

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Crisp Breezes and Corn Mazes

**Autumn Family Fun**  
Pages 8-9

**Rodeo Champions**  
Pages 12-13



# Power Supply Rate Pressures



**Tim McCarthy**  
General Manager/  
Chief Executive  
Officer

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com

Electric utilities around the country and in this region are facing mounting rate pressures and Sioux Valley Energy is not immune to that. We are starting to get a clearer picture of what that could mean for our members this coming year, and we want to make sure to communicate that as early as possible.

As you can imagine there are a lot of factors that are considered when determining rates – but the most significant of those factors is power supply expenses. The reason power supply is a driving factor of your electric rates is because over 60 percent of Sioux Valley Energy's costs go towards paying for power. Our wholesale power supplier, Basin Electric, has announced a substantial increase for the coming year. We are working closely with their staff to minimize the increase as much as possible and should know its full extent soon. In addition, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) has announced a nearly 14 percent rate increase over two years. Approximately 17 percent of our power supply is made up of our WAPA allocation.

When Sioux Valley Energy receives a rate increase from its power suppliers, it is passed directly through to members which unfortunately means any increase we see will be reflected on our members' bills.

Other factors that will continue to impact rates this coming year and in future years include the inflationary increases in distribution costs reflected in our materials, equipment, and labor as well as our financing costs. Higher interest rates continue to drive up the cost to borrow money to complete necessary ongoing infrastructure upgrades to our distribution system.

We are working on the 2025 budget and workplan and will do what we can to hold down distribution costs as much as possible, but there is no way around the increase in power supply costs. Members need to be prepared for rate increases in the coming years. We will be working on nailing down the rate impact to members as quickly as we can and hope to have that information to you in the next couple of months. Our pledge will be to work towards minimizing the impact and we will keep you informed as the rate forecast evolves.

Over  
**60%**  
of Sioux Valley  
Energy's costs go  
towards paying for  
power.



**TAKE THE TIME. EVERY TIME.**

This harvest,  
TAKE THE TIME.  
EVERY TIME.  
to look out for  
overhead and  
underground  
utility lines.

 **SIoux VALLEY**  
ENERGY A Cooperative Energy Corporation

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

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(USPS No. 497-440)

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**Sioux Valley Energy is an  
equal opportunity provider and employer.**



Members of the Pipestone Area Schools high school marching band pose at Mount Rushmore. The group received Operation Round Up® funds to help sponsor concerts and a trip to western South Dakota.

Photo by Pipestone Area Schools

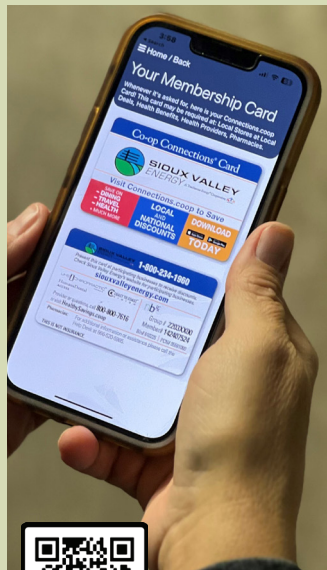
## Operation Round Up® monies fund dreams

So far in 2024, more than \$75,000 in Operation Round Up® (ORU) grants have been awarded to area groups. The ORU Board meets quarterly. All applications must be received by the 20th of the month preceding a Board meeting. Due dates are February 20, May 20, August 20, and November 20.



An ORU grant helped light the pickle ball courts in Hardwick, Minnesota.

Photo by City of Hardwick



### CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD

The Co-op Connections Card is a partnership between Sioux Valley Energy and local businesses! Each member can download the card for free on the app by scanning the QR code. 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 Tea, Valley Springs, and Wentworth:

**TEA**  
Neighborhood  
Dental  
Tea Ace Hardware  
Service Master of  
Sioux Falls

**VALLEY SPRINGS**  
Hello Gorgeous, Inc  
**WENTWORTH**  
Ladditude Pleasure  
Cruise LLC

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



# WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS

Each year in the United States, there are about 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes and about 300 people struck by lightning. Of those struck, about 30 people are killed and others suffer lifelong disabilities. Most of these tragedies can be prevented. When thunderstorms threaten, get inside a building with plumbing and electricity, or a hard-topped metal vehicle!

The National Weather Service collects information on weather-related deaths to learn how to prevent these tragedies. Many lightning victims say they were “caught” outside in the storm and couldn’t get to a safe place. Other victims simply waited too long before seeking shelter. With proper planning, similar tragedies can be avoided.

Some people were struck because they went back outside too soon. Stay inside a safe building or vehicle for at least 30 minutes after you hear the last thunder. While 30 minutes may seem like a long time, it is necessary to be safe.

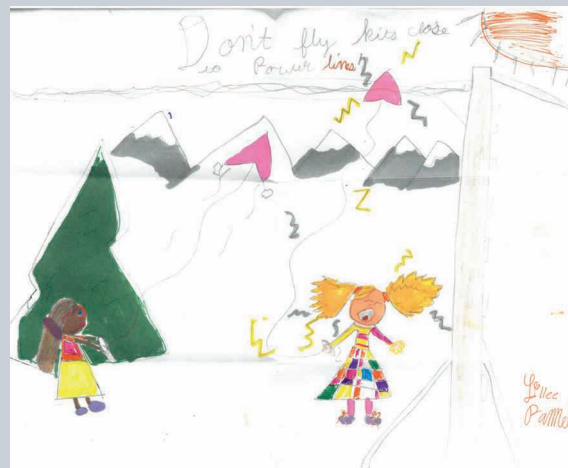
Finally, some victims were struck inside homes or buildings while they were using electrical equipment or corded phones. Others were in contact with plumbing, outside doors, or window frames. Avoid contact with these electrical conductors when a thunderstorm is nearby.

## AVOID THE LIGHTNING THREAT

- **Have a lightning safety plan.** Know where you’ll go for safety and ensure you’ll have enough time to get there.
- **Postpone activities.** Consider postponing activities if thunderstorms are forecasted.
- **Monitor the weather.** Once outside, look for signs of a developing or approaching thunderstorm such as towering clouds, darkening skies, or flashes of lightning.

- **Get to a safe place.** If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, seek safety immediately. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing are best. A hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed is also safe. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning.
- **If you hear thunder, don’t use a corded phone except in an emergency.** Cordless phones and cell phones are safe to use.
- **Keep away from electrical equipment and plumbing.** Lightning can travel through the wiring and plumbing if your building is struck. Don’t take a bath or shower, or wash dishes during a storm.

*Source: National Weather Service*



### Power Line Safety “Don’t Fly Kites Close to Power Lines”

#### Lillee Pannell, Age 11

Lillee Pannell cautions kite flyers to be careful around power lines. Great advice, Lillee! Hobie’s parents are Scottie and Kimberly Pannell, members of Southeastern 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.



# Summertime SWEETS

## SUMMER FRUIT TART

### Ingredients:

1 refrigerated pie crust  
1 egg white, lightly beaten  
1/3 cup sugar  
2 tbsps. cornstarch  
1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. ginger  
2 cups sliced peeled peaches,  
(about 3 peaches)  
1 cup blueberries  
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

### Method

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Prepare crust as directed on package. Place on foil-lined 12-inch pizza pan. If necessary, press out any folds or creases. Brush crust with about 1/2 of the beaten egg white. Mix sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon and ginger in medium bowl. Add fruit and vanilla; toss gently. Spoon into center of crust, spreading to within 2 inches of edges. Fold 2-inch edge of crust up over fruit, pleating or folding crust as needed. Brush crust with remaining egg white. Bake 20 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Cool slightly before serving.

McCormick

## RHUBARB PIE

### Crust

1-2 cups flour  
1/2 stick butter or margarine  
1/4 cup water

Add ingredients and knead to complete a pie crust. Amounts will vary due to humidity. Knead dough into pie pan and poke holes into the bottom as needed. You may make creative edges as you wish, however it is not necessary.

### Pie

3 tbsps. butter or margarine  
1 cup sugar  
3 eggs, separated  
2 tbsps. flour  
1/8 tsp. salt  
2 1/2 cups rhubarb  
Smucker's Caramel Sundae Syrup

Soften butter or margarine and stir together with the sugar, egg yolks, flour and salt. Beat egg whites until stiff. Add rhubarb and fold in the egg whites. Add the filling to the 8-inch unbaked pie crust. You may add a drizzle of Smucker's sundae syrup for additional flavoring before baking. Bake in oven set at 400 degrees until golden brown. You may also add more Caramel syrup to pie after baking for ultimate effect.

Lisa Soukup (Kummer)  
Tea, S.D.

## PEACH DELIGHT

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter, melted  
1 3/4 cups flour  
Pinch of salt  
2 tbsps. sugar  
2 cups water  
2 cups sugar  
4 tbsps. cornstarch  
3 oz. package peach jello  
1 tbsp. butter  
10 fresh peaches

### Method

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine butter, flour, salt and 2 tbsps. sugar. Mix and pat in 9x13 inch pan which has been sprayed with Pam. Bake for 15 minutes. Let cool when done baking. Combine 2 cups sugar and 2 cups water. Whisk in 4 tbsps. cornstarch until smooth. Cook until thickened in the microwave – stirring often. Remove from microwave and add 1 tbsp. butter and package of peach jello (do not add any water). Stir until dissolved and let cool. While cooling, dip fresh peaches in hot water and plunge in cold water bath. Remove skins and pits. Place back in cold water until all peaches are peeled. Drain peaches, slice into bite size pieces and mix into cooled peach glaze. Carefully pour the glaze over the crust and chill until firmly set. May be served with whip cream. You can substitute strawberry jello and sliced strawberries in place of the peaches. This makes a delicious cool summer dessert.

Shirley Fletcher  
Rapid City, S.D.

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 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Want to learn more about EVs?



**Sheila Gross**  
Energy Services  
Specialist

For info on electric vehicles and other technologies, contact Sheila Gross at [sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com) to learn more. Check out our rebates and incentives here:



## Check Out SVE's Programs and Upcoming Events

We're here to help! The best part of my job is getting to visit with members about our program offerings and beneficial electrification technologies.

You may have seen a heat pump display at a home show, EGO battery operated lawn tools at a district meeting, or a Marathon® water heater at an annual meeting. If you want to learn more about electric vehicles, we will be hosting our fourth annual EV Expo on September 17 at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls from 4-7 p.m. Local dealerships and area utility partners have joined efforts for this educational event.

This year's EV Expo will be held in the parking lot east of the grandstand at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls. The event is being sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy, Southeastern Electric, East River Electric, Xcel Energy, Sioux Falls Electric Light and Power, Sioux Falls Sustainability, and Drive Electric South Dakota.

Test drive an EV, explore different makes and models at the EV car show, and visit first-hand with EV owners about their experiences. You'll also be able to check out E-bikes and a variety of electric battery-operated lawn and yard tools.



Come visit me at the Go Electric! booth to learn more about charging equipment, home wiring needs, rebates, and special off-peak charging rate options. For more information on SVE's electric vehicle program or to explore the online EV resource tool, visit <https://www.sioxvalleyenergy.com/electric-vehicles-ev>



Photos by Sioux Valley Energy



## Tuesday Sept. 17

### 4 to 7 p.m.

W.H. Lyon  
Fairgrounds  
Sioux Falls, SD

### Expo Sponsors:







# EV QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO OPERATE AN EV?

Using SVE's regular electricity rate of 10.55 cents per kWh, a battery EV (BEV) that drives 15,000 miles a year and can travel three miles per kWh will cost about \$527.50 annually or charging on SVE's off-peak special rate of 5.92 cents per kWh would cost about \$296 annually. In comparison, a gas-powered vehicle that gets 25 mpg with gasoline at \$3.28 per gallon will cost approximately \$1,968 for that same distance – that's a big savings.

## HOW FAR CAN I GO ON A CHARGE?

Range anxiety and the fear of getting stranded from a battery running out of charge can be a real concern of a prospective car buyer. With today's technologies, the average all-electric vehicle can go nearly 300 miles on a single charge which covers the daily commute for most drivers, even in rural areas. Plug-in hybrids (PHEV) have an average range of 20-50 miles on the electric battery, along with having a gasoline engine for backup. The benefit of being able to charge your vehicle at home at very reasonable costs allows you to start the day with a charged battery. Workplace charging options and the continued development of public charging infrastructure across the country will also make traveling easier.

## HOW WELL DO EVS PERFORM IN THE WINTER?

All vehicles, electric or otherwise, will experience some level of decreased performance in the winter months. On the coldest days, when drivers are blasting their heaters, EVs may lose up to 40 percent of their range. However, that loss can be minimized by keeping your vehicle in a warm garage or utilizing the vehicle's pre-heating features. An EV's center of gravity and weight distribution helps bolster its traction

on slippery surfaces.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO CHARGE AN EV?

How long it takes depends on how you plan to charge it. There are different charging levels:

- **Level 1** – Uses a standard 120-volt outlet providing the slowest charge to the battery, adding two to five miles per hour. Level 1 charging may be suitable for people who drive a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle or have very short commutes.
- **Level 2** – This is the most commonly installed equipment for all-electric vehicles in homes. You may also see them in public locations where people may be parked for a couple hours. It uses a 240-volt NEMA 14-50 receptacle or wall-mounted charger and adds between 10-60 miles per hour on to the battery. A Level 2 charger will fully charge a vehicle overnight.
- **Level 3** – This is the fastest form of charging and requires DC Fast Charge equipment. They are used for longer distance traveling and located in high-traffic areas and along highway corridors. It will charge an EV car battery up to 80% capacity in 30 minutes. There are multiple apps and websites to locate public charging stations.

## ARE REBATES AVAILABLE ?

Learn about available federal tax credits for EVs at [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov). Find out more about SVE incentives by scanning the QR code at right.







# CRISP BREEZES AND CORN MAZES

A broken-down 1950s-style Chevrolet pickup welcomes visitors to the Back Forty Beef corn maze. *Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.*

## Celebrating Autumn on the Family Farm

**Frank Turner**

[frank.turner@sdrea.coop](mailto:frank.turner@sdrea.coop)

The first signs of autumn sweep across the plains as daylight dwindles and treetops wither into amber. For some, the nostalgia of fall is evoked by the first crisp breeze at a football game or the taste of a freshly picked apple from the orchard. But for Clint and Kelly Brandlee, Lake Region Electric members living in rural Pierpont, the magic of the harvest season begins with the opening of their family-owned corn maze.

The Brandlee family homesteaded their land in 1886 on the western edge of the Coteau Hills, an area characterized by rolling hills, fertile ground and native pastures. With deep roots extending through five generations of ranching and farming, Clint and Kelly's daughters, Jaycee

and Kylie, represent the sixth generation on the farm.

Over the years, the family has maintained their commitment to traditional farming values while embracing innovation. In 2020, Clint and Kelly

transformed their operation into a direct-to-consumer agriculture business, launching Back Forty Beef, LLC. Their new venture allowed them to provide locally raised beef at a fair price while giving customers the opportunity to see



Back Forty Beef hosts a number of family-friendly events including duck races. *Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.*



how their animals and crops are raised, from farm to table.

“During the pandemic, people were looking for a direct source for their beef, and we wanted to provide that,” Kelly said.

Through Back Forty Beef, Clint and Kelly supplied their area with local beef and discovered new ways to engage their community. Just last year, the two started an annual tradition by planting a 12-acre, agriculture-themed corn maze as a way to bring something new to their part of the state. In just a year, the maze has become a hub for families to come together and celebrate agriculture and the harvest season.

“We wanted to do something really fun and get families outside in northeastern South Dakota during the fall, and what better way to do that than through a corn maze?” Kelly said. “It’s a way for us to share our passion for agriculture and our story. As a population, we are getting two to three generations removed from the farm. There is less of a connection to rural life, so any time we can provide people an opportunity to get out onto the farm and learn something, that benefits the whole of agriculture.”

This fall, Clint and Kelly are again inviting their surrounding communities to visit their homestead and explore this year’s newly designed maze. The maze is set to be open to the public every weekend after



A bird's-eye view of last year's Back Forty Beef corn maze. Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.

Labor Day to the last week of October. The theme is pollinators, featuring images of a corn cob, flower, bee and barn. Several twists and turns will be embellished with fun facts about pollinators and crop production in South Dakota, making it an educational experience for all ages.

Along with the corn maze, Back Forty Beef is planning to incorporate other family-friendly activities, including duck races, farm animal exhibits, farm basketball, a straw mountain slide and more. Back Forty Beef will also host a farm store where customers can buy everything from local pumpkins to their homegrown beef.

Other local businesses are also joining

in the fun. A different local food truck is scheduled to attend each weekend during the open season, and local businesses are offering small discounts and deals for participants who complete the maze.

“There are checkpoints in the maze, and each checkpoint is equipped with a fun fact and a partnered local business,” said Kelly. “For example, Dairy Queen is offering a buy one, get one free offer for those who hole punch their card at their checkpoint and read the fun fact about pollinators and production agriculture.”

Clint and Kelly’s efforts to engage the community have resulted in a community that engages with their business. Like many other direct-to-consumer operations, Back Forty Beef has its own website and online shop for its brand of beef, dairy products, merchandise and even hand-poured tallow candles. The Brandlee family has also found success through their beef subscription club where boxes are regularly delivered to the doorsteps of customers every month. Whether it’s through the corn maze or the subscription beef boxes, Kelly said the local community has fully embraced Back Forty Beef.

“We had a lot of people who attended that had never done a corn maze before, so a lot of people were excited to do something new and different,” said Kelly. “We had a great turnout to our maze last year, and that’s why we decided to do it again.”



Owner-operators of Back Forty Beef, Kelly and Clint Brandlee and their two daughters, Jaycee and Kylie. Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.



# SVE Teens Tour D.C.

**Hills-Beaver Creek's Lexus Wessels travels with Minnesota delegation, Garretson's Eliza Potter travels with South Dakota**

Two students, representing Sioux Valley Energy's EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program, joined their peers from South Dakota and Minnesota in late June for the 2024 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Eliza Potter of Garretson joined South Dakota students representing 18 South Dakota electric cooperatives while Lexus Wessels of Hills-Beaver Creek was part of the Minnesota contingent.

The program, which can trace its existence back to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson where he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capitol so they "can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," encourages teens to engage in their communities and learn about the importance of political involvement. More than 60,000 teens have participated in the Youth Tour since its inception.



The 2024 group visited many of the historic sites the region offers, including Fort McHenry in Baltimore. The fort's bombardment in the War of 1812 was captured in Francis Scott Key's poem, which would eventually become the national anthem. Old Glory would play a recurring theme in the trip as students could see it at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and also hear an inspirational message centered on the flag from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men's wheelchair basketball.

Students also met with their respective state's congressional delegations.

"I felt like the experience gave me the ability to meet new people and better understand what goes on at our capitol and the history behind it," said Wessels whose favorite sites were Arlington National Cemetery's changing of the guard, the Library of Congress, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial and Museum, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

"My favorite memorials were the Lincoln Memorial and World War II Memorial because of the architecture," said Potter. "The Capitol was interesting to tour to see some of what happens there. Mount Vernon was probably my other favorite due to how expansive George Washington's land was and what the houses and stuff looked like in that time period."



Lexus Wessels and the Minnesota Youth Tour delegation pose for a photo near the Minnesota pillar at the World War II Memorial.

Photo by the Minnesota Rural Electric Association



**BELOW:** Eliza Potter attempts to get her arms around a tulip poplar tree which was planted on George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate around 1785.

**RIGHT:** Lexus Wessels poses for a photo near the U.S. Capitol. **LOWER RIGHT:** Eliza Potter poses for a photo near the White House. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** South Dakota's Youth Tour delegation, including Eliza Potter, pose for a photo at the Jefferson Memorial.



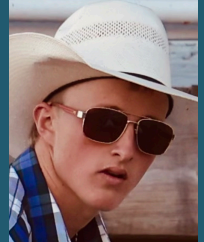
Lexus Wessels and the Minnesota Youth Tour delegation pose for a photo outside the U.S. Capitol during their visits to their Senators and U.S. Representatives.

## AREA HIGH SCHOOL RODEO ATHLETES WIN SHORT-GO SHIRTS

Rodeo athletes from area schools earned short-go shirts from Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives at the South Dakota High School Rodeo Association State Finals in June.

Congratulations to these youth on this hard-earned recognition.

To learn more about electric cooperatives' long-time partnership with high school rodeo, see the story on Page 12.



**Chaz Carda**

**Bull Riding**

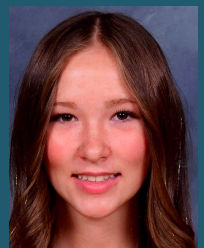
Hartford, SD  
West Central High School



**Lucas Ebblinga**

**Bull Riding**

Hartford, SD  
West Central High School



**Anya Hemmer**

**Goat Tying**

Dell Rapids, SD  
Colman-Egan High School



**Bryce Ridings**

**Bull Riding & Calf Roping**

Hartford, SD  
West Central High School



**Keylee Zancanella**

**Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, & Team Roping**

Aurora, SD  
Western Christian Academy



# RODEO CHAMPIONS

## Short Go Finalists Win Touchstone Energy Shirts During the State Competition in Ft. Pierre

**Jocelyn Johnson**

[jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop](mailto:jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop)

South Dakota's electric cooperatives united in celebrating rodeo on June 15 during the state high school competition in Ft. Pierre, S.D. Cowboys and cowgirls competed in events that mimic the daily chores of a typical rancher, racing to place in the Short Go.

Short Go state finalists earned the coveted Touchstone Energy shirts that mark them as the top competitors of a beloved rural pastime. After a season of competing, the visual representation of wearing this shirt is

more than a fashion statement.

"These shirts are almost like a trophy," said Kylee Ellerton, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D. "It's something you can keep and look back on to remember."

Ellerton earned the Short Go shirt, sponsored by Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives. She won 10th place in goat tying at state.

"My grandpa and dad grew up rodeoing," Ellerton said. "So, I got started in rodeo pretty young."

High school rodeo events began in 1949, and by 1951, South Dakota was among five states that established the National High School Rodeo

Mataya Ward keeps her eyes on a goat she tied during the Short Go.  
*Photo credit: Charles Minor*

Association.

It's a shared heritage for many in the state, and electric cooperatives have a 22-year history of celebrating rodeo by sponsoring the Touchstone Energy Short Go Shirt program. More than \$150,000 has been given to this program since 2002, and these funds are used to honor the contestants who make it to the Short Go round



*Photo credit: Charles Minor*





Kailey Deknikker rounds a Touchstone Energy barrel during the state Short Go in barrel racing.  
Photo credit: 4-C Photography

of the state finals competition in their respective events.

Kailey Deknikker, member of Southeastern Electric Cooperative in Lennox, S.D., has a passion for rodeo and wishes to go as far as she can in the sport. She will be attending Mitchell Technical College this fall for business management and joining

the college rodeo team in barrel racing and pole bending.

"The shirt shows that your hard work paid off," explained Deknikker after placing in the Short Go and winning a Touchstone Energy Short Go shirt. "It shows your accomplishment."

Decknikker placed 7th in barrel

racing after running a time of 18.246 seconds in the 1st Go, 17.802 seconds in the 2nd Go, and 18.078 seconds in the Short Go.

Leighton Sander, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D., won 6th place in the bareback riding Short Go competition. Sander works with his family on a cow/calf operation outside of Custer, S.D.

"There's some pride that goes with wearing that Short Go shirt," said Sander. "You go to a rodeo and see a couple people wearing those shirts outside of the high school season, and you think, 'they must have been good enough to make it to the Short Go – I better watch that guy.'"

Sander explained that his draw to one of the toughest events in the sport of rodeo is the adrenaline rush. He hopes to use his bareback riding skills in future horse training efforts while noting, "being able to stick to a horse is important."

"I don't know how to explain it," Sander said. "It's super scary before you start, but once you climb into that chute and they open up the gate, it's like eating your favorite cake."



Finalists wear Touchstone Energy Short Go shirts. Photo credit: Charles Minor





Sioux Valley Energy members, led by Sioux Valley Energy's Lori George, made a stop at the Chamberlain, S.D., rest area to look at the Dignity statue.

# Rolling Along

## SVE Members Participate in Bus Tour to Basin Electric

During the three-day trip, Sioux Valley Energy members made stops in Chamberlain, Pierre, and New Effington, S.D., and Bismarck, Beulah, and Jamestown, N.D. visiting energy-related or cultural sites along the way.

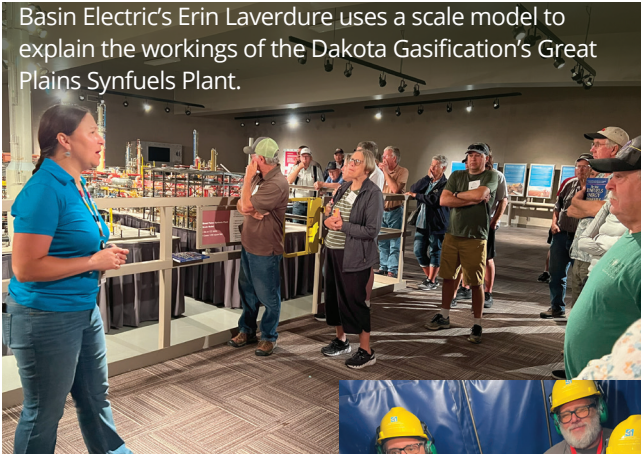
In Beulah, participants watched the extraction of coal from the Freedom Coal Mine and its journey to one of two destinations. One stop is the Great Plains Synfuels Plant where it is converted into natural gas or one of more than a dozen of co-products. The other stop the is the Antelope Valley Station where it is converted to electricity.

"All the different products they are making from coal – I think that's just awesome," said Helen Vanorny of Edgerton, Minnesota, who was one of the 44 travelers on the trip.

The scale of the coal operations impressed Vanorny.

"Mammoth. I don't how you can conceive moving that much dirt and then putting it all back so you can reuse that land. That's wonderful. And then you get the energy out of that process."

"I understand a little bit more of what's involved," said Vanorny.



Basin Electric's Erin Laverdure uses a scale model to explain the workings of the Dakota Gasification's Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

Photos by Sioux Valley Energy



Participants examine coal ash from the Antelope Valley Station.



Smiles pair with hard hats on the Antelope Valley Station tour.



A Corps of Engineers park ranger explains the workings of the Oahe Dam to tour participants.



A day of touring ended with a Missouri River cruise aboard the Lewis and Clark paddleboat at Bismarck.



# THIS HARVEST, TAKE THE TIME TO BE SAFE

## Farmers urged to look for overhead and underground hazards

As harvest approaches, ag producers and their employees are urged to watch for hazards as they enter and exit their fields.

“Take the time, every time to check your clearances and keep your distance from electric equipment like overhead lines and green boxes,” said Sioux Valley Energy Manager of Safety Terry Ebright,

Each fall, a number of accidents involving farm equipment and power lines occur. At times, these accidents cause power outages or significant damage. But, these incidents could cause serious bodily injury or be deadly.

“Just remember how long that auger reaches behind you when you are pulling in the yard. Make sure it is clearing powerlines and trees and stuff,” said Jeff Thompson, a Minnehaha County farmer. “With loaders, make sure the buckets are down and in a safe position.”

And, if digging is part of an operation’s fall plans, call 8-1-1.

“Take the time to call 8-1-1 before you dig to locate underground utilities,” Ebright said.

The electrical system is designed and built to be safe and efficient, but when contact is made, it can be dangerous.

“Take the time. It needs to happen every single time a piece of large equipment is moved, or a dig is planned,” said Ebright.



Photos by Sioux Valley Energy

## KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE

### STAY PUT

If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside. DO NOT EXIT. Call 911.

### JUMP CLEAR

If you must exit due to a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump with your feet together as far as possible from the equipment so no part of your body touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop (feet still together) at least 40 feet away.

### STAY AWAY

When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. DO NOT approach your equipment again until emergency responders tell you it is safe.



## NEW PAY BY PHONE NUMBER LAUNCHED

Paying your electric bill by our secure automated phone system has been an option for members for a while. Beginning September 5, there is a **NEW NUMBER** for members to call **TO PAY BY PHONE** is **855-939-3536**. (Continue to use the old phone payment number of 877-779-7476 until September 5.) Sioux Valley Energy also offers other payment methods, especially through SmartHub. Learn more by scanning the QR code.



## REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Photo Credit: SDStateFair

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.

**AUG. 28-SEPT. 2**  
**South Dakota State Fair**  
7 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Huron, SD  
[www.SDStateFair.com](http://www.SDStateFair.com)

**SEPT. 1**  
**Studebaker Car Show**  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Custer, SD  
605-673-2244

**SEPT. 2**  
**Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show**  
Starts at 1 p.m.  
Clear Lake, SD  
605-881-8405

**SEPT. 6-7**  
**Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll**  
Vermillion, SD  
[www.sdbbq.us](http://www.sdbbq.us)

**SEPT. 8**  
**Homesteader Day**  
1-4 p.m.  
Valley Springs, SD  
Beaver Creek Nature Area

**SEPT. 12-15**  
**South Dakota Film Festival**  
Downtown Capitol Theatre  
Aberdeen, SD  
605-226-5494

**SEPT. 13-14**  
**Black Hills Polkapalooza**  
Each Night at 4-10 p.m.  
Palmer Gulch  
Hill City, SD  
605-574-2525

**SEPT. 13-14**  
**Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show**  
Davison County Fairgrounds  
Mitchell, SD  
605-359-2049

**SEPT. 14-15**  
**2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival**  
Delmont, SD  
605-928-3792

**SEPT. 17**  
**EV Expo**  
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
Sioux Falls, SD

**SEPT. 20-22**  
**South Dakota Festival of Books**  
Various Locations  
Brookings, SD  
605-688-6113

**SEPT. 27-29**  
**Coal Springs Threshing Bee and Antique Show**  
Meadow, SD  
605-788-2299

**OCT. 5-6**  
**Run Crazy Horse Marathons**  
Crazy Horse  
605-390-6137  
[www.runcrazyhorse.com](http://www.runcrazyhorse.com)

**OCT. 5-6**  
**Magic Needlers Quilt Show**  
Codington County Extension Complex  
Watertown, SD  
605-881-3273

**OCT. 5-6**  
**The Black Market**  
Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
Expo Building  
Sioux Falls, SD  
605-332-6004

**OCT. 6**  
**Giant Pumpkin Festival**  
Bentley Memorial Building  
Bison, SD  
Enter Pumpkins by 11:30 a.m.  
605-244-5475

**OCT. 10-11**  
**Rural Women Conference**  
The Lodge of Deadwood  
Deadwood, SD  
[SouthDakotaWomeninAg.com](http://SouthDakotaWomeninAg.com)

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