



Cooperative Connections

United States®
**Census
2020**

**Census 2020:
Be Counted.
It Matters.**

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**Safety Shines
at Stock Show**

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SVE Programs Give Members More Control

Rebates and Incentives



Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO

tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com

As we get rolling into 2020, I felt like this was a good time to again highlight Sioux Valley Energy's strategy map that was developed several years ago. This "map" is what guides us each and every day here at the Co-op. The Board also uses it as a guide when they review the yearly workplan budget and approve rates. If you look at the very top row on the strategy map, you will see that one of the initiatives we have developed is "**M3—Offer Competitive Rates and Programs to Help Manage Members' Energy Costs**". The M3 initiative helps guide us as we develop rates and programs. This is especially important as the average rate will increase this year in May, which I mentioned in my column last month. During this time, we anticipate our members will be looking for ways to save money on their electric bill.

Some of the programs and rates that will be offered in 2020 will give our members more individual control over their energy use. Listed below are a few programs and rate options that will be available to members. For a full list and details, log on to the Sioux Valley Energy website at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-programs/rebates.

members are using less electricity and the cost is lower. Off peak hours run from 7 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 9 p.m. each day. The nice thing about this program is that you can take part in a risk-free trial for three months, allowing you to get used to shifting your energy use to non-peak times.

In May (when rates change), we will be offering a new program—the **Peak Time Rebate**. Members who sign up for a Peak Time Rebate will be notified of when the Sioux Valley Energy system will hit an electrical peak. Members will earn a rebate if they choose to avoid using electricity during that time.

Because both the Time of Use Rate and Peak Time Rebate match so well with smart home automation, we will also be offering a Smart Thermostat Rebate of \$50 this year if a member signs up for either offering.

In addition to those programs, we have introduced some new **incentives on Electric Vehicles (EV)** this year. The first incentive is a \$100 rebate for a newly constructed home that is wired to be EV ready with a 40 amp or larger circuit. Businesses on our lines can also receive a \$500 rebate if they install a level 2 or larger charger for public/employee use. Members can select either the TOU rate or EV plug in rate to take advantage of off-peak rates.

These are just a few of the many residential and commercial programs that we offer at Sioux Valley Energy to help members save money and have more control over their electric bill. In addition to the aforementioned incentives, our residential members are also eligible to take part in programs for water heaters, weatherization, energy audits, electric heat, heat pumps and generators. For commercial members we offer programs for irrigation, electric heat, lighting, energy audits, generator services and electric vehicle chargers.

We encourage you to look into the programs and invite you to attend our winter District meetings to learn more about the rate adjustment that will be taking place in May.

The Time of Use Rate (TOU) was developed for members who are seeking opportunities to directly impact their electric bill through conservation efforts and daily usage habits. It's also a great way to take advantage of smart home automation and electric vehicle technology. The concept of a Time of Use rate is fairly simple—shift your electric use to off-peak hours when



Sioux Valley Energy

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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SIoux VALLEY ENERGY COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, Junction Hwy 34 & 77, Colman, SD 57017, for its members. Customers subscribe to the publication as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to Sioux Valley Energy customers on matters pertaining to electric cooperatives and better living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote not more than 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Colman, SD 57017 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017.

How to contact us:
Phone: 1-800-234-1960

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- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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SIoux VALLEY ENERGY
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Sioux Valley Energy 2020 District Meetings

All Members Welcome

Complimentary Meal: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Menu: French dip sandwich, cheesy potatoes, vegetable and cookie

Meeting Gift:
\$25 Bill Credit



Thursday, March 5

District 8- Location: Grand Prairie Event Center, **Luverne, MN**

Monday, March 9

District 1- Location: McKnight Hall, **White, SD**

Thursday, March 12

District 3- Location: William J. Janklow Community Center, **Flandreau, SD**

Thursday, March 19

District 10- Location: Edgerton Public School, **Edgerton, MN**

**Monday, March 23

District 6- Location: Brandon Valley High School, **Brandon, SD**

**Tuesday, March 24

District 7- Location: West Central School, **Hartford, SD**

Thursday, March 26

District 2- Location: Sioux Valley School, **Volga, SD**

**Monday, March 30

District 9- Location: Pipestone High School, **Pipestone, MN**

Tuesday, March 31

District 4- Location: Madison High School Commons, **Madison, SD**

**Thursday, April 2

District 5- Location: Taopi Hall, **Colton, SD**

****Denotes Election Meetings**

Stop at our Energy Services Booth for a chance to win a Smart Thermostat and receive your mini-safety kit at our Safety Booth!



"Like" Sioux Valley Energy on FaceBook!

<https://www.facebook.com/svecoop>

Extension Cord Safety Tips

Not enough cord for your lamp or radio to reach the nearest outlet? Just plowing through the junk drawer for an extension cord? This may not be a good idea. Extension cords can be very helpful in delivering power right where we need it. However, regardless of the gauge or rating of the cord, an extension cord is a temporary solution, and is not meant to be used as a long-term extension of your household's electrical system.

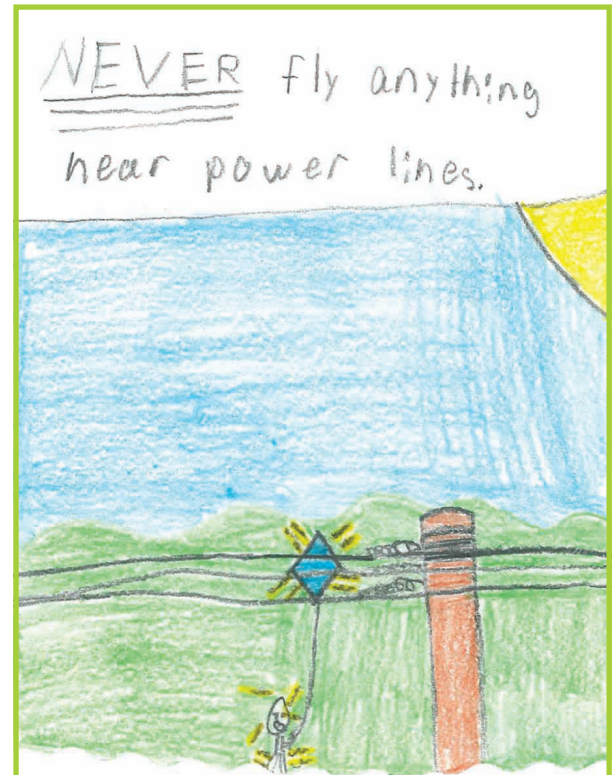
Using extension cords properly is critical to your safety. With continuous use over time, an extension cord can rapidly deteriorate, creating a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips for staying safe from electric shock and electrical fires:

- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.
- Do not substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- Do not run through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a fire hazard.
- Do not use an extension cord for more than one appliance.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.
- Multiple plug outlets must be plugged directly into mounted electrical receptacles; they cannot be chained together.
- Make sure the extension cord or temporary power strip you use is rated for the products to be plugged in and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- The appliance or tool that you are using the cord with will have a wattage rating on it. Match this up with your extension cord and do not use a cord that has a lower rating.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can give you an electric shock or burn.
- Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug. Do not cut off the ground pin to force a fit. This defeats the purpose of a three-prong plug and could lead to an electrical shock. Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Use extension cords with polarized and/or three-prong plugs.
- Buy only cords approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Intertek (ETL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Source: esfi.org



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never fly anything near power lines."

Gage Cumbow, 12 years old

Gage is the son of Ryan and Kyley Cumbow, Pierre, S.D. They are members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Blunt, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.



Seafood Sensations

Hot Crab Dip

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 1/2 tsp. ground mustard |
| 1 cup mayonnaise | 1 lb. lump crabmeat |
| 2 tsp. OLD BAY® Seasoning | 1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, Old Bay Seasoning and ground mustard in medium bowl until well blended. Add crabmeat; toss gently. Spread in shallow 1-1/2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese and additional Old Bay Seasoning, if desired. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serve with assorted crackers or sliced French bread. Makes 28 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 110, Total Fat 10g, Cholesterol 30mg, Sodium 181mg, Protein 5g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Seafood Casserole

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 (6 oz.) pkg. crab, tuna or salmon, drained | 4 eggs, beaten |
| 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese | 1 cup milk |
| Onions, chopped | Salt and pepper, to taste |
| | Paprika |

Spray an 8x8-inch pan or casserole dish. Combine seafood, cheese and onions. Put in pan. Beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over casserole; sprinkle paprika on top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Let stand a few minutes before serving.

Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel, SD

Red Salmon Spread

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 (14 oz.) can red salmon, drained | 1 tsp. liquid smoke |
| 6 oz. cream cheese, softened | 1/2 tsp. garlic salt |
| | Parsley flakes |

Remove skin and bones from salmon; cut into small chunks. Combine cream cheese, liquid smoke and garlic salt. Add salmon. Shape into 2 or 3 balls. Sprinkle with parsley flakes. Refrigerate. Serve with assorted crackers.

June Herke, Watertown, SD

Crab Lasagna

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/4 cup chopped onion | 12 oz. cottage cheese |
| 1 stick butter | 1 egg |
| 1 quart half-and-half | 1 T. parsley |
| 1/2 tsp. minced garlic | 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese |
| 4 T. cream cheese | 12 uncooked lasagna noodles |
| 24 oz. pkg. imitation crab, shredded | 2 cups mozzarella cheese |

Saute onions in butter. Add half-and-half, garlic and cream cheese. Prepare 9x13-inch pan. Assemble layers as follows: 1 cup sauce, top with lasagna noodles, 1/2 of cottage cheese mixture, 1/2 of crab, 1 cup sauce, lasagna noodles and 1 cup mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers. Cover with foil; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour. Remove foil and bake an additional 20 minutes until bubbly and cheese starts to brown. Let set 10 minutes before serving.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

Crab or Shrimp Salad

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 (7-oz.) pkg. ring, shell or spiral pasta | 1 cup diced cucumber |
| 1/2 cup diced celery | 1 cup Miracle Whip |
| 1/4 cup diced onion | 1/2 cup Dorothy Lynch dressing |
| 1 (8 oz.) container mock crab or shrimp | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| | 1/2 tsp. pepper |

Prepare pasta according to package directions. Toss together celery, onions, crab or shrimp and cucumbers. Add Miracle Whip, dressing, salt and pepper. Chill.

Joyce Hermans, Milbank, SD

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage, casserole or 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 June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.

Generator Safety

How to Connect a Generator

The peace of mind a standby electric generator brings to your home, farm or business is big. It's nice to have a backup plan to keep things running through unpredictable weather and occasional outages. But with big peace of mind comes big responsibility.



TELL US. First things first, let us know if you're installing a generator. Call Sioux Valley Energy at 800-234-1960 to notify us. The Cooperative also offers generator services if you need assistance. It's important that we update your account and are aware of all generators in the area. This keeps our linemen safe during outages. So, please, let us know!

DANGERS OF BACKFEEDING. The generator must be properly installed, by a licensed electrician, using a transfer switch. A connection without the correct type of switch can cause backfeeding on the utility system. A backfeed creates a dangerous situation, which can be deadly to you and/or linemen. When backfeed enters a power line from a generator it can create an energized line. If a lineman expects the line to be de-energized due to an outage situation, but it's not de-energized because of your generator, it could create a life-threatening situation.

BE AWARE OF CARBON MONOXIDE. Generators must never be operated in enclosed buildings. Be sure your generator is vented and has enough air to be safe. Carbon monoxide emissions can build up quickly and can be deadly.

FUEL SAFETY. Whether propane, gasoline or diesel, be sure generator fuel is stored correctly in approved containers. Never refuel while the generator is running or still hot.

DISCONNECT FROM MAIN SOURCE. Always power down and disconnect from your utility service, using an approved transfer switch, before starting your backup generator.

GIVE IT A BREAK. Manage the use of your generator during outages to save on fuel. It helps you be more energy efficient and keeps your generator in good running order. If the power is out for an extended period of time, use the generator to run the refrigerator every few hours so it stays cool enough for food without taking up constant energy. Giving the generator breaks is important. Most portable generators are not equipped to run around the clock. Be sure to shut it down and let it cool off.

Sioux Valley Energy is now offering services of installing interlock kits and Kohler standby generators to give you peace of mind for Mother Nature's temperament. Here are the programs and services available:

Interlock Kit: One of the simplest and least expensive methods of readying your home for the connections of a portable generator is to install an interlock kit in the main electrical panel and a permanently installed generator inlet on the outside of your home. By feeding your entire electrical panel with the generator you will not have to run any extension cords from the generator throughout the house. Most interlock kits can be installed for less than \$500.

Kohler Standby Generator: A permanently installed standby generator keeps your power on during an outage. It's installed outside (like an AC unit) and comes on automatically—whether you are home or away—all within seconds of a power outage. There's a higher investment to install a standby generator, but it takes all the work and worry out of dealing with a power interruption. The Kohler standby units come in a range of sizes from 8 KW to 20 KW. Loans are available up to \$10,000, 5% interest with a 7-year term for the purchase and installation of standby generator equipment by the Cooperative.

Call us at 800-234-1960 for more information on Kohler generators or go online at <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-programs/rebates>.

Energy Makeover Contest Winner Announced

Wentworth Member Wins

Ron and Sue Alverson of Wentworth were the 2019 fourth quarter energy makeover contest winners of the solar bundle package.

Each quarter Sioux Valley Energy members have the chance to win valuable prizes to enhance your efficiency and conservation efforts. This quarter, members can enter to win either the installation of an interlock kit (to make installing a portable generator safer and more convenient) or receive \$500 towards the purchase and installation of a Kohler standby generator from Sioux Valley Energy.

To enter to win, log on to www.siouxvalleyenergy.com and find the Energy Makeover Contest form under 'My Programs'.




WATCH OUT THIS WINTER!

- When plowing, avoid electrical cabinets, poles, wires and other equipment
- Never touch a downed power line
- Treat everything near downed power lines—such as trees or debris—as dangerous

RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY



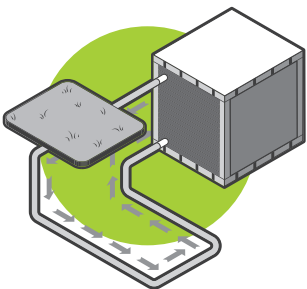
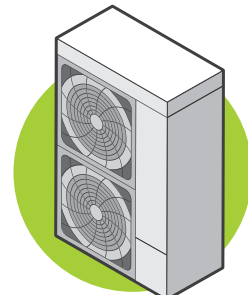
SIoux VALLEY ENERGY
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Types of Heat Pumps

There are three main types of heat pump systems. Use the information below to determine the system that's best suited for your climate and home.

Air-Source Heat Pumps

- Most commonly used heat pumps
 - Moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do
 - Can reduce heating costs by about 50 percent when compared to baseboard heaters or electric furnaces
 - Newer, more efficient systems now offer legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions like the Northeast and Midwest.
- Note: If temperatures in your area drop below 10 to 25 F, you will need an auxiliary heating system (depending on the size of the system).

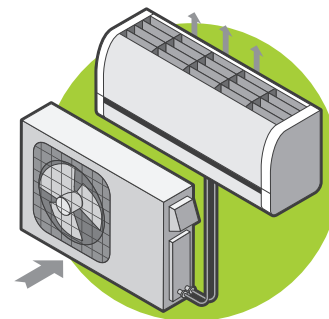


Geothermal Heat Pumps

- More expensive to install but provide more energy savings for heating and cooling
- Move heat through pipes buried underground
- When compared to a conventional heating system, can reduce energy use by 25 to 50 percent
- Effective in extreme climates
- Not ideal for smaller lots and certain soil conditions

Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps

- Easier to install, quiet, small in size
- Flexible for heating and cooling individual rooms and smaller spaces
- No energy loss through ductwork, which accounts for more than 30 percent of a home's energy use for space heating/cooling.
- Installation can be pricey, but federal incentives may be available



Heat pump systems should be installed by a licensed professional. Contact Sioux Valley Energy for more information about options and potential incentives.

Sources: Dept. of Energy and Consumer Reports



Self-responses to the 2020 census begin March 12 online, by phone or by paper.

GET COUNTED

Census 2020 Will Shape Region's Future

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Census Day is coming April 1 and a push is being made in March to get people counted.

The census counts people where they are at on April 1, 2020.

The process opens March 12 when people can begin the online completion of the census. Most people will have received an invitation to respond to the census. The form will be mailed to USPS mailable addresses. Hand delivery will take place in cases where addresses are a rural/PO Box or non-USPS household unit. The card will have an address-specific code for responders to use, but they can still go online without the card.

“The goal on March 12 is to have as many people as possible go online and complete the census,” said Rob Timm, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Timm has been focusing on western South Dakota businesses and government agencies in preparation for Census 2020.

People can also complete the census by phone or complete a paper form.

On May 1, the labor-intensive process of sending enumerators

The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.

We're making sure that **however you choose to respond**—online, by phone, or by mail—that **the census is accessible**. You'll receive an invitation to respond **beginning in mid-March**. You choose how you want to respond.



You can respond **online** in English or in 12 additional languages. The online questionnaire is accessible, following the latest web accessibility guidelines. We'll also have a video in **American Sign Language** available to guide you through responding online.



You can respond by **phone** in English or in 12 additional languages. You can also respond in English by **TDD** at 844-467-2020.



By mid-April, we'll mail a **paper questionnaire** to every household that hasn't already responded. (Some households will receive a paper questionnaire along with the first invitation in March.)

We'll have **braille and large print guides** available online to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire.



If necessary, you can respond **in person** beginning in mid-May. Census takers will visit all households that have not yet responded.

We'll have census takers available who can communicate in **American Sign Language** and additional languages. When the census taker visits to help you respond, you can request that another census taker who communicates in American Sign Language returns, if you prefer.

If you prefer, you may also choose to have another member of your household interact with the census taker.

Responding is important. A complete count helps ensure that services like Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and public transportation can support those who need them.

Responding is safe. All of the information you share with us is protected by law and cannot be used against you.

Responding is accessible. We're doing everything we can to ensure the ways to respond are accessible for everyone.

Any questions? Please visit 2020census.gov. This website is 508 compliant and accessible to people of all abilities.

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020

tors door-to-door to count people begins. An estimated 1,200 people will be serving as enumerators through July.

“We know there are tracts with low response areas,” said Timm. Census officials are working to improve those response rates.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on U.S. Census Bureau data. According to the report, “Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds” by the GW Institute of Public Policy, South Dakota was allocated more than \$2.3 billion in 2016. This money represented the allocation of funds from 55 large federal spending programs guided by Census 2010 data. Of that \$2.3 billion, nearly one-quarter was for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs while one-third went to U.S. Health and Human Services programs.

Census Key Dates

March 12:
Self-response begins
and continues
through July 2020.

April 1: Census Day
**Dec. 31: Census
Counts Delivered
to President**

The report, by Andrew Reamer, a research professor at The George Washington University, noted that census-derived datasets help define eligibility criteria for various programs, compute formulas that geographically allocate funds, rank project applications based on priorities and set interest rates for federal loan programs.

Officials in Sioux Falls estimated that the community missed out on nearly \$1,600 per person for every person missed in the 2010 census.

The value of the census goes beyond dollars.

In Minnesota, the fate of the state’s 8th Congressional District is at stake. The U.S. House of Representatives is based on population. Minnesota currently has eight seats while Nebraska has three and South Dakota and North Dakota have one seat each.


“It’s not going to take a ton of your time and it makes a difference for South Dakota,” said Jake Droge, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Droge has been working with government agencies and businesses in eastern South Dakota.

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.


Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.



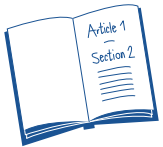
It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



It's in the Constitution.

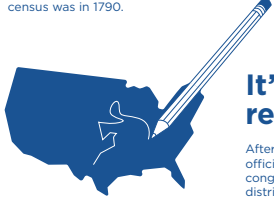
The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.



It's about \$675 billion.


The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.




It's about redistricting.

After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.



Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



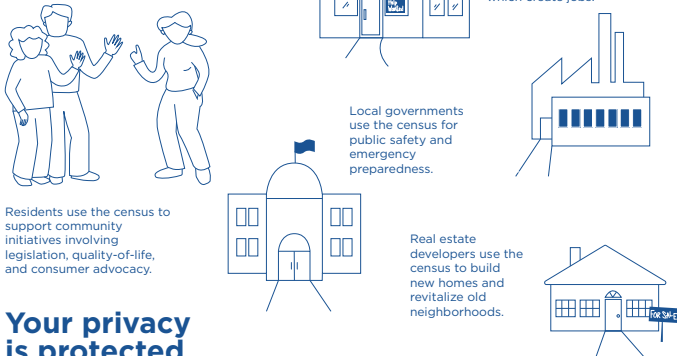
Census data are being used all around you.

Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.

Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.

Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs.

Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



Your privacy is protected.

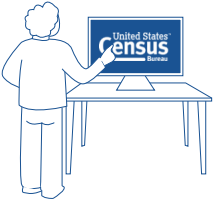
It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.



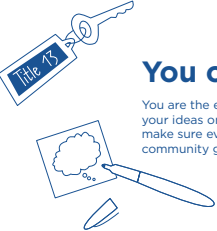
2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.



United States
Census
Bureau

FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT
2020CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS

United States
Census
2020

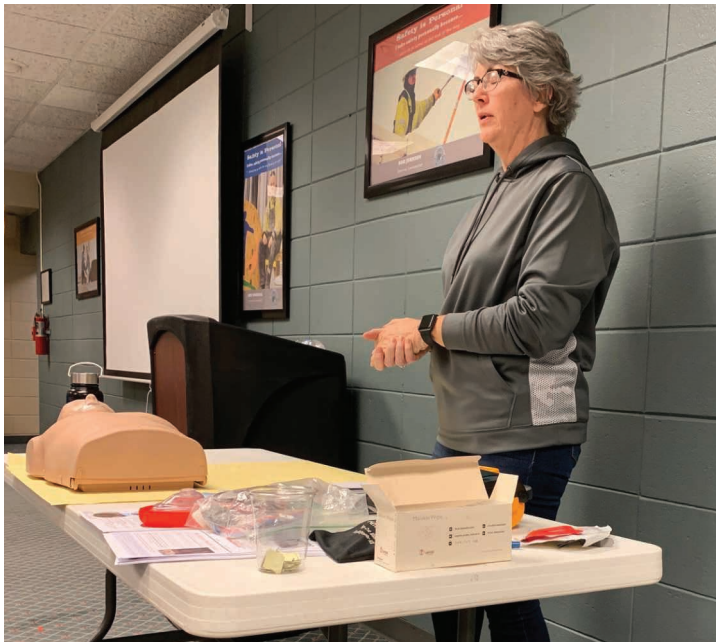
EmPOWER session focuses on

Leadership and Wellness

Session Two of the 2020 EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program centered around helping students explore their leadership abilities and improving their overall wellness.

Motivational speaker, Craig Hillier spoke about breakthrough leadership while Avera employees guided students in learning about stress management and healthy eating.

Sioux Valley Energy's Toni Kruger also taught the group how to do CPR.



Community Connections Volunteer Program

Employees Lend a Hand



Do you know of a community effort or organization that may need some help? The **Sioux Valley Energy Community Connections** program was designed to allow co-op employees to “Be the light in our community through the spirit of volunteering, community service, and helping those in need.”

If your community or organization is looking for volunteers, please contact Chinelle at **800-234-1960**. Past projects include raking lawns for those in need, delivering meals to the elderly, hanging Christmas lights and much more. Give us a call today!

Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Program

Available to SVE Members

Sioux Valley Energy has Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for purchase to offset your current usage with 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% renewable energy options. Through the REC program, the electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you have always received from Sioux Valley Energy but, by participating in this program, you will be supporting current and future renewable projects.

What is a Renewable Energy Credit (REC)?

- 1 MWh (megawatt hour) produced by a renewable energy source equals 1 REC
- RECs are also called Green Tags
- RECs represent the valuable renewable attributes of wind energy

How much does it cost?

\$1 per MWh. Example: If you use 1,200 kWh per month, participating in the REC program would add \$1.20 + tax to your monthly bill.

Do I need to purchase any special equipment?

No. Sioux Valley Energy will continue to fulfill all your electric needs and you can enjoy the benefits of renewable energy.

What are my payment options?

You will be billed monthly based on the kWhs used. The additional charge will appear on your normal monthly electric statement.

Where do the RECs come from?

The RECs come from several wind farms in the region that supply renewable energy to Sioux Valley Energy. These include, but are not limited to:

- North Dakota: PrairieWinds 1, Wilton 1 & 2, Baldwin Wind Project and Minot Wind Project
- South Dakota: Crow Lake Wind, the Chamberlain turbines, Day County Wind Farm and South Dakota Wind Project

What if I move?

This program is available only to members of Sioux Valley Energy. If you move outside of SVE's service territory, you will no longer be a member or eligible for this service.



SIoux VALLEY ENERGY RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDIT CERTIFICATE PURCHASE

_____(name of customer) hereby requests qualification of the following purchase for the Renewable Energy Credit Rate in effect on the date of qualification and agrees to each of the conditions in the Rate:

Name of Owner and Address of the Renewable Energy Credit Purchaser:

Participation Level Selection:

- 100% Participation = \$0.0010 per kWh used
- 75% Participation = \$0.00075 per kWh used
- 50% Participation = \$0.0005 per kWh used
- 25% Participation = \$0.00025 per kWh used

Beginning Date: _____

The purchase of RECs will be added to your total kWh monthly usage for a period of one year. This agreement will continue after the first year until Sioux Valley Energy is notified of cancellation.

Rate is subject to change on an annual basis based on market conditions.

Signature _____

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Boots, Broncs and Safety

Electric Safety Remains a Tradition at Black Hills Stock Show®

Courtney J. Deinert

courtneyd@centralec.coop

“We’re just selling safety.”

During the first week of February, people from across the region pull on their boots and gather in Rapid City, S.D., to celebrate the area’s deep history of cattle ranching at the Black Hills Stock Show.

The Black Hills Stock Show is the second largest event in the state, after the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

On the vendor floor, you can find anything a cowboy or cowgirl would dream of. Among the leather boots, hides, saddles and hats for sale, you can also find the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota booth.

“We’re just selling safety,” said Todd Eliason, assistant general manager at Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D. “We’ve been doing this for more than 20 years.”

The booth features a tabletop safety demonstration, also known as “Neon Leon” or “Power Town.” The table demonstration features a model farmyard with a barn, house, overhead power lines, ground transformer and props such as tree branches, a ladder, backhoe and line down on a tractor.

With the step of a pedal, the operator can conduct electricity through the lines and produce a shock or arch with the props.



With the step of a pedal, Central Electric’s Pat Soukup illustrates the effects of electricity when contacting a power line.

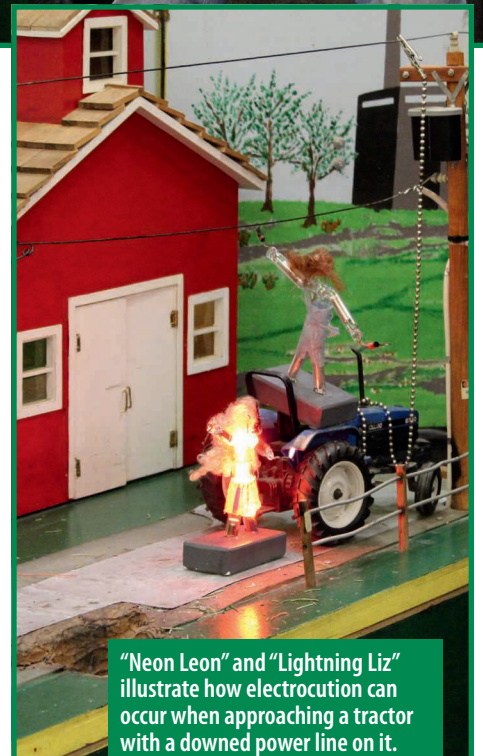
The presentation is designed to educate elementary-aged children about the dangers of electricity, but all ages gather to see the demonstration.

As parents and grandparents pass by the booth, they’ll smile and nod, likely remembering the presentation from their earlier days. Parents with young cowboys and cowgirls along will nudge them towards the booth to hear about the importance of respecting electricity on the farm.

Eliason recalls working at the safety booth one year and a young boy pointed at him and yelled, “That’s him!”

Eliason admits that his first thought was, “Oh, no. What did I do?”

However, the mother approached him in tears, gave him a big hug and said, “My son hit a power line with a tractor, and



“Neon Leon” and “Lightning Liz” illustrate how electrocution can occur when approaching a tractor with a downed power line on it.



The demonstration is designed for elementary-aged children but draws crowds of all ages.

because he saw your presentation, he knew to stay in the tractor. He is here today because of you.”

Many cooperative representatives across the state can share similar stories where children, farm wives and equipment operators knew exactly what to do in a dangerous situation involving electricity because they saw one of the cooperative’s electric safety presentations.

“When watching the demonstration, the kids probably don’t understand everything right away,” says Patrick Soukup, manager of member services/marketing at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D. “But it might get them asking questions about electricity and they’ll go look it up or bring it up in conversation.”

Kids rarely leave the booth empty-handed. Attendees can count on taking home a souvenir including pencils, rulers, band-aids, plastic hardhats, stickers and a variety of different hand-outs to remind them about the presentation.

Representatives from the electric cooperatives from across South Dakota take turns operating the demonstration at the booth.

During the Stock Show, the electric cooperatives also facilitate the high voltage

trailer demonstration held Thursday evening in conjunction with the sheep dog trials and mutton busting.

In addition to the Stock Show, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota provide energy efficiency and safety education at other events across the state, including the South Dakota State Fair and Dakotafest. You can also likely find them at your local home and farm shows, town festival, school

events and more.

To request a safety demonstration in your community, contact your local electric cooperative.



A young girl at the booth gets a closer look at overhead and underground conductor samples.



Ranch Rodeo Events

One of the most popular events at the Black Hills Stock Show is the Ranch Rodeo. Teams from a five-state region compete for more than \$21,000 in cash and prizes.

Preliminary and final events represent real-life chores on the ranch and provide unique entertainment.

- **Steer Loadin’**
Teams must sort and load a steer into the trailer and shut and latch the trailer.
- **Range Doctorin’**
Teams must head and heel a cow, lay it on its rib cage, “doctor it” on the neck with medicine on a paint stick and remove the ropes.
- **Stray Gatherin’**
Teams must head and heel a steer and tie any three legs.
- **Blake’s Trailer Loading**
Teams will have trailers loaded with horses in the arena. They must unload their horses, rope two steers and load them into the trailer.
- **Rope, Mug and Tie**
Teams must lay and tie down a designated steer.
- **Head, Heel and Brand**
Teams must head and heel two steers, lay each on its side, and brand them.
- **Pendleton Ranch Bronc Ride**
A team member must ride a bronc for 8-seconds and can hang on with both hands if desired.



East River Electric employees work the serving line at a previous feed. Pictured, from left, are Mike Jaspers, Business Development Director; Paul Lambert, radio, SCADA and LM foreman; Rory Johannsen, materials coordinator operator; Tom Boyko, CEO/General Manager and Kim Boyko.

FEEDING FOR A CAUSE

East River Electric to Hold 56th Annual Mountain Oyster Feed March 12

Shayla Ebsen

sebsen@eastriver.coop

Mountain oysters will be the center attraction at a fundraising event held by East River Electric Power Cooperative on March 12.

Serving for the 56th annual Mountain Oyster Feed begins at 5:30 p.m. at Nicky's on the west edge of Madison, S.D.

But for those not so interested in the prairie delicacy, the event's menu will also include pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert. There will be a raffle, door prizes, silent auction and 50-50 tickets.

Proceeds from the event will once again benefit LifeScape, formerly Children's Care Hospital and School and SD Achieve, whose mission it is to empower children and adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. With more than \$275,000 contributed to LifeScape over the years, East River's Annual Mountain Oyster Feed has helped provide for the very best in medical care, therapy, education and other services for the children at LifeScape.

"LifeScape is so honored to benefit from this tremendous event each year. It is so fun and so



Marshall Area Foreman Colton Sanderson and Journeyman Radio and SCADA Technician Tyler Frost are all smiles as they work in the kitchen at a past feed.

unique, and it brings the community together in fellowship and food, but more importantly, it brings the community together in support of children with disabilities. The money raised over the years has made a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of Madison-area children and their families supported by LifeScape,” said Jessica Wells, LifeScape Foundation president. “This is a tradition we love and look forward to each year. We are so grateful for this event and for the people of this community that show their compassion and care by coming out in support of this each year.”

The partnership began about a dozen years after Children’s Care Hospital & School opened in 1952.

According to the history of the organization on LifeScape’s website, the school was a private, nonprofit organization started as a citizens’ grassroots effort to provide rehabilitation and education to children recovering from polio. Until then, children often never returned to school after recovering from the acute phase of their illness, as buildings were seldom accessible. As the polio threat waned, children with other disabilities were admitted, but the early mission of the organization was to serve children with physical disabilities only. More children were “mainstreamed” into public schools in the 1970s

and Crippled Children’s began serving children with more complex disabilities – the result of modern medicine’s ability to save sicker and more premature babies. Also in the 1970s, the organization began serving children in their own communities through the outreach program. The organization acquired an outpatient center in Rapid City in 1985 and was able to provide services throughout the state. The name changed to Children’s Care Hospital & School in 1994 and an outpatient rehabilitation center opened in Sioux Falls in 1999, serving children and adults. In 2012, Children’s Care celebrated its 60th anniversary.

“Every year, the East River Employees’ Committee seeks out donations of any kind and every year the community steps up in supporting our cause and making this event a success,” said Sam Anderson, East River Employees’ Committee chairperson. “East River takes pride in our community and is committed to benefiting non-profits in our area such as LifeScape.”

“The charity event was very successful and a direct tribute to our employees fulfilling

EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
**MOUNTAIN OYSTER
FUNDRAISER**
SERVING LIFESCAPE

03.12.20 THURSDAY | NICKY'S RESTAURANT | 5:30 P.M. SERVING BEGINS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT LifeScape

our Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives principle of Commitment to Community,” said East River General Manager Tom Boyko after the 2019 event, which saw the East River Employees Committee donate \$1,000, a total matched by East River Electric at \$1,000 and CoBank also contributed \$2,000. In total, the 2019 event raised more than \$25,000 for LifeScape.



Apprentice Substation Technician Tim Fuerst, Facilities Maintenance Technician Mark Even and Mechanic Terry Zingmark prep the mountain oysters for frying.

February 23, March 22

Meat Shoot, Gun Club, Practice rounds at 10 a.m., Shoot starts at 11 a.m., 2378 310th St., Rock Valley, IA, 712-540-9757, 605-530-1413 or 712-551-7164

February 27-29

SD High School State Wrestling Tournament, All Classes, Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

February 27-March 1

35th Annual SD State Dart Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

March 1

Meat Shoot, Crooks Gun Club, Practice rounds at 10 a.m., Shoot starts at 11 a.m., 2808 W. 84th St. N., Sioux Falls, SD, 605-941-1984

March 8

Meat Shoot, Sportsmen's Club, Practice rounds at 10 a.m., Shoot starts at 11 a.m., 48605 255th St., Garretson, SD, 605-359-3844

March 12-14

SD State B High School Girls Basketball Tournament, Spearfish, SD, 605-224-9261

March 14-15

Gun Show, Mitchell, SD, 701-361-9215

March 15

Meat Shoot, Izaak Walton League, Practice rounds and shoot starts at 11 a.m., 5000 North Oakview Place, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-359-9516

March 18, June 11, August 13 and October 8

Kids Mystery Dinner Theater, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700



February 20-25: Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

Photo courtesy: travelouthillcity.com

March 19-21

SD State AA High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

March 19-21

SD State B High School Boys Basketball Tournament, Aberdeen, SD, 605-224-9261

March 21

Gift of Hope Charity Event, Come hear standup Christian comedian Jennifer Fulwiler while supporting a good cause, 7 p.m., O'Gorman Performing Arts Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-988-3765, www.ccfesd.org

April 2

McCrossan Wildest Banquet Auction in the Midwest featuring Bonner Bolton from Dancing with the Stars, 5:30 p.m., Arena, Sioux Falls, SD, Tickets: \$75 each, 605-339-1203, www.mccrossan.org

May 5-6

Energize! Explore Innovative Rural Communities Conference, Milbank, SD, <https://extension.sdstate.edu>

June 5-7

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:
▪ Rodeo Grounds, Wall, SD, 605-529-5868
▪ Rodeo Grounds, Highmore, SD, 605-529-5868
▪ Tipperary Arena, Buffalo, SD, 605-529-5868
▪ Heartland Arena, Huron, SD, 605-529-5868

June 12-14

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:
▪ Tripp County Fairgrounds, Winner, SD, 605-529-5868
▪ Rodeo Grounds, Sturgis, SD, 605-529-5868
▪ Rodeo Grounds, Dupree, SD, 605-529-5868
▪ Derby Downs Arena, Watertown, SD, 605-529-5868

June 16-21

SD State High School Finals Rodeo, Stanley County Fairgrounds, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-529-5868

July 14

Rock Nobles Cattlemen 2020 Summer Beef Tour, Nobles County Fairgrounds, Register Before June 1: \$20, After June 1: \$40, Worthington, MN, 507-967-2380, www.mnsca.org

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.