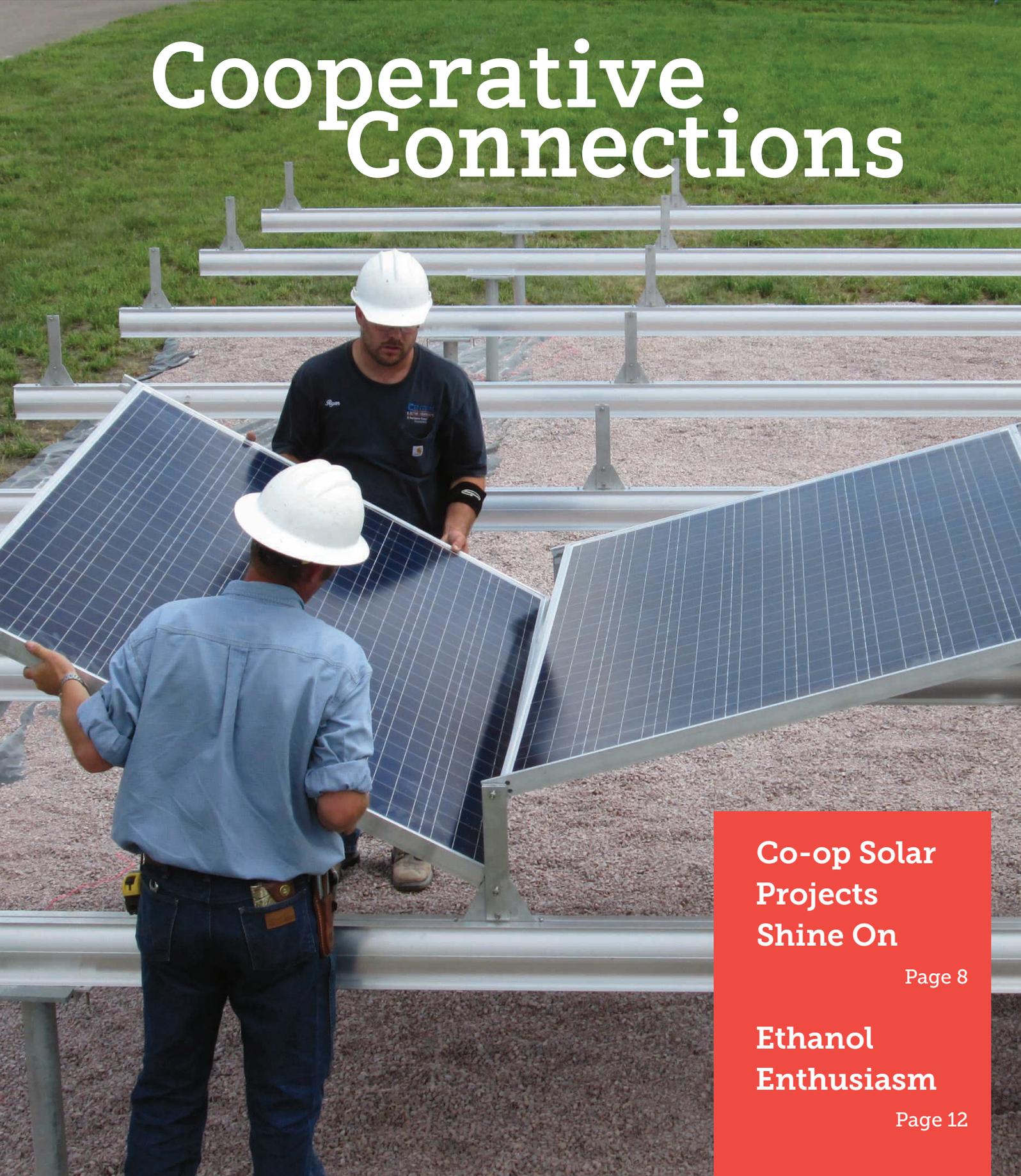


Cooperative Connections



**Co-op Solar
Projects
Shine On**

Page 8

**Ethanol
Enthusiasm**

Page 12

Summer Provides Opportunity To Connect With Community

Making Summertime Connections



Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

As a cooperative, we are owned and operated by your friends and neighbors which is why we are excited to see you out and about over the next few months.

Summertime in South Dakota means getting outside and enjoying the warm weather. Winters can be long, so we tend to cherish the few short months of sunshine and heat that we receive in this region. As we mow our lawns, go for evening walks, or do any other type of outdoor activity we enjoy meeting our neighbors and interacting with those in our communities. Summertime also presents your cooperative with more opportunities to connect with the communities we serve.

Northern Electric Cooperative participates in several events during the summer which gives us the chance to make those connections. One of the biggest events that gives us quality time with co-op members is the VIP Tour to North Dakota which just wrapped up at the end of June. This two-day tour gives members an up-close look at the generation resources that supply them with a consistent and reliable source of electricity every day. You can learn more about this event and see pictures from this year's tour on page 6.

In July, Northern Electric is participating in several events to connect with the community. Co-op employees are involved in different day camps in Brown and Spink counties to educate youth about safety on the farm. The co-op will also host first responders from Brown County during the month of July. This training is focused on teaching local personnel about electrical hazards they may encounter during an emergency and the proper response methods.

Community events in August will also give your co-op a chance to meet members and connect with neighbors. Northern Electric will continue to participate in the large National Night Out event organized by the Aberdeen Police Department on August 6. Northern Electric partners with several agencies across the area to teach kids and families about electricity and safety during this free family-friendly night at Melgaard Park.

Northern Electric will be at the 2019 Brown County Fair but this year there is a twist. Northern Electric is excited to partner with Lake Region Electric Association from Webster, FEM Electric Association from Ipswich, and Agtegra Cooperative to host a 'Farm Safety Party' on Thursday, August 15. This event was started by Agtegra during the 2018 fair to reach children and families with the important message of farm safety. You can read more about how the event got started and this new Brown County Fair partnership on pages 10-11 of this issue.

Of course, the summer will culminate on Thursday, September 5, when Northern Electric hosts the largest gathering of its members during the 2019 annual meeting. The annual meeting will again be at the Aberdeen Civic Arena. The theme of this year's meeting is 'Energizing Our Cooperative Future.' We are working on all the details right now so mark your calendars for September 5.

Summertime is one of the best times to connect with your friends and neighbors. Your co-op is no different. As a cooperative, we are owned and operated by your friends and neighbors which is why we are excited to see you out and about over the next few months at one of these community events.



(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Donna Sharp

Board of Directors

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

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.

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

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held June 20, 2019, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the Board approved the May 23, 2019, minutes and May 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 June 6 meeting. General Manager Char Hager reported on the East River MAC Meeting which she attended June 13 in Madison. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association Board Meeting will be June 27-28 in Pierre. Director Ronald Kaaz reported on the South Dakota Wind Energy Association Annual Membership Meeting which he attended May 30 at East River Electric. Director Ronald Kaaz will be serving as director on the association's board.

Manager's Report

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

- Update and discussion on development projects and activities taking place in the community and our service area.
- Brief update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund.
- Legal and Legislative Report
- Reminded the board that nominating petitions are due July 5, 2019.
- Informed directors that they must choose a representative for the Election and Credential Committee by the July board meeting.
- Informed directors of the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange Notice of Nomination and Election for electing indi-

JUNE BOARD REPORT

viduals as directors from Region 6, to be held September 11 in Milwaukee, WI.

- Discussed Livestock Seminar to be held at Aberdeen AGTEGRA Innovation Center on Thursday, July 18.

Board Report

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Wednesday, July 24, 2019.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$1,775.66.
3. Approved eight estate requests for out of order capital credit retirements totaling \$13,801.83.
4. Appointed Director Mark Sumption to represent the cooperative on the East River Electric Board for another term.
5. Authorized board attendance to the East River Annual Meeting September 4 in Sioux Falls.
6. Authorized limited board attendance to the 2019 NRECA, CFC, NISC, RESCO and Federated Regional Meetings, September 10-12, in Milwaukee, WI.
7. Authorized board attendance to the CFC Statewide Workshop for Directors July 16-17 in Pierre.
8. Authorized board attendance to the SDREA Co-op Board Leadership Conference July 29 in Pierre.
9. Approved a donation of \$500 for the Mellette Community Center.
10. Held Executive Session.

Please direct questions to your cooperative director, manager, or a co-op staff member.

Financial Report		May 2019	May 2018
kWh Sales		20,224,556 kWh	20,789,192 kWh
Electric Revenues		\$2,043,168	\$2,024,071
Total Cost of Service		\$2,063,327	\$2,018,961
Operating Margins		(-\$20,159)	\$5,110
Year To Date Margins		\$485,123	\$236,726
Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill			
May 2019	1,575 kWh	\$181.84	.1155 per kWh
May 2018	1,394 kWh	\$174.61	.1253 per kWh
Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 82.0% of NEC's total cost of service.			

Electrical Safety During Disasters

Electricity drives the modern world and we often take it for granted. And if a natural disaster occurs, there's a few things to remember to stay electrically safe during the storm.

- Before the storm hits, make sure to charge all phones and other communication devices. Then, unplug all electronics and move them as high as possible to avoid water damage from flooding.
- Turn off the main power breaker feeding the home to prevent any surges to the wiring and equipment.
- After the storm blows through, and you begin to evaluate the aftermath, it's important to avoid flooded areas as they may be electrified.
- Do not use any electrical equipment or electronics if they've been submerged.
- If flooding has occurred, have the electrical system inspected by a qualified electrical inspector.
- If you're using a generator, ensure a qualified electrician installed it and make sure to use a listed and approved transfer switch and GFCI protection.
- It's a good idea to protect your home with carbon monoxide detectors.
- When venturing outside, be very alert of your surroundings. If you encounter a fallen power line, stay at least 35 feet away. Avoid touching any objects the line may be laying on such as a fence, a car, or a light pole as the object could be energized.
- If others are around, alert them to stay away and call 911.

While storms can be devastating to a community, the aftermath can be challenging. However, could be an opportunity to renovate and upgrade your main power source with renewable energy such as solar.

Floodwaters and heavy winds aren't the only hazards during a storm. That's why it's important to treat electricity with extreme caution.

Source: esfi.org

Come visit your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives at one of these events!

MINNESOTA

FARMFEST®

Aug. 6-7
Gilfillan Estate
28269 MN-67
Morgan, MN

Aug. 20-22

2300 E Spruce St.
Mitchell, SD

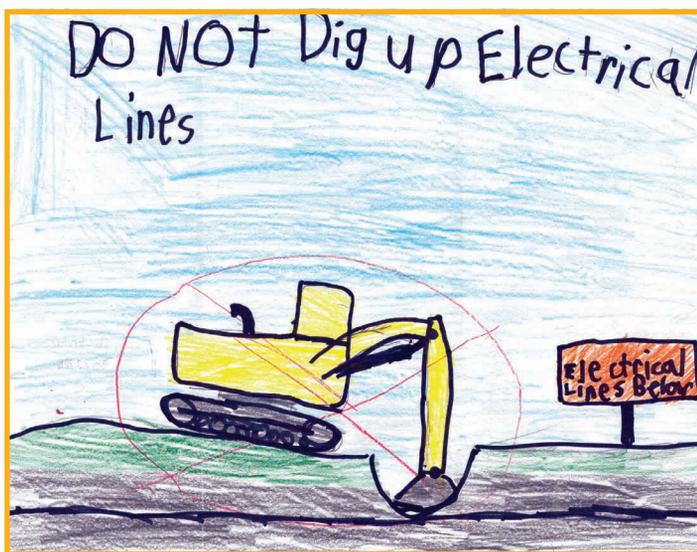
DAKOTAFEST®



Aug. 29-Sept. 2
1060 Third St. SW, Huron, SD

We'll see you there!

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Do not dig up electrical lines."

Luke Kangas, 9 years old

Luke is the son 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.



Very Vegetarian

Southwest Brunch Casserole

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2 T. oil | 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 6 eggs |
| 1 red bell pepper, chopped | 2 cups milk |
| 1 (8 oz.) loaf Italian bread, cut into 1-inch cubes (5 cups) | 1 tsp. chili powder |
| 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed | 2 tsp. ground oregano |
| 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese | 1 tsp. ground cumin |
| | 1 tsp. salt |

Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Add onion and bell pepper; cook and stir 3 minutes or until softened. Spread 1/2 of the bread cubes in 13x9-inch baking dish. Layer with 1/2 each of the onion mixture, beans, Cheddar cheese and Monterey Jack cheese. Repeat layers. Beat eggs in medium bowl until foamy. Add milk, chili powder, oregano, cumin and salt; beat until well blended. Pour evenly over top. Press bread cubes lightly into egg mixture until completely covered. Let stand 10 minutes. Bake at 350°F. for 40 to 50 minutes or until center is set and top is golden brown. Makes 12 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 275, Total Fat 15g, Sodium 633mg, Cholesterol 121mg, Carbohydrates 21g, Protein 14g, Fiber 3g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Black Bean Burgers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 (15 oz.) can black beans, rinsed and drained | 2 T. seeded, minced jalapeno pepper (or pepper of choice) |
| 1-3/4 cups diced onion | 3/4 tsp. salt |
| 1-1/2 cups uncooked regular oats | 2 large eggs, lightly beaten |
| 3/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro | 1/4 cup all-purpose flour |
| | 1/4 cup cornmeal |

In a large bowl, coarsely mash beans with a fork. Add next 6 ingredients; stir well. Shape into 8 patties. Combine flour and cornmeal in a pie plate; stir well. Dredge patties in mixture. Cook patties in a small amount of oil over medium-high heat until lightly browned – about 5 minutes on each side.

Darcy Bracken, Hermosa, SD

Baked Pineapple

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 cup sugar | 2 cups grated Cheddar cheese |
| 6 T. flour | 1 stick butter, melted |
| 5 T. pineapple juice | 1/2 cup cornflake crumbs |
| 2 cans pineapple tidbits, drain, reserving juice | |

Mix together sugar, flour and pineapple juice. Add pineapple and cheese. Place in a greased casserole dish. Combine butter and cornflake crumbs; sprinkle over all. Bake at 350°F. until brown and bubbly. Serve hot or cold.

Verna Nelson, Wakonda, SD

Bean 'n' Butter Bread

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans | 1 egg, beaten |
| 1/3 vegetable oil | 1 cup hot water |
| 1/3 cup peanut butter | 3 pkgs. yeast |
| 1/3 cup molasses | 4 cups all-purpose flour |
| 3 T. sugar | 1 cup whole wheat flour |
| 1 tsp. salt | Egg white |

Place first 7 ingredients in blender; blend until smooth. Pour into large mixing bowl. Stir in hot water. Combine yeast and 4 cups flour. Add to bean mixture, mixing well. Add wheat flour. Work in to form a stiff dough. Let rise 1-1/2 hours. Punch down and let rise 15 minutes. Shape into 2 loaves, placing on a greased cookie sheet. Mix egg white with 2 T. water for egg wash. Brush on loaves. Make 1/8-inch slash every 2-1/2 inches apart. Bake at 350°F. for 55 minutes. You may use crunchy peanut butter or add sunflower seeds.

Anne Burlison, Lead, SD

Please send your favorite garden produce, pasta and slow cooker recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Members Go Behind The Switch During VIP Tour

Tour Shows Members How Electricity Is Generated

Ben Dunsmoor

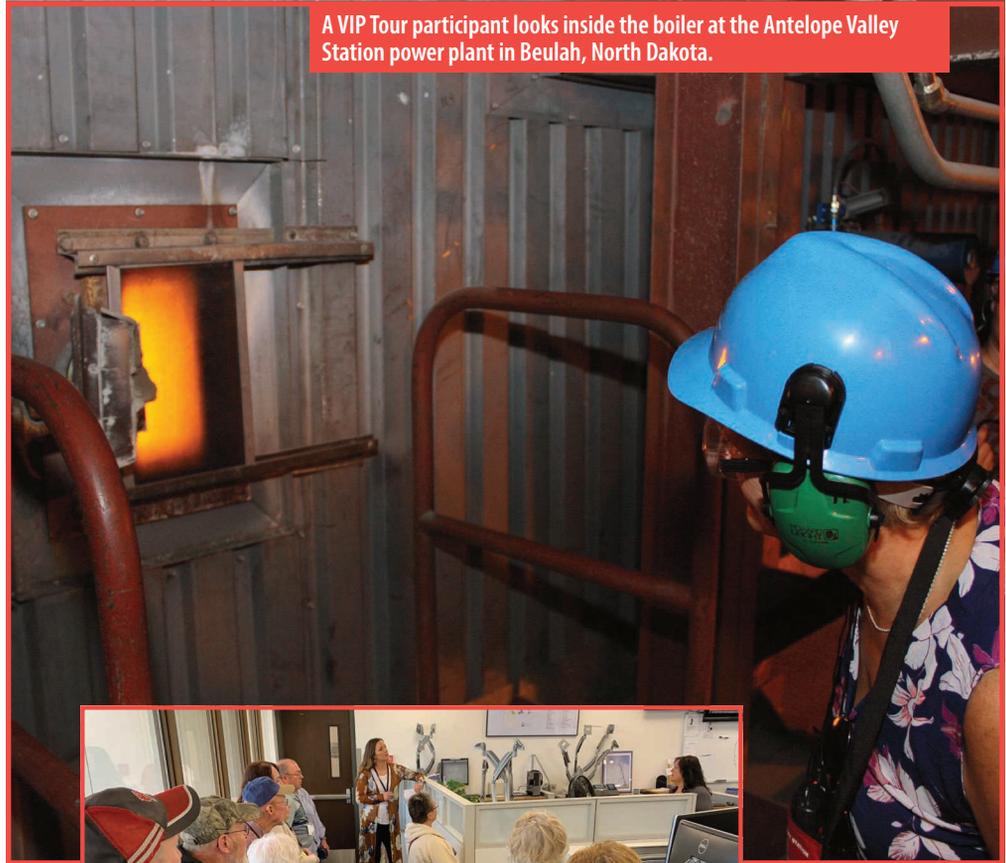
bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Northern Electric members got to see what it takes to generate and deliver electricity across the region during the 2019 VIP Tour to North Dakota. More than 30 members and their guests traveled to North Dakota June 25-26 to tour the resources that power their homes, farms and businesses.

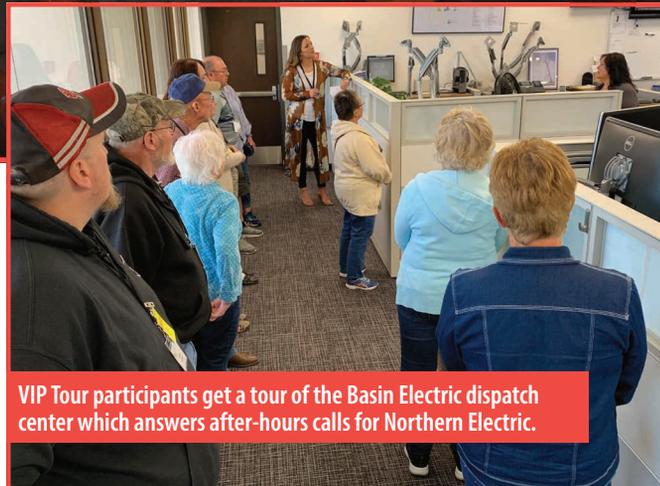
The VIP Tour is a free annual event sponsored by Northern Electric.

During the 2019 tour, members visited the Basin Electric Power Cooperative headquarters in Bismarck. Basin Electric supplies wholesale power to 141 member cooperatives including Northern Electric. Members also visited the Garrison Dam on the Missouri River which generates hydropower, the Antelope Valley Station power plant in Beulah, North Dakota, and the Coteau Properties Freedom Mine.

The VIP Tour is a free annual event sponsored by Northern Electric so members can get a better understanding of the process of generating and distributing electricity to the end consumer. The VIP Tour is typically scheduled at the end of June and is open to all Northern Electric co-op members. For more information on the tour and the application process visit www.northernelectric.coop/viptour.



A VIP Tour participant looks inside the boiler at the Antelope Valley Station power plant in Beulah, North Dakota.



VIP Tour participants get a tour of the Basin Electric dispatch center which answers after-hours calls for Northern Electric.

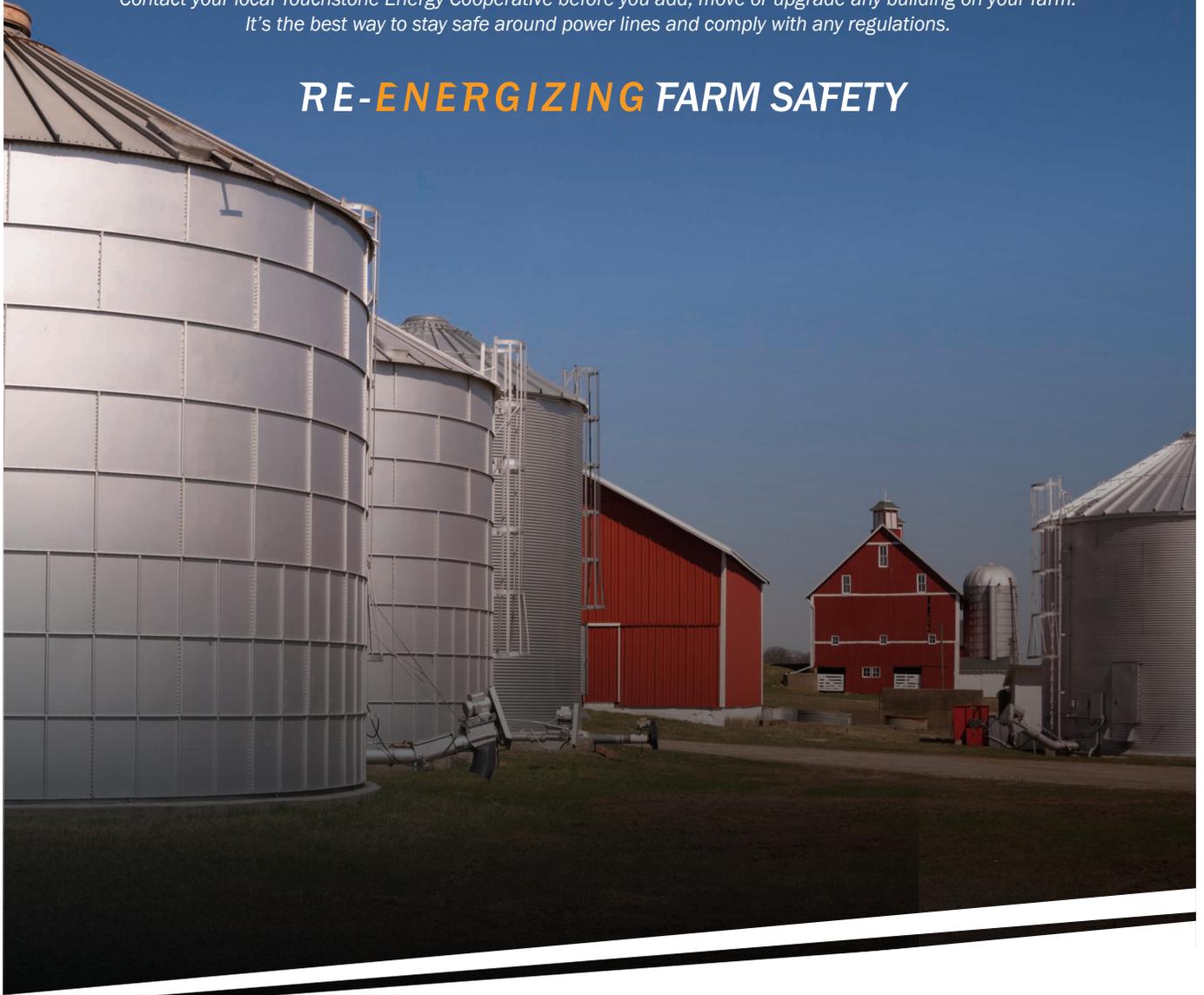


More than 30 Northern Electric members and their guests attended the 2019 VIP Tour to North Dakota.

ADDING A NEW GRAIN BIN? MAKE THE SAFE CALL.

Contact your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative before you add, move or upgrade any building on your farm.
It's the best way to stay safe around power lines and comply with any regulations.

RE-ENERGIZING FARM SAFETY





Central Electric's Prairie Solar project can be seen in front of the co-op's office along Betts Road west of Mitchell, S.D. On the Cover: Central Electric employees install the Prairie Solar project in 2015.

BRIGHT LESSONS

Co-op Solar Projects Help Educate, Inform

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Co-op members across the area are able to get firsthand information about solar energy straight from their electric cooperatives.

“There were a number of vendors in the region promoting various technologies. We wanted to provide accurate, real-time information to our members. Our role as a trusted energy expert made us want to educate ourselves on behalf of the members,” said Brian Jeremiason, manager of marketing and external relations at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn.

So, in late December 2015, Lyon-Lincoln Electric installed its 8.4 kW AC solar system. The small project was designed to match a typical residential load for the southwestern Minnesota cooperative. The project consists of 28, 400 watt panels, each measuring 52.5 inches by 78 inches. The entire array measures 45.5 feet by 28 feet.

“It’s provided information about expected production versus actual production,” said Jeremiason, who noted that actual production for the system’s first three years has been “about 80 percent of what our vendor projected.”

Aside from a few inverters that failed within the system’s first two years, Jeremiason said the system has been mostly maintenance free.

An important lesson learned for the co-op was that companies in the industry tend to go out of business overnight.

“Overall, while the financial payback is long, it’s been a benefit to the cooperative members as an educational tool,” said Jeremiason.

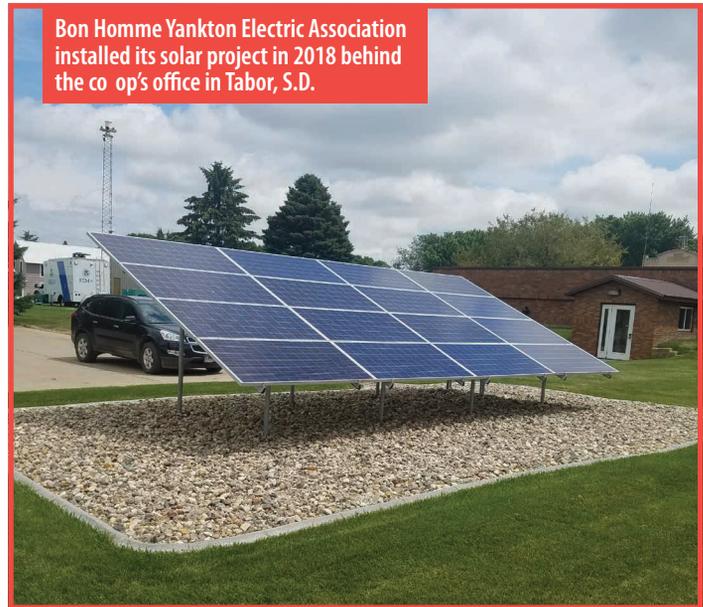


Photo by Bob Felber/Bon Homme-Yankton Electric

Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., also installed a solar project in 2015 to learn firsthand how to plan and construct such a project and also how well it would perform in the area around Mitchell.

Similar to Lyon-Lincoln’s experience, the vendor the co-op used went out of business shortly after installation.

Fortunately, there has been little maintenance or upkeep needed for the system.

“The solar industry is still in its infancy and experiencing growth and change,” said Central Electric General Manager Ken Schlimgen. “As a result, the names in the industry come and go and the solar equipment you see today will be obsolete in a few years.”

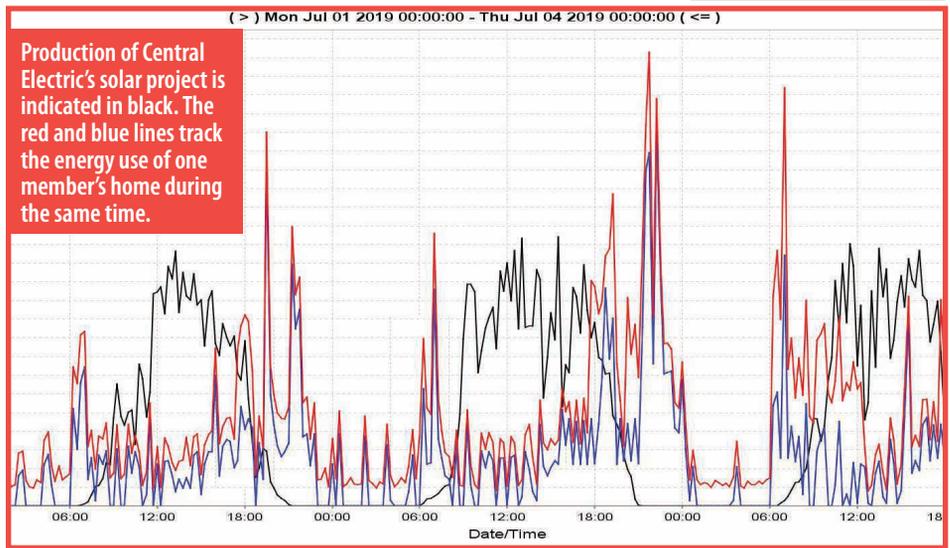
One lesson the co-op learned was to double check with building requirements in your county. The ground-mounted system they installed required a Davison County building permit.

A second lesson learned was the impact of cloud cover on the system.

“Any type of cloud cover reduces the kilowatt hour production of the system,” said Schlimgen.

“I believe the project has helped our employees better understand the equipment used in solar projects. We can also compare the production of our solar project and overlay that information onto a members actual consumption. This allows the member to better understand when a solar system would be offsetting their purchases and when they would still need to make purchases of electricity. Our solar project also helps to provide sizing information to members who are asking questions about installing solar,” said Schlimgen.

Central Electric’s Manager of Marketing and Member Services Patrick Soukup noted, “One of the biggest lessons that I had to learn is about time of use versus time of production. Once we overlaid the graphs together, it’s apparent how



solar works in our typical day and how important sizing the system to your needs would be.”

While the co-op invested more than \$32,000 in the system, the returns on the investment from an educational perspective have been worthwhile.

“The investment we had and the data collected is just priceless,” Soukup said.

Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, S.D., has the largest of the solar demonstration projects installed at its Brandon, S.D., service center. The cooperative constructed its 24.8-kilowatt project in April 2015 and had it operational by May 1 of that year. The project’s 80 panels were faced south, southwest and west, which allowed the co-op to examine how the orientations affected production.

“The output is very close to what was

planned. The difference in the output from facing the panels three different directions has allowed us to learn about which orientation will better match up with a member’s usage patterns. The project was fairly easy to assemble,” said Ted Smith, Sioux Valley Energy’s director of engineering and operations.

The entire array was installed for about \$3 per watt. In the project’s first four years, it produced 126,201 kilowatt hours, with a projected payback of 16 to 20 years. (The estimated life of the array is between 30 and 50 years.)

The new kid on the co-op solar block is Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association in Tabor, S.D, which installed its 5kw system in July 2018. The co-op publishes the project’s output each month in their magazine.



Solar panels at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn., have helped the co op answer members’ questions about the resource.

Photo by Brian Jeremiason/Lyon-Lincoln Electric

Photo by Central Electric



Agtegra Cooperative is partnering with local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to throw a Farm Safety Party on August 15 during the Brown County Fair.

FARM SAFETY AT THE FAIR

August 15 Farm Safety Party Takes A Fun Approach To Important Topic

Large equipment, big grain bins, and high-voltage electrical infrastructure can be found on the typical family farm in South Dakota. All those things play a key role in increasing efficiency and productivity on the farm. However, those items also need to be treated with a healthy level of respect and operated in a safe manner. It is the reason Agtegra Cooperative and three local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are teaming up to host a Farm Safety Party for kids and families at the 2019 Brown County Fair.

“The Brown County Fair is the perfect place to reach families with the important message of farm safety,” Northern Electric Cooperative Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor said.

Northern Electric Cooperative along with FEM Electric Association and Lake Region Electric Association are partnering with Agtegra Cooperative to bring an electrical safety component to the four-hour farm safety event on August 15. Agtegra launched the Farm Safety Party for the first-time last year.

An ATV safety simulator will be one of the demonstrations during the Farm Safety Party at the 2019 Brown County Fair.



“We were thrilled with the amount of positive feedback this event received from parents, community members, and fair board members,” Agtegra Employee Communications Coordinator Ashlee Kienow said.

The free event includes several activities and games to teach children and their family members about safety and the various hazards they can encounter on the farm. The Farm Safety Party will feature grain engulfment rescue training demonstrations for adults 18 and older, an ATV safety simulator, electrical safety demon-

strations, a safety gear dress-up booth, and a grain sensory station.

“Throughout our territory, children are surrounded by farms, equipment and livestock. By throwing a Farm Safety Party, we created a fun environment to educate hundreds of children on the basics of farm safety,” Kienow said.

Electric co-ops are joining the party this year because safety around power lines continues to be a big concern as the size of farm equipment continues to increase.

“Our local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives were looking for a new and fun way to connect with children and families at the Brown County Fair. We are excited to partner with Agtegra this year and offer electrical safety demonstrations during this great event,” Dunsmoor said.

The Farm Safety Party will be held in the ‘Kid’s Zone’ at the Brown County Fair which is on the southwest side of the Holum Expo Building. The party gets started at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 15, and it will continue until 2 p.m. in the afternoon. The event is free and is open to anyone who is attending the Brown County Fair.

“By throwing a Farm Safety Party, we created a fun environment to educate hundreds of children on the basics of farm safety.”



Families will learn about electrical safety during the Farm Safety Party at the 2019 Brown County Fair.

FARM SAFETY PARTY



AUGUST 15

Kid’s Zone @ Brown County Fair

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Grain Bin Safety
- Electrical Safety
- ATV Safety
- Safety Gear Dress Up

presented by:



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Ethanol in South Dakota

Courtney Deinert

cdeinert@centralec.coop

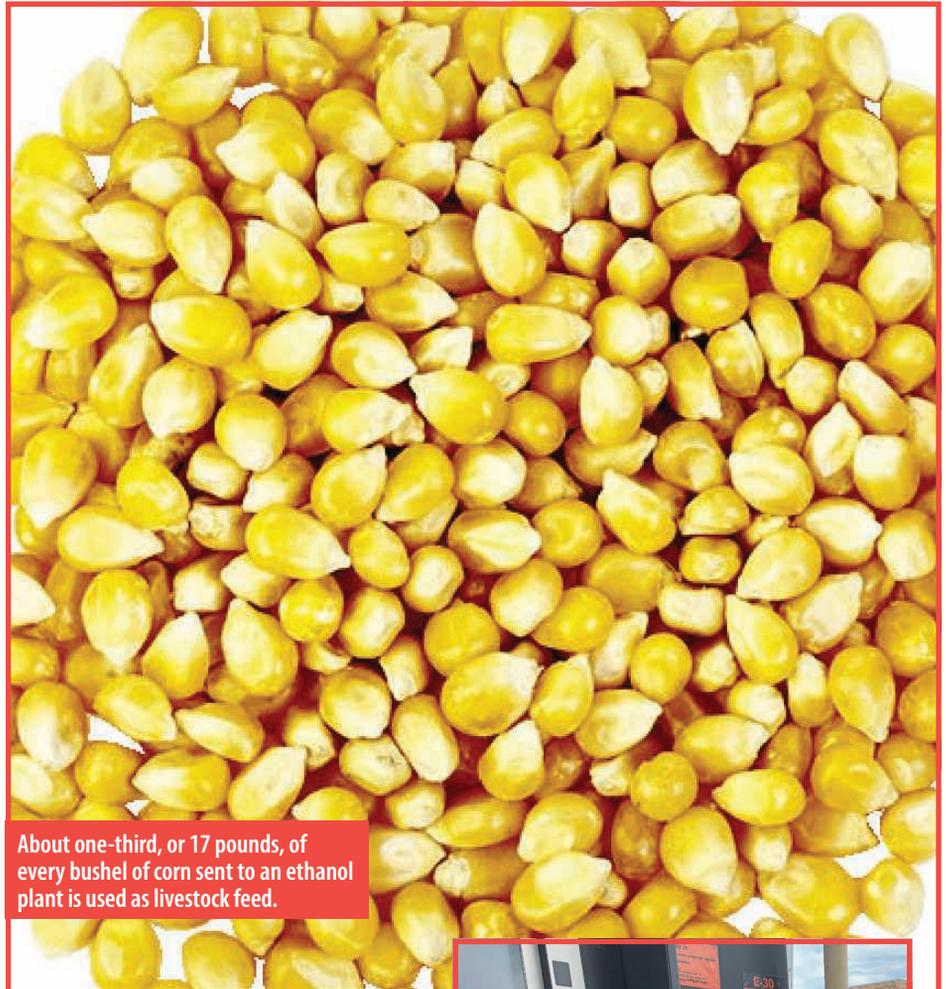
Ethanol production continues to increase with a new large facility added every other year or so.

The ethanol industry in South Dakota began a little more than 30 years ago when Jeff Broin and his family purchased a foreclosed ethanol plant in 1988 near Scotland, S.D.

The Broin family had been distilling ethanol as a way to make a little extra money on the farm after the 1970s, when corn production cost more than producers could sell it for. By purchasing the plant, the family had an opportunity to expand their process. This initial plant near Scotland became the pilot for POET Biorefining and is currently one of 15 operating plants in the state.

Last year, South Dakota ranked 6th nationally in ethanol production capacity and provided 7 percent of the nation's total ethanol production.

Rural South Dakotans know that in addition to providing an alternative fuel source, ethanol provides an additional market for corn producers. From 2002 to 2012, gross corn use for ethanol production increased from less than 10 percent to more than 40 percent (and the production process does kick back distiller grain to alleviate the need for corn and soybean meal for livestock). The same study claims for every 10 percent increase in ethanol production (or 1 billion gallons), average



About one-third, or 17 pounds, of every bushel of corn sent to an ethanol plant is used as livestock feed.

long-run corn prices increase by 2 percent to 3 percent (based on production from 2008-2013).

Impact on Electric Cooperatives

Ethanol has also impacted local electric cooperatives. East River Electric Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Madison, S.D., includes a number of ethanol plants located within its system, and more than 11 percent of East River kilowatt hour (kWh) sales go to large ethanol production plants.

“Ethanol production continues to increase – with a new large facility added every other year or so over the last 15 years,” says Michael Volker, manager of rates and treasury at East



Blender pumps at South Dakota gas stations offer drivers a variety of choices of ethanol blends.

Ethanol Plants in South Dakota

Company	City	Production Capacity MGY (million gallons/year)	Operating Production	Under Expansion MGY (million gallons/year)
ABE South Dakota LLC	Aberdeen	53	53	
ABE South Dakota LLC	Huron	32	32	
Dakota Ethanol LLC	Wentworth	48	48	
Glacial Lakes Energy LLC	Mina	100	100	
Glacial Lakes Energy LLC	Watertown	120	120	
NuGen Energy LLC	Marion	130	130	
POET Biorefining – Big Stone LLC	Big Stone City	79	79	
POET Biorefining – Chancellor LLC	Chancellor	110	110	
POET Biorefining – Groton LLC	Groton	53	53	
POET Biorefining – Hudson LLC	Hudson	56	56	
POET Biorefining – Mitchell LLC	Mitchell	68	68	
POET Research Center	Scotland	11	11	
Red River Energy LLC	Rosholt	25	25	
Redfield Energy LLC	Redfield	60	60	
Ringneck Energy & Feed LLC	Onida	-	-	80
Valero Renewable Fuels Co. LLC	Aurora	135	135	

River. Currently, there are new plants being constructed near Onida and Yankton, S.D.

The plants specifically served by East River and its member cooperatives can produce more than 500 million gallons of ethanol per year and consume approximately 200 million bushels of locally grown corn.

Flex Fuels

South Dakota is a national leader in its use of ethanol in the state vehicle fleet. In 2017, South Dakota ranked third nationally in the gallons of E85 consumed by state fleet (behind No. 1 Texas and No. 2 Maryland).

Of the state fleet, approximately 65 percent use a blend of ethanol, from E15 to E85. In early 2019, Gov. Kristi Noem announced her intent to transition the state fleet to E30.

For the public, there are 87 stations in South Dakota that offer E85 (ethanol-gasoline blends containing 51 percent to 83 percent ethanol). Of the stations, 41 include some mid-level blend such as E15 or E30.

While E85 can only be used in flex fuel vehicles (FFVs), the EPA approved the use of E15 (gasoline blended with up to 15 percent ethanol) in model year 2001 and newer cars, light-duty trucks, medium-duty passenger vehicles (SUVs) and all FFVs. This includes approximately nine out of 10 of the vehicles on the road today.

On May 31, 2019, the EPA signed into action the rule allowing E15 to be sold

year-round, including the summer months and peak driving season, rather than eight months out of the year.

“For the ethanol industry and farmers, this means greater market access – more ethanol demand over the long term as additional retailers begin offering E15,” Brian Jennings, CEO of the American Coalition for Ethanol, responded after the EPA announcement.

Consumers will also see E15 marketed as “Unleaded 88” at the gas pumps.

Byproducts

According to ACE, about one third, or 17 pounds, of every bushel of corn sent to an ethanol plant is used as livestock feed. The kernels of corn are made of starch, protein and fiber. The protein stays in the food supply in the form of a high-quality feed called DDGS (Dry Distillers Grains with Solubles.) The concentrated corn protein is a high-value feed product for cattle, hogs and poultry. The ethanol production process uses only the corn’s starch (carbohydrates.)

For the ethanol industry and farmers, this means greater market access – more ethanol demand over the long term as additional retailers begin offering E15.

Know what's below Call **811** before you dig.



AUGUST 11

Date Reminds Everyone to Call Before You Dig

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Three simple numbers on the phone – 8-1-1 – or a few keystrokes on a computer to www.SD811.com can potentially save your life – or your wallet - if you're planning any digging project.

The call, or click, takes you to the 811 One Call locate program to determine if any underground utilities are in close proximity to your project. Not only is it a good idea, it's also the law.

"You've got the dangerous ones – digging into power or gas can be quite dangerous," said Larry Janes, executive director of the South Dakota 8-1-1, explaining the importance of always calling before one digs.

"Then fiber can be expensive if you cut a fiber line," said Janes. He also noted that one should never look into the ends of a fiber line as the laser going through the fiber can burn one's retina.

Each year, 150,000 locates are requested in South Dakota, which result in more than 800,000 locates being done.

Janes said that each locate request typically

Half of All Damages Occur in Summer

50 percent of reported damages occurred between June and September in 2017.



2017 DIRT Report • CommonGroundAlliance.com/DIRT

will generate locates for water, electrical and natural gas. Add in communications, and other facilities, and the number of locates generated by just one request expands.

“I’ve seen as many as 14 utilities on one locate ticket in Sioux Falls,” Janes said.

However, Janes notes, not all facilities are located.

“Only those utilities that are registered are located,” he said, noting that services entering the public right-of-way should be registered. However, sometimes private agriculture services such as drain tile aren’t always registered (but should be.)

Registering the facilities is also a good financial idea.

“If it’s not registered, then the digger isn’t liable,” said Janes.

Private home owners’ lines – whether electrical from the meter to buildings or propane lines or even water between the water meter and the buildings - are not located by the One Call ticket. Home-owners are responsible for getting those lines marked.

When planning a digging project, the request for a locate needs to be made at least two business before the digging is planned to be started. So, a project to start on a Monday morning would need to be called in by Wednesday night.

More than 60 percent of all locate requests are done online at www.811.com, Janes said.

Once the locates are done, those digging need to hand-dig in the area 18 inches (in Minnesota the distance is 24 inches) from the mark.

“The tolerance zone is there to protect the person doing the work,” Janes said

“If they’re working anywhere near markers on the ground, they should hand dig over those marks to expose those facilities.

While all instances of digging need to be called in for a locate, there are some that are more worrisome for Janes.

“If someone’s putting in a culvert or drain tile that can go five to six feet deep – that really worries me. It would be very easy to get into something,” Janes said.

EVERY DIG COUNTS!

Fewer than half of Americans believe they need to call 811 before simple projects like:

- Installing deck or patio
- Planting trees, bushes and shrubs
- Installing a mailbox

2018 CGA Awareness Research

CommonGroundAlliance.com

One misconception he’s encountered is that people will see markers in road ditches indicating that water lines or gas pipelines are in the area.

“Don’t rely on eyeballing those markers,” Janes said. “They are not locates – they’re just saying that something is in the general vicinity.”

Even smaller jobs need to be located.

“I’ll get calls in the spring from homeowners wanting to put in a garden wondering if they need to call for a locate. I say it’s a good idea to call. It’s free to the homeowner to have the locate,” Janes said.

“Its always better to be safe rather than wishing it had been done,” said Janes.

The bottom line is pretty clear-cut for Janes: “Be safe. Know what’s below and call before you dig.”

UNIFORM COLOR CODE
FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES

	PROPOSED EXCAVATION
	ELECTRIC POWER LINES, CABLES, CONDUIT AND LIGHTING CABLES
	GAS, OIL, STEAM, PETROLEUM OR GASEOUS MATERIALS
	COMMUNICATION, ALARM OR SIGNAL LINES, CABLES OR CONDUIT
	POTABLE WATER
	RECLAIMED WATER, IRRIGATION AND SLURRY LINES
	SEWERS AND DRAIN LINES
	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

DATELINE

July 19-21

Stampede Rodeo, Burke, SD,
605-830-0304

July 19-21

Annual Festival in the Park,
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

July 20-11

Hills Alive, Rapid City, SD,
605-342-6822

July 20-21

JazzFest, Sioux Falls, SD,
605-335-6101

July 23-27

Days of '76 Rodeo and
Parades, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

July 24-27

Senior Games, Rapid City,
SD, Contact Kristi Lintz at
605-394-4268

July 26-27

Rock-N-Rumble Motorcycle
Rally, Yankton, SD,
605-665-3636

July 26-27

Senior Games, Brookings,
SD, Contact Traci Saugstad at
605-692-4492

July 26-28

Annual Bruce Honey Days,
Bruce, SD, 605-627-5671

July 27

16th Annual Make-a-Wish
Poker Run, Starting at Biegler
Motor Sports and ending at
Harley Davidson, Aberdeen,
SD, 605-225-7262 or
605-228-0604

July 27

Folk Off & Rib Challenge,
Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

July 27

Miner Music Festival, Hill City,
SD, 605-574-2886



July 27

South Dakota Chislic Festival,
Freeman, SD, 605-925-4444

August 2-4

Sioux River Folk Festival,
Canton, SD, 605-261-7414

August 2-10

Sioux Empire Fair, Sioux Falls,
SD, 605-367-7178

August 2-11

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally,
Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800

August 3

Foothills Classic Car & Tractor
Show, Wessington Springs,
SD, 605-539-1805

August 3-4

Senior Games, Yankton,
SD, Contact Brittany Orr at
605-668-5234

August 9-10

Senior Games, Huron, SD,
Contact LaRon Clock at
605-353-8533 or Howard Bich
at 605-491-0635

August 9-10

Senior Softball Tournament,
Huron, SD, Contact Scott
Mckaskell at 605-354-2237

August 10-11

Threshing Show, Twin Brooks,
SD, 605-432-9487

August 12-18

Brown County Fair, Aberdeen
SD, 605-626-7116

August 16-18

Riverboat Days, Yankton, SD,
605-665-1657

August 16-25

Central States Fair & Rodeo,
Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

August 17-18

Threshing Bee, Rosholt, SD,
605-537-4426

August 20-22

Dakotafest, Mitchell, SD,
800-827-8007

**August 16-18: Black Hills Threshing
Bee, Sturgis SD, 605-490-2024**

August 21-25

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

August 22-24

Senior Games, Watertown,
Contact Andrew Magedanz at
605-949-0028

August 22-25

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

**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.**