

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Great Goats

**Goats gaining
in popularity**
Pages 8-9

**Irrigators benefit
from load control**
Pages 12-13

Bennett and Matea Gordon
of Whitewood are part of a
rising trend in teens choosing
to show goats at youth
exhibits and competitions



Safety: It's not just about you



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

Tim.McCarthy@
siouxvalleyenergy.
com

District meeting season is complete – all 10 meetings! Nearly 4,000 people attended the meetings this year. THANK YOU to each member who took time to come and learn more about what is happening at your Cooperative. I also want to thank the employees who worked so hard to coordinate, organize, produce materials for, and work at the meetings. The events could not have happened without our employees' talent and dedication.

During the meetings, we took time to answer questions from the membership. Many of those questions centered around beneficial electrification (especially electric vehicles), power supply, and cybersecurity. The membership also re-elected three directors who ran unopposed – Gary Fish (District 6), Lucas Roskamp (District 10) and Dave Daniel (District 4).

The end of district meetings signals the spring season and a time that we work hard to remind you to be safe around electric lines.

You've probably heard some of our public safety messages on television or the radio.

Perhaps you caught a glimpse of something in this newsletter. Regardless of how or where you got the message, we hope you will take it to heart when working around power lines – both overhead and underground. This is the time of year when many of us are outside working on spring projects – be cautious when trimming trees, cleaning gutters, and flying kites. Farmers, as your equipment starts to roll into the fields, be aware of where the lines are and make sure you have enough clearance (10 feet) when moving those spray booms around. Planning to do some digging in your yard? Make sure to call 811 at least 48 hours before you start to dig. These precautions don't take much time, but they could save your life or the life of one of your loved ones.

One of the core values we are committed to here at Sioux Valley Energy is a culture of safety. Safety is more than something that our employees do. They live it every day—everyone, from the lineworker who handles power lines to the receptionist answering the phone. Our message this year is that safety is not just about you – it's also about those who you care for, because one mistake can impact your life and the lives of those around you forever.

Stay safe this spring season and we hope to see you at the SVE annual meeting which will be held on Tuesday, June 7, at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

Join your neighbors for the 2022 Sioux Valley Energy Annual Meeting June 7 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center and listen to the sounds of The Abbey Road Band, performing a Beatles Tribute.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

STIOUX FALLS CONVENTION CENTER - JUNE 7, 2022

MEAL SERVING BEGINS AT 5 P.M. • MEETING STARTS AT 7 P.M. • ENTERTAINMENT TO FOLLOW

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

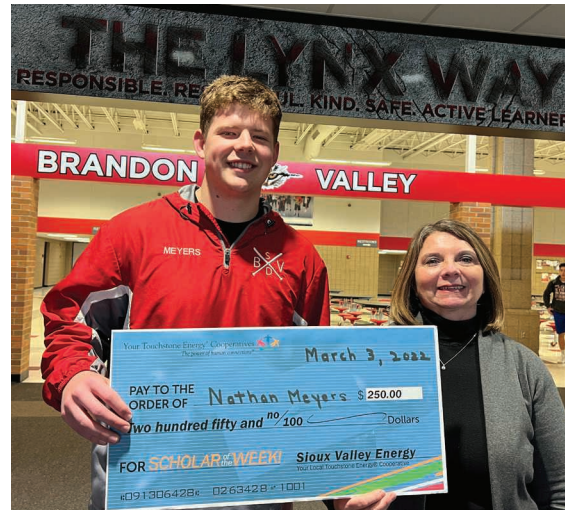
Nathan Meyers, a student at Brandon Valley High School, has been chosen as a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 'Scholar of the Week.' Meyers was recognized with a cash award by Sioux Valley Energy, and will be featured on

Dakota News Now during the 6:00 p.m. news on Monday, April 25 and again on the Dakota News Now morning news on Tuesday, April 26 between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. He is the son of Mitch and Amy Meyers of Brandon.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, like Sioux Valley Energy, have joined together with Dakota News Now to recognize the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. Recipients are highly motivated high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community. This program was founded on the four pillars of Touchstone Energy: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and a Commitment to Community. "Nathan's nomination is well-deserved. He is a great example of a young leader who is not

only talented and motivated, but also humble and kind. Congratulations to Nathan for being named a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week recipient," said Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy General Manager/CEO.

On his nomination form, Brandon Valley High School Counselor Michelle Stemwedel listed Meyers' significant academic, sports, and leadership accomplishments. Stemwedel said this about Meyers, "One of Nathan's biggest strengths is his ability to remain grounded and humble while among his peers. He leads with confidence in the most caring and understanding way possible with the biggest, warmest smile you have ever seen. Nathan makes students and adults feel better about themselves when they are in his presence."



Budget-friendly efficiency upgrades

There are two ways to measure energy efficiency improvements.

There's the payback period - the amount of time it will take for the improvement to pay for itself. Then there's comfort.

Improvements can often increase the comfort level of a home - not easy to measure but one of the driving forces behind home weatherization efforts. There are several areas of the home that can be improved easily, without breaking your budget.

LIGHTING - There has been a steady decline in the price of LED bulbs for residential consumers. Nowadays, 60-watt-replacement LEDs can be purchased for \$5 or less. LEDs should save 60 percent or more on power costs compared to incandescent bulbs and last for many years. New LED fixtures are also an affordable option. They come with LED bulbs built in so you never need to change the bulbs.

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING - The Energy Information Administration estimates that heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems account for 22 percent of a typical home's annual electric bill. While newer systems can be 20-45 percent more efficient than older ones, the upfront cost is often a barrier to adoption.

But there are still ways to save. Simple solutions such as changing air filters at least every three months will increase airflow to rooms, increase the life of the HVAC unit's motor and improve air quality in the home. Sealing and insulating ductwork can be done in a weekend and results in energy savings of up to 20 percent.

To lessen the amount of work that heating and cooling systems need to do, it is important to find and seal air leaks. Look for leaks around exterior doors and windows, electric outlets, and entrance points for TV and phone cables. Also check dryer vents and any place with an opening in the wall. To seal leaks, apply caulk, spray foam or weather-stripping to these areas.

Simple acts such as cooking outdoors on a hot summer day or keeping curtains closed to keep out the summer sun will keep the interior of your home cooler and reduce the amount of time AC units need to operate.

EV REGISTRATIONS SEE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE



According to the South Dakota Dept. of Revenue, the state experienced a boom in electric vehicle registrations in 2021.

At year-end, there were 1,313 electric vehicles registered in the state. That compares to just 242 from the year before. EV registrations saw a slight jump from 227 in 2015 to 236 in 2019.

Minnehaha County led the state with 406 registered EVs, followed by Pennington County with 228 and Lincoln with 151. Nine counties had no EVs registered.



Stay away from power lines

Naomi Goldade

Naomi Goldade likes to have outdoor fun in the spring and summer but reminds co-op members to stay away from power lines. Naomi is the daughter of Alex and Rachael Goldade of Timber Lake. They are members of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative.

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.

SUPER CASSEROLES

TUNA PASTA CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 4 oz. dried whole-wheat rotini pasta (about 1-1/2 cups)
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 16 oz. frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
- 1 pouch (11 ounces) low-sodium chunk light tuna
- 1 can (10-3/4 oz.) low-fat, low sodium condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup chopped roasted red bell peppers
- 1/2 cup fat-free half-and-half
- 1 tsp. all-purpose, salt-free seasoning blend
- 3/4 cup crushed low-sodium, whole-grain crackers
- 1/4 cup shredded or grated Parmesan cheese

METHOD

Prepare pasta according to package directions, omitting salt. Using colander, drain well. Transfer to large bowl. Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly spray 2-quart glass baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Stir mixed vegetables, tuna, soup, roasted peppers, half-and-half and seasoning blend into pasta until combined. Transfer to baking dish. Top with crackers and Parmesan cheese. Bake, uncovered, 25-30 minutes, or until casserole is warmed through and topping is golden brown.

familyfeatures.com

Please send your favorite dairy recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

ONE DISH CHICKEN AND RICE

Ingredients:

- 1/2 to 1 cup onion, chopped
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup green and/or red bell pepper
- 1 can cream of chicken soup (or cream soup of your choice)
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2 cups chicken, cooked and chopped
- 1 cup peas (frozen)
- 2 cups cooked white rice
- 1 cup shredded cheddar, divided

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9-inch x 13-inch baking dish and set aside. Sauté onion and bell pepper in olive oil or butter. Blend soup, milk, salt, pepper, and mayo in a bowl. Add chicken, peas, sauteed onions and peppers, and rice to the prepared baking dish. Mix gently. Pour soup over chicken mixture. Mix gently. Fold in half of the cheddar. Top with remaining cheese. Bake until top is golden brown, about 25 minutes.

Becky Walker, Sioux Falls

CHICKEN AND CHEESE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 2 cups uncooked elbow macaroni
- 2 5-oz. cans of chicken chunks
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 4 oz. sliced mushrooms
- 1/4 cup chopped onion

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, mix all seven ingredients together. Pour into a 9x13 baking pan. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes or until bubbly and golden brown.

Jeanette Kleinsasser, Iroquois

Our Top 10 Energy Saving Tips



Sheila Gross
Energy Services Specialist

Here are 10 tips that any good energy saver should not live without:

1. Replace any light bulb, especially ones that burn more than one hour per day, with a light-emitting diode (LED) bulb.

2. Seal from the inside. Air sealing is an inexpensive way to lower energy costs and improve comfort. Seal gaps and holes in walls, floors, and ceilings with caulk or foam sealant.

Look for cracks around windows and where wires and pipes pass through.

3. Plug electronic devices such as cable boxes, printers, and TVs into power strips to turn off during vacations or long periods without use. Smart power strips make it an easy task to save money.

4. Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep your home cooler in the summer.

5. Change your central HVAC system filter when dirty by the manufacturer's recommendations. Dirty filters can impact your home comfort and increase your electricity bill.

6. A one degree increase in heating set-point or reduction in cooling set-point can increase energy use by three percent to five percent.

7. Have your duct work checked for leaks. Leaks at the return, air handler, and supply can be a major source of high bills. Mobile

homes check at the grill, cross over duct, and down flow air handler, for leaks.

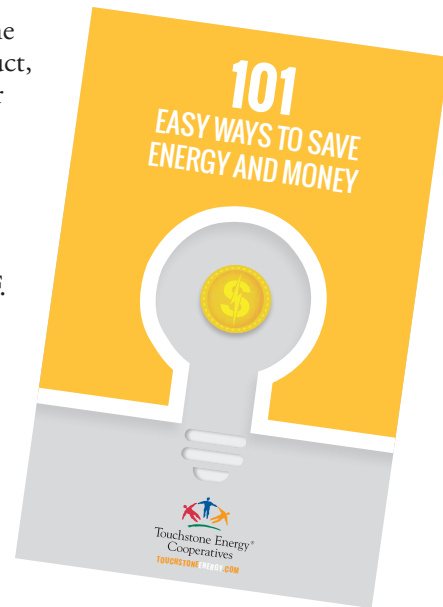
8. Set both the upper and lower water heater thermostats no higher than 120 F.

9. An electric space heater can cost more than \$100 per month to operate.

Minimize their use, except for limited or temporary spot heating. Turn space heaters off when leaving the room.

10. Ensure refrigerator door seals are tight. Eliminate unnecessary refrigerators.

Looking for more tips? These tips can be found in the "101 Easy Ways to Save Energy and Money" guide found on our web page at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-programs/energy-efficiency-tools



Scan this code to check out our rebates and incentives:



REGISTER TO WIN

Register by **April 30, 2022** to win an EGO Power+ Select Cut 21-inch electric lawn mower (valued at \$679).

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:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Pump Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Time of Use Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Heat Rebates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Heat Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Irrigation Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Credit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Audit | <input type="checkbox"/> SmartHub Account Tool | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Saving Tips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Smart Thermostat Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Interlock Kit/Generator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Vehicle Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Ag LED Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon/HTP Water Heaters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like more information on purchasing panels for the community solar project when details are available. | | |



TRAGEDY AVERTED

North Dakota Teen Stays in Vehicle After Car Disabled by High Voltage Power Lines

May is Electrical Safety Month and a good time to think about how to stay safe in a situation where there are downed power lines, such as after a storm or as the result of an accident.

Mary Gehrig encountered such a scenario during a severe storm, and she shares what happened to her to increase awareness about downed power line safety.

Seventeen-year-old Gehrig was driving home from a friend's house on a stormy June night, from Fargo to Kindred, N.D. Although some cars had pulled over to wait out the storm, Gehrig was close to home,

and she thought she could make it.

Around 25 minutes into her 30-minute drive, Gehrig turned onto the county road that would take her home. Although there was near-zero visibility due to the storm, which turned much more severe than originally forecast, she noticed two white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized that those lines were across the road, in her path, and they were anything but small.

"I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it," Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car struck the object, which

happened to be one of two high-voltage transmission power lines lying in the road. The massive cable stopped Mary's car in its tracks. The car's electrical system was damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

The next thing Gehrig did was pick up her phone and call her parents. When her dad heard that there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay in the car and call 9-1-1.

Fire chief Rich Schock, who was on the scene that night, said, "Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them," adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. "Mary did everything right," he said.

When there is an accident involving downed power lines, a pad-mount transformer, or other related utility equipment, Safe Electricity offers these safety tips:

- Call 9-1-1 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit.
- Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back.
- Exiting a vehicle or equipment is the last resort and should only be attempted if the car is on fire or giving off smoke. If this is the case, exit the vehicle by crossing your arms and jumping from the vehicle without touching it. Then, hop with both feet together as far as you can.

To watch Mary's story or to learn more, go to SafeElectricity.org.

GOATS STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT



Anna Johnson and Jessemy Sharp groom at the 2021 Brown County Fair. *Photo by Donna Sharp*

Ag students show a fondness for working with goats at youth exhibitions and competitions

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Matea Gordon's goats always keep her guessing.

The 17-year-old is one of four Gordon siblings from Whitewood who have been highly active - and highly successful - on the 4-H and FFA competition scenes over the past decade.

She prefers to work with market goats because the animals force her to stay on her toes. She never knows what she's going to get.

"They tend to have big personalities. Sometimes they're shy and cute. Other times they can be pretty stubborn. You just never know," she said. "Plus, it's fun to see how much progress you can make with them throughout the year."

Her younger brother, Bennett, enjoys raising and feeding the goats daily.

"I've learned about genetics, animal health and feed nutrition. The goats kind of become your friend as you bring them up and take care of them."

The brother-sister duo are part of a

trend in ag exhibition circles that finds eager competitors opting to work with goats. Their mom, Kindra Gordon, said all four of her children have been fond of tending to goats.

She said the family started with two goats a decade ago, and their involvement grew from there. Today, they travel and compete at nearly a dozen shows throughout the year. Likewise, she has seen youth participation in goat exhibitions double over the past few years.

"When the kids joined 4-H, they wanted to do a project and the goats just seemed to fit our lifestyle," she said.

Regardless of what animals her children choose, she has found there's much to be gained in participating in the competitions and other opportunities that youth ag programs provide.

"The kids have learned about responsibility, life skills and the agriculture industry. They learn about sportsmanship and how to manage stress. We tell them to be happy for their friends when it's their time to win, and

they'll be happy for you when you win. We've met a lot of people and made a lot of friends along the way."

One of those friends is Tessa Erdmann, a freshman at SDSU from Groton who serves as president of the state FFA. She is long-time friends with Matea and her older sister, Danika, both of them winners of Butte Electric Cooperative's college scholarship program.

Tessa said her choice to work with goats mostly came down to a practical matter. She cites her smallish physical stature as one reason for channeling her focus on the species.

"I'm 5 feet tall and I came to the conclusion that I didn't want to hold on to something way bigger than me," she said.

At age 12, Tessa went with her father, Darrin, to an auction and brought home her first three animals: Buttercup, Sassy and Thunderbolt. She describes the event as "love at first sight." In her first year to show at the Brown County Fair, Tessa won ribbons in the breeding and showmanship divisions and has placed many times since then.

A former gymnast and a member of Northern Electric based in Aberdeen,

Moose sees goat-breeding as a gift



Clockwise from top/left: FFA President Tessa Erdmann; Kylee Ellerton of Custer; Taylor, Tate and Tye McGraw of Raymond.



Garret Moose isn't sure if he chose goats or goats chose him. In 2004, Moose received twin Nubian kids – a buck and a doe – as a birthday gift. That gift sparked an interest in goats that has led him to building a top breeding operation in southwest Minnesota.

By 2011, Moose was ready to hit the show circuit with only marginal success in the early stages. It would take a couple of years to make it to the American Dairy Goat Association National Show in St. Paul where Moose-G Foxy was named Reserve Junior National Champion Recorded Grade. He saw it all as a learning process.

“When I started out I didn't win anything but I learned a lot, and not to mention I met so many great people that I now call close friends,” he said. “When Foxy won, that's what really got us excited and dedicated to continue on this path with dairy goats.”

Moose raises and markets Alpines, Lamanchas, Saanens, Toggenburgs and Recorded Grade Seniors and Juniors.

He said he enjoys working with the animals and is especially appreciative of his “goat family.”

“It's a tight community and we're always seeing each other at shows, exchanging information and sharing ideas,” he said. “I couldn't do what I do without my family and friends.”

For more information, Moose can be contacted at 507.530.3175.



Tessa said she has also experienced a large measure of mutual support within the animal exhibition community.

“Everybody is always so nice and you can count on everyone to help one another,” she said. “We're competitive inside the ring, but outside we're family and we don't hate each other. One year, someone's father was hurt and couldn't make it to the competition. Everyone chipped in to help the family out.”

Becca Tullar is a 4-H advisor in Brown County. She explained what she believes is the reason for the rising interest in goats.

“They're a good starter animal and youngsters get used to them and many of the students stick with them. They kind of grow up together,” she said. “They're easy to handle. Once you get them halter-broke they'll go wherever you want. They're fun animals to show.

They're almost like pets and they build easy bonds.”

One competitor who has a way with his goats is Tate McGraw, a 17-year-old from Raymond who has Down syndrome. His father, Wade, said Tate has been showing since he was 8.

“It's been a real blessing. He's easy-going and just has a way with the animals. He can get them to do things that other handlers can't,” he said.

His other son Tye, 14, and daughter Taylor, 13, also show goats and other animals and McGraw said they each have their individual strengths.

“The best thing as a father is to see the network of friends they've developed across the state. They all support each other and they've learned to respect one another because they know one day they could be on top and the next day they could be on the bottom.”



EMPOWER

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

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- Team Building
- Health & Wellness
- Electrical Safety/CPR
- Networking
- Career Options

TO APPLY:

The 12-month program is open to upcoming juniors and seniors who are ready to commit to fully EmPOWER themselves with fun, positive, open minds. Applications are available from your school counselor or on the Sioux Valley Energy website. Submit via email to Empower@siouxvalleyenergy.com.



Apply By May 13, 2022

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VETERANS SOUGHT

No Barriers Expeditions Sponsored by CoBank

Sioux Valley Energy is seeking veterans who are interested in taking part in a No Barriers USA Warriors expedition sponsored through the Cooperative's lender, CoBank. Veterans within the SVE service territory with a Veterans Administration disability rating may be eligible for one of four expeditions.

America's rural communities are home to millions of men and women who have served in the armed forces, many of whom are living with a disability. CoBank will identify and sponsor up to 50 veterans with disabilities from rural communities around the country to take part in the multi-day No Barriers expeditions. These experiences provide an opportunity to challenge limitations – both real

and perceived – and to create a network of support that can last a lifetime. Experiences include:

- Three moderate-level expeditions will take place July 22, July 30, and August 16. These five-day basecamp expeditions involve rafting, rock climbing, and trekking activities. Activities are specifically designed to accommodate participation by veterans with a wide array of disabilities.
- A backcountry expedition will take place August 8. This six-day expedition will involve a more physically challenging backcountry itinerary and a mountain summit attempt.

CoBank will cover all costs for the participating veteran, including

travel expenses.

The No Barriers Warriors program is designed to be an engaging, deep, and impactful experience from start to finish. Once a veteran is placed on a team, their journey begins immediately. Using a combination of online learning modules and meetups, the team begins to learn about the No Barriers Life Elements, which they will focus on during their experience, get introduced to their team, and fully prepare for the experience ahead.

Once in the field, No Barriers uses a combination of physical challenge and individual reflection to have veterans re-focus their identity, purpose, and community. Through physical challenge, they must rely on each other as a team to complete their objective, creating a strong bond that connects them on a deeper level, allowing them to have honest, open conversations about who they are, and who they want to be.

At the end of their expedition, they'll be asked to create goals to work on at home and be invited to Rope Team Roundtables. Roundtables take place twice per month, allowing veterans to share their progress, lean on their Rope Team for support, and share successes. This multi-stage program truly is a catalyst for personal change and a step into the vibrant No Barriers community.

You can find detailed information at: <https://cobank.com/web/cobank/citizenship/corporate-giving/no-barriers>. If you have questions or know of a veteran who would be eligible, please have them call Carrie Vugteveen at 1-800-234-1960.

THE POWER OF LOAD MANAGEMENT

Chris Danielski monitors an irrigation pivot control panel from his phone app. Photos by Billy Gibson

Load control program reaps big rewards for both residents and large energy users

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Danielski Farms didn't become a blue chip producer over the past four decades by making boneheaded business decisions.

In 2013, the company was invited by Cherry-Todd Electric to participate in the cooperative's irrigation load management program. Load management is a term used to describe a co-op's ability to balance the system's electrical load by adjusting or controlling network demand.

Better balance brings greater efficiency and lower costs for all consumers on the system.

Len Danielski recalls pulling the leadership team together and weighing the pros and cons. The proposal included installing specialized equipment that would allow Cherry-Todd to temporarily interrupt power - when warranted - to any of roughly 200 irrigation pivots across 18,000 acres.

While different electric co-ops have their own load management policies, Cherry-Todd's guidelines call for a lower irrigation rate for participants and the right of the consumer to withdraw and return to the regular rate at any time.

The deliberation process was helped along by the fact that Danielski's General Manager Gary Garvin previously served as a board member at Cherry-Todd. He was aware the cooperative business model was designed and intended to produce "win-win" situations for both the co-op and its owner-members.

Danielski Farms ultimately decided to place all of its irrigation system under load management and Len Danielski reports the results have exceeded expectations.

"We found it was a winner all the way around. We have the choice to place one pivot, two pivots, or all pivots on the load control program, or none," he said. "We've analyzed the benefits over time and found that the company wins,

the cooperative wins and the co-op members win. It's a great partnership."

Chris Rahn, Cherry-Todd's primary key account contact, said load management is a tremendous benefit for members because it allows the cooperative - working in concert with both the member and the co-op's wholesale supplier Rushmore Electric - to distribute power more efficiently.

Rahn explained that one of the best ways to deliver power at the lowest possible cost is to "shave the peak" or to make sure supply and demand stay in a constant state of equilibrium as conditions such as weather, member consumption and market forces change constantly. Utilities are able to control supply but can find it challenging to project what consumer demand will be at any point in time.

Educated projections are important, but there are occasions when it helps for the co-op to have some control over demand. In the end, everyone benefits.

"We've had a residential water heater load control program for quite a while and it's been well-received by our

members,” Rahn said. “It enables us to get a better handle on the demand side and that’s a benefit for all the members on our lines.”

Garvin said another mitigating consideration for Danielski Farms is the fact that Cherry-Todd has done its part by making significant improvements to its infrastructure over time.

“We used to joke that we were always under load management because the power would go out a lot, but things have changed dramatically for the better and we hardly ever get bumped these days,” Garvin said. “I’ve also got load management on my water heater at home and it works for us.”

Len Danielski said that under the load control program power to his pivots rarely gets disrupted and typically only for a few hours when it does. He said the company is pleased to participate in a program that will ultimately benefit all co-op members across the system.



From left, Gary Garvin, Len Danielski, Chris Danielski and Chris Rahn discuss Cherry-Todd Electric’s load management program.

“We’ve found interruptions are usually during times when we don’t need to be irrigating anyway, like in the heat of the day when a lot of the water will only get evaporated,” he said. “And if it helps the cooperative and saves every member on the system some money, that’s great.”

Another element that makes the program work for Danielski Farms is the installation of a remote irrigation control system. All of Danielski’s pivots



All of the roughly 200 irrigation pivots at Danielski Farms are under Cherry-Todd Electric’s load management program.

are connected to the Ag Sense phone app that enables a user to turn the pivots on or off individually or in groups, and receive an abundance of electronic data.

Chris Danielski manages the app and said the telemetry allows him to track exactly when load control is being implemented, though he usually receives information from the co-op as well. He said efficiencies gained through both programs have resulted in net savings.

“If we have an hour or two of load management, once we get the notice that we’re back on I can restart the pivot from inside the office,” he said. “It used to take several hours to get someone to go out and restart the system.”

East River Electric, based in Madison, is a power supply cooperative that delivers wholesale electricity to 24 distribution co-ops in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. East River has offered its co-ops a load management option since 1985 and has saved members roughly \$260 million in avoided wholesale power costs.

More than 75,000 different electric loads in homes, farms and businesses are connected to the system, including water heaters, air conditioners, irrigation systems and other big energy users.

Chris Larson, general manager of Clay-Union Electric, said the co-op based in Vermillion offers end-use consumers a load control program for

water heaters, irrigation systems, grain bins and other commercial processing equipment.

The cooperative has 320 irrigation systems under load management with requests for 10 more in the near future as drought conditions show no signs of abating.

Larson emphasized that every cooperative has its own unique rate structure and load management policies when it comes to discounts, demand charges, time-of-use, system peaks and other variables. He said it’s important for consumers to contact their local co-op for details and to work closely with staff to find the best solutions for the member.

He said co-ops are obligated to capture their costs of providing power but are also responsible for finding ways to accommodate their member-owners and helping them achieve their individual goals.

“Load management really is essential to maximizing system efficiency,” Larson said. “It’s a sophisticated process that ultimately leaves the member with plenty of choices. If we’re controlling irrigation or commercial operations at a time that’s not good for them or complicates their workflow, they need the ability to override the control system so they can make a good business decision that’s best for them.”



Easing the Way

Securing Easements Essential for Co-op

Brenda Kleinjan

Communications Specialist

One of the most visible parts of your electric Cooperative system is the power lines that run along many roadways throughout Sioux Valley Energy's service territory. But the work to get those lines in place starts long before digging the first hole or stringing wire.

Part of the design and planning process involves gathering permissions to place the lines.

Securing that access – called easements – is part of the work of the Co-op's team of staking engineers and right of way specialist.

"Easements protect the assets that belong to the members of the Cooperative," said Jim Kuyper, Lead Staking Engineer.

Securing easements on private land for Cooperative power lines and equipment is a common practice and one designed to save Cooperative members money in the long run.

"Constructing Co-op-owned lines on private easements keeps members' costs down. It also provides us with safe and reliable areas for our facilities," said Michele Nielson, Manager of Engineering.

Without easements, the Co-op

must resort to placing power lines in the public right of way, a space often congested with other infrastructure. It also means that if a road is someday widened, the lines will have to be moved at the Cooperative's expense. This results in Co-op members incurring an additional financial burden, essentially paying for the line two or more times.

The easements include space not only for the power poles but also space for the Co-op to access the line in the future.

"We typically ask for a 25-foot corridor from the road right of way line back. We don't set poles all the way back in that corridor, but it just gives us space," said Kuyper.

"Our goal is to respect landowners and not abuse that easement," said Ryan Olson, SVE's Right of Way Specialist. Olson is responsible for researching the easements and talking to landowners to secure the needed permissions. "Once we're done, we try to leave the land better than what we found," said Olson.

The Cooperative has more than 6,000 miles of power lines and related equipment in seven counties in South Dakota and Minnesota. The need for easements has always been important for the Cooperative.

It continues to be so as the Co-op builds or rebuilds more than 50 miles of overhead lines a year.

According to Nielson, the easement is recorded with each county as part of the land agreement.

Additionally, corridors in public rights of ways (i.e., road ditches) can be crowded by other infrastructure. Keeping the power line easements on private land allows for better spacing between electric, water, gas, telecom, and other infrastructure.

Nielson also noted that new construction specs for overhead line construction aren't the same as when overhead power lines were originally constructed in the 1940s and '50s.

"They're designed to be more robust. The overhead lines built today typically have larger poles, shorter spans (distance between poles), and larger conductors (wire). This is needed in order to better withstand extreme weather (wind and ice), as well as to handle the increased electric loads on our system.

The new overhead line is surveyed by professional surveyors who find the pins for the rights of way. Unfortunately, this means that old fence lines don't always mark the actual right of way.

"If we damage property when we access line, we do what it takes to make it right," said Nielson.

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 Chester, Colman, Crooks, Dell Rapids, Edgerton, Egan, Elkton, Garretson, and Hardwick.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Chester
The Shipwreck | Egan
Blue Jays |
| Colman
Colman Building Center | Elkton
The Knotty Pine Super Club |
| Crooks
Pump N Stuff | Garretson
Nordstrom's
EWE Pullet
Nordstrom's |
| Dell Rapids
Dell Rapids
Ace Hardware
Dells Theatre
Pizza Ranch | Full-Service
Auto Recycling
Nordstrom's
& Diagnostic Center
Shear Magic |
| Edgerton
Douglas J.
Vermeer O.D.
M&H Hardware
Tinklenberg
Lumber & Hardware | Hardwick
VanDerBrink Auctions, LLC |

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



Gary Fish
District 6



Lucas Roskamp
District 10



Dave Daniel
District 4

DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Three Re-elected to SVE Board of Directors

Nearly 4,000 people attended this year's Sioux Valley Energy district meetings held during the months of February and March.

There were three uncontested elections in Districts 4, 6, and 10.

In District 6, Gary Fish will again fill one of the at-large board seats. Lucas Roskamp was re-elected in District 10, and Dave Daniel was selected again as the District 4 Director.

Each meeting included a complimentary meal of bacon wrapped chicken, cheesy hash browns, green beans, and a cookie. Members who attended also received a \$25 bill credit in lieu of a meeting registration gift.

Meeting topics include cooperative power supply, COVID-19 operational update, Operation Round Up®, beneficial electrification, and introduction of scholarship winners.

OPERATION HONOR FLIGHT

An Operation Round Up® grant was awarded to the Jasper Lions Club to help fund trips for veterans to Washington D.C. through the Midwest Honor Flight organization. In addition to ORU funding, and other donations, the Jasper area club and the Pipestone Lions also held a soup lunch to raise a total of \$15,500. Their efforts will pay for up to 20 veterans to travel to Washington, D.C., to see memorials in their honor.



Pictured are Jasper Lions President Bob Quissell, Lion Deborah Plahn and Aaron VanBeek, president and director of Midwest Honor Flight.



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.

APRIL 27-30
45th Annual Kingswood Rummage Sales
 Southwest Sioux Falls, SD,
kingswoodrummage.com

APRIL 28
MercyMe: The Inhale (Exhale) Tour
 Denny Sanford Premier Center,
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

APRIL 28-30
26th Annual Black Hills Dance Festival
 The Monument, Rapid City, SD,
blackhillsdancefestival.com

APRIL 29-MAY 1
State USBC Women's Bowling Tournament
 Village Bowl, Mitchell, SD,
 605-336-5583

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 5-7
Ordinary Days
 Grand Opera House, Pierre,
 SD, pierreplayers.com

APRIL 30
SDSO Centennial Finale
 Washington Pavilion, Sioux
 Falls, SD, sdsymphony.org

MAY 3-8
Come From Away
 Washington Pavilion, Sioux
 Falls, SD, www.washingtonpavilion.org/event/come-away

MAY 7
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
 131 E Falls Park Drive, Sioux
 Falls, SD, 605-274-3735

MAY 8
Opening Day
 Prairie Village, Madison, SD,
 605-256-3644

MAY 14-15
AMA Coins and Sports Cards Show
 Denny Sanford Premier
 Center, Sioux Falls, SD,
 605-321-9195

MAY 14-15
Ellsworth Air and Space Show
 1940 EP Howe Drive, Ellsworth
 AFB, SD, ellsworthairshow.com

MAY 15
PAW Patrol Live!
 Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD,
www.swiftelcenter.com

MAY 17
Norwegian Independence Day
 Main Street, Vivian, SD,
 605-222-3296

MAY 20-22
Annual Sound of Silence Tesla Rally
 615 Washington Street, Custer,
 SD, 605-673-2244

MAY 21
Frühlingsfest & Spring Market
 Main Street, Rapid City, SD,
 605-716-7979

MAY 28
Memorial Weekend in Mitchell
 Main Street, Mitchell, SD,
 605-292-4444

JUNE 2
Downtown Hartford Market
 Main Avenue, Hartford, SD,
 605-999-6660

JUNE 2-4
Sioux Falls Senior Games
 Sioux Falls, SD, Call Nick Brady
 at 605-201-4818 for more info

JUNE 3-5
Regional Qualifying High School Rodeo
 Wall, Highmore, Buffalo and
 Huron, SD, 605-941-7330

JUNE 4
8th Annual Dairy Fest
 Hammink Dairy Farm, Bruce,
 SD, 605-359-9418

JUNE 5
Miss Prairie Village & Miss Prairie Princess Pageant
 Prairie Village, Madison, SD,
 605-256-3644

JUNE 10-12
Hills Friendship Days
 Main Street, Hills, MN,
 507-962-3290

JUNE 10-12
Regional Qualifying High School Rodeo
 Winner, New Underwood,
 Dupree and Watertown, SD,
 605-941-7330

JUNE 12
Lake Campbell Lutheran Church 150th Anniversary
 46610 219th Street, Volga, SD,
 605-690-4868

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