day. But things weren’t proceeding as planned. While Casey was going through his preparations, the agitated bull began climbing up the railing and turning toward the unwelcomed antagonist straddling his back.

Casey was able to get a grip on the top rail of the chute and the spotters eventually pulled him free, but not before his father had gotten halfway across the arena floor.

“Bulls have done this before, but I haven’t seen one get that high or be able to turn the way this one did,” Jeff recalled. “When it spun and belly rolled and started pulling Casey away from the spotters, I panicked because I thought something truly catastrophic was about to happen.”

Thanks to the spotters and handlers and his own quick reflexes as a multi-sport

athlete, Casey escaped the few seconds of terror injury-free. The recalcitrant animal got everyone’s attention and made a big scene, but it did nothing to diminish Casey’s grit and determination. Even his father was a bit surprised at what happened next.

Casey made it clear he wasn’t nearly finished with that bull.

“I couldn’t believe his mentality after that,” Jeff said. “He was shook up, but he went out and got a new spur strap that had broken off, fixed all of his equipment, got his rope back on and rode that same bull.”

Lots of lessons were learned during that dust-up, but then that’s the purpose of the Korkow Rodeo School. Having completed its 36th year in April, the school is one of the oldest and most established of several similar schools operating across the state that offer instruction to hundreds of eager young riders and future champions.

Jim Korkow, owner of the Anchor K Ranch east of Pierre, said the school tends to separate those who are genuinely interested in rodeo from those who “might want to go looking for a set of golf clubs.”



Jeff Willert preps a saddle bronc student for the youngster’s first ride.

Though last year’s school was canceled, dozens of students of various ages and skill levels returned to the Anchor K this time around to learn the basics of saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding, and also ways to stay safe.

Korkow’s son T.J. runs the annual three-day school, which is led by a team of skilled riders and instructors as well as a physical trainer and other highly-experienced support staff. Each year the school attracts dozens of riders from several different states.

Instructor Chad Ferley is a two-time PRCA World Champion saddle bronc rider and five-time NFR qualifier from Oelrichs who has participated in the event

**SD HS Rodeo Assn.
Regional Qualifying
Rodeos:**

June 4-6 - Huron,
Highmore, Buffalo, Wall
June 11-13 - Watertown,
Winner, Dupree, Sturgis

State HS Finals Rodeo:

June 15-19 - Ft. Pierre, SD

National HS Finals Rodeo:

July 18-24 - Lincoln, NE

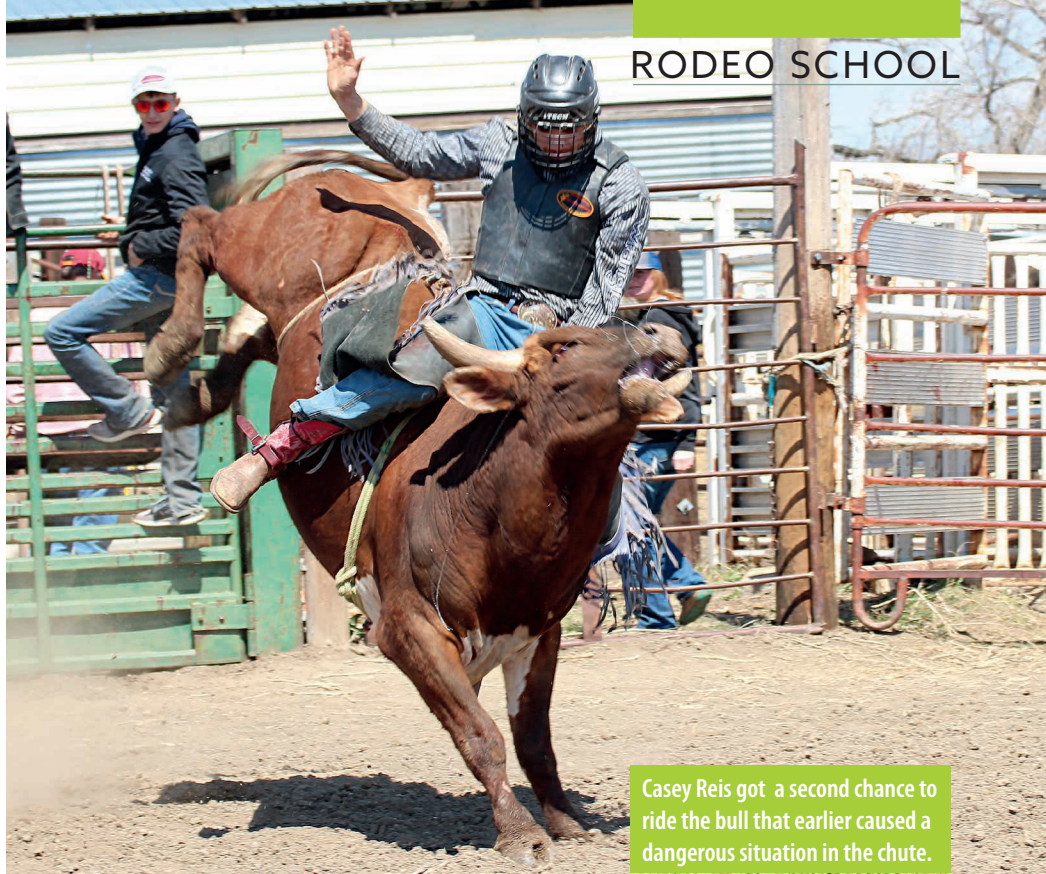
for the past 12 years. Ferley, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, said students don't leave the school ready for the pro circuit but are there to learn the basics... at least after the initial shock wears off from that maiden voyage that takes the young rider from zero to 90 in a split second.

"After their first ride, they always say it was a whole lot faster than they thought it was going to be," Ferley said. "At first, most of them just black out. We're here to give them the basics, talk to them after each ride and tell them what they did wrong and what they did right, and give them the information they can apply and practice on down the line as they ride more horses."

Fellow instructor Jeff Willert is a PRCA World Champion saddle bronc competitor, five-time NFR qualifier and member of West Central Electric Cooperative. He said he enjoys passing on to youngsters all the tips and tricks that he learned throughout his successful rodeo career.

"With bronc riding, we tell them to lift, charge and stay back," he said. "But things happen so fast, and it's hard for them to pay attention because as soon as that chute opens, they lose their train of thought. You just try to drill things into their head and they eventually get it. It's trial and error. The more you ride, the more you learn."

Ken Korkow said throughout more than three decades of operating the school, one particular student stands out among all the others. An uninitiated 42-year-old gentleman from Alaska came to the ranch



Casey Reis got a second chance to ride the bull that earlier caused a dangerous situation in the chute.

with the intention of checking off an item from his bucket list of things he'd never done before, Korkow recalled. Organizers always make a point to match the stock with the rider's level of experience, so the instructor set up the non-traditional student with a black angus pasture bull.

"He managed to stay on it for longer than I thought he would," Korkow said. "The instructor blew the horn at six seconds when he saw the guy was about to come off, but he blew it early just so he'd think he made it the whole eight seconds. But all the kids who were around got excited for him and went out there and cheered for

him and gave him high-fives. It was quite a moment I'll always remember."

While some express concern about the future of rodeo in the age of youngsters getting more involved in technology, Willert said he doesn't share that concern.

"It can be rewarding from many stand-points," he said. "There are still a lot of kids who don't spend all day playing video games. They see the value of hard work and the farming and ranching lifestyle and they respect the culture. They understand that while some things may be difficult, it's all worth it when you can walk away knowing that you've stood up to the test."



A young rider hangs on just before getting thrown to the ground.

Nominating Petitions Due By July 23

Petitions Now Available For 2021 Board of Directors Seats

During Northern Electric Cooperative's 2021 Annual Meeting (Tuesday, September 21, 2021 members will elect Directors for Districts 1, 3, and 8.

Incumbent directors Ronald Kaaz, Aberdeen (Dist. 3) and Francis Esser, Redfield (Dist. 8) are eligible to run again and are up for re-election. The District 1 seat will be vacant because director Mark Sumption of Frederick has reached his term limit.

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Northern Electric Cooperative uses a petition process to nominate directors. The procedure requires all candidates to circulate a petition. Candidates must be cooperative members and reside in the district they wish to represent. Each petition must be signed by at least ten (10) cooperative member-consumers residing in that candidate's specific district.

For a joint membership, either the husband or wife may sign a petition but NOT both.

Petitions are available at the Northern Electric offices in Bath and Redfield. Director petitions must be submitted at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting to have names placed on the official ballot and the Notice of the Meeting. No petitions filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting shall be considered valid.

Petitions must be filed at a Northern Electric Cooperative office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) **Friday, July 23, 2021.**

Nominations are not permitted from the floor during the meeting.

Members may only sign ONE nominating petition for a director candidate from their district of record.

For a complete copy of the Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws contact Northern Electric at 605-225-0310 or stop by one of the offices in Bath or Redfield. The bylaws are also available online at:

www.northernelectric.coop/cooperative-bylaws



RE-ENERGIZING CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

YOUR VOICE. YOUR POWER. YOUR CO-OP.

The best part about being a member of your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative is just that ... it's YOUR cooperative. That means:

- One member = One vote
- You have a say
- Your co-op answers to you
- Invested in community
- Capital credits (get money back!)



Learn more about the power of membership at YourCoopPower.com

Director Qualifications

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV Section 3

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- 1) Is an employee of Northern Electric Cooperative.
- 2) Is not a member and bona fide resident of the service area served by the Cooperative located within the particular District up for election;
- 3) Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative;
- 4) Has been previously removed as a Director of the Cooperative in accordance with the procedures provided for removal in these Bylaws;
- 5) Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any consecutive twelve (12) month period.
- 6) Has been employed by the Cooperative in the past five years.
- 7) Has pled guilty or has been convicted of:
 - A felony,
 - Any crime involving dishonesty, or
 - Any crime involving moral turpitude

2021 Annual Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, September 21

Director Nomination and Election Process

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV Section 5

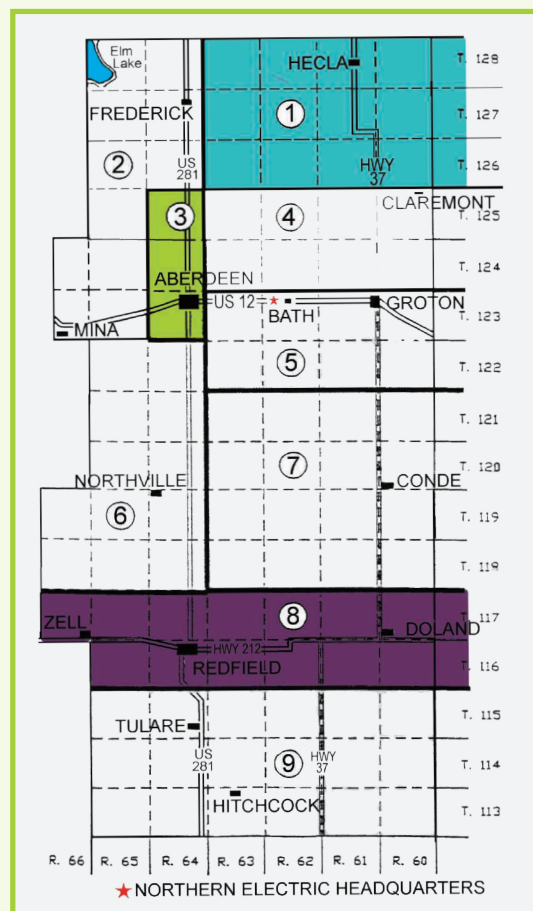
Section 5. Nomination of Directors. The nominating process shall be premised on a nine (9) District - nine (9) Director Cooperative. **Any ten (10) or more members residing in such District may file a nominating petition with the Secretary placing in nomination any qualified member from such District. Each signatory shall place the date of signing and his address on said petition. No member may sign a petition to nominate more than one candidate, and to do so shall invalidate the member's signature on the petition signed on the latest date.**

This procedure shall be followed in each Director District in which the Director terms shall expire. Upon receipt of such petition and having found the same to be in order, the Secretary shall post such nomination in the principal office of the Cooperative. Candidates so nominated shall be identified in the Notice of the Meeting and shall also be named on the official ballot.

No petition filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting shall be considered valid. The order in which the nominees shall appear on the printed ballot shall be determined by lot under the supervision of the Secretary. If any nominee should refuse to become a candidate or is not qualified, in accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Secretary of the Cooperative is authorized and directed to remove the name or names from the list of posted nominees and/or from the ballot.

The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the Notice of the Meeting, or separately, but

at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board Members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated. No nominations shall be permitted from the floor. **Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from their specific District from which a director is to be elected. Voting may occur two hours before or during the official meeting in accordance with the procedure established by the board of directors.** The candidate from each District receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a Board member.



Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.

May 21-23

Annual Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Downtown, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

May 21-23

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, All State Parks and Recreation Areas, SD
605-773-3391

May 22

Frühlingsfest and Spring Market, Main Street, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

May 22

La Framboise Island Bike Race, Steamboat Park, Pierre, SD
605-224-7054

May 31

Groton Legion Memorial Day Services, American Legion Post #39, Groton, SD
605-397-8422

June 3-5

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show and Sale, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4115

June 3-6

Wheel Jam, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7340

June 4-5

State BBQ Championships, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7354

June 4-6

Black Hills Blues Stomp and Swamp Romp, Rush No More RV Resort and Campground, Sturgis, SD
605-347-2916



Czech Days, June 18-19, 2021 (Photo by Travel South Dakota)

June 4-6

Lake Andes Fish Days, City-wide, Lake Andes, SD
605-487-7694

June 5-6

18th Annual Wessington Springs Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs Rodeo Grounds, Wessington Springs, SD
605-770-5720

June 5-6

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD
866-489-9241

June 7-9

Vacation Bible School, St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton, SD
605-397-2386

June 17-20

South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Prentis Park, Vermillion, SD
605-622-0423

June 18-19

Czech Days, Lidice Street, Tabor, SD
605-463-2478

June 18, 25

River City Friday Nights, Downtown, Chamberlain, SD
605-234-4416

June 18-19

Wild Bill Days, Main Street, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

June 19

605 Summer Classic Beer and Music Festival, Cherapa Place, Sioux Falls, SD
605-274-1999

June 19

South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation Prime Time Gala, Denny Sanford PREMIER Center, Sioux Falls, SD
605-945-2333

June 19-20

Aberdeen Arts in the Park, Melgaard Park, Aberdeen, SD
605-226-1557

June 30-July 4

Annual Black Hills Roundup, 300 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD
605-723-2010

July 10

Auto Value 6th Annual Car Show, Hav-A-Rest Campground, Redfield, SD
605-450-0332

July 11

Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show, City Park, Groton, SD
605-846-7607

July 16-17

Aberdeen Senior Games, Aberdeen Parks and Rec, Aberdeen, SD
605-216-2822

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.