



Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

AUGUST 2014 VOL. 15 NO. 4



HIGH SCHOOL RODEO SHINES Pg. 8

Summer Construction Update on Line Projects & a Safety Reminder



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

old. We need to put in place a balanced replacement strategy that takes into account reliability and member rates. If we were to replace it all today with new overhead line, the cost would likely exceed \$150-million. If we were to replace it with underground line, it would be two to three times that! The Board and Management strategy session will take place in August, so I will provide a full report here in my column in September.

As I mentioned, this is a busy season for us so if you see our crews out working; please be cautious--slow down in marked work zones. We want to keep everyone safe this summer. Here are a few highlights of some of this summer's projects that are taking place. These projects will help increase reliability and capacity so our members have the electricity they need, when they need it:

Egan Project:

We are installing six miles of new three-phase overhead line to replace an existing line that is old and currently located in an inaccessible area. Once the line is replaced, it will improve voltage levels and improve reliability by strengthening a tie between the Egan and Trent substations. This is important for members because it allows us the ability to transfer electric load from one substation to another so if there is a substation outage, we can get our members' power back on faster. This project will exceed \$600,000 and is one of our largest projects this summer.

Lakeview-Chester Project:

This project is actually complete, but still worth mention-

Summer is a busy time

for Sioux Valley Energy. We work hard to get as much line construction done as we can during the nice weather. One of the initiatives that we have spent a great deal of time discussing with the Board of Directors and plan to address in our upcoming strategic planning session is the replacement of our overhead line system. More than 2,000 miles of our overhead line is between 50 and 70 years

ing. We replaced 3.5 miles of existing single phase overhead line with new three-phase overhead line. This replacement will create a tie between the Lakeview and Chester substations, which will help to improve reliability.

Sunnyview Project:

We are replacing three miles of old three-phase overhead line with new three-phase overhead line. This project will help us expand our capacity, allowing us to serve additional electrical load in the Aurora, S.D. area. This project will also strengthen a tie between the Sunnyview and Bushnell substation. As with most of the other projects, this line replacement will help to improve voltage levels.

Volga Projects:

This group of projects totals approximately six miles and will help improve service to both the Lake Poinsett and Lake Oakwood areas. Approximately 50 percent of the new construction will be with overhead three-phase line and the other 50% of the new construction will be with underground single-phase line. These projects will improve voltage levels in these areas and will strengthen a tie between the Volga and Bruce substations.

Underground Replacement:

Sioux Valley Energy has worked for decades to replace failing underground cable in Minnesota (which was prevalent prior to the 1995 merger with SMCE) and in South Dakota. This year we will be replacing a total of 24 miles of underground cable (18 in South Dakota and six in Minnesota). Currently more than half of our system is underground and we often get the question—why don't you put all electric line underground? There are a few reasons why we have to balance the overhead/underground mix. These include but are not limited to operational issues that arise with installing too much underground cable and the increased expense compared to traditional overhead line.

As we work on these projects, we notify members of planned outages via our automated phone system. Please let us know if your contact information needs to be updated so we can inform you of planned outages.

A final reminder, I can't stress enough that safety is our top priority—please be cautious when you see Sioux Valley Energy employees out working on the lines. Enjoy your summer and stay safe!



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Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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

Pipestone Service Center Demolition

Demolition is in progress at the Sioux Valley Energy Pipestone Service Center. The aging facility is being replaced by a new 11,800 square foot building which



will include a customer service area, warehouse and shop. The current facility closed on June 20 and the temporary location is at **510 7th Street Southeast** next to the State Farm Insurance Agency on Highway 30.

Payments can still be delivered to a dropbox at the First Farmers and Merchants Bank in Pipestone.

The original Pipestone Service Center was the headquarters of the Southwestern Minnesota Cooperative Electric (SMCE) built in 1947. Sioux Valley Electric and SMCE joined forces to become Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. effective January 1st, 1996 serving 17,000 members at that time. The cooperative has grown to over 22,000 members today.

In December, the Board approved \$1-million to build a new facility.

Sen. Thune Visits SVE



U.S. Senator John Thune (SD) stopped by the Sioux Valley Energy Colman Headquarters on June 30. He discussed proposed EPA regulations with the cooperative's leadership staff, visited with several employees and also toured the Dispatch Center.

Summer Weather Survival

Help yourself and others avoid experiencing heat disorders by following these safety rules.

- **Avoid the Heat.** Stay out of the heat and indoors as much as possible. Spend time in an air-conditioned space. Only two hours a day in an air-conditioned space can significantly reduce the risk of heat-related illness. If air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine. Remember, electric fans do not cool, they just blow hot air around.

- **Dress for the Heat.** Wear loose-fitting clothes that cover as much skin as possible. Lightweight, light-colored clothing that reflects heat and sunlight and helps maintain normal body temperature. Protect your face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat. Avoid too much sunshine. Sunburn slows the skin's ability to cool itself. Use a sunscreen lotion with a high SPF rating.

- **Drink FOR the Heat.** Drink plenty of water and natural juices, even if you don't feel thirsty. Even under moderately strenuous outdoor activity, the rate your body can absorb fluids is less than the rate it loses water due to perspiration. However, if you have epilepsy or heart, kidney or liver disease, are on fluid-restrictive diets or have a problem with fluid retention, you should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.

- **Do not drink IN the Heat.** Avoid alcoholic beverages and beverages with caffeine, such as coffee, tea and cola. Alcohol and caffeine constrict blood vessels near the skin reducing the amount of heat the body can release. Although beer and alcohol beverages appear to satisfy thirst, they actually cause further body dehydration.

- **Eat for the Heat.** Eat small meals more often. Avoid foods that are high in protein because they increase metabolic heat. Avoid using salt tablets, unless directed to do so by a physician.

- **Living in the Heat.** Slow down. Reduce, eliminate or reschedule strenuous activities such as running, biking and lawn care work when it heats up. The best times for such activities are during early morning and late evening hours. Take cool baths or showers and use cool, wet towels.

- **Learn the symptoms of heat disorders and know how to give first aid.**

- **Do not leave children in a closed vehicle, even for a few minutes.**

Temperatures inside a closed vehicle can reach 140°F to 190°F degrees within 30 minutes on a hot, sunny day. However, despite this common sense rule, deaths from heat occur almost every summer when someone leaves their child in a closed vehicle.

- **When outdoors, protect small children from the sun; their skin is sensitive.**

- **Help your pets keep their cool.** It will "feel" as hot for them as it will for you. As with children, do not leave your pets in a closed vehicle. Be sure your animals have access to shade and a water bowl full of cold, clean water.

- **Protect windows.** Hang shades, draperies, awnings or louvers on windows that receive morning or afternoon sun. Outdoor awnings or louvers can reduce the heat entering the house by as much as 80 percent.

- **Conserve electricity.** During periods of extreme heat, people tend to use a lot more power for air conditioning, which can lead to a power shortage or outage. Vacuum air conditioner filters weekly during periods of high use.

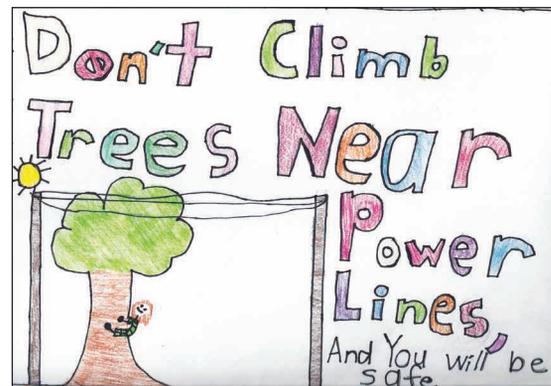
- **Keep lights turned down or turned off.**

- **Avoid using the oven.**

Source: noaa.gov

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Don't climb trees near power lines and you will be safe"



Hannah Remacle, 4th grade

Hannah is the daughter of John and Tammy Remacle, Canistota, S.D. They are members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Marion, 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.

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Succulent Salads



Kale-Quinoa Salad

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1/2 cup quinoa, uncooked | Few gratings of fresh lemon zest |
| 1-1/2 cups water | |
| 8 oz. kale | Dressing: |
| 1/2 cup slivered almonds, toasted and cooled | 3 T. olive oil |
| 2/3 cup dried cherries, chopped (cranberries also work) | 1-1/2 T. white wine vinegar |
| 1 bunch scallions, thinly sliced | 1 T. Dijon mustard |
| 2 T. Feta cheese, crumbled | 1 tsp. honey |
| | Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste |

Rinse quinoa well in a small colander; this is essential to remove bitterness. Place quinoa and water in a small saucepan and bring to a simmer with a couple pinches of salt. Simmer at a very low temperature until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain quinoa and rinse in cold water to cool. Drain well after cooling. Rinse kale and dry well, removing any large stalks; chop fine. Add kale to a large salad bowl. Add remaining salad ingredients – except cheese – to kale and toss to mix. Whisk dressing ingredients together in a small dish; pour over salad. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Top with feta cheese.

Lee Ann Swanson, Lake Norden

Colonel's Coleslaw

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 3/4 cup Miracle Whip | 1 T. dill pickle vinegar |
| 1/3 cup sugar | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1/4 cup milk | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| 1 T. sandwich spread | 4-1/2 cups grated cabbage |

Combine first 7 ingredients. Pour over cabbage. Let chill thoroughly.

Lee Anne Birkeland, Dupree

Summer Macaroni Salad

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|--|------------------------------|
| 1 package large shell macaroni, cooked, drained and cooled | 1 bunch green onions, sliced |
| 1 cucumber, peeled and sliced | 1 cup real mayonnaise |
| 1 green pepper, sliced | 1/4 cup sugar |
| 1 bunch radishes, sliced | 1/4 tsp. white vinegar |

Mix all together in large bowl. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight.

Jeanne Laurence, Rapid City

Antipasto Bean Salad

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 (15 oz.) can READ Three- or Four-Bean Salad | 1/4 cup thin strips salami or pepperoni |
| 1/4 cup thin strips roasted red bell peppers | 2 T. chopped fresh basil |
| 1/2 cup fresh mozzarella or provolone cheese pieces, about 1/2-inch pieces | Dressing: |
| 1 cup chopped artichoke hearts, canned or frozen; thaw if frozen | 1/4 cup reserved bean liquid |
| | 2 T. olive oil |
| | 1 clove garlic, minced |
| | 2 T. chopped fresh herbs, optional |

Drain bean salad; reserve 1/4 cup liquid. For dressing, combine reserved bean salad liquid, oil and garlic; whisk until combined. Add fresh herbs, if desired. In large bowl, toss together drained bean salad, roasted bell peppers, cheese, artichoke hearts, salami and fresh basil. Toss with dressing. Serve at room temperature or chilled. Note: Parsley, basil, thyme or other favorite herbs can be used. Makes 4 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: 250 calories; 8 g protein; 16 g carbohydrate; 16g fat; 870 mg sodium; 25 mg cholesterol; 3 g dietary fiber; 1 mg iron; 0 mg thiamin; 1010 IU vitamin A; 21 mg vitamin C

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

John Deere Salad

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 (3 oz.) boxes lime jello | 1 small box instant lemon pudding |
| 2 cups boiling water | 1 cup milk |
| 1 can lime or lemon pie filling | 1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip |

Dissolve jello in boiling water. Add pie filling; stir to combine. Pour into a 9x13-inch glass pan. Refrigerate until set. Combine lemon pudding mix and milk. Stir in Cool Whip; spread over green layer. Refrigerate several hours or overnight.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

24-hour Fruit Salad

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3 egg yolks | 1 cup whipping cream, optional |
| 1 T. butter | 2 cups fruit cocktail, drained |
| 2 T. sugar | 2 cups pineapple tidbits, drained |
| 1 T. vinegar | 2 oranges cut into bite-size pieces |
| 2 T. pineapple juice | 2 cups marshmallows cut in pieces |
| Pinch of salt | |

Boil first 6 ingredients until thick. You can then use dressing plain or mix with whipping cream. Add remaining ingredients. Refrigerate overnight.

Pat Lewis, Platte

Please send your favorite garden produce, pasta and wild game 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 2014. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Operation Round Up New Bicycle for Progress Inc.

For clients at Progress Inc. in Pipestone, Minn., bicycling is more than just a hobby or exercise. It's an opportunity to create a "sensory input". In other words—the bike allows individuals with developmental disabilities to experience their environment.

"Feeling the wind, the sunshine and the 'freedom' to feel "off the ground" is very empowering. We encourage using the bike for community integration and traffic safety education," Nathan Alfson, Progress Inc. Program Coordinator, said.

The Sioux Valley Energy Operation Round Up program provided \$1,250 towards the purchase of a dual seat bicycle for the non-profit organization that provides training to people with developmental disabilities in a community setting. Alfson says a staff member will always ride with the client.

"One of our consumers here at Progress is an anxious, reserved and quiet young woman. We found it quite difficult to get her out of her shell and to be engaged in any activity. On a whim, we decided to give the bike a try. Her reaction was priceless! She giggled, laughed, honked the horn, and peddled hard. It was almost difficult to get her off of it. Whenever asked to go for a ride, she is ready to go with a little grin on her face."

The dual seat bike helps stretch the client's body and increase



their strength and flexibility. The bike also helps clients practice their basic motor skills. Alfson says that they are grateful to Sioux Valley Energy members for contributing to Operation Round Up.

"Progress Inc.'s funding has been able to meet our basic business needs; however, this Operation Round Up grant has provided the extra cash for the bike that we were unable to afford. To Progress, this is a luxury and we are extremely thankful for the program and all the people who participate in the Operation Round Up program."

Progress Inc. began in 1991 to provide training to people with developmental disabilities in a community setting. Progress remains dedicated to promoting the independence of people with special needs - offering training and support to take care of themselves and to find meaningful work. The services at Progress are as varied as the individuals served (work assessment, job skills training, job placement, job coaching and follow-up, transportation, etc.)

More than \$28,000 was given to local organizations in the last quarter. Funding for Operation Round Up comes from members who round up their monthly electric bills. In total, nearly \$1.2-million has been donated to worthwhile causes since the year 2000.

Trip of a Lifetime for Toronto Teen

Brianna Jurrens of Toronto, S.D. represented Sioux Valley Energy on the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June. Brianna is the daughter of Chris and Becky Jurrens.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour celebrated its 50th year of sending more than 1,600 teens to the Nation's Capitol. This year's tour consisted of in-depth touring of Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Presidential Memorials, VIP seating at the USMC Sunset Parade, the Holocaust Museum, multiple Smithsonian museums and many others. The participants also had a full day devoted to Capitol Hill where they were able to shadow Senators Tim Johnson and John Thune, listen in on committee hearings and tour the United States Capitol building. Students also had the opportunity to meet with Congresswoman Kristi Noem.

Brianna shared these words about her experience,

"The trip to Washington, D.C. was an amazing experience and was definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity to go and meet so many people from different states all over the U.S. I enjoyed my time in D.C. and was so proud to represent my state and local cooperative."

I honestly could not choose my favorite place out of everything that we did, but I would have to say my favorite day was when we began at Arlington Cemetery and watched the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknowns, ate at the Hard Rock Café, and visited Ford's Theatre and the Petersen house, where Lincoln died.

On the first day they tell you how great of an impact



this trip will make on you, but I don't think any of us were expecting what we experienced throughout the week. I have made so many good friends and plan on keeping in touch with everyone; I'm actually going to college with a few of them this fall! I'd suggest everyone to sign up to go on this trip! I've already convinced my sophomore brother to do so.

Thank you so very much to Jennie Patrick and everyone at the Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative!"



Above: Toronto, S.D. teen, Brianna Jurrens, joined other teens from across the nation to tour Washington D.C. One of their stops was the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial.

Left: Jennie Patrick, SVE Marketing Specialist, and Jurrens toured the Washington National Cathedral and spent time in the gardens.

High School Rodeo: State Sport with Co-op Support

By Brenda
Kleinjan

IN SOME PARTS OF SOUTH DAKOTA AND WESTERN Minnesota, summer means rodeo.

From practice rodeos in early May to the regional and state finals in June and ultimately to the national finals in late July, athletes competing in the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association see an intense season in a roughly three-month window.

And for more than a dozen years, South Dakota's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives have been sponsors of the sport. At the high school level, the state's cooperatives provide the barrel covers for the region-

al and state rodeos, have purchased timing equipment and sponsored the short-go shirts awarded to the athletes who earn them at the state finals.

"From our perspective, the cooperatives are investing in the future themselves by keeping the western heritage alive by keeping the kids in the country," said Digger Rutten, a member of the SDHSRA board of directors and the group's public relations director.

"We appreciate all the cooperatives' support," Rutten said.





Above: Kayla Hemmingson of Bradley, S.D., finished 11th overall in breakaway roping at the SDHSRA finals. **Opposite Page:** Trig Clark of Meadow, S.D., competes in the saddle bronc on his way to capturing the state champion title. **Cover:** Dawson Munger of Pukwana, S.D., rounds a Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives barrel while competing at the SDHSRA finals. All photos ©www.CowboyImages.net. Used with permission.

More than 500 student athletes compete in high school rodeo in South Dakota. Only three states have more high school student rodeo athletes than the Rushmore State, Rutten said.

In fact, South Dakota is a charter member of the National High School Rodeo Association and helped start the organization more than six decades ago.

Through the years, more than 50 athletes have captured NHSRA National Finals titles.

But, the first step on the road to the national finals is honing skills at several practice rodeos held around the state. Then, students compete in regional rodeos with an eye to qualifying for the state finals.

Of the 526 South Dakota High School Rodeo Association members, 324 qualified for the state finals held June 19-22 in Belle Fourche. Of that number, 130 made it to the short go and 46 qualified to compete in the National High School Rodeo Finals July 13-19 in Rock Springs, Wyo.

With the high school rodeo season peaking in June, it lends itself to having its athletes involved in multiple sports,

Rutten said.

“If you look at the athletes in other sports, we have a lot of dual-sports athletes. Last year, several rodeo athletes were involved with state championship volleyball, basketball and wrestling teams, in addition to making it to the state finals in rodeo,” Rutten said.



Above: The team roping duo of Brent Woodward of Dupree, S.D., and Sam Huffman of Belle Fourche, S.D., captured the state champion title at the SDHSRA finals. Photo ©www.CowboyImages.net. Used with permission.

Rutten said rodeo also teaches students a lot of responsibility.

“They have to take care of their animals year-round and also find a way to buy those animals. It’s not like they get a free ride,” he said.

Rutten also noted another benefit of the youth rodeo movement is that it often involves the entire family, including multiple generations.

“There are families there,” Rutten said of the rodeos. “Mom and dad, all the kids and grandmas and grandpas.”

Those connections are ones that the Rutten family knows first-hand.

“When school gets out, for our family, we spend the next three and a half months together in a pickup,” said Rutten. “It’s a good family sport.”

National High School Rodeo Association Qualifiers

Dozens of South Dakota high school rodeo athletes qualified for the National finals to be held in late July.

Among the qualifiers from the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association State Finals Rodeo held in June in Belle Fourche were the following:

QUEEN CONTEST: Shaelynn Heitsch

BOYS CUTTING: Chet Crago, Sawyer Strand, Carson Johnston and Herbie O’Daniel

GIRLS CUTTING: Erin Kenzy, Shelby Strand, Karlee Peterson and Taylor Bothwell

BAREBACK: Trig Clark, Shane O’Connell, JD Anderson and Dylan Riggins

BREAKAWAY: Cedar Jandreau, Rylee Jo Rutten, Chesney Nagel and Katy Miller

POLE BENDING: Bailey Moody, Payton Donnelly, Shelby Vinson and Jana Hunt

TIE-DOWN ROPING: Lathan Laving, James Kirwan, Prestyn Novak, Brock Belkham, Carson Johnston and Jake Fulton

SADDLE BRONC: Taylor Tupper, Tanner Simons, Trig Clark and Jordan Hunt

GOAT TYING: Katy Miller, Brandi Cwach, Kaylee Clark and Chesney Nagel

STEER WRESTLING: Herbie O’Daniel, Wyatt Schaack, Cameron Fanning and Justin Boll

TEAM ROPING: Brent Woodward and Sam Huffman, Reece Wientjes and Nolan Richie, Colby Hetzel and Prestyn Novak, and Jeremiah Johnson & Cole Carlson

BULL RIDING: Shane O’Connell, Jake Frazier, Treye LaPlante and Rance Johnson

BARREL RACING: Rickie Engesser, Shelby Vinson, Chesney Nagel and Alyssa Lockhart

TRAP SHOOTING: John Gropper, Anthony Gourneau, Cameron Fanning and Justina Cvach

LIGHT RIFLE: Josey Aasby, Kaycee Szymanski, Kayla Hemmingson and Tanegai Zilverberg

Board Seats New Director and Elects Leadership



The SVE Board welcomed a new Director in June—Gary Fish of Brandon, S.D. Fish was elected to represent the members of District 8. The Board also re-elected Mark Rogen (Garretson S.D.) to serve as President, Rodney DeMent (Humboldt, S.D.) as Secretary; and Arlyn Zylstra (Jasper, Minn.) as Treasurer. The Board selected Allan Weinacht (Colton, S.D.) as Vice-President.

The Board of Directors accepted a letter of resignation from Curtiss Nelson, effective July 31st. Nelson, who has represented District 4 (Lake County) on the Board since

2004, announced that he will be moving and will no longer be eligible to serve on the Board. Board Chair Rogen appointed a Director Search and Selection Committee to identify qualified members from District 4 who may be interested in seeking appointment to the Board of Directors. Ultimately, the Board of Directors will appoint a member to fill the un-expired term from among individuals recommended by the committee. The term will expire in 2016. Sioux Valley Energy District 4 members interested in being considered to fill the un-expired term of Nelson should contact the Cooperative at 800-234-1960 or Board President, Mark Rogen at 605-310-5442.

Pictured: Gary Fish, newly seated director for District 8.

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Pharmacy discounts are Not Insurance, and are Not Intended as a Substitute for Insurance.
The discount is only available at participating pharmacies.

Using energy efficient window treatments

By B. Denise Hawkins

A recent study by two federal agencies used rigorous science and analysis to dissect window-covering choices—how you use them, where you install them and whether they really save energy. These days, every penny counts, which is why Sioux Valley Energy always recommends finding ways to be energy efficient around the house.

“Windows account for 25 to 40 percent of annual heating and cooling costs, especially in older homes,” says Carrie Law, Director of Communications and Government Relations. “Blinds, shades, films and drapes are all good options to consider if old or inefficient windows can’t be replaced.”

According to a joint government and industry research effort (including the U.S. Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Window Covering Manufacturers Association), window coverings—blinds, shades, curtains and awnings—could save significant amounts of energy at a relatively low cost to the consumer. Researchers next want to quantify how much energy consumer households could save based on the dominant types of window coverings used, in which climate zones people live and how U.S. households currently operate their window treatments. In the meantime, you may want to give your window treatments a second look when it comes to cooling, heating and comfort in your home.

“It’s important to remember that location, placement and materials are key,” said Law. “Windows facing west let in the hottest light and need the most coverage, while windows facing south are the most important natural light source and only need light coverage.”

Drapery. During the winter months and in cold climates, draperies work best. Their ability to reduce heat loss depends on fabric type (closed or open weave), color, the season and other factors. Keeping drapes drawn during the winter, especially at night, could save up to 10 percent of heat loss from a warm room. When hanging draperies, make sure they are placed as close to windows as possible to reduce heat exchange and that they are long enough to fall onto a windowsill or floor.

Shades. Shades—pleated or cellular, quilted roller and dual—are one of the simplest product choices for insulating rooms. But depending on the material, some are more energy efficient than others. Cellular or pleated shades are one example of an energy efficient choice. They can help keep air from either entering or escaping your home. Dual shades—highly reflective (white) on one side and heat absorbing (dark) on the other side—are also energy efficient and can be reversed with the seasons. In the summer, lower shades on sunlit windows. Shades on the south side of a house should be raised in the winter during the day, then lowered at night.

Interior blinds. Because of their spacing and openings,

blinds tend to be more effective at reducing summer heat gain than winter heat loss. But the level of cooling and heating can also be influenced by the position of the slats. When completely closed and lowered at a sun-filled window, for example, heat gain can be reduced by around 45 percent, according to industry estimates. Slats can also be adjusted to block and reflect sunlight onto a light-colored ceiling.

Window film. Residential window films can be high-end and permanent or inexpensive and temporary solutions to improve the energy efficiency of windows. Clear solar-control window films can block up to 84 percent of the solar energy that would normally enter through windows, according to the International Window Film Association, a nonprofit organization of window film dealers, distributors and manufacturers. When installed well, you may not even know some types of film have been applied to your interior windows, manufacturers say, but they’re working year-round to block ultraviolet light in summer and retain warmth in the winter.

With these and other carefully selected window treatments, you can reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer – keeping your house comfortable and your energy bills lower.

WINDOW COVERINGS: UNCOVERED. DID YOU KNOW?

- **Nationwide, more than 60 percent of all window coverings are blinds, with 27 percent of households installing metal or vinyl horizontal ones. They are followed by curtains (19 percent), shades (17 percent) and shutters (two percent).**
- **People rarely adjust their window coverings. About half stay closed at all times, with between 75 and 84 percent remaining in the same position throughout the day, depending on the season (winter or summer) or time of week (weekday or weekend).**
- **Renters and homeowners make different choices. Products like vinyl and metal horizontal blinds and vertical blinds are more common in rental housing than in owner-occupied homes, where wood and faux-wood blinds and windows without coverings are more common.**

Lessons from Abroad?

from an NRECA
Report
on Distributed
Generation
Issues

AS THE UNITED STATES WADES THROUGH POLICIES and regulations regarding the nation's energy resources, one study looks across the Atlantic Ocean to see what lessons could be learned from other nations' forays into energy production.

In Germany, a system of subsidies built into the electricity rates paid by residential, commercial and industrial electricity consumers has encouraged the rapid expansion of renewable energy production. The German subsidies – relatively modest for wind and other renewable energy sources compared with those for distributed solar power – have been touted as a model for encouraging renewable energy deployment in the U.S., and as a standard against which to measure and hence, to criticize, the slower U.S. adoption of renewable energy.

Christensen Associates Energy Consulting of Madison, Wis., undertook a study contracted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

to understand the outcomes of Germany's energy policies.

The study found that the German policies have actually resulted in:

- current residential electricity rates of 39.5¢ (US) per kilowatt hour – more than three times the average residential rate in the U.S.;
- rising electricity and energy costs that threaten both the German economy and international competitiveness of core German industries;
- increasing threats to grid reliability;
- and, in an ironic twist, increases in greenhouse gases precipitated by greater reliance on coal-fired generation.

From the perspective of their implication for U.S. policies and regulations regarding renewable energy, more important lessons learned from an examination of the German renewable energy experience includes, but is not limited to:



- The decision to achieve environmental and jobs objectives by making utilities and their customers pay renewable resource subsidies sufficient to make those resources cost-effective has proved economically unsustainable. These subsidies – amounting to \$31 billion (US) in 2013 alone – currently add an 8.7 cent per KWH surcharge to electric rates for most residential, industrial and commercial consumers in Germany. This subsidy, by itself, is 2 cents higher than the average industrial electric rate in the U.S. – 6.7 cents per KWH.

- The German Legislature greatly underestimated the enormous subsidies needed to reach the very high renewable penetration targets they established in law. For example, in 2010, rooftop solar owners received nearly 52 cent per KWh produced that had a market value of 5.2 cents, and under the feed-in-tariff law, they would receive that 52 cents until 2030. To date, this program has cost German consumers more than \$460 billion in higher electric rates and recent estimates forecast the total cost will reach \$910 billion by 2022.

- Germany's system of guaranteed renewable subsidies has made attaining its social objective of CO₂ mitigation extraordinarily costly. According to a recent Massachusetts Institute of Technology study, in Germany CO₂ mitigation runs as high as \$685 per ton of CO₂ reduction via solar and \$60 per ton of reduction via wind, whereas CO₂ emissions credits in Europe could have been attained for less than \$5 per ton in recent years.

- The enormous size of renewable subsidies and their impact on electric rates have impacted both the German economy and Germany's economic competitiveness abroad. An article in *Der Spiegel* described it this way: "Germany's Energy Poverty: How Electricity Became a Luxury Good in Germany," and cited the impact of those high electric rates on consumers and particularly the poor. Further, recent analyses by the IEA and others sight significant German losses in net exports due to "high energy prices and costly domestic subsidies for renewable energy."

- While the renewable subsidies have led to a significant increase in both solar and wind installed capacity, the production of energy from such capacity has continued to be quite modest, supplying less than 13 percent of Germany's energy requirements – while ironically German use of coal is at its highest level since 1990 and several new coal plants are under construction to keep the lights on.

- The rapid increase in wind and solar production has succeeded in driving down wholesale electric market prices and has created a widening gap between the low wholesale market prices that utilities receive for the renewable energy produced and the high price utilities must pay for that renewable energy. This widening gap has resulted in further yearly increases in

the retail rates.

- The rate impacts and transmission grid operational difficulties experienced in Germany resulting from inefficient and costly promotion of renewable energy teaches that sustainable renewable promotion requires long-range planning and strategic collaboration among stakeholders to enable renewable resources to provide full value to consumers and power system operations. This is described in detail in the Electric Power Research Institute's report "The Integrated Grid: Realizing the Full Value of Central and Distributed Energy Resources."

- The problems caused by the enormous renewable subsidies and their effect on electricity rates have recently led the

German government to drastically revise those policies by capping the enormous subsidies in 2014 and limiting annual increases thereafter to 2.5 percent.

- The German government has also finally realized that all users connected to the electric grid must help pay for it, and have recently approved implementation of a grid usage charge for new renewable owners. Germany thus became the first in Europe to charge consumers for access to the grid for their renewable generators. New renewable generators greater than 10kw are required to pay a 6 cents (US) per KWh grid access tax.

The above two changes to the original German "Energiewende" laws will not reduce German retail rates for a long time, but will reduce the rate of growth of the incredibly high retail rates in Germany.

The study found that the German policies have actually resulted in current residential electricity rates of 39.5¢ (US) per kilowatt hour – more than three times the average residential rate in the U.S.

Growing Demand in China

When looking at the international energy field, an eye must be kept on China's growing economy and energy needs.

China is scheduled to build 21,000 MW of new coal-fired electrical generation units annually for the next 10 years (210,000 MW total). U.S. baseload generation is expected to increase a mere 29,000 MW in total over the same 10-year period (29,000 MW total).

However, if the Environmental Protection Agency's plan for new coal-based generation is enacted, no U.S. new baseload generation will be from new coal-fired units.

As a result, China's new unit coal-fired CO₂ emissions will grow by approximately 6.23 billion tons, while new unit natural gas U.S. emissions will increase by about 559 million tons. Even assuming all U.S. new baseload demand would be met by coal over the next 10 years, total U.S. growth in the electric utility sector would be about 914 million tons.

Assuming the EPA proposal does what NRECA anticipates and eliminates all new coal, the maximum possible CO₂ reductions under this proposal are about 355 million tons or five percent of China's growth over the next 10 years.

A Sensible Solution

Huron-based Company Puts Irrigation Control in Palm of Farmers' Hands

By Elizabeth
Mayrose

PICTURE THIS: THE WEATHER HAS BEEN DRY FOR days. There is no rain in the forecast. A smart phone pings with an alert stating the moisture probes placed around fields indicate the ground is in need of some serious moisture. Without any effort besides a few taps on a smart phone, irrigation pivots have begun moving and supplying water to the growing crops. A few more taps and their direction and speed change. Soon, the soil is soaked to satisfaction, with all of the action taken with just the touch of a button.

South Dakota thrives on agriculture. As the largest industry in the state, caring for the land is the chosen life for many. With that life comes the realization that Mother Nature often has a say in how

the work goes. However, thanks to new advances in technology, farming has become more productive with man-made options that help when the weather might have different plans in mind.

In 2003, brothers Mel and Terry Wieting felt there was a need within their own farming operation located by Hitchcock, S.D., for increased technological works. From that, their brainchild – AgSense – was born. With assistance from the Greater Huron Development Corporation, they soon became a part of the Huron business community, basing their headquarters close to their own home.

Along with the location, company president Terry Wieting said, “Because a number of young





Left: AgSense's Field Commander pivot monitor and control controllers communicate with smart phones via AgSense's wireless ag network, WagNet, putting a powerful tool in farmers' hands. Opposite Page: A producer consults his smart phone to get real-time data about irrigation efforts at his operation.

software engineers with local ties were looking for an opportunity to develop as well" they felt Huron was a great fit.

Now over a decade later, it has expanded to be one of the leading companies that deal with irrigation monitoring. While calling Huron home, the company now has offices in Nebraska, Iowa and Idaho. Over the years, the company has acclimated to the changing demands of a constantly changing industry, adding more product options and furthered services when the need arises.

This company does things a little differently. By choosing not to specialize in one area, they've made themselves unique.

"AgSense as an organization is a hybrid between a product-driven company and a service-based company," says Wieting. They are a technology conglomeration, centralizing and combining the running of multiple irrigation pivots and different outlets. Not only does utilizing technology save one time, but also money. For farmers who used to spend hours manually checking each irrigation pivot, tweaking it to the necessary operating status, the option to run and monitor every single one from a smart phone is ground-breaking. Hailed by *istockanalysis.com* as a "pioneer in remote management solutions," AgSense paved the way towards making this sort of technology standard for all farmers, no matter the size.

With AgSense equipment, all information that is collected is saved within a secure network, meaning it can be viewed and studied from iOS and Android apps or simply any computer with Internet access. With that convenience, producers aren't limited to a single means of analysis. WagNet, was introduced as a means to put all of the information gathered in one single location that not only allows for control of equipment, but also comprehensive reports. Not only does it offer the knowledge that information will be available to view immediately as well as long-term, but it also comes with the freedom knowing that a producer can be miles away and have the peace

of mind that all things are running smoothly and can be alerted directly if something were to go wrong.

Using irrigation as a means to help increase bushel size is a practice used by many farmers. In fact, many South Dakota electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota have a portion of their kilowatt-hours dedicated to the operating of irrigation pivots.

"The Ogallala Aquifer, which stretches from western South Dakota to the panhandle of Texas, is where a significant portion of our business resides," Wieting said, noting that AgSense is utilized all over.

AgSense makes a direct impact on the costs farmers pay to operate their pivots as it makes them run more efficiently and effectively. In 2012 and 2013 when a drought affected South Dakota, more irrigation was required thus requiring more electricity. A high cost of running machinery and man-hours is not a welcome expense when the crop is already suffering profit wise.

Along with irrigation, AgSense has been helping farmers maintain grain bin integrity with monitoring that can be compared to their irrigation monitoring. With updates that can be viewed remotely as well, there are ways to inspect temperature, moisture content and weight. Because data can be viewed via smart technology, the benefit of knowing what exact condition a product is in helps to make quick decisions regarding the nature of the product.

Farmers all over the country have grown to love the AgSense technology and in the 11 years that this company has been in business, they've grown to not only be utilized by American agricultural producers but producers on a global scale as well. Now working in more than 10 countries including Saudi Arabia, Chile and South Africa, AgSense was recognized in March 2014 as being one of the contributing businesses responsible for the \$1.6 billion international exports from South Dakota.

"Developing global markets can be costly and a little scary to take on. Obviously, agriculture and more specifically water management presents a global opportunity and is a key component of our strategic plan in the upcoming years. We will invest significant resources in developing foreign markets in the upcoming years," commented Wieting.

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Regional Dateline

July 18-20

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

July 18-20

Hills Alive Festival
Rapid City, SD, 605-342-6822
www.hillsalive.com

July 18-20, 25-27

Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant
DeSmet, SD, 800-776-3594
www.desmetpageant.org

July 24-27

Midwest Water Ski Show/
Championships
Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-9932

July 25

Sara Evans in Concert
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1187
deadwoodmountaingrand.com

July 25

Montgomery Gentry in Concert
Watertown, SD, 605-881-1781

July 25-26

Storybook Land Festival
Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

July 25-27

Honey Days, Friday: Bean
Bag Tournament, Teen Dance
Saturday: 5K, Parade, Car
Show, Street Dance. Sunday:
Co-ed Volleyball, Horseshow
Tournament, Softball
Bruce, SD, 605-627-5671

July 26

Dakota Irish Fair
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-373-9154



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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

August 3

21st Annual Madison Car
Show, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

August 11-17

Brown County Fair
Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-7116
www.thebrowncountyfair.com

July 26-27

South Dakota Peach Festival
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-366-7022
SouthDakotaPeachFestival.com

July 26-27

Western Dakota Gem &
Mineral Society Show
Rapid City, SD, 605-348-8948

July 27

Tesla in Concert
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1187

August 1-3

Sioux River Folk Festival
Canton, SD, 605-987-2263
www.gfp.sd.gov

August 1-10

Sioux Empire Fair
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7178
www.siouxempirefair.com

August 4-10

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800
www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

August 9

Fifth Annual Camaro Fun
Days, Pioneer Park, Parade
Line Up 9 a.m., Poker Run
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Cruise 3 p.m., Entry Fee:
Four cans of food for Food
Pantry, Music, Poker Run and
Food Vendors, Brookings, SD
Contact Terry at 605-695-1560
or Calvin at 605-690-1057

August 16

Women in the Outdoors,
Sponsored by Central Valley
Struttin' Gobblers, 10 a.m. to
3:30 p.m., Hunter's Point
2 miles south and 2 miles east
of I-90 Exit 379, Humboldt, SD
605-553-3328 or visit
www.cvsqchapter.com

August 16-17

Riverside Park Days
Flandreau, SD, Contact Kelley
at 605-864-1779

August 22-24

52nd Annual Steam Threshing
Jamboree featuring the
Hart-Parr Oliver Collectors
National Show. Parades
largest flea market in the
area, over 700 antique
tractors, antique car show
horse and steam powered
threshing, saw mill and
machinery demonstrations
wagon trains, tractor pulls
train & carousel rides, musical
entertainment, food and
family fun, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org/jam-
boree

August 23

McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme
Event Challenge, Barrel
Racing, Mutton Busting
Northern Bull Riding Tour
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
McCrossan Campus
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-1203