

Northern Electric

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

March 2020 Vol. 20 No. 11

Cooperative
Connections

United States®
**Census
2020**

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Be Counted.
It Matters.**

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Co-ops Collaborate to Make Communities Better

We're All On The Same Team



Ben Dunsmoor

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When you hear about your local co-op contributing to a local cause or a community event you can be proud, because we are all on the same team.

What qualities do you think about when you think about a team?

If you recently watched the Super Bowl, you know a team cannot win the biggest game of the year with eleven quarterbacks on the field. Linemen need to block, receivers need to catch, and defenders must tackle to win the game. A team consists of people with different skills who work together to achieve a goal. It is difficult for a team to function if everyone has the same skill sets.

Your local electric cooperatives are always working as a team to deliver safe and reliable electricity to your home, farm, or business. We are also working as a team to make the communities we serve better places to live.

First off, most electric cooperatives in South Dakota operate under a three-tier power delivery system. Northern Electric is a distribution cooperative. We build and maintain power lines from electrical substations to homes, farms, and businesses to serve members at the end of the line. That is Northern Electric's role on the cooperative team.

East River Electric Power Cooperative, which is based in Madison, South Dakota, owns and maintains the substations and the large transmission lines which deliver wholesale electricity to co-op substations throughout eastern South Dakota. Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which is headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota, owns the power plants, wind farms, and electric generation resources which create the electricity you use every day. This system ensures a safe and reliable supply of electricity is available whenever you need to turn on a light or power up an appliance.

If this power delivery system did not exist, it would be very difficult and expensive for local individual distribution cooperatives to build power plants and operate large transmission lines and substations. Since South Dakota's electric cooperatives are on the same team, we were able to come together several decades ago to create generation and transmission co-ops like East River and Basin Electric to operate a complex electrical grid and ensure electricity is available when you need it.

This cooperative teamwork, however, does not stop at providing electricity to our members. This cooperative teamwork also shines when it is time to make our communities better. As you will read on pages 6-7 of this issue of *Cooperative Connections*, Basin Electric recently donated thousands of dollars to the Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District. The organization requested money for a new power cot which will make it easier for volunteers to respond to emergencies and create a more comfortable experience for patients. The donation is just one example of electric co-ops working as a team to make our communities better places to live, work and play.

Throughout the year, Northern Electric Cooperative collaborates with other co-ops to donate to local causes and organizations. We also team up with neighboring co-ops to promote safety and efficiency through regional marketing campaigns, we join forces for community events like the Brown County Fair, and when storms roll through the area our line crews team up to restore power as quickly and as safely as possible.

As members of Northern Electric Cooperative, you also belong to this team. So, when you hear about your local co-op contributing to a local cause or a community event you can be proud, because we are all on the same team.



(USPS 396-040)

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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 January 23, 2020, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the December 19, 2019, minutes and December expenditures. The board then reviewed and 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 its January 2, 2020 meeting. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported on the SDREA January 15-17, 2020, board meeting. Directors Nolan Wipf, Mark Sumption, General Manager Char Hager and Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor reported on the SDREA Annual Meeting, which was held January 16-17, 2020, in Pierre.

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.
- Reminder that the 2020 East River Energize Forum will be February 5-6, in Sioux Falls.
- Reminder that the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting will be February 27-March 4, 2020, in New Orleans, LA.
- Informed the board of the CFC Forum, June 15-17, 2020, in Salt Lake City, UT.
- Informed the board that effective January 1, 2020, the IRS mileage reimbursement will decrease from 58 cents to 57.5 cents.

Board Report

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Held Executive Session.
2. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, February 20, 2020.
3. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$543.15.
4. Approved Work Order Inventories #19-12 for \$444,414.87 and #19-12MC for \$123,145.51 to be submitted to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
5. Authorized attendance to Co-op Day at the Capitol, February 18, 2020, Pierre.
6. Authorized attendance to the 2020 NRECA Legislative Conference, April 26-28, in Washington, DC.
7. Authorized board attendance to the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Courses, March 9-11, 2020, in Pierre.
8. Authorized filing the doc-less interventions relating to future Basin Electric Cooperative FERC re-filing.
9. Postpone updates to various policies until the February 20 board meeting.
10. Authorized board attendance to the New Director Orientation, March 17-19, 2020, in Arlington, VA.
11. Approved the 2020 Operating Budget.

Talk to your director or co-op manager if you have questions on any of these matters.

Financial Report		December 2019	December 2018
kWh Sales		34,474,859 kWh	29,976,571 kWh
Electric Revenues		\$2,892,223	\$2,537,827
Total Cost of Service		\$2,625,897	\$2,415,269
Operating Margins		\$266,327	\$122,558
Year To Date Margins		\$881,481	\$3,716,372
Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill			
December 2019	3,911 kWh	\$323.53	.0827 per kWh
December 2018	3,230 kWh	\$275.84	.0854 per kWh
Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 84.2% of NEC's total cost of service.			

Extension Cord Safety Tips

Not enough cord for your lamp or radio to reach the nearest outlet? Just plowing through the junk drawer for an extension cord? This may not be a good idea. Extension cords can be very helpful in delivering power right where we need it. However, regardless of the gauge or rating of the cord, an extension cord is a temporary solution, and is not meant to be used as a long-term extension of your household's electrical system.

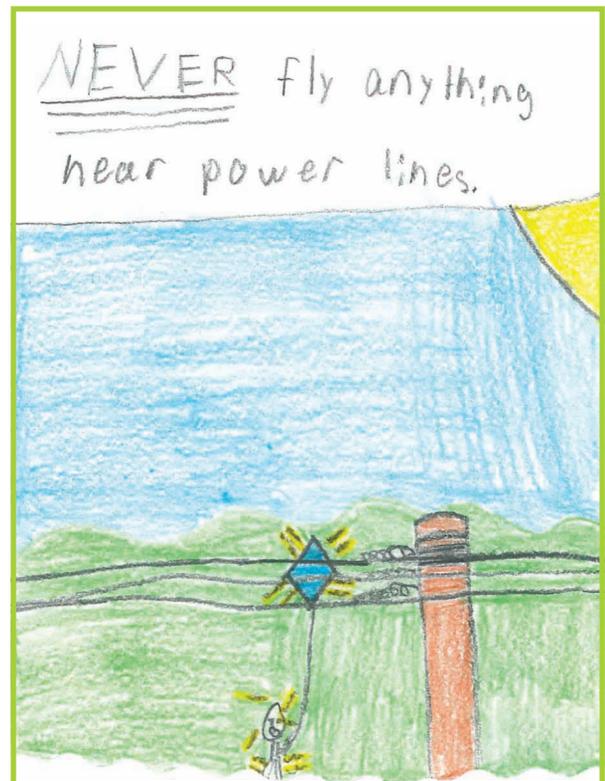
Using extension cords properly is critical to your safety. With continuous use over time, an extension cord can rapidly deteriorate, creating a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips for staying safe from electric shock and electrical fires:

- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.
- Do not substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- Do not run through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a fire hazard.
- Do not use an extension cord for more than one appliance.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.
- Multiple plug outlets must be plugged directly into mounted electrical receptacles; they cannot be chained together.
- Make sure the extension cord or temporary power strip you use is rated for the products to be plugged in and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- The appliance or tool that you are using the cord with will have a wattage rating on it. Match this up with your extension cord and do not use a cord that has a lower rating.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can give you an electric shock or burn.
- Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug. Do not cut off the ground pin to force a fit. This defeats the purpose of a three-prong plug and could lead to an electrical shock. Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Use extension cords with polarized and/or three-prong plugs.
- Buy only cords approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Intertek (ETL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Source: esfi.org



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never fly anything near power lines."

Gage Cumbow, 12 years old

Gage is the son of Ryan and Kyley Cumbow, Pierre, S.D. They are members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Blunt, 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.



Seafood Sensations

Hot Crab Dip

- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 tsp. ground mustard
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 lb. lump crabmeat
- 2 tsp. OLD BAY® Seasoning
- 1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, Old Bay Seasoning and ground mustard in medium bowl until well blended. Add crabmeat; toss gently. Spread in shallow 1-1/2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese and additional Old Bay Seasoning, if desired. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serve with assorted crackers or sliced French bread. Makes 28 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 110, Total Fat 10g, Cholesterol 30mg, Sodium 181mg, Protein 5g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Seafood Casserole

- 1 (6 oz.) pkg. crab, tuna or salmon, drained
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup milk
- Onions, chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Paprika

Spray an 8x8-inch pan or casserole dish. Combine seafood, cheese and onions. Put in pan. Beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over casserole; sprinkle paprika on top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Let stand a few minutes before serving.

Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel, SD

Red Salmon Spread

- 1 (14 oz.) canned salmon, drained
- 1 tsp. liquid smoke
- 6 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- Parsley flakes

Remove skin and bones from salmon; cut into small chunks. Combine cream cheese, liquid smoke and garlic salt. Add salmon. Shape into 2 or 3 balls. Sprinkle with parsley flakes. Refrigerate. Serve with assorted crackers.

June Herke, Watertown, SD

Crab Lasagna

- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 12 oz. cottage cheese
- 1 stick butter
- 1 egg
- 1 quart half-and-half
- 1 T. parsley
- 1/2 tsp. minced garlic
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 4 T. cream cheese
- 12 uncooked lasagna noodles
- 24 oz. pkg. imitation crab, shredded
- 2 cups mozzarella cheese

Saute onions in butter. Add half-and-half, garlic and cream cheese. Prepare 9x13-inch pan. Assemble layers as follows: 1 cup sauce, top with lasagna noodles, 1/2 of cottage cheese mixture, 1/2 of crab, 1 cup sauce, lasagna noodles and 1 cup mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers. Cover with foil; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour. Remove foil and bake an additional 20 minutes until bubbly and cheese starts to brown. Let set 10 minutes before serving.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

Crab or Shrimp Salad

- 1 (7-oz.) pkg. ring, shell or spiral pasta
- 1 cup diced cucumber
- 1/2 cup diced celery
- 1 cup Miracle Whip
- 1/4 cup diced onion
- 1/2 cup Dorothy Lynch dressing
- 1 (8 oz.) container mock crab or shrimp
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Prepare pasta according to package directions. Toss together celery, onions, crab or shrimp and cucumbers. Add Miracle Whip, dressing, salt and pepper. Chill.

Joyce Hermans, Milbank, SD

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage, casserole or 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 June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.

Co-op Donation Covers Cost of Power Cot

Basin Electric Donates More Than \$15,000 to Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District

Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

When there are emergencies in rural South Dakota, the first person on the scene is typically a volunteer. Basin Electric Power Cooperative and electric cooperatives across the state recognize the important role volunteer first responders play in rural communities. It is the reason Basin Electric gave the first responders in the Groton area a \$15,000 grant at the end of January.

“We just believe if one of us thrives we all thrive. We need to work together and that makes us a community.”

“Basin Electric and its member co-ops, like Northern Electric, rely on the communities and the communities rely on us, so that’s one of the reasons we’ve made



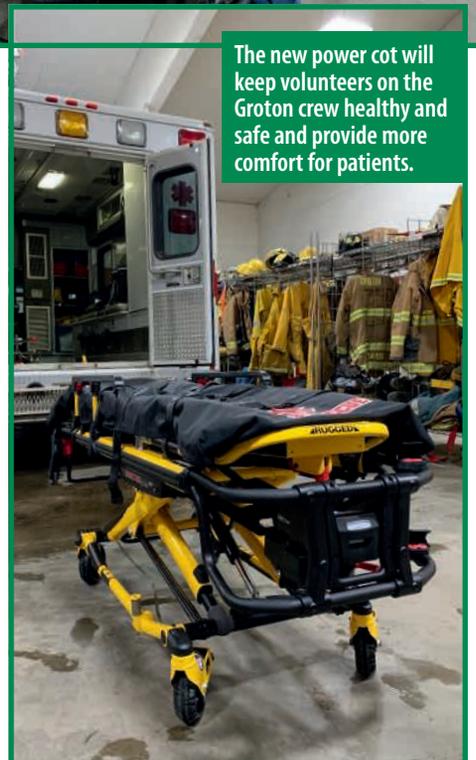
Groton EMTs stand around the new Stryker Power-Pro cot. (Clockwise from front left: Groton Rescue Training Officer Patti Woods, Groton EMT Wendy Monson, Groton EMT Charity Hinman, Groton EMT Nancy Larsen.

this donation,” Basin Electric Director of Strategic Planning and Communications Andy Buntrock said during the check presentation at the Groton Fire Hall.

Basin Electric donated \$15,554.86 to the Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District on January 27. The money covers the entire cost of a new Stryker Power-Pro cot for its ambulance. The Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District requested the grant so they can continue to provide quality service to patients across their 280 square mile coverage area.

“Putting them on a more comfortable cot helps avoid injuries,” Groton Rescue Training Officer Patti Woods said.

The fire and rescue district had been using a traditional cot for the past 20 years. According to Woods, volunteer



The new power cot will keep volunteers on the Groton crew healthy and safe and provide more comfort for patients.

Photos Courtesy: Basin Electric Power Cooperative



A \$15,554.86 check was presented to Groton Fire & Rescue on January 27. Presenting the check from left to right: Kelly Schafer (Basin), Groton Fire Chief Tom Tietz, Andy Buntrock (Basin), Char Hager (Northern Electric), Ben Peterson (Northern Electric), Joe Nelson (Basin), Rick Pigors (Groton Fire District Board), Groton Rescue Training Officer Patti Woods, Wendy Monson (Groton EMT), John Wheeting (Groton Fire District Board), Charity Hinman (Groton EMT), and Nancy Larsen (Groton EMT)

first responders had a difficult time collapsing the cot and loading it into the ambulance when they were preparing a patient for transport. The new power cot will not only relieve patient fear and anxiety, but it will also keep volunteers on the crew healthy and safe.

“Sometimes our staff is a little limited when we have a call, so by having a power cot we can have two people put this power cot with a patient into the ambulance. Before, it was taking four of us,” Woods said.

The power cot will also make emergency response in the area smoother and more seamless. The Groton ambulance cannot transport a patient to an Aberdeen hospital which means they have to work together with Aberdeen Fire and Rescue. The new power cot is the same model Aberdeen uses so they can simply swap out cots from one ambulance to the other during an emergency.

“We can just switch cots with Aberdeen city ambulance, and it is a super time saver and it’s a lot safer, and you don’t have to move the patient as much,” Groton Fire Chief Tom Tietz said.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which supplies Northern Electric with wholesale electricity, trains and communicates with Groton fire and rescue volunteers on a regular basis. Basin Electric owns and operates a natural gas power plant just

nine miles south of the fire hall. Annual meetings and trainings with the Groton Area Fire Protection and Rescue District are part of the co-op’s commitment to safety and the community.

“It is important for Basin Electric to work with emergency responders in local areas to help them with their needs and to help provide better response times for not only Basin facilities but also the communities Basin provides service to,” Basin Electric Distributed Generation Safety Coordinator Kelly Schafer said.

Basin Electric makes donations to 15 different fire departments in South Dakota every year. They are donations that local first responders believe bring all agencies and organizations closer together.

“Throughout our rural areas we are all working as a team,” Woods said. “It doesn’t matter if we’re the electrical companies, the co-ops, the hospitals, the paramedics, we all work as a team no matter what we do.”

And through that team approach co-ops and local first responders are trying to make their communities safer places to live, work, and play.

“We just believe if one of us thrives we all thrive,” Northern Electric Cooperative General Manager/CEO Char Hager said. “We need to work together and that makes us a community.”

“Throughout our rural areas we are all working as a team. It doesn’t matter if we’re the electrical companies, the co-ops, the hospitals, the paramedics, we all work as a team no matter what we do.”



Self-responses to the 2020 census begin March 12 online, by phone or by paper.

GET COUNTED

Census 2020 Will Shape Region's Future

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Census Day is coming April 1 and a push is being made in March to get people counted.

The census counts people where they are at on April 1, 2020.

The process opens March 12 when people can begin the online completion of the census. Most people will have received an invitation to respond to the census. The form will be mailed to USPS mailable addresses. Hand delivery will take place in cases where addresses are a rural/PO Box or non-USPS household unit. The card will have an address-specific code for responders to use, but they can still go online without the card.

“The goal on March 12 is to have as many people as possible go online and complete the census,” said Rob Timm, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Timm has been focusing on western South Dakota businesses and government agencies in preparation for Census 2020.

People can also complete the census by phone or complete a paper form.

On May 1, the labor-intensive process of sending enumerators

The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.

We're making sure that **however you choose to respond**—online, by phone, or by mail—that **the census is accessible**. You'll receive an invitation to respond **beginning in mid-March**. You choose how you want to respond.



You can respond **online** in English or in 12 additional languages. The online questionnaire is accessible, following the latest web accessibility guidelines. We'll also have a video **iAmerican Sign Language** available to guide you through responding online.



You can respond by **phone** in English or in 12 additional languages. You can also respond in English by **TDD** at 844-467-2020.



By mid-April, we'll mail a **paper questionnaire** to every household that hasn't already responded. (Some households will receive a paper questionnaire along with the first invitation in March.)

We'll have **braille and large print guides** available online to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire.



If necessary, you can respond **in person** beginning in mid-May. Census takers will visit all households that have not yet responded.

We'll have census takers available who can communicate **iAmerican Sign Language** and additional languages. When the census taker visits to help you respond, you can request that another census taker who communicates in American Sign Language returns, if you prefer.

If you prefer, you may also choose to have another member of your household interact with the census taker.

Responding is important. A complete count helps ensure that services like Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and public transportation can support those who need them.

Responding is safe. All of the information you share with us is protected by law and cannot be used against you.

Responding is accessible. We're doing everything we can to ensure the ways to respond are accessible for everyone.

Any questions? Please visit 2020census.gov. This website is 508 compliant and accessible to people of all abilities.

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020

tors door-to-door to count people begins. An estimated 1,200 people will be serving as enumerators through July.

“We know there are tracts with low response areas,” said Timm. Census officials are working to improve those response rates.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on U.S. Census Bureau data. According to the report, “Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds” by the GW Institute of Public Policy, South Dakota was allocated more than \$2.3 billion in 2016. This money represented the allocation of funds from 55 large federal spending programs guided by Census 2010 data. Of that \$2.3 billion, nearly one-quarter was for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs while one-third went to U.S. Health and Human Services programs.

Census Key Dates
March 12:
Self-response begins and continues through July 2020.
April 1: Census Day
Dec. 31: Census Counts Delivered to President

The report, by Andrew Reamer, a research professor at The George Washington University, noted that census-derived datasets help define eligibility criteria for various programs, compute formulas that geographically allocate funds, rank project applications based on priorities and set interest rates for federal loan programs.

Officials in Sioux Falls estimated that the community missed out on nearly \$1,600 per person for every person missed in the 2010 census.

The value of the census goes beyond dollars.

In Minnesota, the fate of the state’s 8th Congressional District is at stake. The U.S. House of Representatives is based on population. Minnesota currently has eight seats while Nebraska has three and South Dakota and North Dakota have one seat each.

“It’s not going to take a ton of your time and it makes a difference for South Dakota,” said Jake Droge, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Droge has been working with government agencies and businesses in eastern South Dakota.

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

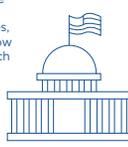
Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.



It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



It's in the Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.



It's about \$675 billion.

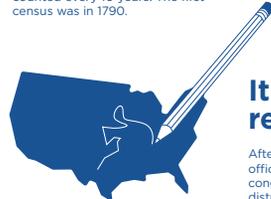
The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.



It's about redistricting.

After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.



Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



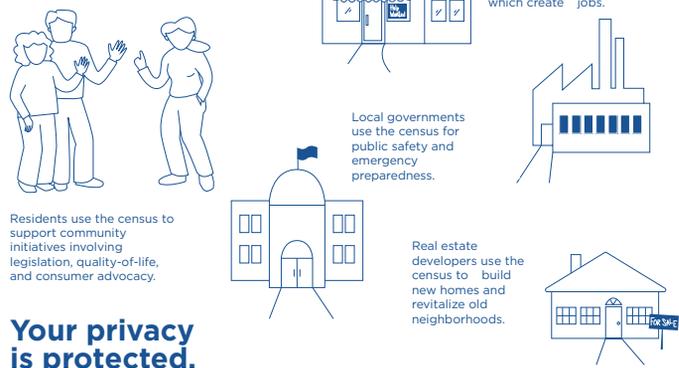
Census data are being used all around you.

Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.

Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.

Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs.

Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



Your privacy is protected.

It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.

2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.

You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.





FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT
2020CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS



Scholar of the Week Has Olympic Aspirations



Dirby Bawek
Doland High School

Dirby Bawek is a straight shooter in more ways than one.

The senior at Doland High School is the class president, the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Doland chapter president, and he volunteers

for a school committee that works on clean up and restoration projects in the community. Bawek also participates in shooting sports and hopes his marksmanship skills will take him to the Olympics.

“It has been a fun event to push myself to go farther,” Bawek said.

Bawek was recognized for his accomplishments both inside and outside the classroom when he was named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week on January 27.

Bawek plans to attend South Dakota State University for agricultural and bio-systems engineering after he graduates from Doland High School this spring. But, Bawek also has his sights set on the 2024 Olympics in Paris. He wants to start dedicating more time to training once he graduates high school and hopes to compete in one of the men’s shooting events. Bawek took first place in the prone

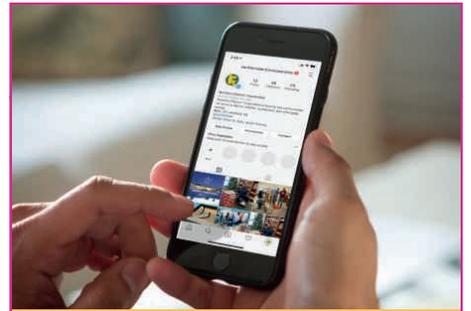
event at the 2018 Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match in Arkansas and he took ninth place overall.

“A lot of my personal motivation comes from my mom and my grandpa,” Bawek said. “My coaches are a big big part of my life too, and I am very thankful for them.”

Bawek maintains a 3.34 grade point average in school. The high school senior also serves as a lay speaker at the Doland United Methodist Church and is one of the worship leaders when the main pastor is not available for services.

Bawek was recognized for his accomplishments both inside and outside the classroom on January 27.

Bawek was featured on KSFY News on January 27 as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week. Northern Electric Cooperative also awarded Bawek \$250 for being named the Scholar of the Week. He is the second student within the Northern Electric service territory to receive the honor during the 2019-2020 school year.



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Follow Northern Electric Cooperative on Instagram for a chance to win a gift bag. Once the co-op’s new social media account hits 200 followers, five gift bags will be given away.

FIND US



@northernelectriccooperative



Dean Hired As New Lineman



Brian Hansen (left) receives his journeyman certification from Northern Electric Operations Manager Jerry Weber (right).

Completion of Program Certifies Hansen As Journeyman Lineman

Hansen Completes Apprenticeship Program

Northern Electric Lineman Brian Hansen recently completed the Lineworker Certification Program through the Northwest Lineman College. Completion of the program certifies Hansen as a journeyman lineworker.

“It is a weight off my shoulders for sure,” Hansen said. “The biggest challenge was putting in the time to complete the apprenticeship.”

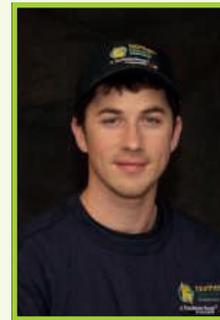
Time is a major component of finishing the program. Hansen had to complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training. He also had to pass 36 different tests as part of the apprenticeship. The tests cover a variety of topics including safety, transformer connections, mapping, and several other topics which pertain to line

construction and line work.

According to Hansen, his on-the-job experience at Northern Electric greatly benefited him as he finished the program.

“I’ve learned a lot from the guys over time as we figure out the best ways to repair outages and build and maintain line to help our members,” Hansen said.

Hansen began working for Northern Electric as an apprentice lineman in February of 2016. Hansen worked for Aberdeen Public Works before he was hired at the cooperative. Hansen graduated from Mitchell Technical Institute. He lives in Bath with his wife and young son.



Nick Dean

Northern Electric Cooperative has hired a new apprentice lineman. Nick Dean was hired as a full-time lineworker at the beginning of January. Dean started working for Northern Electric Cooperative as a 1,000-hour temporary employee in June.

“My 1,000-hour experience was enjoyable,” Dean said. “I got to spend a fair amount of time in the bucket trucks and I look forward to many more years to come.”

Dean worked for six years at K & H Electric Inc. based out of Linton, North Dakota. K & H is a private electrical contractor that does underground line installation for Northern Electric. Dean also worked for FEM Electric Association as a temporary employee after he graduated from lineworker school.

“I look forward to starting my new career here at Northern Electric,” Dean said.

Dean grew up in Aberdeen and graduated from Aberdeen Central High School. He attended Bismarck State College and completed the electrical lineworker program. Dean enjoys the outdoors while he is at work and during his days off.

“I like working outside most days. I am not the type of person who could work inside every day,” Dean said. “I spend a lot of my free time in the winter snowmobiling in the mountains.”

Dean was hired by the cooperative as part of a succession plan to prepare for upcoming retirements on the line crew.

Boots, Broncs and Safety

Electric Safety Remains a Tradition at Black Hills Stock Show®

Courtney J. Deinert

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“We’re just selling safety.”

During the first week of February, people from across the region pull on their boots and gather in Rapid City, S.D., to celebrate the area’s deep history of cattle ranching at the Black Hills Stock Show.

The Black Hills Stock Show is the second largest event in the state, after the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

On the vendor floor, you can find anything a cowboy or cowgirl would dream of. Among the leather boots, hides, saddles and hats for sale, you can also find the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota booth.

“We’re just selling safety,” said Todd Eliason, assistant general manager at Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D. “We’ve been doing this for more than 20 years.”

The booth features a tabletop safety demonstration, also known as “Neon Leon” or “Power Town.” The table demonstration features a model farmyard with a barn, house, overhead power lines, ground transformer and props such as tree branches, a ladder, backhoe and line down on a tractor.

With the step of a pedal, the operator can conduct electricity through the lines and produce a shock or arch with the props.



With the step of a pedal, Central Electric’s Pat Soukup illustrates the effects of electricity when contacting a power line.

The presentation is designed to educate elementary-aged children about the dangers of electricity, but all ages gather to see the demonstration.

As parents and grandparents pass by the booth, they’ll smile and nod, likely remembering the presentation from their earlier days. Parents with young cowboys and cowgirls along will nudge them towards the booth to hear about the importance of respecting electricity on the farm.

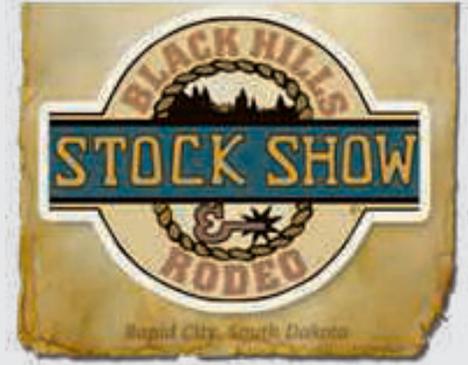
Eliason recalls working at the safety booth one year and a young boy pointed at him and yelled, “That’s him!”

Eliason admits that his first thought was, “Oh, no. What did I do?”

However, the mother approached him in tears, gave him a big hug and said, “My son hit a power line with a tractor, and



“Neon Leon” and “Lightning Liz” illustrate how electrocution can occur when approaching a tractor with a downed power line on it.



Ranch Rodeo Events

One of the most popular events at the Black Hills Stock Show is the Ranch Rodeo. Teams from a five-state region compete for more than \$21,000 in cash and prizes.

Preliminary and final events represent real-life chores on the ranch and provide unique entertainment.

- **Steer Loadin'**
Teams must sort and load a steer into the trailer and shut and latch the trailer.
- **Range Doctorin'**
Teams must head and heel a cow, lay it on its rib cage, "doctor it" on the neck with medicine on a paint stick and remove the ropes.
- **Stray Gatherin'**
Teams must head and heel a steer and tie any three legs.
- **Blake's Trailer Loading**
Teams will have trailers loaded with horses in the arena. They must unload their horses, rope two steers and load them into the trailer.
- **Rope, Mug and Tie**
Teams must lay and tie down a designated steer.
- **Head, Heel and Brand**
Teams must head and heel two steers, lay each on its side, and brand them.
- **Pendleton Ranch Bronc Ride**
A team member must ride a bronc for 8-seconds and can hang on with both hands if desired.

because he saw your presentation, he knew to stay in the tractor. He is here today because of you."

Many cooperative representatives across the state can share similar stories where children, farm wives and equipment operators knew exactly what to do in a dangerous situation involving electricity because they saw one of the cooperative's electric safety presentations.

"When watching the demonstration, the kids probably don't understand everything right away," says Patrick Soukup, manager of member services/marketing at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D. "But it might get them asking questions about electricity and they'll go look it up or bring it up in conversation."

Kids rarely leave the booth empty-handed. Attendees can count on taking home a souvenir including pencils, rulers, band-aids, plastic hardhats, stickers and a variety of different hand-outs to remind them about the presentation.

Representatives from the electric cooperatives from across South Dakota take turns operating the demonstration at the booth.

During the Stock Show, the electric cooperatives also facilitate the high voltage

trailer demonstration held Thursday evening in conjunction with the sheep dog trials and mutton busting.

In addition to the Stock Show, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota provide energy efficiency and safety education at other events across the state, including the South Dakota State Fair and Dakotafest. You can also likely find them at your local home and farm shows, town festival, school

events and more.

To request a safety demonstration in your community, contact your local electric cooperative.



A young girl at the booth gets a closer look at overhead and underground conductor samples.



Business & Development BULLETIN

Have an idea for a business or development story?

Submit your ideas to editor Ben Dunsmoor at bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop or call 605-225-0310.

Harbor Freight Opens Doors At Aberdeen Mall

New 15,000 Square Foot Store Opened in February

Aberdeen has a new store to purchase tools and equipment for the job site or those do-it-yourself projects around the house. Harbor Freight Tools had its grand opening at the beginning of February. The new tool store is occupying 15,000 square feet of the vacant Herberger's store in the Aberdeen Mall.

"We're excited to serve customers in the great city of Aberdeen," store manager Austin Hundt said.

Northern Electric Cooperative provides electric service to all the businesses in the Aberdeen Mall, including the new Harbor Freight store.

The new store will stock tools for automotive repairs, air and power tools, storage, outdoor power equipment, generators, welding supplies, shop equipment, and hand tools.

"At Harbor Freight, we're passionate about providing our customers with the tools they need to get the job done, and always at an affordable price," Hundt said.

Harbor Freight is a family-owned company which is headquartered in Calabasas, California. The first Harbor Freight store opened in 1980 and the company currently has more than 1,000



Harbor Freight sells a variety of tools including tools for automotive repairs, generators, welding supplies, shop equipment, and hand tools.

stores and 20,000 employees across the country.

"We look forward to welcoming auto technicians, contractors, woodworkers, homeowners, hobbyists – anyone who needs affordable tools," Hundt said.

The Aberdeen location will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.



Harbor Freight is occupying a portion of the old Herberger's store in the Aberdeen Mall.

WATCH OUT *THIS WINTER!*

- *When plowing, avoid electrical cabinets, poles, wires and other equipment*
- *Never touch a downed power line*
- *Treat everything near downed power lines—such as trees or debris—as dangerous*

RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY



December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

February 21

KORN and Breaking Benjamin, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 21-22

Mardi Gras Weekend, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

February 22

Cabin Fever Games, Yankton, SD, 605-665-8994

February 22-23

48th Annual Farm, Home & Sports Show, Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD 605-224-1240

February 26

The Harlem Globetrotters, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 27-29

SD High School State Wrestling Tournament, All Classes, Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

February 27-March 1

35th Annual SD State Dart Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

March 12-14

SD State B High School Girls Basketball Tournament, Donald E. Young Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-224-9261

March 14

28 Below Fatbike Race, Ride and Tour, Lead, SD, 605-641-4963

March 14-15

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Davison County Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD, 701-361-9215



March 18, June 11, August 13 and October 8

Kids Mystery Dinner Theater, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

March 19-21

SD State A High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-224-9261

March 19-21

SD State AA High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

March 19-21

SD State B High School Boys Basketball Tournament, Barnett Center, Aberdeen, SD, 605-224-9261

March 20-21, 27-28

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 21-22

Gun Show, Codington County Ag Building, Watertown, SD, 701-361-9215

March 28

Annual Ag Day at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

March 28

SD High School All-State Band Concert, Mitchell Fine Arts Center, Mitchell, SD, 605-224-9261

April 3-4

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876 or 800-999-1876

April 4-5

Annual USD Wacipi, Vermillion, SD

April 11

Eggstravaganza, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

April 17-19

First Dakota Classic Archery Tournament, Yankton, SD, 605-260-9282

April 18

Black Hills Gold & Treasure Show, Rapid City, SD

April 18

Design Challenge, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-731-2348

April 25

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

July 14

Rock Nobles Cattleman 2020 Summer Beef Tour, Nobles County Fairgrounds, Register Before June 1: \$20, After June 1: \$40, Worthington, MN, 507-967-2380, www.mnsca.org

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.