

## Cooperative Connections



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

Page 8

**Celebrating  
Cooperatives**

Page 12

## October Is National Co-op Month

# Celebrating Early



**Ben Dunsmoor**

[bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop](mailto:bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop)

**While October is officially recognized as National Co-op Month, Northern Electric Cooperative often puts the cooperative difference on full display for its members in September.**

In rural America, cooperatives are all around us. The local gas station, the grocery store, and the grain elevator are often operated by cooperatives made up of local farmers and community members. Many financial institutions like credit unions and mutual insurance companies are also operated based on the cooperative business model of focusing on members instead of profits.

Northern Electric Cooperative joins with our fellow co-ops in the region to celebrate National Co-op Month in October. In 1964, former Minnesota governor Orville Freeman officially recognized October as National Co-op Month when he was serving as the United States Secretary of Agriculture. Since that time co-op's have celebrated this unique way of doing business every year.

At Northern Electric Cooperative, however, we like to celebrate Co-op Month early. If you are a Northern Electric Cooperative member you likely noticed a bill credit on your statement in September. You also probably heard about our annual meeting in September. Both are examples of what makes Northern Electric a cooperative.

First, the bill credits that most members received on their September statements are called capital credits. Capital credits are unique to cooperatives. Since cooperatives like Northern Electric are not-for-profit entities, any profits, or margins, made by the co-op are returned to members. Capital credits represent a member's share in the cooperative since co-ops are member-owned and member operated organizations. Northern Electric typically delivers these credits in the form of bill credits every September. It's one way to celebrate Co-op Month a few weeks early!

The Northern Electric Annual Meeting is also a celebration of your local cooperative. The annual meeting is a time for members of the co-op to gather together to share a meal, learn about their cooperative, and take action on any official business. The annual meeting is also a time when co-op members take part in the cooperative principle of democratic participation. Co-ops are operated by a board of directors made up of people just like you. The Northern Electric Cooperative Board of Directors are your friends and neighbors who decided to step up to take on the responsibility of attending monthly meetings and making the decisions that impact the operation of your cooperative. Northern Electric Cooperative Directors are elected and officially seated on the board during the annual meeting. The annual meeting is open to all members and exemplifies what makes your cooperative different than any other business or organization.

So, while October is officially recognized as National Co-op Month, Northern Electric Cooperative often puts the cooperative difference on full display for its members in September and then we continue to focus on putting you - our members - first all year long.



(USPS 396-040)

**Board President:** Donna Sharp

## Board of Directors

Randy Kienow – Vice President  
Glen Larson – Secretary  
Wayne Holt – Treasurer  
Fran Esser  
Victor Fischbach  
Josh Larson  
Mark Sumption  
Nolan Wipf

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

**Chief Financial Officer:** Cathi Podoll

**Operations Manager:** Mike Kelly

**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.

**Subscription information:** Northern 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 Bath, SD 57427.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to Northern Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427; telephone (605) 225-0310; fax (605) 225-1684

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

[www.northernelectric.coop](http://www.northernelectric.coop)

[facebook.com/NorthernElectricCooperative](https://facebook.com/NorthernElectricCooperative)



## AUGUST BOARD REPORT

2018, in Sioux Falls.

- Reminded directors of the 2018 NRECA Regional Meeting, September 17-19 in Minneapolis, MN.
- Informed directors of the 2019 NRECA Annual Meeting, March 7-13, in Orlando, FL.
- Reminded directors that ACRE dues are due by December 10, 2018.

## 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, September 20, 2018.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$4,210.23.
3. Approved Work Order Inventories #18-07 for \$126,877.36 and #18-07MC for \$61,342.99 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Authorized board attendance to the Mid-West Electric Consumers Assoc. 61st Annual Meeting, December 10-13, 2018, in Denver, CO and appointed Director Nolan Wipf delegate and Director Donna Sharp alternate.
5. Held Executive Session.

Ask your cooperative manager, staff member or director if you have questions.

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held August 23, 2018, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present except for Fran Esser. District 3 Director Candidate Ronald A. Kaaz was a guest at the meeting. As the first order of business, the Board approved the July 19, 2018, minutes and July expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety, communications and IT.

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 August 2, 2018, meeting. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported that the next SDREA meeting will be held September 27-28, 2018, in Pierre. Director Donna Sharp reported on the SDREA Leadership Board Conference which she attended, July 30, 2018, in Pierre.

## Manager's Report

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

- Update and discussion on new and progressing development projects taking place in the community and our service area.
- Update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund activities.
- Legal and Legislative report
- Reminded directors of the East River Electric Annual Meeting, September 5,

Financial Report		July 2018	July 2017
kWh Sales		23,244,433 kWh	25,220,490 kWh
Electric Revenues		\$2,281,641	\$2,571,814
Total Cost of Service		\$2,291,535	\$2,403,841
Operating Margins		(-\$9,894)	\$167,973
Year To Date Margins		\$275,096	\$217,480
Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill			
July 2018	1,508 kWh	\$186.44	.1236 per kWh
July 2017	1,581 kWh	\$186.56	.1180 per kWh
Wholesale power costs, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 82.2% of NEC's total cost of service.			

## 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](http://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.

# Ron Kaaz Seated As District 3 Director

Retired 3M Engineer Will Represent Members In The Aberdeen Area

**Ben Dunsmoor**

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

**"I'm looking forward to serving on the board. I'm looking at it as an opportunity to learn things and hopefully I can bring some things to the board and bring a different perspective."**

New Northern Electric Cooperative Director Ron Kaaz is no stranger to serving his community. The retired 3M engineer has served on his local township board, the Aberdeen School Board, and is currently the president-elect of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council in Aberdeen. Kaaz will now add another board position to his resume of service after he was seated as the new Northern Electric Cooperative Director for District 3 during the 2018 Annual Meeting on September 12.

"It's a service to the community," Kaaz said. "I've always felt you learn different things when you are on these different boards."



Ron Kaaz of Aberdeen was seated as the new Northern Electric Cooperative Director during the September 12 Annual Meeting.

Kaaz grew up in Leola and attended Northern State University where he played football and threw shotput and discus for the track and field team. After he graduated from NSU, Kaaz moved to Platte, South Dakota, with his wife Carla where he taught middle school math. After spending four years teaching, Kaaz moved back to Aberdeen and was hired by 3M. He went through an in-house engineering program with 3M and worked as a mechanical engineer in a department that made industrial adhesives. Kaaz retired from 3M in 2010.

Kaaz was the only candidate to submit a nominating petition for the District 3 seat. He replaces Glen Larson on the



Ron Kaaz examines a piece of material at the Antelope Valley Station power plant during the Northern Electric VIP Tour in June.



New Northern Electric Director Ron Kaaz (right) stands outside the Foote Creek Bed & Breakfast he owns with his wife Carla (left) near Richmond Lake in rural Aberdeen.

Northern Electric Board of Directors after Larson reached his term limit of serving three consecutive three-year terms in September.

“It’s something new for me,” Kaaz said of the seat on the Northern Electric Board of Directors. “I have been involved in several other public positions.”

Kaaz served one three-year term on the Aberdeen School Board from 1996-1999. He also served on his local township board up until this past March. Kaaz says his experience on those boards will assist him in transitioning into his new role on the Northern Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, however, he says the co-op board will be a new challenge.

“This (Northern Electric) is a lot bigger operation. It covers a lot broader area than what the school board or a township does, but there are a lot of good people on the board and I am impressed with what is here,” Kaaz said after attending and observing the August board meeting.

When Kaaz is not serving on local boards, the retired engineer spends his time operating the Foote Creek Bed and Breakfast which he owns with his

wife Carla near Richmond Lake in rural Aberdeen. The couple opened the business in 2001 and can host up to eight guests in four bedrooms. In the fall, Kaaz says the Foote Creek Bed and Breakfast partners with Pheasant Country Hunts to fill their guestrooms with hunters who travel to the area. Kaaz has also taken up pheasant hunting and enjoys getting out in the field with his black lab Coda. Ron and Carla Kaaz also have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Kaaz got an inside look at what it takes to generate electricity for Northern Electric Cooperative in June when he attended the VIP Tour to North Dakota. During the tour, Kaaz was able to tour power plants and resources that are used to produce power for co-op members at the end of the line. Kaaz says he is looking forward to his new role at Northern Electric Cooperative.

“I’m looking forward to serving on the board. I’m looking at it as an opportunity to learn things and hopefully I can bring some things to the board and bring a different perspective,” Kaaz said.

**“This (Northern Electric) is a lot bigger operation. It covers a lot broader area than what the school board or a township does, but there are a lot of good people on the board and I am impressed with what is here.”**



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

# ENERGIZED JOBS

## Careers in Energy Fields Hold Potential

**Brenda Kleinjan**

[editor@sdrea.coop](mailto: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



Journeymen Linemen Steve Beck (left) and Tyler Marken (right) work with 1,000-hour lineman Kyle Miller to make the final underground connections at a member's home south of Stratford. It is part of a project to bury 15 miles of underground line east of Mansfield.

# WORK ZONE

## Late Summer Projects Go Underground To Pave Way For Infrastructure Improvements

**Ben Dunsmoor**

[bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop](mailto:bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop)

Northern Electric Cooperative line crews have been focused on two major projects in August and September that will open up opportunities for upgraded infrastructure and improved system reliability. A project that stretches 15 miles east of Mansfield will clear the area of Northern Electric Cooperative overhead power lines so larger transmission lines can be constructed. And, a project just east of Aberdeen on U.S. Highway 12 will also remove overhead lines so highway improvements can be made.

### U.S. Highway 12 Project

Beginning in August Northern Electric crews started working on a project on U.S. Highway 12 near the intersection of Brown County Highway 14 by RDO Equipment, Butler Machinery, and Titan Machinery. The South Dakota Department of Transportation is installing a new traffic signal at the intersection and adding turning lanes and lighting along a two mile stretch of highway in the area. To facilitate the improvements, Northern Electric line crews rerouted power-supply feeds,



Northern Electric Cooperative overhead line that crosses U.S. Highway 12 will be removed so a new traffic signal and street lighting can be installed.

buried underground line and installed new switches. The new feeds and underground infrastructure will allow Northern Electric to remove three separate sections of overhead line that cross U.S. Highway 12 just east of Aberdeen, so the new traffic signal and highway lighting can be installed.

## Mansfield Substation Underground Project

More than 15 miles of new underground line will be buried by the end of September east of the Mansfield substation. The new line had to be bored underneath U.S. Highway 281 a few miles south of Warner and was buried under Moccasin Creek in two different locations. The project will allow Northern Electric to remove overhead line and open up the right of way near local roads so the co-op's wholesale power supplier, East River Electric Power Cooperative, can build a new transmission line.

Currently, East River's transmission line sits north of the Northern Electric Cooperative right of way and cuts through the middle of farm fields. Once the Northern Electric overhead lines are buried underground, East River can build an upgraded 115 kV transmission line in the right of way. The new East River transmission line is part of a multi-year project to replace

1952 vintage line and increase capacity and reliability in the Northern Electric and FEM Electric service territories. Locating the new line in Northern Electric's right of way near the road will allow easier access for maintenance and response during outages.

"It will for sure be a big improvement for the transmission line which impacts the reliability of the substations," Kelly said.

East River delivers power through high-voltage transmission lines to substations in the Northern Electric service area and Northern Electric feeds its distribution lines from those substations. About ten miles of the new underground line that was buried by Northern Electric was done to open up the right of way near the road, but another five miles of line was buried by the co-op to improve reliability and replace aging infrastructure.

"It made sense for us to make additional system improvements that were needed anyway," Kelly said. "The entire 15 miles will be buried and won't be subject to ice storms or things like that."

The project east of the Mansfield substation should be completed by October. At that point, East River can begin constructing its new transmission line. The East River project is expected to be completed by spring of 2019.

**"The entire 15 miles will be buried and won't be subject to ice storms or things like that."**



Northern Electric linemen (L to R) Ben Peterson, Brian Hansen, Jerry Weber, and Marty Newman work to connect new underground line and switches near U.S. Highway 12 east of Aberdeen.

# Celebrating Cooperatives

## Co-ops Play Important Role in Economy

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdra.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

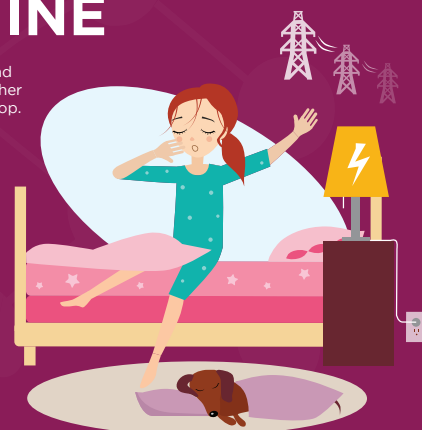
- Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Co-op Month proclamation in 1948.
- Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former Minnesota governor, proclaimed October Co-op Month.
- The first national theme in 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 co-ops that cooperatively market their dairy products. Organic Valley, Coot Creamery Cooperative, Land O' Lakes sound familiar? They're all Co-ops!

**Callout 1 Center plus whatever text is included in pullquote.**



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!





# REED Fund

## Helping Local Businesses and Organizations Thrive In Rural America

America was built on families coming together to make something of themselves by providing goods and services for the communities they belonged to. As a rural electric cooperative, Northern Electric Cooperative depends on local organizations and family-focused entrepreneurs and businesses to build the communities within the co-op service area. Electric co-ops are proud to provide programs and services to help those families succeed, including the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund.

The REED Fund provides business and community project financing in partnership with commercial and other economic development lenders to leverage private investments and make a difference in the region. Established in 1996 and governed by 22 electric cooperatives, REED assists projects that promote growth and contribute to job, business and wealth creation, as well as improve the infrastructure, community facilities/services and economic base of rural areas.

Here are some of businesses and organizations that the REED Fund has been able to help throughout South Dakota:

### Boys and Girls Club of Aberdeen Area

With the help of financing from Northern Electric Cooperative's REED Fund, the Boys & Girls Club of the Aberdeen Area officially opened the doors of its new building in 2017. The club had been housed in a county maintenance facility since 1970, so the move into something bigger and better was needed. A few of the features of the new building include separate classrooms, an education center, a larger dining hall, a teen room, a state-of-the-art gym, a robust security camera system and more.

### Dakota Butcher

Dakota Butcher, LLC has been a locally-owned family business since 2009, originally based in Clark, S.D. They have recently expanded their operations with two additional locations in Watertown. Not only is Dakota Butcher, LLC a full service meat locker that offers custom processing of beef, pork, lamb, buffalo and wild game, but also provides a wide variety of fresh and smoked products.

Dakota Butcher, LLC received a loan from Codington-Clark Electric's loan fund, the REED Fund. REED partnered with the SD Department of Ag to make financing for this expansion possible.

### Werkmeister Welding

Werkmeister Welding is a family-owned business in its third generation of family leadership located near Armour, S.D., population 699. It was founded in 1982 and is a leading manufacturer of high quality cattle feeding equipment. REED financing assisted in the construction of a new building. The company also purchased additional equipment and improved the manufacturing process flow to increase production.

Northern Electric Cooperative is dedicated to serving business and community initiatives within its territory. Visit [www.reedfund.coop](http://www.reedfund.coop) today to learn more about the program and its qualifications.

# WISHING FARMERS A **SAFE & PRODUCTIVE HARVEST**

Remember, contacting a power line with farm equipment is 100% preventable. Be aware of electrical equipment and always look up and around in the field this fall.



## KNOW WHAT TO DO **IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE**

*Harvest is a busy time for farmers.*

*If you do hit a power line — it's important you know exactly how to respond.*

### **STAY PUT**

Stay inside the cab. **DO NOT EXIT.** Call 911 and your electric cooperative for help and warn anyone nearby not to approach your equipment. Only exit the machinery after the authorities tell you that it is safe.

#### **WHY**

Exiting equipment that has contacted energized power lines can cause electrocution. The downed power lines could be charging the equipment with electricity and, if you step out, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be killed by electric shock.

— **OR** —

### **JUMP CLEAR**

If you must leave the equipment due to fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump with your **FEET TOGETHER** as far as possible from the equipment — then, hop (feet still together) at least 40 feet away.

#### **WHY**

Electricity spreads through the ground in ripples. Keeping your feet together prevents one foot from stepping into a higher voltage zone than the other foot, which could cause electrocution.

Together we are  
**RE-ENERGIZING FARM SAFETY**



Northern  
Electric  
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## 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

## September 28-29

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

## September 28-30

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

## September 29

Wheelin' to Wall, Main Street,  
Wall, SD, 605-685-3882

## September 29

Living History Fall Festival,  
Groton, SD, 605-715-7117

## September 29-30

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

Your local Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative presents the first

# LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

SDSU CAMPUS, BROOKINGS, S.D.

[yourcoopower.com/LivestockSummit](http://yourcoopower.com/LivestockSummit)



## 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

Agritourism Tours, Free,  
Brandon, SD; 605-681-6793 or  
SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

## October 6

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

## October 6

Third Annual Pumpkin Fest,  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m., City Park,  
Free activities for children,  
Alternate date is Oct. 7,  
Groton, SD, For more  
information, contact April  
Abeln at 605-397-8422

## October 11-12

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

## October 11-13

Wild West Songwriters  
Festival, Deadwood, SD,  
605-578-1876

## October 11-14

Great Scarecrow Festival,  
Huron, SD, 605-352-9781

## October 12

Pumpkin Fest and Parade of  
Lights, Webster, SD,  
605-345-4668

## October 13

Fall Craft Show, 10 a.m. to  
6 p.m., Mall, Aberdeen, SD

## 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, An Arts and  
Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD,  
402-331-2889

## November 8-10

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

## November 9

Hairball, Deadwood Mountain  
Grand, Deadwood, SD,  
605-559-1188

## November 9-11

Christmas at the Barn, A fun  
shopping event featuring  
handmade, new and vintage  
items, Front Porch605,  
Groton, SD, 605-216-4202

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.