

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



This year's sunflower crop is expected to be bountiful as market forces have driven up demand and prices

Sensational Sunflowers

Sunflower market blooms

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Everyone's welcome in the Chislic Circle

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Why is SVE a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative?



Tim McCarthy
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com

Sioux Valley Energy is a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative. The co-brand is part of our logo. But many times, members ask – what does that mean?

A touchstone is an actual stone that was used to determine the purity of gold – it essentially establishes the gold standard. And that is what Touchstone Energy is to us – it's a commitment that we will work harder, live up to higher standards, and always put our members first because we are striving to be that gold standard in the electric utility industry.

Touchstone Energy is a membership organization representing a network of locally owned electric cooperatives across 45 states. Touchstone Energy provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member cooperatives and their employees better engage and serve their member-owners. Being a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative, like Sioux Valley Energy, means you are served by a not-for-profit cooperative committed to the core values of integrity, commitment to community, accountability, and innovation and puts members first setting it apart from other utilities.

Locally, Sioux Valley Energy utilizes a significant number of resources from Touchstone Energy. As an electric cooperative,

we can tap into trainings and other assets that bring value to our members and employees. A great example is the Service Excellence program that all our employees took part in and certified Sioux Valley Energy as a Four-Star Cooperative, a distinction very few hold in this industry. We also have access to the Touchstone Energy WebBuilder program which provides web design, security, and hosting services. The list of resources goes on and on including the Co-op Connections Card, creative member engagement assets, energy efficiency, renewable energy and beneficial electrification educational information, etc.

On a national level, Sioux Valley Energy is actively involved in the governance of Touchstone Energy. I sit on the national Board of Directors and was recently elected as Vice President. Carrie Vugteveen, our Vice President of Public Relations, is a past board member and now chairs the organization's Brand Strategy committee. In both of these roles, we are able to provide input and develop strategy for the organization, ensuring that Touchstone Energy continues to add value to its member cooperatives, like Sioux Valley Energy.

Finally, I just wanted to say thanks to all our members who have stopped by to visit at county fairs, waved at us in parades, attended our Safety Day, and much more! It's been a busy but fun summer. We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events like tailgating and EV Ride and Drive.

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Together we're
RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS
SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

EV 'RIDE & DRIVE' EVENT COMING TO SIOUX FALLS

Learn more about electric vehicles at the second annual Sioux Falls area EV 'Ride and Drive' and Electric Vehicle Show at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls on Thursday, September 29. The event is being sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy, Southeastern Electric, East River Electric, Xcel Energy, Sioux Falls Electric Light and Power and Sioux Falls Sustainability.

Test drive an electric vehicle and check out several EV makes and models. If you have an EV you would like to display at the EV Show, contact us at 800-234-1960. Additionally, recreational vehicles like e-bikes, electric lawn equipment will also be on display. Food trucks will be available for the whole family. Hope to see you on Thursday, September 29 at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds from 4 to 7 p.m.

GO ELECTRIC!

EV RIDE & DRIVE

& Electric Vehicle Show

Take a ride or test drive an electric vehicle and check out an assortment of EVs from local dealers, utilities, EV car clubs and more!

Thursday, Sept. 29 | 4-7 p.m.
 W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds east parking lot
 100 N Lyon Boulevard, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Sponsored by:

East River ELECTRIC
 A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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CITY OF SIOUX FALLS

Xcel Energy®

Take safety precautions during harvest season

Harvest season brings long, grueling hours in the field, which can make workers weary and prone to neglect safety precautions that can prevent serious or fatal electrical injuries. Every year, an average of 62 farmworkers are electrocuted in the U.S., and many more are injured by shocks.

Farm operators, their family members and farm employees are urged to beware of overhead power lines, to keep farm equipment safely away and to know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines.

The increasing size of farm equipment, particularly grain tanks on combines that have become higher with extensions, allows operators to come perilously close to overhead power lines over entrances to fields. It is vital to keep equipment safely away from these lines. Maintain a minimum 10-foot radius around electric lines.

Portable augers are the No. 1 cause of electrocution on the farm. Augers being maneuvered by hand around bin sites have caused the deaths of many farmworkers who became the path to ground for electricity when the top of the auger touched overhead power lines. Always retract or lower augers when moving or transporting.

Other equipment commonly involved in power line accidents includes oversized wagons, large combines and other tall equipment.

Harvest is the most likely period for farm-related injury accidents and fatalities. Combines and other equipment loaded onto trailers can contact power lines and cause electrocutions, as can raising the bed of a truck to unload. That's exactly how a 53-year-old Michigan truck driver was tragically killed when he raised the bed of his semitrailer truck while parked beneath a power line at the edge of a field. He was attempting to clean out the bed, and when he touched the truck bed, he became the path to ground for the electricity.

Follow these safety measures:

- Use a spotter when moving tall loads near power lines.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- Make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. These accidents are survivable if the right actions are taken.

STUDENTS LEARN HOW POWER IS PRODUCED

A group of high school students recently gathered together to take a trip and learn how electricity is produced and how it is used to power their homes, farms, appliances and local businesses.

The students traveled to Bismarck, N.D., to tour the power generation facilities of Basin Electric, which supplies electricity across nine states and is one of the largest power producers in the country.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Don't Mess With a Transformer Box



Beware of the green box

Cambrie Koistinen

Cambrie, age 11, advises electric cooperative members to use caution around pad-mounted transformers, also known as green boxes, because they contain high-voltage power equipment. Cambrie is the child of Lance and Holly Koistinen of Hayti.

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.

FRESH FROM THE GARDEN

ZUCCHINI SPINACH CASSEROLE

Ingredients:
 2 lbs. zucchini
 1 lbs. frozen spinach
 1 chopped onion
 4 cloves of garlic
 5 beaten eggs
 1/2 cup salad oil
 1-1/2 cup cracker crumbs (save 1/2 cup for top)
 1-1/2 cup cheddar cheese (save 1/2 for top)

METHOD

Cook and drain first four ingredients. Add eggs, salad oil, cracker crumbs and cheddar cheese. Add salt, pepper and parsley to taste. Spread the remaining crumbs and cheese on top. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes.
Glenda Morton, Sioux Falls

CREAMY CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:
 1 1/2 long English cucumbers cut in half moons
 1 1/2 lb tomatoes on the vine sliced in segments
 1/4 cup red onion thinly sliced (optional)
 3 tbsp dill finely chopped
 2 small garlic cloves grated
 1/2 cup sour cream
 1/2 tsp salt
 Ground black pepper to taste

METHOD

In a large bowl, add cucumbers, tomatoes, red onion, dill, garlic, sour cream, salt and pepper. Stir gently from the bottom in the center of the bowl until well combined. Serve salad within next six hours or so.
ifoodreal.com

CUCUMBER SANDWICHES

Ingredients:
 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
 1 pkg. Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix (dry)
 1 mini loaf of cocktail rye bread
 1 cucumber, sliced
 fresh dill weed, chopped

METHOD

The night before serving the cucumber sandwiches, mix together the cream cheese and the Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix. Refrigerate overnight. Shortly before serving, spread some of the cream cheese mixture on a slice of the cocktail rye bread. Top with a slice of cucumber and sprinkle with dill weed.

Elaine Rieck, Harrisburg

CHERI'S SALAD

Ingredients:
 1-1 lb. pkg. veggie spiral noodles
 2 1/2 c. diced ham
 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
 1 c. chopped celery
 1 bag frozen peas, thawed

Dressing:
 1/2 c. mayonnaise
 1/2 c. sour cream
 1 tbsp. mustard
 1 tbsp. sweet pickle juice
 3/4 tsp. onion powder
 1/3 c. sugar

METHOD

Cook noodles according to package directions, drain and rinse. Mix ingredients together in a bowl and set aside. Mix until blended and pour over salad. Stir until well blended.

Jan Antonen, Arlington

Please send your favorite 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 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Charge Up!

CHARGING OPTIONS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

Contact Sheila Gross at sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com to learn more.



Scan this code to check out our rebates and incentives:

Electric vehicle (EV) owners have multiple options for charging their vehicle at home. There are three common EV charging levels: Level One, Level Two and DC Fast Charge.

LEVEL ONE CHARGING

Level One is the most basic charging level. If you choose this option, your EV will typically include an adapter that plugs into a standard 120-volt outlet. This is the easiest and cheapest charging solution, but it will take much longer to charge your EV.

LEVEL TWO CHARGING

Level Two is about three to five times faster than Level One, but this level of charging often requires separate purchases and installation. The EV is plugged into a 240-volt outlet which is used for larger appliances like a clothes dryer. Most homes do not include a 240-volt outlet in garages, so the outlet must be installed by a licensed professional. You typically see Level Two charging stations at shopping malls, office buildings, and multi-family community spaces.

DC FAST CHARGING

DC Fast Charge stations are most often seen near high-traffic public areas, like gas stations, rather than in homes. This is the fastest charging level, with the ability to charge

an EV to 80 percent in under 30 minutes. As EVs continue to become more popular, you can expect to see more DC Fast Charge stations throughout South Dakota and Minnesota.

If you're charging an EV at home, please contact us to learn about our available programs. EV charging creates additional energy demand. The time of day you charge your EV can have an impact on the grid and your monthly energy costs. By letting us know about your EV charging levels, we can help ensure your home is prepared for the additional energy consumption, and you can take advantage of our off-peak charging rates and rebate programs.

RIDE AND DRIVE EVENT SEPT. 29

Join us Thursday, Sept. 29 for our National Drive Electric Week Ride and Drive Event at the W. H. Lyon Fair-grounds in Sioux Falls. Learn more on Page 3.



WIN AN EGO SNOW BLOWER

Register to win a battery-powered EGO snow blower! You can register online at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com or by filling out the form below. Register by Sept. 30 for your chance to win!

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Account #: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Mail this form to: Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017

I WOULD ALSO LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Heat Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Time of Use Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Ag LED Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Interlock Kit/Generator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Audit | <input type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Irrigation Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Heat Rebates | <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon/HTP Water Heaters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Program | <input type="checkbox"/> SmartHub Account Tool | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Credits | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Solar Project |



- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this “refund” scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a “phishing” attempt) or by text (“smishing”), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Sioux Valley Energy will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST SCAMS

Be wary of call or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

If you ever doubt the validity of a text message or phone call claiming to be Sioux Valley Energy or “your electric company,” do not respond; hang up and call the Member Services Department at 877-511-8062 or the Cooperative's general number 800-234-1960 to verify.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF A SCAM

Anne Prince

National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn.

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas, or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the Covid-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the “power company,” in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone, or text.

COMMON TYPES OF SCAMS

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if

you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call one of our member services representatives at 877-511-8062. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always call us, or use Smart Hub to check the status of your account. Remember, Sioux Valley Energy will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate



Sunflower commodity prices are making farmers smile

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

It's hard to keep from smiling when you're driving past a field of golden sunflowers in full bloom during the late summer months.

Wall Drug billboards, old red barns and shiny grain bins are no match for the attention of motorists along I-90 when the sunflowers are bursting forth in all their spectacular yellow splendor stretching far into the horizon.

The subject of many aerial and terrestrial photographers across the region, sunflowers have a special appeal as they grow tall in the field and seem to greet the day leaning forward with a positive energy that exudes joy and optimism.

The current sunflower commodity market certainly has given farmers a reason to smile. South Dakota farmers raised nearly 600,000 acres and more than 1 billion pounds of sunflowers

last year, ranking second only to North Dakota for sunflower production. In fact, for the past decade the Dakotas and Minnesota have alternated the top three spots in their friendly competition depending largely on the vagaries of weather patterns. At least 75 percent of the U.S. commercial sunflower production has taken place in those three states.

About 1,000 of those South Dakota acres were grown by Brad Schecher, a fourth generation farmer who also rotates wheat, corn, flax and soybean crops on his 3,500-acre spread located near Bison in the northwestern part of the state, one of the hot-bed regions for sunflowers.

Schecher took over the family farm from his father nearly 10 years ago and said the military conflict in Ukraine and other economic factors have converged to form a "perfect storm" that has constricted international supplies and created a favorable environment for the

current global sunflower oil market. Commodity prices have broken all-time records by soaring 60 percent compared to a year ago.

"It's as good as any of the 10 years I've been involved in it," Schecher said. "Ukraine was the largest producer of sunflowers and the largest exporter of sunflower oil on the world market with about 50 percent of the overall market, but a lot of their crop has been destroyed or confiscated by the Russian military. That's one of the things that have driven prices up, and it's been good for the farmers."

High prices and high returns are keeping Schecher interested in raising sunflowers, but sometimes he has his doubts. Especially when he gets tired of fighting the fires, a battle that all sunflower farmers are bound to face at some point.

Schecher said that for all the eye appeal sunflowers hold, it's not always easy to bring in the crop. He explained that reaping the high-yield, high-oleic variety that he grows for the sunoil market can cause fires to break out during the combining process in the



Brad Schecher farms roughly 1,000 acres of sunflowers near Bison. *Photo by Brooke Schecher*

fall. The elevated oil content of the plant - ranging anywhere from 38 to 44 percent - along with the dust that's created during combining can result in a combustible mixture that is sometimes ignited by the presence of static electricity.

To make sure he's prepared, Schecher keeps a battery-operated leaf blower aboard the combine at all times.

"I have to keep blowing the combine off when I get to the end of the field to keep a fire from breaking out," he said. "You can see the accumulated piles of dust start glowing red-hot, and you can usually smell it and get it put out before it gets out of control. It's a hazard that you just have to contend with. Sometimes it can happen two or three times a day, especially when it's dry conditions."

Other farmers, such as Lance Hourigan of Lemmon, S.D., have addressed this common problem by investing in after-market solutions. Hourigan reached northward across the state border and recruited Stelter Repair out of New Leipzig, N.D., to manufacture an air tower to help

Estimated number
of sunflower acres

600,000

planted in South
Dakota in 2021

reduce the risk of fire during harvest time. Resembling a chimney, the device draws in air from above the combine where there is much less dust and debris billowing from the threshing process, and blows the air over the engine to help it stay cool and clean.

While Schecher focuses on the high-oleic variety that represents about 80 percent of the market, there are other varieties grown for silage, birdfeed and other uses. Confection sunflowers, grown mostly in the eastern part of the state, are those found bagged up on convenience store shelves, the kind loaded with an assortment of flavors and

seasonings and meant for chewing.

While sunflowers are native to the continent, their history in North America can be traced to American Indian tribes in present-day Arizona and New Mexico. Archaeologists have found that these tribes domesticated the crop as early as 3000 B.C. The seed was ground or pounded into flour for cakes, mush or bread. Some tribes mixed the meal with vegetables such as beans and squash. The seed was cracked and eaten for snacking, while the oil was squeezed from the seed and used in making bread.

Non-food uses included purple dye for textiles, body painting and other decorations. Parts of the plant were used to treat snakebites. The oil was used on the skin and hair, and the dried stalk was used as a building material.

Today, agricultural scientists are exploring new uses for the plant while also figuring out how to provide protection from wireworms and other threats. Meanwhile, bullish farmers are keeping their eye on the global markets while exuding the same sense of sunny optimism associated with the sunflowers they work so hard to raise.



INVENTORY POWERHOUSE

Purchasing and Materials Department Keeps Co-op Supplied for Future Demand

Brenda Kleinjan

Communications Specialist

Members picking up empty spools, water heaters, or wooden poles taken out of service have likely met Sioux Valley Energy's purchasing and materials department employees.

This team of six primarily works behind the scenes, constantly moving to keep the Cooperative's electricians and line workers alike stocked with the materials they need for the day's work. When the pick list – an inventory of items that will be needed for a specific job – is released from the staking engineers, the warehouse coordinators then gather the individual items needed. They select from rows and rows of shelving and acres of ground containing more than \$9.4 million worth of inventory – everything from nuts and bolts to \$75,000 transformers.

“It can be as simple as a new meter socket and the necessary wire for a single member project to several miles of overhead or underground construction;

all the materials needed to build the job,” said Dave Ossefoort, Sioux Valley Energy's Manager of Purchasing and Materials. For overhead construction, the list can be hundreds of items long, including poles, wires, splices, insulators, hardware, and other items. Underground installations have equally complex needs with elbows, splices, ground wire, and other things.

In addition to keeping up with the Sioux Valley Energy electricians and lineworkers, Ossefoort and his team also keep the Cooperative's outside contractor crews equipped with the materials for building more than 100 miles of new power line each year.

At the end of 2021, the department implemented a barcoding process, which will allow the use of an iPad or iPhone to pull up the work order. The work order then gives the user a list of the quantities of each item needed for a specific work order's pick list. The barcoding system will assist ordering items that are getting in low supply. The barcode is scanned





Left: The Purchasing and Materials Department consists of six employees: Dave Ossefoort, Jeff Huebner, Deb Barger, Joshua Bjorklund, Chad Lade, and Shawn Bruns. **Below:** SVE Manager of Purchasing and Materials Dave Ossefoort poses for a photo in front of bins of nuts, bolts, and other items in the Colman warehouse. **Bottom:** Jeff Huebner loads a spool of conductor onto a reel trailer in the Brandon pole yard. **OPPOSITE PAGE: Top:** Chad Lade creates a coil of wire to be used in splicing. **Middle:** Shawn Bruns gathers items for a pick list. **Bottom:** Joshua Bjorklund reviews a list of parts.

and the quantity is entered, generating an email to Purchasing Assistant/ Materials Coordinator Deb Barger who then assigns a purchase order number to an order that is placed with suppliers.

Supply chain issues that have plagued other industries are affecting Sioux Valley Energy as well. Ossefoort noted that some larger-ticket items had seen substantial price increases, with some items jumping by more than 50 percent in just a few weeks. In addition, some items, which historically have had four to six-week delivery times, now have much longer waits.

“I have ordered some items that we won’t have here until June 2024,” Ossefoort said.

These lead times made for an interesting balancing act as the

warehouse crew sought to stock all the items needed for storm repairs in the May derecho.

“Storms are always a whirlwind,” Ossefoort said. “Once we get an idea of the severity of the storm, we need to get materials coming in before we even know exactly what we need.”

At times, this means using materials designated for construction work plan projects for storm repairs and then replacing those items that are still needed for the future construction.

In early 2022, Ossefoort ordered primary cable for the Co-op’s 2023 needs. The scheduled delivery for the cable is from January 2023 through September 2023.

The challenges of lead times and even the availability of some critical items

make it important for members to talk with the Cooperative early on in their planning for new or expanded electrical services.

“The sooner we can make educated decisions on getting the product from the suppliers, the better,” Ossefoort said.



CHISLIC FESTIVAL



Roger and Lori Pietz claimed the New Age Nosh Award at last year's Chislic Festival in Freeman. Photos by SD Chislic Festival

Step inside the Chislic Circle for unique food and lots of family fun

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

In a world already rife with scads of dander-raising hot-button issues, add chislic to the list. It seems that anytime more than a few cocksure chislic chefs gather around a grill, controversy can't be too far away.

The bickering typically begins with picking the proper protein. Opt for the traditional scrumptious cubes of mutton or lamb, or take a risk and go hog-wild with pork or maybe buffalo? How about swinging farther to the edge with venison, goat, beef or chicken? Dare we add emu to the list?

At least one restaurant is sending the chislic cosmos into spasms by serving up plates of (gasp) "fish-lic."

The plethora of opinions surrounding the preparation of chislic starts with the choice of meat and springboards from there into seasonings, cooking methods and even serving techniques. Grilled,

deep fried or air fried? Fork, toothpick or skewer? Don't get a chislic enthusiast started on the sauce selection.

Many people and various cultures have a strong attachment to their particular favorite types of food, but South Dakota's desire for chislic is unusually intense – especially for those who dwell within the Chislic Circle.

If the name Chislic Circle evokes images of a secret society that conducts mysterious midnight rituals around a raging bonfire deep in the forest, well, it's not quite that. It's more of a clever marketing concept, and an effective one for community leaders who take pride in their chislic lore. In fact, everyone is invited to come inside this circle.

At the center of the Chislic Circle lies Freeman, S.D., with the chislic realm falling inside a 100-mile radius and including communities such as Kaylor, Menno, Hurley, Marion, Bridgewater, Emery and others. The Circle was spun into creation in 2018 when a small

but passionate contingent of chislic connoisseurs decided to celebrate and demonstrate their pride in their unique culinary heritage.

Andrea Baer was part of that early chislic cadre. She said the catalyst came when chislic was officially declared the "state nosh" by the Legislature four years ago.

"Before then, when you mentioned chislic outside of the area, there was hardly anyone who knew what you were talking about," said Baer, who is a native of Turkey Ridge still living on the farm her forebears from Denmark settled several generations ago. "It's something that's very unique to the area and we



like to celebrate it.”

That celebration has taken the form of an annual event that’s been recognized by tourism officials as one of the state’s fastest-growing festivals with an estimated 10,000 attendees last year after a pandemic pause in 2020. Organizers were expecting up to a couple thousand for the inaugural event in 2018, but four times that many showed up. The following year, the party was moved from the Freeman softball field to the more spacious 40-acre Prairie Arboretum.

This year’s festival was held on July 30 with the usual food vendors touting their unique savory recipes, libations, live music, a family-friendly kid zone, bingo, dancing, a cornhole competition, 5K run/walk, helicopter rides and other forms of family-oriented fun.

Festival board member and chislic expert Ian Tuttle also presented, “From Russia with Love: The History of Chislic” at the nearby Heritage Hall Museum and Archives.

Tuttle enjoys telling the story of how chislic arrived in the late 1800s with a particular group of immigrants described as “Germans from Russia.” A group of German Mennonites and Hutterites originally fled religious persecution in the 16th century and migrated eastward through the Russian Empire where they raised crops and sheep.

They chopped the meat into small pieces, cooked it over a fire and called it “shashlik,” a word for “skewer” rooted in the Turkic languages of Central Asia. The word is a close cousin to the more widely known “shish kebab.”

Eventually, those migrants found their way to present-day southeastern South Dakota and made sure to bring their shashlik with them. Those residing



inside the Chislic Circle generally recognize Johann Hoellwarth as the individual who introduced chislic to the Dakota Territory. Born in 1849 to a German Lutheran family in the Crimea, Hoellwarth settled just outside of where Freeman is today and was laid to eternal rest in the town.

Each year a panel of seven fearless judges takes on the task of naming the festival’s “best chislic.” For the past two years the top Traditional Division Award has gone to Kyle Sturzenbecker and his squad of Sheep Flockers.

Sturzenbecker said he and his fellow chef Josh Goehring don’t characterize themselves as competitive, but he also isn’t about to give away any trade secrets.

“You don’t have to do a whole lot. I just let the flavor of the meat speak for itself,” he said. “Honestly, I never

thought I’d win. I just like to cook good food that people enjoy eating.”

In 2021, the non-traditional New Age Nosh Award was claimed by Roger Pietz, owner of the Pietz Kuchen Kitchen. The establishment is mostly known for its rich custard dessert, but for the festival Pietz decided to go in a different direction and put together a tangy chislic pizza.

Ultimately, the Chislic Festival is about celebrating family, honoring the past and preserving the rural lifestyle.

“The tradition of chislic comes not from cities, the wealthy, or the privileged,” Baer said, “but from the rural, hardworking farm tradition of the people who settled this area. We thrive on the rural, while building the region through vibrant community.”

Let's TAILGATE!



**SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Sioux Valley Energy will provide tailgate meals at three area high school football games this fall. Donations for the meals in Brandon and Chester will go to the school's booster club. Donations for the HBC game will go to the Secondary Student Council.

Pigskin Classic
Saturday

August 27

Sioux Falls O'Gorman Knights
at Brandon Valley Lynx

Meal: 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Kickoff: 7 p.m.

**BVHS Outdoor
Complex**

**301 S Splitrock Blvd,
Brandon, SD**

Friday

September 9

Arlington Cardinals
at Chester Area Flyers

Meal: 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Kickoff: 7 p.m.

**Chester Area
High School
Football Field**

**102 Second Ave
Chester, SD**

Wednesday

October 19

Edgerton Flying Dutchmen
at Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots

Meal: 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Kickoff: 7 p.m.

**HBC High School
Football Field**

**S Central Avenue and
East 5th Street
Hills, Minnesota**



CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD CORNER

The Co-op Connections Card is a partnership between Sioux Valley Energy and local businesses! Each member received the Co-op Connections Card free in their January magazine. You get your Co-op Connections Card simply because you're a member of Sioux Valley Energy. Each month, we'll include a listing of businesses participating in the program. Below are businesses located in Sioux Falls:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 24/7 Fitness & Tanning Club | Overhead Door Company of Sioux Falls |
| 9Round | Pearle Vision |
| Advanced Tech Inc | Physicians Vein Clinics |
| Audiology Specialty Clinic | Piper Custom Framing & Fine Art Gallery |
| Avera Heart Hospital | Pita Pit-Sioux Falls |
| Bagel Boy | Premier Auto Group |
| Batteries Plus Bulbs | Riddle's Jewelry |
| Big D Technology Solutions, Inc | Roto Rooter of Sioux Falls |
| Carnaval Brazilian Grill | SAFE-N-SECURE |
| Chris's Auto Repair | Sioux Falls Audiology Associates |
| ClubHouse Hotel & Suites | Sparkle Uniforms |
| Combined Pool & Spa | Spencer Furniture & Floors |
| Crossroads Book & Music | Stewart School |
| Dakota Rustproofing | T&A Service |
| Dakotaland Autoglass | TownePlace Suites |
| Gene's Studio, LTD | Ultimate Automotive |
| Graham Tire Company | Vacuum Center LLC |
| Heartland Computers | Valvoline Instant Oil Change |
| Homewood Suites by Hilton | Visions Eye Care |
| Honey Baked Ham Co. & Café | Walden Carpets |
| Hydraulic World, Inc | Wild Bird Connection |
| Interstate All Battery Center | World Wide Automotive |
| Jenny Craig | Young & Richard's Floral and Gift |
| Juice Stop | |
| Justice Fire & Safety, Inc. | |
| Dawna Kuck - Keller Williams Realty | |
| Sioux Falls | |
| Michaels Fence | |
| Nothing Bundt Cakes | |

Scan this code to access the Sioux Valley Energy website where you can download the Cooperative Connections Card app for mobile devices.

McCarthy Elected VP OF TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sioux Valley Energy CEO Tim McCarthy was recently elected to serve as vice president of the national Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Board of Directors at its meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the end of July.

Touchstone Energy is a membership organization representing a network of locally owned electric cooperatives across 45 states. Touchstone Energy provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member cooperatives and their employees better engage and serve their member-owners. Being a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative, like Sioux Valley Energy, means you are served by a not-for-profit cooperative committed to the core values of integrity, commitment to community, accountability, and innovation and puts members first setting it apart from other utilities.



Moose Promoted to Vice President of Technology

Justin Moose has been named Vice President of Technology for Sioux Valley Energy.

Moose began working at Sioux Valley Energy in March of 1997 as a Network Technician and in 1999 was promoted to Manager of Information Technology prior to his most recent position advancement at the Cooperative.

"Justin has significant experience in the field of information technology. As a growing cooperative, with over 27,000 members and more than \$284 million in total utility plant, along with constantly changing technology, cybersecurity is a top strategic priority for us," said Sioux Valley Energy CEO Tim McCarthy. He added, "Justin leads a team of experts who will help the Cooperative continue as a technology leader, doing so in a secure manner."

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
Photo Credit: SD State Fair

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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

AUGUST 24-28
Corn Palace Festival
604 N Main St., Mitchell, SD,
605-995-8430

AUGUST 25-28
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village, Madison, SD,
605-256-3644

AUGUST 26-27
Hill City Wine, Brew and BBQ
Elm St., Hill City, SD, hillcitywine
brewandbbq.com

AUGUST 26-27
Sizzlin' Summer Nights
Main St., Aberdeen, SD,
605-226-3441

AUGUST 27
**McCrossan Boys Ranch
Xtreme Event Rodeo
Challenge**
McCrossan Boys Ranch
Campus, Sioux Falls, SD,
mccrossan.org

SEPTEMBER 1
Downtown Hartford Market
Main Avenue, Hartford, SD,
605-999-6660

SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
890 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD,
sdstatefair.com

SEPTEMBER 4
Dakota Five-O
City Park, Spearfish, SD,
dakotafiveo.com

SEPTEMBER 8-11
S.D. State Senior Games
Watertown, SD, 605-491-0635
or 605-753-3668

SEPTEMBER 10
Germanfest
Fawick Park, Sioux Falls, SD,
siouxfallsistercities.com/event

SEPTEMBER 10
Insect Festival
McCrary Gardens, Brookings,
SD, 605-688-6707

SEPTEMBER 10
Sidewalk Arts Festival
Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD,
605-367-6000

SEPTEMBER 17-18
Celtic Faire and Games
37925 Youth Camp Rd.,
Aberdeen, SD, 605-622-0144

SEPTEMBER 23-24
Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show
Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD,
605-359-2049

SEPTEMBER 24
Harvest Festival Supper
West Nidaros Lutheran Church,
Crooks, SD, 605-212-5730

SEPTEMBER 24
**South Dakota State Corn
Husking Contest**
46119 240th St., Chester, SD,
605-695-0304 or 605-270-1056

SEPTEMBER 24-25
Menno Pioneer Power Show
Pioneer Acres, Menno, SD,
mennopowershow@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 29
Downtown Hartford Market
Main Avenue, Hartford, SD,
605-999-6660

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1
**Custer State Park Buffalo
Roundup & Arts Festival**
Custer, SD, gfp.sd.gov/buffalo-roundup

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1
Oktoberfest
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

SEPT. 30-OCT. 2
SiouxperCon
1201 N West Ave., Sioux Falls,
SD, siouxpercon.com

OCTOBER 1
Pumpkin Train
Prairie Village, Madison, SD,
605-256-3644

OCTOBER 9
Pipe Organ Recital
Beaver Valley Lutheran Church,
Valley Springs, SD, 605-582-3504

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.