



Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

SEPTEMBER 2016 VOL. 17 NO. 5



A New Home

for 4-H at the State Fair

P8-9

Grassroots Involvement



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

There has never been a time more important to be involved in your local electric cooperative. The policies and regulations that our elected and appointed government officials put into place can significantly impact the cost of electricity and potentially the reliability of the electrical distribution system.

At the end of August and middle of September we will be holding three events throughout our service territory to discuss grassroots opportunities for our members to become involved. You may recall we talked about these events at the 2016 District Meetings.

The kick-off event will take place in Brandon, SD at the Holiday Inn Express on Monday, August 29th. There will be a complimentary meal and Senator John Thune will be our guest speaker. We also plan to host two more events on September 12 in Brookings, SD at the McCrory Gardens visitor center and on September 13th in Pipestone, MN at the Hiawatha Lodge. All urban and rural residential members will receive an invitation to attend! All attendees will have the chance to win a trip to Washington DC to see the political process in action.

One of the ways you may be able to become directly involved is through the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action program—and we will plan to tell you more about it at the grassroots events! As a member of Sioux Valley Energy you are among 42 million Americans who can claim ownership in a not-for-profit consumer-controlled utility that provides electricity at cost. The ACRE Co-op Owners for Political

Action® program is an exciting opportunity for you to raise your voice and participate in the political process.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE®) is the political action committee of the nation's electric cooperatives. For over 40 years, ACRE has been working to support candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who understand and support electric cooperatives and their consumer-owners. Through ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action, you as a consumer-owner have the ability to strengthen this support and join over 30,000 ACRE members who form a strong grassroots network dedicated to the long-term success of the electric cooperative program.

If you want to learn more about how to become involved, learn about energy legislation and policy and enjoy a great meal—join us at one of our grassroots events! **Each event will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

✓ **Monday August, 29: Brandon, SD**
(Guest Speaker: Senator John Thune)
Holiday Inn Express Convention Center

✓ **Monday, September 12: Brookings, SD**
McCrory Gardens Visitor Center

✓ **Tuesday, September 13: Pipestone, MN**
Hiawatha Lodge

*Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® are not tax deductible. All contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. Contribution guidelines are suggestions only. You may contribute more or less than the recommended amount. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal.





A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
The power of human connections

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.

How to contact us:

Phone: 1-800-234-1960

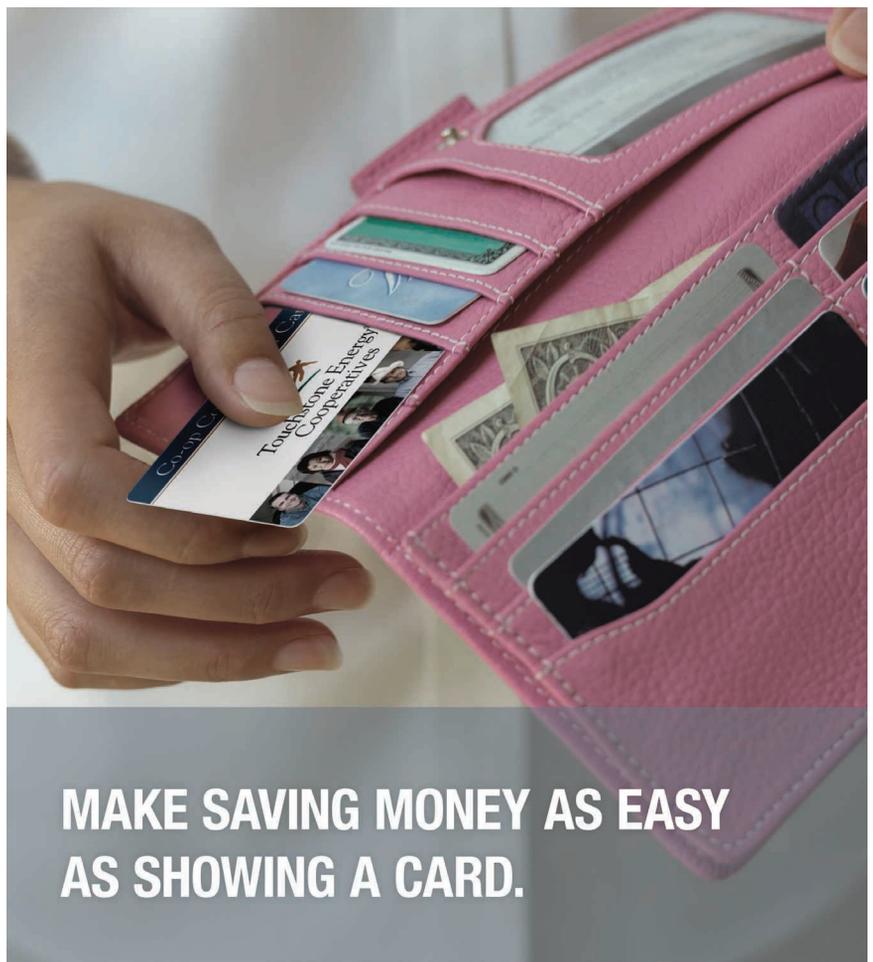
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Sioux Valley Energy's headquarters, Colman, S.D.



**MAKE SAVING MONEY AS EASY
AS SHOWING A CARD.**

Sioux Valley Energy members
are eligible for
Co-op Connections Card
discounts!

~
**Check out the 'local
discounts' flier
magazine insert!**

(pages 8&9)

~
You can also go online at
www.connections.coop
to learn more about national discounts,
health care savings and pharmacy benefits!

Back-to-School Electrical Safety

When hooking up computers, appliances, TVs, game consoles and other electronics, it pays to be safe. Students and parents who know what electrical hazards to look for and how to address them will start the school year with peace of mind.

Protect yourself from injury and keep electronics running safely by taking the following precautions:

- Use only approved electrical products with the mark of a recognized certification agency.
- Choose power bars with a heavy-gauge cord that are 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.
- Avoid overloading outlets or circuits as this can cause overheating that may lead to fire.

Off to College

Every fall, thousands of students move away from home to attend college. When renting off-campus accommodations, have the landlord correct any electrical hazards before you move in, such as:

- Exposed electrical wiring;
- Loose or damaged plugs and switches or outlets and switches with missing cover plates;
- Dim, flickering or surging lights;
- Fuses that blow or circuit breakers that frequently trip or outlets that don't work when fuses are replaced or breakers reset; and
- Fuses and switches that are warm or hot to the touch.

Source: *esasafe.com*

Election Watch: Amendment R

When South Dakota voters head to the polls this fall, they will have a voice in the state's technical education program.

Many South Dakota industries are facing a critical shortage of skilled workers – they are in need of more of these specialized and well-trained employees – which has cut into their ability to grow and has had a negative impact on the state's economy, supporters say.

In November 2014, a number of industry leaders throughout the state organized the Skilled Workforce Advocacy Council (SWAC) to try and fix the problem. They have worked with the Legislature and Governor and are supporting the Constitutional Amendment initiated by House Joint Resolution 1003 from the last legislative session. The Amendment passed unanimously through committee and, for one vote, on both chambers of the Legislature. The technical institutes, the South Dakota Board of Regents, industry and business leaders, the Governor's office and members of the state education system all testified in favor of the amendment. The wording of the amendment was drafted in a coordinated effort between the Board of Regents, the technical institutes, legislative leadership and the Governor's office.

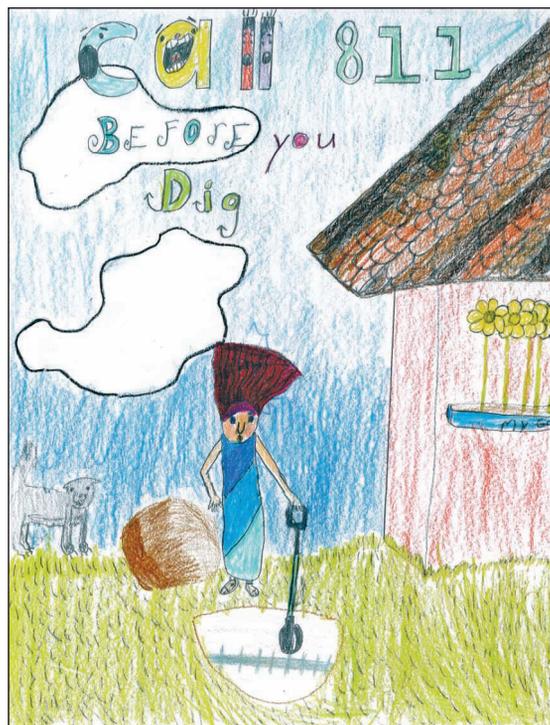
SWAC sees this as the best way to bring the necessary support to businesses in need of a skilled workforce.

The needs of our technical schools are unique and should be a prime focus for funding and program development, supporters – including the state's electric cooperatives – say. As South Dakota's principal means for educating and training skilled workers, the technical institutes must be recognized as a distinct education and training system.



Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Call 8-1-1 before you dig."



Elizabeth Land, 9 years old
Elizabeth is the daughter of Greg and Anne Land, Dell Rapids, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, 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.

Garden Goodness



Ripe Tomato Relish

- 12 cups ripe tomatoes, chopped
- 7 large onions, chopped
- 3 cups celery, chopped
- 1/4 cup salt
- 3 green peppers, chopped
- 2 cups white vinegar
- 4 cups sugar
- 2 T. mustard seed

Combine tomatoes, onions, celery and salt; let set overnight. The next morning, drain for 4 hours. Add remaining ingredients. Put in jars and refrigerate.

Laila Arndt, Glenham

Sweet & Sour Salad

- 12 cups watermelon, cut into cubes
- 2 cucumbers, peeled and cubed
- 2 green onions, coarsely chopped
- Dressing:**
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. poppy seeds
- 1/4 tsp. salt and pepper

Put watermelon in a colander to drain while preparing cucumbers and onion. Combine watermelon, cucumbers and onions in a large bowl. Mix together dressing ingredients in a shaker bottle until sugar is dissolved. Pour dressing over salad, gently stirring to coat. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Susie Trapp, Humboldt

Summer Garden 'N Pasta

- 1 lb. thin spaghetti, broken into 1-inch pieces
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 2 medium zucchini, diced
- 1 large cucumber, diced
- 1 medium green bell pepper, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 2 (2-1/4 oz. cans) sliced ripe olives, drained
- 1 red onion, diced
- Dressing:**
- 1 (16 oz.) bottle Italian salad dressing
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 T. sesame seeds
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. celery seed
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse in cold water. In a large bowl, combine pasta, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumber, green and red bell pepper, red onion and olives. To make dressing, whisk together Italian salad dressing, Parmesan cheese, sesame seeds, paprika, celery seed and garlic powder. Pour over salad and toss until coated. Cover and refrigerate for 3 hours or overnight.

Ginny Jensen, Volga

Roasted Vegetables

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

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 or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. If desired, sprinkle 1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese over vegetables during last 5 minutes of baking. Makes 6 servings.

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

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Vegetable Pizza

- 2 tubes refrigerated crescent rolls
- 2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- 1 pkg. dry ranch dressing
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- Garden vegetables of choice - carrots, peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, etc.
- Shredded Cheddar cheese

Unroll crescent rolls and pat onto a greased jelly roll pan. Bake according to package directions; cool completely. Mix together cream cheese, dry ranch dressing and mayonnaise. Spread on crust. Top with cut up piece of vegetables, pressing down slightly. Top with shredded cheese. Refrigerate.

Eric Neville, Milesville

Zucchini Pancakes

- 1/3 cup biscuit baking mix
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- 2 T. butter

In a bowl, combine biscuit baking mix, Parmesan cheese, pepper and eggs just until blended. Add zucchini, mixing well. In a large skillet, melt butter. Drop batter by about 1/3-cupfuls into skillet; press lightly to flatten. Fry until golden brown, about 3 minutes each side.

Lynn Holzerland, Waubay

Please send your favorite pasta, crockpot and holiday treat 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 2016. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS : THE ONE CARD THAT DOES IT ALL

YOU BENEFIT FROM CO-OP CONNECTIONS!

Sioux Valley Energy, a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, is proud to be an integral part of the communities we serve. That's why we introduced the Co-op Connections Card last year, a member benefit that provides discounts on products and services from participating local and national businesses.

This same program has saved co-op members nationwide millions on prescriptions and now offers significant savings on dental, vision, hearing, lab & imaging services and chiropractic work.

FREE TO ALL MEMBERS

Each member of our co-op receives the Co-op Connections Card free. There's no sign-up. No annual fees. You get your Co-op Connections Card simply because you're a member of Sioux Valley Energy.

VALUABLE DISCOUNTS

You can easily recognize where the Co-op Connections Card is accepted by decals in their local retailers' windows. In addition to local businesses, we have secured discounts from a variety of national businesses and chains, such as rental car companies and hotels. Your card also entitles you to substantial prescription discounts nationwide!*

OTHER WAYS TO SAVE INCLUDE:

Cash Back Mall - an online shopping tool that puts money back in your wallet just for shopping at any of 3,000 websites including Travelocity, Walmart, Bass Pro, Best Buy and Target.

Appliance Rebate Finder – save energy and money by pinpointing rebates on energy efficient appliances.

Pet Assure - saves you money on prescriptions, visits to the vet, dogwalking and other services.

Coupons.com - printable coupons for groceries that are updated daily. Visit our link on www.connections.coop.

HOW ARE THE HEALTHY SAVINGS DISCOUNTS DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL INSURANCE?

This plan is not insurance; it is a benefit discount offer. The card provides immediate discounts at the participating provider of your choice. Upon presenting your card, you will pay the discounted price at the time of service.

There is no paperwork and no limit to the number of times you can use the card. These discounts are available only at participating providers.

CAN I USE MY CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD WITH MY CURRENT INSURANCE BENEFIT TO REDUCE MY COSTS?

No, your card cannot be used in conjunction with insurance. However, use your card for products and services not covered by your insurance plans and receive a discounted rate.

WHERE CAN I GET A LIST OF PROVIDERS THAT ACCEPT THE CARD?

The Co-op Connections card is accepted at more than 100,000 health-related providers nationwide. Find participating locations at www.HealthySavings.coop or call 800-800-7616.

CAN I FIND OUT THE DISCOUNTED PRICE OF MY PRESCRIPTIONS BEFORE GOING TO THE PHARMACY?

Yes, if you know the name, strength and quantity of the medication, you can find the discounted price of the medication by visiting www.rxpricequotes.com. You will receive the best price available to you through this program.

SEARCH USING SMART PHONES OR TABLETS

The Co-op Connections Program allows members to find discounts while on the go. Use this app to find discounts right at home or anywhere you travel.

Search "Co-op Connections" in the [App store](#) or [Google Play](#) to download your free smart phone app!

Sioux Valley Energy - 1-800-234-1960 - www.siouxvalleyenergy.com

*Pharmacy discounts are not insurance, and are not intended as a substitute for insurance. The discount is only available at participating pharmacies.

Co-op Connections Card: Prescription Drug Discount FAQs

What if the pharmacist doesn't recognize the card's name?

- There are thousands of prescription discount plans in the United States so the Co-op Connections Card may not be recognized by the pharmacy at first. When the pharmacist sees the pharmacy benefit manager information on the back of the card, they will know which program you are a part of.

I was told the pharmacy program is just a way to sell my personal information. Is this true?

- No, there is no personal information required to take advantage of the prescription discount. Each Co-op Connections Card has the same member ID number. This prevents privacy violations by third parties.

Can the pharmacy benefit be used in conjunction with my insurance?

- No, the card cannot be used with insurance. However, we encourage members to have the pharmacist process the Co-op Connections Card and the insurance card to compare which provides the lowest price. The member will receive the lowest price on prescriptions, whether that is the pharmacy's retail price or the negotiated discount price. With insurance, you will pay your co-pay amount no matter what the pharmacy charges for the medication. At times, the discounted price through your Co-op Connections Card will be lower than your co-pay. The prescription discount will also help you get lower prices on medications considered experimental or lifestyle that are often not covered by insurance.

How does the pharmacist know how much to charge?

- When a member presents any card, insurance or discount, the pharmacist will put the information into their computer and also put in their retail price for the medication. The information is sent to the processor who will sort through the pharmacies various contracts and agreements. The processor sends back the amount the pharmacy has agreed to accept for that particular medication, as well as the price the member will need to pay at the time of service. For example, if a pharmacy is selling a generic drug for \$4 but its contracted rate with the Co-op Connections Program is \$7, the system will tell the pharmacist to charge \$4. With insured plans, if a customer had a co-pay of \$15, he would pay \$15 regardless of the pharmacy's retail rate.

I was surprised by a processing fee for each prescription filled. Why would I use the Co-op Connections Program if I am charged each time?

- In order for a pharmacy to accept any plan, insurance or discount, the pharmacy contracts with a claims processor. The pharmacist must use a processor to determine the amount a consumer or insurance company will need to pay. The discounted price with the Co-op Connections® card is the same amount as

what the pharmacist gets paid as a reimbursement from an insurance carrier. However, the processor charges for the use of their system, hence the processing fee. The processing fee is a common practice for both discount and insured business. The difference is how the money flows. When a pharmacist receives their reimbursement back from the insurance company, the processing fee has already been deducted, and the pharmacy receives a net amount. Since no claims are involved in the discount process, the processing fee needs to be collected by the processor directly from the pharmacy. The member pays the amount that includes the cost of the drug and the dispensing/processing fee. This processing fee varies from drug to drug and pharmacy to pharmacy, depending on how the pharmacy contracted with the processor. Each pharmacy location or chain signs agreements with network processors. The fees are outlined in those agreements.

Who sets the prices for the prescriptions—the pharmacy, HealthTrans or New Benefits? How do pharmacies get repaid for the difference between the discount they offer and the cost of the medicines?

- The price for the prescriptions is based on a pre-negotiated contract with the processor (HealthTrans). The member receives the negotiated price or the pharmacy's standard retail rate (usual and customary rate)—whichever is lower. The pharmacist adjudicates the claim at the time of service to determine the price to charge the member on that day. The pharmacy is paid the negotiated discounted rate. This rate is the same or a little higher than the rate they have agreed to accept for insurance plans. There is no reimbursement to the pharmacy because it is paid the agreed upon rate by the member at the point of service. The prices are based on the following formula: Average Wholesale Price minus X% plus processing fee. The processor negotiates with pharmacies for a broad range of reimbursements including traditional insurance plans, worker's compensation, government programs, and cash discount plans. At times a pharmacy will sell a drug for lower than the industry standard Average Wholesale Price, like the current trend of \$4 generics. In cases like this, the negotiated price may be higher than the retail price. The customer pays the lower price.

Can I use the Co-op Connections Card in conjunction with Medicare?

- You may use the Co-op Connections Card during your deductible period or the coverage gap (doughnut hole). In some cases, a network pharmacy may accept the Co-op Connections Card or offer another cash price discount so that you can pay less for a prescription than your plan's negotiated price. This is considered a one-time lower cash or special price. If you are able to get a cash discount and pay an amount that's lower than your plan's price, you must send your receipt to your Medicare drug plan. This ensures that your plan counts the amount you paid toward your out-of-pocket costs.

Nordby Exhibit Hall:

4-H's New Home at the State Fair

By
Brenda
Kleinjan

4-H MEMBERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH PLEDGES.

At meetings across the country, members pledge their head, hands, heart and health to ideals that serve society well. But, for the past three years, South Dakota 4-H members have undertaken a different type of pledge: to raise resources to construct a new home for the program that has been synonymous with state and county fairs for more than a century.

On Sept. 4 at 4 p.m., the Nordby Exhibit Hall on the South Dakota State Fair Grounds in Huron, S.D., will be dedicated.

The \$4.7 million building is multi-purpose in that it was constructed for 4-H, youth and community. It contains 30,000 square feet of exhibit space,

four classrooms, a large demonstration kitchen and offices for State Fair and Beadle County Extension staff.

The building will be a statewide home for South Dakota 4-H year-round and will be utilized for meetings, training sessions, various competitions and other gatherings. When not in use by 4-H, the building will be available for events such as conventions, trade shows, performances, receptions, etc.

“When we did the strategic plan a few years ago, one of the things identified was the need for this type of building,” said Loren Noess, a member of the State Fair Board and chairman of the drive to construct Nordby Exhibit Hall.

The South Dakota State Fair Foundation was



created in 1992 with a mission to support activities designed to enhance, improve, expand and continue the South Dakota State Fair. As part of that mission, the Foundation has embarked on an important venture to further strengthen the State Fair's future.

As summer barreled to the deadline for the building's opening, organizers were nearing the end of the fund-raising for the project. At the beginning of August, \$4.36 million of the \$4.7 million goal had been raised.

There may be a few loose ends to tie up, but organizers are confident that the building will be open to greet the thousands of visitors and exhibitors at the fair.

"It will be open and usable for the State Fair. Some of the classrooms won't be completely ready, but the main exhibit hall will be," said Noess, who retired in 2015 after nearly four decades working for electric cooperatives in South Dakota.

The versatile, open-layout building replaces Clover Hall, which had been utilized since the 1950s for 4-H exhibits and competitions.

Noess noted that the building is named for Earl Nordby.

"We've had lots of help with this. Earl Nordby has been very generous providing an additional donation and then offering the challenge for additional money," said Noess.

For Noess, who said 4-H played a big role in his childhood and teen years, investing in the program makes sense for an ag-based state.

"4-H is one of the big anchors for the South Dakota State Fair," said Noess. "I have always said our No. 1 industry in South

"4-H is one of the big anchors for the South Dakota State Fair."



Dakota is agriculture. Not everyone in 4-H is going to farm and ranch, but there are so many opportunities in the ag sector – agronomists, ag lenders, rural electricians – where these members will one day contribute."

Noess said that in addition to the building's function during the State Fair, its presence is providing a foundation for other activities on the grounds.

"That type of a building has been a plus in getting other things to come to the state of South Dakota," said Noess, noting that the building was a part in securing the National Junior High Rodeo Association finals in June 2018 and 2019. "It was built for 4-H plus to be used for other activities as well such as farm shows

"One of the things that we'd like and the Legislature would like too is for the fair to have year-round activities," said Noess.

To raise the final monies needed for the building, organizers have launched The Final Brick Countdown, which is the push for the last \$500,000 of the building's \$4.7 million campaign. Any donation of \$1,000 toward the capital campaign is recognized with an engraved Sioux quartzite paver located on the grounds of the new exhibit hall. Multiple bricks can be created for one donor – for example, a donation of \$3,000 is recognized with three bricks. Call 605-553-4251 or visit www.sdstatefair-foundation.com to learn more. Online donations can be made through this site.

About Nordby Exhibit Hall:

The new 48,000 square-foot exhibit hall features:

- More than 30,000 square feet of exhibit space
- Multiple classrooms
- A versatile conference room/work room, available for activities during the fair and in the off-season
- A large kitchen for 4-H Special Foods competitions and year-round concessions
- A performance stage
- Year-round office space for the State Fair staff.



Don't be fooled by common energy myths

By Abby Berry

Eating carrots will greatly improve your eyesight, cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis, watching too much TV will harm your vision. We've all heard the old wives' tales, but did you know there are also many misconceptions about home energy use? Don't be fooled by common energy myths.

Myth: The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat (or cool).

Many people think that walking into a chilly room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true.

Thermostats direct a home's HVAC system to heat or cool to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The same is true for cooling. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during summer months, and 68 degrees during winter months.

Myth: Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy.

While it can be tempting to check the progress of that dish you're cooking in the oven, opening the oven door does waste energy. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you additional money. If you need to check the progress of a dish, try using the oven light instead.

Myth: Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away.

Believe it or not, many people

think this is true. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Ceiling fans circulate room air but do not change the temperature. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your electricity use. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

Myth: Reducing my energy use is too expensive.

Many consumers believe that reducing energy use requires expensive up-front costs, like purchasing new, more efficient appliances or construction upgrades to an older home. But the truth is, consumers who make small changes to their energy efficiency habits, such as turning off lights when not in use, sealing air leaks and using a programmable thermostat, can see a reduction in energy consumption.

Remember, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult. Focus on small changes to save big. Learn more about ways to save energy by visiting www.siouxvalleyenergy.com or calling 1-800-234-1960



Stay focused on safety during harvest

During harvest season, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. With the help of GPS auto-steer devices, farmers are able to decrease driver error and maximize productivity. Yet despite these advances, safety risks remain. To help farmers stay out of harm's way, Safe Electricity shares tips for a safe harvest.

GPS with auto-guidance provides farmers with real-time location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance and machinery guidance. During harvest, this technology allows drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the combine maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low-light conditions, which enhances productivity.

“One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness,” explains Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Safe Electricity program. “It’s important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents.”

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action if necessary.

Regardless the technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.



- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact Sioux Valley Energy.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

The Energy Education Council is a non-profit membership organization providing consumer safety and energy efficiency materials to more than 400 co-ops.

Cooperatives Demonstrating Cooperation

COOPERATION, THE VERY ACT OF WORKING WITH one another is an intrinsic quality of cooperatives. It's one of the seven cooperative principles (Cooperation Among Cooperatives.)

Everyday, local electric cooperatives embody this principle.

Cooperation is evident in times of severe weather. When storms – whether ice storms, wind events or tornadoes – disrupt power to any of the more than 350,000 people served by electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, help from a neighboring cooperative is only a phone call away.

Local cooperatives ably and skillfully deal with most of their weather-related issues on their own. But, on occasion, Mother Nature deals out a bit more than a single cooperative can quickly deal with on their own. The ability to call in extra personnel who are trained and knowledgeable about rural electric systems can help restore power faster

than if the co-op couldn't count on that help.

And cooperatives demonstrate cooperation in other ways, too. Nearly 75 years ago, cooperatives recognized the need to speak with a common voice in the legislative arena. Minnesota cooperatives formed the Maple Grove-based Minnesota Rural Electric Association in 1941 to represent their member cooperatives' interest in front of that state's legislature. In 1942, seven cooperatives formed the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, now located in Pierre, S.D., to help fight not only legislative battles but to jointly buy wire and supplies needed to electrify rural South Dakota.

Today, both organizations continue to provide legislative representation along with safety and other training and other services that are strengthened by working together.

Also in the 1940s and 1950s, cooperatives realized that their growing systems would need more

By
Brenda Kleinjan

Below: Crews from several cooperatives assist West Central Electric Cooperative in Murdo, S.D., with repairs following a summer storm.





Left: Each spring, during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference, co-ops work together to make sure that cooperative issues are heard by our nation's leaders.

power, so generation and transmission cooperatives – such as East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D., L&O Power Cooperative in Rock Rapids, Iowa, – were created. Today these cooperatives may also assist cooperatives with engineering, information technology, economic development, advertising partnerships and other needs.

By 1961, the formation of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D., allowed these cooperatives to work together on a regional basis to generate electricity through power plants owned by cooperatives in several states. Today, Basin Electric operates a diverse energy portfolio: coal, gas, oil, nuclear, distributed and renewable energy, including wind power and is consumer-owned by 137 member cooperative systems in nine states. These cooperatives in turn provide power to more than 2 million individuals.

Throughout the year, groups of cooperatives can

be found working together promoting their services and answering members' questions at a variety of events such as the Black Hills Stock Show, Brown County Fair, South Dakota State Fair, Farmfest, Dakotafest and numerous regional farm and home shows.

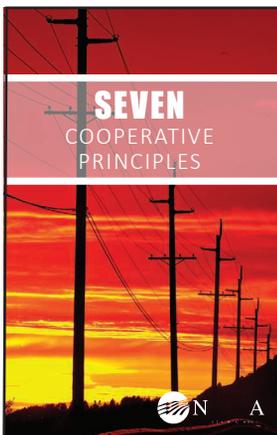
Cooperatives' commitment to education, especially providing learning opportunities to the region's youth, is yet another way that cooperatives work together.

Classroom education programs such as The Story Behind the Switch and Co-ops in the Classroom travel from school to school in cooperative territory throughout the region.

And for decades, cooperatives have provided the region's teenagers with opportunities to travel to Washington, D.C., for the Rural Electric Youth Tour. There, students truly witness the power of working together as student representatives from hundreds of cooperatives nationwide gather to learn about cooperatives, politics and the sights of the Nation's capitol.



Above: Students from cooperatives in South Dakota and Wisconsin discuss the role of cooperatives during a workshop at the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. **Left:** Festivals and shows such as Dakotafest allow cooperatives to work together to deliver safety, energy efficiency and other messages to co-op members.



VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Safety FIRST

Look Up, Look Down and Look Around

THE APPROACH OF FALL BRINGS HARVEST, END-OF-the-year home improvement projects and other activities that can bring people outdoors near power lines and other electrical equipment.

In 2015, the insurer of electric cooperatives reported that there were 99 electrical contacts nationwide that year. Unfortunately, these contacts led to numerous injuries and 13 fatalities.

The largest number of reports came from things – from booms, cranes and buckets to antennas, flag poles, ladders and trees – making contact with overhead power lines.

Electric cooperatives strive to keep these contacts at zero. Cooperatives have these tips for staying safe:

Stay Clear

- Do not store equipment near or under power lines. Not only can the equipment be damaged in an accident, but workers climbing on the equipment can be harmed as well.
- Lastly, be careful when working around bushes

or trees as they can easily hide electrical lines and other equipment.

Be Careful Around Trees

If you plan to cut down a tree, make sure now power lines are nearby. If you cut down a tree and it falls on a power line, don't touch it or try to move it. Contact your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative immediately.

Finally, you should never plant trees directly under power lines. Short trees should be planted at least 25 feet away from power lines, while medium trees should be planted at least 40 feet away.

Always call 8-1-1- before you dig to have underground lines, pipes and cables identified.

Vehicle Accidents: Stay in your Vehicle

Accidents between vehicles and power lines can be extremely dangerous. If you are ever involved in an accident that includes downed power lines, follow these simple steps:

By Brenda Kleinjan



Every 6 minutes

an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811.

Digging in to electric and other underground utilities can pose problems and possibly fatal situations. Being aware of where the above ground components – such as green cable boxes shown below, pad-mount transformers and other devices is also important.



- Do not leave your vehicle; it's the safest place for you to be.
- Wait for emergency workers and local electric crews before exiting as they will ensure the lines are completely de-energized.
- If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without

touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, “bunny hop” to safety. Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.

- Be aware that, after an accident with a pole, wires can fall at any time.
- Downed lines can sometimes show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, but this is not always the case. Treat all downed wires as though they are energized.
- Remember, most power lines are not insulated. The coating on the lines is for weather proofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current.



Before operating farm machinery including grain augers, sprayers or combines, check for sufficient space around overhead power lines; the general rule is at least 10 feet. If you are operating a tall piece of equipment, make sure to lower any retractable piece of the machine.

- The tires of the vehicle do not insulate it from electrical dangers. Follow the above safety precautions even if the car has rolled and is upside down or on its side. The vehicle is the path to ground for the electrical current. So while you remain in the car, you are safe. If you step out of the car, you are in danger of becoming the path to ground.
- If you come upon the scene of an accident involving downed power lines, avoid the area around the downed line entirely and do not touch the vehicle, as everything from trees to manhole covers can become energized.

If you have any questions, contact your local electric cooperative.

Regional Dateline

August 19-21

Riverboat Days, Yankton, SD
605-665-1657

August 20

Wing & Brew Festival
Brookings, SD, 605-692-7539

August 20

Third Annual Rock River Beer Fest, 2 to 6 p.m., Blue Mound Ice Arena, Advanced tickets are \$25 and \$30 day of, DD tickets are \$10 at the door. Tickets are available at Laverne Area Chamber, Take 16 Brewery and Blue Mound Liquor or online at www.rockriverbeerfest.com Laverne, MN, 507-283-4061. Must be 21 years or older to attend! IDs required!

August 20-21

28th Annual Threshing Bee
Rosholt, SD, 605-537-4426
www.rosholtthreshingbee.com

August 24-28

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

August 25-28

54th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring the Massey Expo of North America, Parades, largest flea market in the area, over 700 antique tractors, antique car show, horse and steam powered threshing, saw mill & machinery demonstrations wagon train, tractor pulls train & carousel rides, musical entertainment, food and family fun, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.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.

Events of Special Note

September 4

Studebaker Car Show
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
6th and Mt. Rushmore Road
Custer, SD, 605-431-4502

September 9-11

S.D. Fiddle Festival and Contest, 4-H Grounds
Yankton, SD, 605-880-0436
fiddlersofsouthdakota.com

August 25-28

National Park Service's 100th Birthday, Fee Free Days
Pipestone National Monument
Pipestone, MN, 507-825-5464

August 25-28

Kool Deadwood Nites
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

August 25-28

Prairie Village 54th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

August 25-28

State S.D. Senior Games
Aberdeen, SD, 605-275-6891

August 26-27

Southern Hills Music and Arts Festival, Custer, SD
605-440-0640

August 27

Poker Run/Supper/Silent Auction, Special Olympics United Wolf Pack Team
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-261-9341

August 27

McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Rodeo, 4 p.m. - Gates open, 4:30 p.m. - Pre-show entertainment, 5:30 p.m. - Rodeo Show Begins, McCrossan Boys Ranch Campus
605-339-1203

September 1-5

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

September 2-4

LifeLight Festival
Worthing, SD, 605-338-2847

September 9-11

James Valley Threshing and Tractor Show, Andover, SD
605-281-5663

September 9-10

Badger Clark Cowboy Music & Poetry Festival, Hot Springs, SD
605-745-4140

September 10

Sidewalk Arts Festival
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-739

September 12

Gardening with the Masters "Putting It to Bed" Outdoor Campus, Sioux Falls, SD
605-362-2777

September 24

National Public Lands Day, Fee Free Day, Pipestone National Monument, Pipestone, MN
507-825-5464

October 1

Pumpkin Train, Ride the train to the pumpkin patch and kids pick pumpkins, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org

November 5

Volga Christian School's 53rd Annual Harvest Festival Lunch at 11 a.m., Live Auction at 12:30 p.m., Sioux Valley Middle School Gym
200 Husina Ave, Volga SD
Call Brenda Volkers at 605-690-3434