



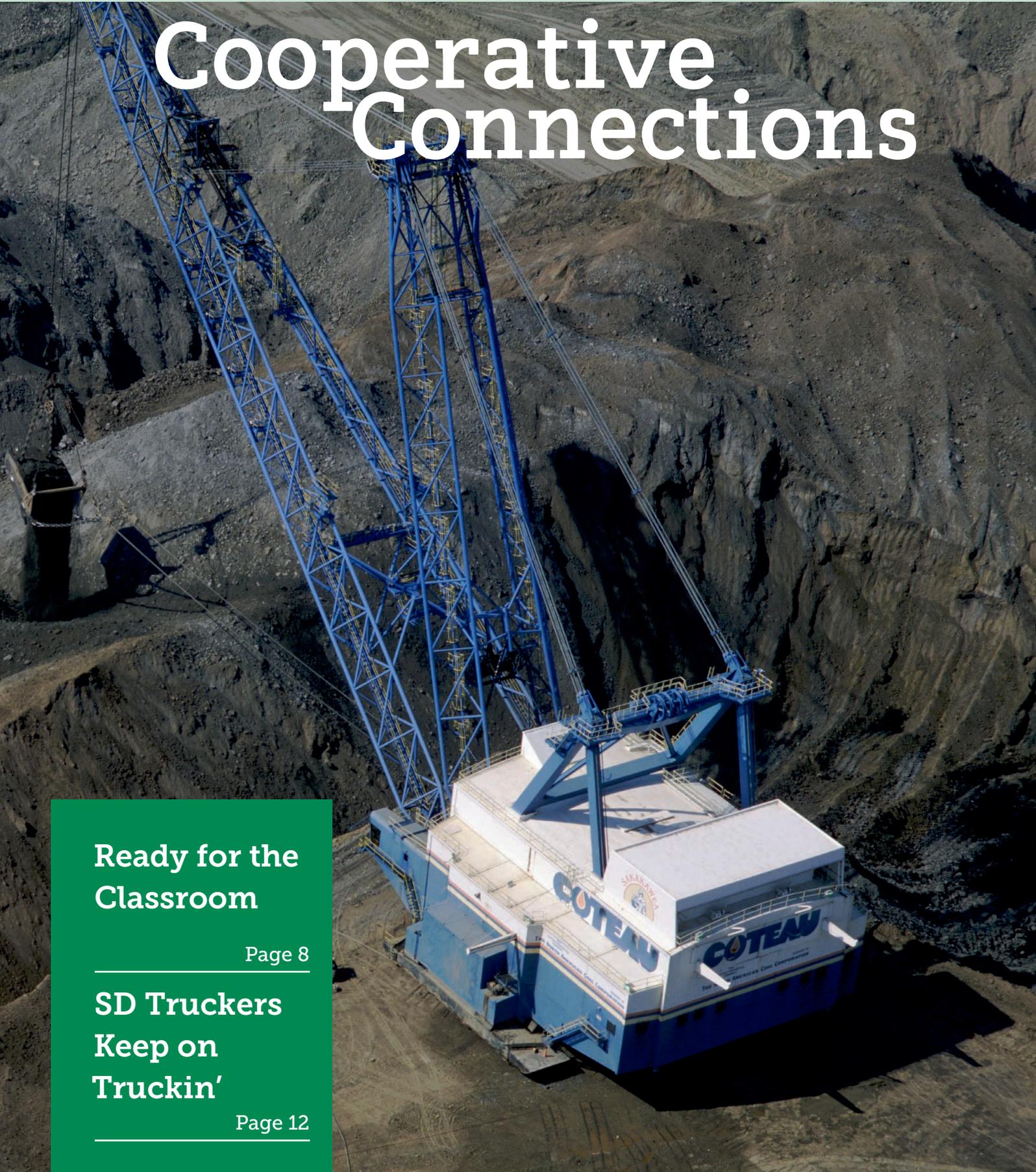
# Cooperative Connections

**Ready for the  
Classroom**

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**SD Truckers  
Keep on  
Truckin'**

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## Electric Cooperatives Push for Fairness

# Territorial Integrity



**Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO**

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Sioux Valley Energy's (SVE) mission is "Serving Our Members. Always". It is the foundation of why we even exist. That mission guides us when we set rates, build infrastructure, develop programs and invest in communities. That mission also guides us when we advocate for YOU (our member) regarding legislation and governmental policy.

During the 2019 South Dakota legislative session, electric cooperatives including SVE, asked legislators to modify an existing law that gave one type of utility an unfair advantage over the others. Unfortunately, the law was not changed but legislators did agree to set up a summer study committee to take a closer look at the issue which they did on July 25 in Pierre.

In South Dakota, there are three types of electric utilities—cooperatives, investor-owned and municipally-owned. Under current law, electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities have frozen service territories—meaning they can't expand or take customers from another electric utility unless there is a mutual agreement. Municipal utilities, on the other hand, have the statutory right to expand their electric service boundaries and take territory from electric cooperatives and investor owned utilities. There is a compensation formula allowed under state law but a loophole results in very little compensation for electric cooperatives when they lose service territory.

The territory that municipal utilities expand into and take are areas that co-ops have served for decades and have incorporated into long-range planning. Electric cooperatives have built the infrastructure needed to serve all areas of their territories. When municipal utilities take away the service areas of electric co-ops, the infrastructure (including generation, transmission, substations and distribution assets) essentially become a stranded investment. The municipal-taking of incumbent utility territory also greatly limits the incumbent's ability to plan for the future because the territory is so easily seized by the local government.

We believe there is an inherent unfairness and a loss of equability when a government entity can take service territory from another utility. We say "take" because that is what happens—we have no say, we don't get to negotiate the terms—we are obligated to serve the parts that municipal governments don't want (low density) and we lose potential revenue forever which impacts YOUR electric rates.

It is estimated that over the last twenty years or so, SVE has lost approximately \$21.5-million dollars in revenue from this unilateral government taking and has been compensated with only \$2.1 million.

Municipal electrics do not routinely extend service to serve low revenue accounts. They want to serve the cream of the 'revenue crop'--subdivisions and large loads.

When a subdivision or commercial/industrial load locates within the SVE service territory and the Co-op has the opportunity to serve it, we can spread infrastructure investments over a more densely populated membership, helping maintain costs for YOU. When that opportunity is taken away from the Co-op through a unilateral territorial taking it hurts YOU, the member.

On average, SVE serves electricity to just over four members per mile of line. In our very rural areas that number drops to less than two meters per mile of line. Conversely, municipal electrics, on average, serve approximately 42 customers per mile of line and will often use excess revenue to fund other parts of government. When a co-op has excess revenue those are considered margins and are given back to YOU, the member, in the form of capital credits. In the last decade SVE has returned nearly \$17-million to its members.

**"Sioux Valley Energy has lost approximately \$21.5-million dollars in revenue from this unilateral government taking."**

# Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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SIoux VALLEY ENERGY COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, Junction Hwy 34 & 77, Colman, SD 57017, for its members. Customers subscribe to the publication as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to Sioux Valley Energy customers on matters pertaining to electric cooperatives and better living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote not more than 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Colman, SD 57017 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017.

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## Territorial Integrity, Continued

Municipal electrics have argued they should have the right to take an electric cooperative's service territory because if they can't, it will financially impact city residents. Now just stop to think about that for a minute. This is THE definition of shifting costs. What our municipal friends are implying is that it's OK if there is a cost impact on YOU, an electric co-op member, due to territorial issues, but it's not ok for their city residents.

South Dakota municipal electrics have stated that they believe economic development will be hindered if the law is changed. That sentiment does not hold water. Approximately 90 percent of all towns in South Dakota already have fixed service territories. In fact, one of the fastest growing communities in South Dakota that has what most would consider a booming economic base and significant new industry is Sioux Falls... a community where the electric service territory lines are frozen. The municipal electric, investor owned utility, and cooperatives all serve portions of Sioux Falls. Sioux Valley Energy is one of those electric co-ops—we work hand in hand with both the City of Sioux Falls and Xcel Energy.

Electric cooperatives are community partners regardless of whether we serve electricity to a specific area. The perfect example of that is our REED Fund (Rural Electric Economic Development) which has contributed \$15 million in economic development funds within municipal electric service territory over the past 20 years. Just recently SVE has received four inquiries for economic development funds from business ventures which will be located in municipal service territories. The Cooperative will never be paid one cent by those businesses for electric service, but we believe the investment is worth it because it improves conditions for all.

The 'Electric Services in an Annexed Area Study Committee' will meet again in Pierre on August 28th to continue the discussion on the electric service territorial issue. Sioux Valley Energy will be there to continue to fight for fairness on behalf of YOU, the member, and will advocate for YOUR best interest.

We are starting to schedule our annual 'Take Action' Forums in various portions of our service territory—keep an eye out for those dates and locations. We will be providing an update on this issue at those events and you will hear from Congressional leaders about federal issues impacting electric cooperatives. Hope to see you there!

## Members enjoy 'Scoop Up the Savings' Event with Sundaes on a Sunday!



*Approximately 275 members took part in the first annual 'Scoop up the Savings' event held at the Brandon Service Center on Sunday, July 28. Members enjoyed sundaes from B&G Milkyway while they learned more about energy savings programs and electric vehicles. Congratulations to Dean Hosman from Brandon for being selected as the \$100 bill credit winner!*

## Back to School Safety

As many prepare for this upcoming school year, we want to share some electrical safety tips that are useful for students of all ages.

### Elementary School Students

- Never throw shoes onto power lines and definitely don't try to get them off of the lines.
- Writing utensils and other supplies like paper clips should never be placed in or near electrical outlets, even if you think the outlet isn't working.
- Make sure your hands and the area around you are dry before plugging something in. This is especially important in science labs where there are usually several sets of sinks, an eye wash, chemicals, etc.
- When unplugging things from an electrical outlet, always hold the plastic base to pull the plug out.

### Middle/High School Students

- If you've just received the privilege of driving to school with your newly obtained driver's license, pay close to attention on those morning and afternoon drives for utility crews at work. Should you be involved in an accident involving a power line or pole, assume live electricity is outside of the car and use extreme caution.
- Always steer clear of pad-mount transformers – the big green metal boxes. All electrical equipment on school property should be avoided due to the possible dangers of electrical shock.
- Always be cautious in science classes, specifically the ones with labs. Sinks, eye washes, chemicals – it's likely your hands or the area near you will be wet. Keep everything dry and use caution when plugging in equipment.

### College Students

- Get in the habit of unplugging what's not in use.
- Use only approved electrical products with the mark of a recognized certification agency.
- Choose a power strip with a heavy-gauge cord that is approved by a recognized certification agency.
- Replace frayed or damaged extension cords with new ones.
- Keep extension cords out from under carpet, rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and also present a fire hazard.
- Keep flammable materials such as books, paper and clothing away from heaters, stoves and other heating sources.
- Never leave cooking appliances unattended.
- Plug portable heaters and air conditioners directly into the outlet. If an extension cord is needed, to prevent overheating and risk of fire, use only one that is rated for this purpose to ensure that the cord can handle the electrical current.
- Never remove the third prong from an electrical product. The third prong is the grounding device and is a critical safety feature.
- Keep gadgets and cords away from bedding and curtains. The heat from a laptop charger or mini-fridge can start an electrical fire if left in contact with flammable material for too long.
- Avoid overloading outlets or circuits as this can cause overheating that may lead to fire.

Source: [twielectric.com](http://twielectric.com)



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER

IF YOU DRIVE INTO AN  
ELECTRIC LINE, CALL 911  
FOR HELP!



**"If you drive into an electric line, call 911 for help!"**

**Sawyer Nelson, 12 years old**

Sawyer is the son of Wes and Chris Nelson, Wolsey, S.D. They are members of Dakota Energy Cooperative, Huron, SD.

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.



# Garden Goodness

## Roasted Vegetables

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 tsp. garlic salt                         | 1 small red onion, cut into thin wedges |
| 1 tsp. Italian seasoning                   | 1 small zucchini, sliced                |
| 1/2 tsp. fennel seed                       | 1 cup asparagus pieces                  |
| 1 small green bell pepper, cut into chunks | 1 cup red potato chunks                 |
| 1 small yellow squash, sliced              | 2 T. oil                                |

Mix seasonings in small bowl. Toss vegetables and oil in large bowl. Add seasonings; toss to coat well. Spread vegetables in single layer on foil-lined 15x10x1-inch baking pan. Bake at 450°F. for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Makes 6 Servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 93, Total Fat 5g, Sodium 342mg, Cholesterol 0mg, Carbohydrates 10g, Protein 2g, Fiber 2g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Apple Pie Filling

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 4-1/2 cups sugar                 | 1 tsp. salt                                    |
| 1 cup cornstarch                 | 3 T. lemon juice                               |
| 2 tsp. cinnamon                  | 2 to 3 drops yellow food coloring              |
| 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg, optional | 5-1/2 to 6 lbs. tart apples, peeled and sliced |

In a large saucepan, blend sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add salt and stir in 10 cups water. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Add lemon juice and food coloring. Pack raw apples into hot jars, leaving 1-inch head space. Use spatula to help distribute syrup. Adjust lids. Process in boiling water bath – pints 15 minutes and quarts 20 minutes. Makes 6 to 8 quarts. Before serving, prepare pastry for a double crust 8- or 9-inch pie. Line pie plate with pastry, add 1 quart apple pie filling. Adjust top crust, cutting slits for escape of steam; seal edges. Bake at 400°F. for 50 minutes.

**Linda Goulet, Tea, SD**

## Microwave Tomato Dish

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 large, firm ripe tomatoes | 1/2 cup seasoned stuffing mix |
| 1/2 lb. ground beef         | 2 beaten eggs                 |
| 4 T. chopped onion          | Dash of pepper                |
| 1/4 tsp. garlic salt        |                               |

Cut a slice off the stem end of tomato. Scoop out pulp; place into a small glass baking dish. Combine remaining ingredients to fill tomato shell. Place filled tomatoes in dish of pulp. Cover with waxed paper. Microwave 5 to 8 minutes. Let set covered 2 minutes.

**Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, SD**

## Kohlrabi Au Gratin

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6 med. kohlrabi, peeled and sliced | 3/4 cup shredded American cheese    |
| 3 T. flour                         | 1/2 cup milk                        |
| 3 T. margarine, melted and divided | 2 T. sliced green onion             |
| 1 cup sour cream                   | 3/4 cup soft bread crumbs (1 slice) |

Cook kohlrabi, covered, in small amount of boiling salt water 25 minutes, drain. Blend flour into 2 T. melted margarine. Stir in sour cream, cheese, milk and onion. Cook and stir until cheese melts. Combine kohlrabi and sauce; turn into 1.5-quart casserole. Toss crumbs and remaining margarine; sprinkle over top. Bake, covered, at 350°F. for 15 minutes. Uncover and bake and additional 15 to 20 minutes. Serves 6 to 8.

**Shirley Thedorff, Centerville, SD**

## Zucchini Chips

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 4 cups thinly sliced zucchini (about 2-3 medium) | 2 T. white balsamic vinegar |
|  | 2 tsp. coarse sea salt      |
| 2 T. extra virgin olive oil                      |                             |

Use a mandolin or slice zucchini as thin as possible. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil and vinegar together. Place zucchini in a large bowl and toss with oil and vinegar. Add zucchini in even layers to dehydrator then sprinkle with coarse sea salt. Depending on how thin you sliced the zucchini and on your dehydrator, the drying time will vary, anywhere from 8 to 14 hours. To make in the oven, line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Layer zucchini evenly. Bake at 200°F. for 2 to 3 hours. Rotate half way during cooking time. Store in an airtight container.

**Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD**

Please send your favorite pasta, slow cooker and holiday 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.

## Sioux Valley Energy 'Test Drives' the EV Industry

# Is an EV Right For You?

The electric vehicle (EV) industry is growing—new and improved models have been released by several manufacturers and consumers are taking notice. Sheila Gross, Energy Services Specialist for Sioux Valley Energy (SVE), says she gets several calls a month about electric vehicles.

“There is definitely increasing interest in EVs. Our members want to know how much they can save in fuel costs if they purchase an EV versus a traditional fossil-fuel powered vehicle. Typically, SVE members can anticipate annual savings of over \$1,000 if they drive around 15,000 miles a year. They are also curious about charging efficiency and infrastructure in this region.”

SVE is responding to those increased EV inquiries with programs and incentives as well as a demonstration project. In December of 2018, the Cooperative leased its very own EV—a 2019 Nissan Leaf. The new vehicle was appropriately named “EVie” and she has been a hit everywhere she goes.

“EVie runs on 100 percent electricity. During ideal conditions she has about a 150-mile range and can accelerate from zero to 60 miles per hour in less than eight seconds,” said Debra Biever, Director of Customer and Employee Relations.

Incentive programs were also developed at SVE for members to receive a reduced electric rate for charging their EVs during off-peak hours and for rebates towards the purchase of a Level 2 charger. Sioux Valley Energy members, Dustin and Megan Jansick purchased a Tesla and are taking part in the ‘Time of Use’ rate which incentivizes off-peak charging of their EV.



“Our home is on the Time of Use (TOU) rate program through Sioux Valley Energy and it’s great for us. It’s easy to schedule charging of the electric vehicle when off-peak hours begins. We’ve been able to shift other high energy appliances such as laundry and dishwashing to off-peak as well. So, we’re saving around \$10 a month on TOU,” said Dustin Jansick. He added, “The TOU program is worth trying even if you don’t have an electric vehicle. Before fully committing, Sioux

**Pictured: SVE Member, Dustin Jansick of Sioux Falls took part in the ‘Member EV Showcase’ which took place in Pipestone MN at the Sioux Valley Energy Annual Meeting. Jansick and his wife own a Tesla and are pleased with its performance.**

Valley Energy allows you to try it for three months and you pay whichever rate was lower; the normal flat rate or TOU.”

Experts predict that EVs will make up to 20 percent of the vehicle sales and market share by the year 2025. The Jansick’s are glad they made the EV switch.

“The biggest pro is the cost to operate is much lower than a gasoline vehicle. Maintenance is very minimal since there’s fewer moving parts; so, no oil changes, fuel filters, or spark plugs to replace. Because electricity is less expensive than gasoline, it’s roughly 40% cheaper to run the vehicle, so I’m saving a few hundred dollars per year as well. Also, EVs are faster, cleaner, quieter, and overall just a blast to drive,” said Dustin Jansick.

Jansick says the biggest downfall in his mind is the decrease in range that they see during cold weather.

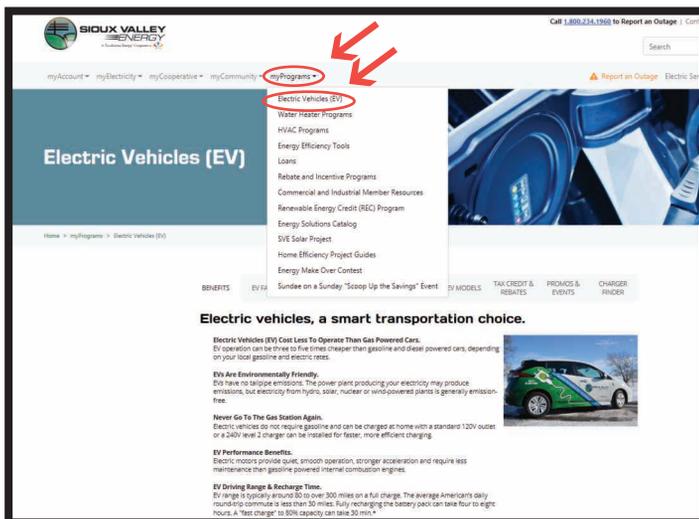
“To keep the battery and the inside of the vehicle warm, the range drops about 15% to 20%. So, if the range is 240 miles per full charge, it drops to about 200 miles in the winter. Another con is that it takes longer to charge than to pump gas. At home it’s typically done overnight so it doesn’t matter as much, but on the road the fast chargers can take 40 minutes. But at least you don’t have to stand out in the cold to pump gas in the winter.”

SVE is trying to help members through the decision process of buying an EV which is why the Co-op added a specific EV section to its website. There are tools in the EV section that can help members calculate potential savings, map out their EV travel plans according to public charging stations and learn more about each EV model on the market.

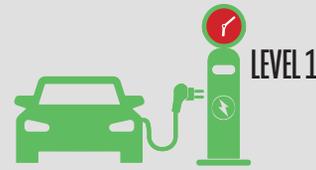
“Our members are looking to us for advice and assistance when it comes to EVs. We believe that EVs will be the vehicle of the future and as charging infrastructure is added in this area more and more consumers will choose electric,” said Debra Biever.

For more information on whether an EV is right for you, contact the SVE Energy Service Department at 800-234-1960 or log on to [www.siouxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com) and find the EV section under the ‘MyPrograms’ tab.

Visit [www.siouxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com) to learn more about EVs!



# TYPES OF EV CHARGERS



LEVEL 1

**Level 1 charging:** Provides the slowest charge, around 3 to 5 electric miles per hour. Even at this slow speed, however, the majority of electric vehicle owners plug in at home to refuel.



LEVEL 2

**Level 2 charging:** Commonly found in public locations, including shopping centers, downtown areas, multifamily communities and workplaces. Level 2 charging stations can also be installed at home if a 240-volt outlet is available. Level 2 charging is three to five times faster than Level 1 and provides 10 to 20 electric miles per hour.



DC FAST CHARGER

**DC Fast Charge:** Provides a very quick charge. These stations are capable of charging a depleted EV battery to 80 percent capacity in under 30 minutes. DC Fast Charge stations are usually located in high-traffic public areas. Recently, more of these stations have been installed at gas stations across the country, where drivers can stop for a quick break while on road trips.

# SVE EV PROGRAM

## Rate Options

- Time of Use Rate (TOU): Take advantage of off-peak rates for EV charging and whole home usage
- Plug-In Rate: Sub-meter your Level 2 Charger to take advantage of off-peak evening charging as low as 5.44 cents per kWh

## Rebate Options

- Rebate for a level 2 charger-- Up to **\$250** with the installation of a sub-meter or up to **\$500** with participation in the TOU rate
- Rebate for one year’s worth of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)-- Choose to have 100% of your energy come entirely from renewables for the first 12 months after the purchase of an electric vehicle

# TIME OF USE RATE

The Time of Use Rate (TOU) was developed for members who are seeking opportunities to have a direct impact on their electric bill through their conservation efforts and daily usage habits. Contact the billing department to sign up for a three-month risk-free trial period to get acclimated to the new rate structure without the concern of paying a higher amount than the regular rate program. Use SmartHub to manage and review your usage.

- 15.35 cents per kWh from 7-10 a.m. and 4-9 p.m.
- 5.44 cents per kWh any other time of the day (compared to regular rate of 9.55 cents)
- Members with electric heat will continue to receive the reduced heat rate
- Former Alliant Energy customers have a different TOU available per PUC agreement



Patricia DeMers of Colome, S.D., takes part in activity demonstrating the mining and reclamation process.

# TEACHERS HIT ENERGY CLASSROOMS

## Annual Seminar Equips Educators with First-hand Experience

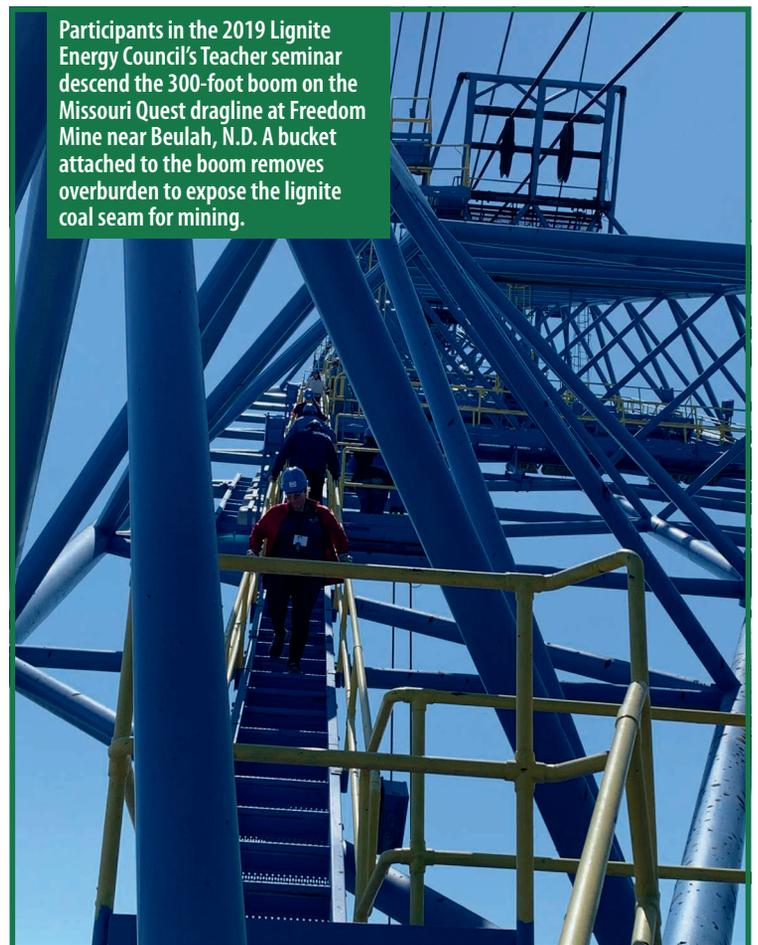
**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

When Craig Shryock’s vocational agriculture students at Wessington Springs High School return to the classroom this fall, they will eventually cover a section on electricity and Shryock can provide some first-hand lessons to his students thanks to a summer course he took.

Several years ago, Shryock was one of dozens of teachers to attend the Lignite Energy Council’s Teacher Seminar held each June since 1986. Since the first seminar was offered, more than 3,300 teachers have attended, giving each an insight into not only coal’s role in energy production, but also into electricity in general.

At a meeting of fellow ag teachers this summer, Shryock spoke about the seminar and its value.



Participants in the 2019 Lignite Energy Council’s Teacher seminar descend the 300-foot boom on the Missouri Quest dragline at Freedom Mine near Beulah, N.D. A bucket attached to the boom removes overburden to expose the lignite coal seam for mining.

“Being able to hold up that vial of coal and let the students see it is important,” Shryock said.

Having that tangible piece of coal to serve as a learning tool helps students understand that electricity is more than just flipping on a switch in the morning.

The piece of coal was just one take away that seminar attendees like Shryock benefit from. At the conclusion of the seminar, teachers take home handouts, videos, coal samples, and activities that can be used in the classroom, as well as two professional graduate credits.

The goal of the seminar is to provide teachers with the information and educational materials they need to teach their students about how lignite is mined and used to produce electricity for homes, farms and businesses in the Upper Midwest. In addition, the seminar covers lignite’s economic impact on the region, as well as important environmental issues affecting the lignite industry.

Educators attending the seminar are eligible to earn two professional development graduate credits from three North Dakota universities: North Dakota State University (teaching and learning),



University of North Dakota (education), Minot State University (science).

All teachers and faculty are encouraged to apply for the seminar with preference given to fourth grade through 12th grade teachers, those with science, math or social studies as a primary subject matter and career counselors.

The seminar is a no-cost seminar for K-12 teachers in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Iowa, but they may incur travel expenses. Sponsorships may be available for transportation reimbursement to and from the seminar for eligible teachers in Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. Those sponsorships will be arranged by the

utilities and cooperatives serving those states. Housing and most meals during the seminar are paid for as are graduate credit hours.

Handouts and classroom activities made available to the teachers go beyond lignite coal and lignite mining and reclamation. Teachers also dive into light bulb efficiencies and types, electricity transmission systems, energy use, carbon capture and storage, workforce issues, geology and environmental compliance.

For more information on the seminar, visit <https://lignite.com/events/teachers-seminar/> or contact the Lignite Energy Council at 701-258-7117.



# SVE Members & EmPOWER Students Travel to ND

Just over 50 SVE members and 11 EmPOWER Youth participants traveled to North Dakota to learn how electricity is generated and flows through the system; eventually allowing a flip of the switch to start the flow of power.

Trip participants toured the Coteau Freedom Coal Mine, Antelope Valley Power Plant and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant. The adults enjoyed a Lewis and Clark Riverboat Cruise and the kids took in some swimming at a water-park. One participant offered comments on the tour, “The Coteau Freedom Coal Mine was the highlight of the tour! Me, being a corn/soybean farmer that loves his farm equipment, was impressed by the sheer size of the mining equipment! Awesome!”

The three-day trip for the adults also included cooperative members from Iowa and Minnesota. The EmPOWER Youth added a day to their trip to visit Bismarck State College where they took part in hands-on activities.



***Pictured (Top): Eleven Sioux Valley Energy EmPOWER students traveled to North Dakota July 22-25. In total, 48 teens from 15 electric cooperatives in South Dakota and south-western Minnesota traveled to North Dakota to explore energy production, cooperatives and careers in related industries.***

***(Bottom Left): EmPOWER student, James Drietz, took part in a hands-on activity at Bismarck State College.***

***(Bottom Right): SVE Members traveled to North Dakota to visit Basin Electric facilities. They also enjoyed some time at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum.***

# SVE Shows Appreciation for Storm Assistance

## Thank You Tour

Winter Storm Wesley hit the Sioux Valley Energy service territory hard in April. The historic ice storm caused more than \$8-million in damages to the Sioux Valley Energy electric system. Damages stretched over 2,500 square miles of SVE's 6,000 square miles of territory. The Cooperative's workforce nearly doubled during the restoration process with an extra 100 line personnel assisting. Sioux Valley Energy embarked recently on a 'Thank You Tour' to personally thank the electric cooperatives and contracting crews who helped during the storm. There are nine more visits yet to make.

Pictured below are photos of the 'Thank You' gifts given to the following co-ops and contractors: FEM Electric Cooperative, Northern Electric Cooperative, H-D Electric Cooperative, Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Codington Clark Electric, Karian Peterson Powerline Contracting, Terminating Solutions, Legacy Power Line Inc., and May Construction Inc.



# Trucking Along

## Future Driver Shortage May Tap the Brakes

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

**Our industry could be short just over 100,000 drivers in five years and 160,000 drivers in 2028.**

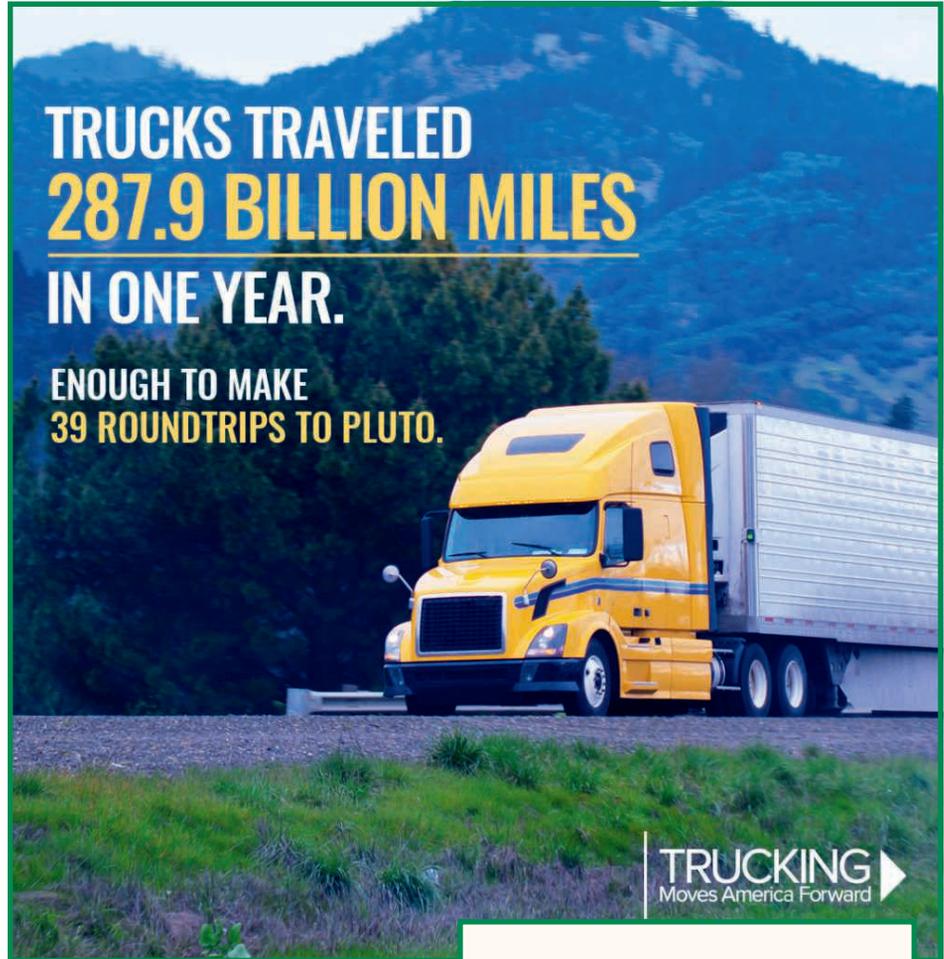
Travel down any major highway in the region and chances are you'll encounter dozens of semi trucks.

Some are hauling agriculture equipment or products, others may be hauling specialized loads such as wind turbine components. Yet others contain items destined for your local grocery store's shelves. Even your electric cooperative relies on timely deliveries of poles and materials hauled in by trucks.

There's no doubt about it, we're all connected by this nationwide trucking industry network.

This summer, the American Trucking Associations released its latest examination of the driver shortage, finding the industry needed 60,800 more drivers at the end of 2018 to meet the country's demands for freight services.

"Over the past 15 years, we've watched the shortage rise and fall with economic trends, but it ballooned last year to the highest level we've seen to date," said ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello. "The combination of a surging freight economy and carriers' need for qualified drivers could severely disrupt the supply chain.



The increase in the driver shortage should be a warning to carriers, shippers and policymakers because if conditions don't change substantively, our industry could be short just over 100,000 drivers in five years and 160,000 drivers in 2028."

The report details the factors that contribute to the shortage, including an aging driver population, increases in freight volumes and competition from other blue-collar careers. It also outlines potential market and policy solutions. While the report covers the entire trucking industry, the bulk of the shortage is in the over-the-road for-hire truckload market.

"The trucking industry needs to find ways to attract more and younger drivers," Costello said. "Right now, the average age of an over-the-road driver is

**Sept. 8-14 is National Truck Driving Appreciation Week**

**National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is a week recognizing the 3.5 million professional truck drivers that are an important part of our economy. Every day these dedicated professional men and women transport goods and services safely, protected and on time, while keeping highways safe.**



A semi travels along U.S. Highway 281 north of Plankinton, S.D.

46 years old, and almost as alarming is that the average age of a new driver being trained is 35 years old.

“Whether by removing barriers for younger drivers to begin careers as drivers, attracting more demographic diversity into the industry, or easing the transition for veterans, we need to do more to recruit and retain drivers,” he said. “That includes increasing pay, which happened at a brisk pace last year, to keep pace with demand, addressing lifestyle factors like getting drivers more time at home, and improving conditions on the job like reducing wait times at shipper facilities.”

In order to meet the nation’s freight demand, the report says the trucking industry will need to hire 1.1 million new drivers over the next decade – an average of 110,000 per year to replace retiring drivers and keep up with growth in the economy.

Myron Rau, president of the South Dakota Trucking Association in Sioux Falls, recently commented on the shortage in the *SDTA Trucking News*.

“It is probably not new news to anyone but it is reported that the U.S. trucker shortage is expected to double over the next decade. The driver deficit swelled by more than 10,000 to 60,800 in 2018 from a year earlier. The American Trucking Associations (ATA) estimates that 160,000 driver positions will go unfilled a decade from now. A possible solution has been proposed to regulators by the ATA. That solution is to lower the age for commercial drivers who can cross state lines by three years to 18. This proposal included increased training and supervision. Over 40 states now allow 18 year old drivers to get a commercial driver license to operate within the borders of their license issuing state. I believe there is a chance, if all parties come to the table, to implement this proposal that will bring some relief to predicted driver shortages,” Rau wrote.

The SDTA holds its annual convention Sept. 4-6 in Sioux Falls, S.D.

## Facts About Trucking

- Professional truck drivers drove over 287.9 billion miles in 2016, more than double 25 years ago. Those miles accounted for 14.2 percent of all motor vehicle miles and 29.8 percent of all truck miles.
- The trucking industry paid \$41.8 billion in federal and state highway taxes in 2016, and represented 13.3 percent of vehicles on the road. The trucking industry paid \$17.6 billion in federal highway-user taxes and \$24.2 billion in state highway-user taxes in 2016.
- The trucking industry consumed 54.9 billion gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline in 2016. Based on consumption and price, ATA reported that motor carriers spent \$142.9 billion in 2015.
- The federal fuel tax for diesel in 2018 is 24.4 cents per gallon; the average state tax for diesel fuel was 25.2 cents per gallon.
- There are 3.68 million class 8 trucks on the road in the United States and 11.7 million commercial trailers were registered in 2016.
- There are 7.7 million truck drivers in the United States. Total industry employment is 3.5 million or one out of every 16 people working in the United States.
- There are 777,240 for-hire carriers and 700,591 private carriers in the United States; 97.3 percent of them have fewer than 20 trucks and 91 percent are operating six trucks or less.
- In 2016, the trucking industry hauled 10.77 billion tons of freight, or 70.1 percent of total U.S. freight tonnage. Rail was the next busiest mode, moving 13.8 percent of the nation’s freight tonnage.
- In 2017, the trucking industry was a \$700.18 billion industry, representing 79.3 percent of the nation’s freight bill.
- More than 80 percent of U.S. communities depend solely on trucking for delivery of their goods and commodities.

Source: *Professional Truck Drivers and The Trucking Industry*, October 2018

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**Brandon Valley Pigskin Classic:**

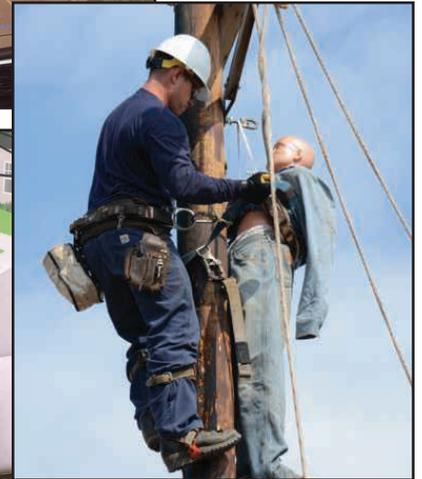
Saturday, September 14, 2019  
301 S Splitrock Blvd - **Brandon, SD**  
Serving Food from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**West Central vs. Tri-Valley**

Friday, September 20, 2019  
705 E 2Nd St - **Hartford, SD**  
Serving Food from 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

# More than 750 attend first annual event SVE Safety Day

The first-ever Sioux Valley Energy ‘Safety Day’ was held on Saturday, August 10th in Brandon, SD at the SVE service center. The event featured a multitude of safety demonstrations including showcasing the power and potential danger of electricity. The SD Highway Patrol, Pipestone County Ambulance, Brandon Police Department, Brandon Fire Department and the SD Farmers Union also hosted interactive demos. In addition, attendees enjoyed a complimentary pancake breakfast and several children’s activities. SVE also sponsored the first annual Co-op 5K Color Walk/Run at McHardy Park in Brandon. Proceeds of the Color Walk/Run went to the SD Rural Electric Line Patrol Charity.



# Take Action Events Scheduled

Sioux Valley Energy has scheduled upcoming “Take Action” forums to be held this Fall. The forums highlight the importance of grassroots advocacy and involvement by Cooperative members. Currently, three events have been scheduled with a fourth to be scheduled in Minnesota. Each forum features a complimentary meal along with a guest speaker that will discuss legislative and regulatory issues that impact electric cooperatives. The complimentary meal begins at 5:30 p.m. and will run until 6:15 p.m. An update from SVE starts at 6 p.m. with featured speakers following after at 6:15 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to register for a chance to win an all expense paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. in April to attend the National Rural Electric Legislative Conference. A final schedule will be mailed to each member via postcard in September.

★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
<b>Tuesday, October 1: Hartford, SD</b>	<b>Thursday, October 3: Brandon, SD</b>	<b>Tuesday, October 8: Brookings, SD</b>
5:30 - 7:00 p.m. <b>Dakota Plains Event Center</b> 1021 Diamond Cir.	5:30 - 7:00 p.m. <b>Holiday Inn Express Convention Center</b> 1103 N Splitrock Blvd.	5:30 - 7:00 p.m. <b>Brookings Swiftel Center</b> 824 32nd Avenue
<b>FEATURING CONGRESSMAN DUSTY JOHNSON</b>	<b>FEATURING SENATOR JOHN THUNE</b>	<b>FEATURING SENATOR MIKE ROUNDS</b>

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**May 26-End of Summer**

Brookings County Museum and its new and unique Trygve Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum, 1 to 4 p.m. daily, Volga, SD

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**August 22-25**

57th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring the JI Case Collectors' Summer Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, [www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

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**August 24**

McCrosan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Rodeo, Leo P. Flynn Memorial Arena, McCrosan Boys Ranch Campus, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-1203

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**August 24-25**

Great Dakota Wine Festival, Vermillion, SD, 605-624-4500

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**August 29**

South Dakota State Fair Value Added Ag Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT, Huron, SD

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**August 29-September 2**

South Dakota State Fair, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

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**September 2**

Closing Day, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, [www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

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**September 7**

Insect Festival at McCrory Gardens, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6707

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**September 7**

Sidewalk Arts Festival, Sioux Falls, SD

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**September 7**

Germanfest, 1 to 10 p.m., Fawick Park, Sioux Falls, SD

**August 24-25: Fourth Annual Fall River Balloon Fest, 6 a.m., Airport, Hot Springs, SD, 605-745-4140**



Photo courtesy: [travelouthdakota.com](http://travelouthdakota.com)

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**September 12**

Light The Night Walk Sponsored by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 5:30 to 8 p.m., Falls Park, 131 East Falls Park Drive, Sioux Falls, SD, To register: <https://www.lightthenight.org/events/sioux-falls>

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**September 14**

Warriors for Mick Fifth Annual ALS Poker Run, Register at Steve's Bar 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Hands drawn at 5 p.m., All vehicles/ATVs welcome, Trent SD, For more info visit the Warriors for Mick Facebook event page

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**September 13-14**

Deadwood Jam, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

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**September 13-15**

Dakota Western Heritage Festival, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-222-0079

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**September 14-15**

Twin Rivers Old Iron Harvest Festival, Delmont, SD, 605-505-0535

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**September 15**

Hero Days, Show & Shine On Main Street, 12:30 p.m. Parade down Main St., All vehicles welcome, 12 p.m. line up by the football field, 1 to 3 p.m. Show & Shine, Wing & Pie Contest and Face Painting by Miss Elkton, 1:30 to 4 p.m. Dance at the Community Center, All cars, trucks, motorcycles, semis and tractors welcome, Elkton, SD, Contact Greg at 605-520-9243

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**September 27-28**

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

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**September 28**

West Nidaros Church Harvest Festival Supper, Roast Beef Meal, Bake Sale, Farmers Market, 4 to 6:30 p.m., 25403 471st Ave., Crooks, SD, 605-543-5215

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**October 5**

Pumpkin Train, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, [www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

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**October 5**

Central Valley Struttin' Gobblers Hunting Heritage Banquet, Dakota Plains Event Center, 5:30 p.m., Hartford, SD, Call Greg at 605-528-3592

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**November 2**

Mark Wills Concert, High School Gymnasium, 7 p.m., Sponsored by Turner County Charity Youth Pheasant Hunt to benefit McCrosan Boys Ranch, Parker, SD, 605-505-1003

**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.**