Central Electric
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
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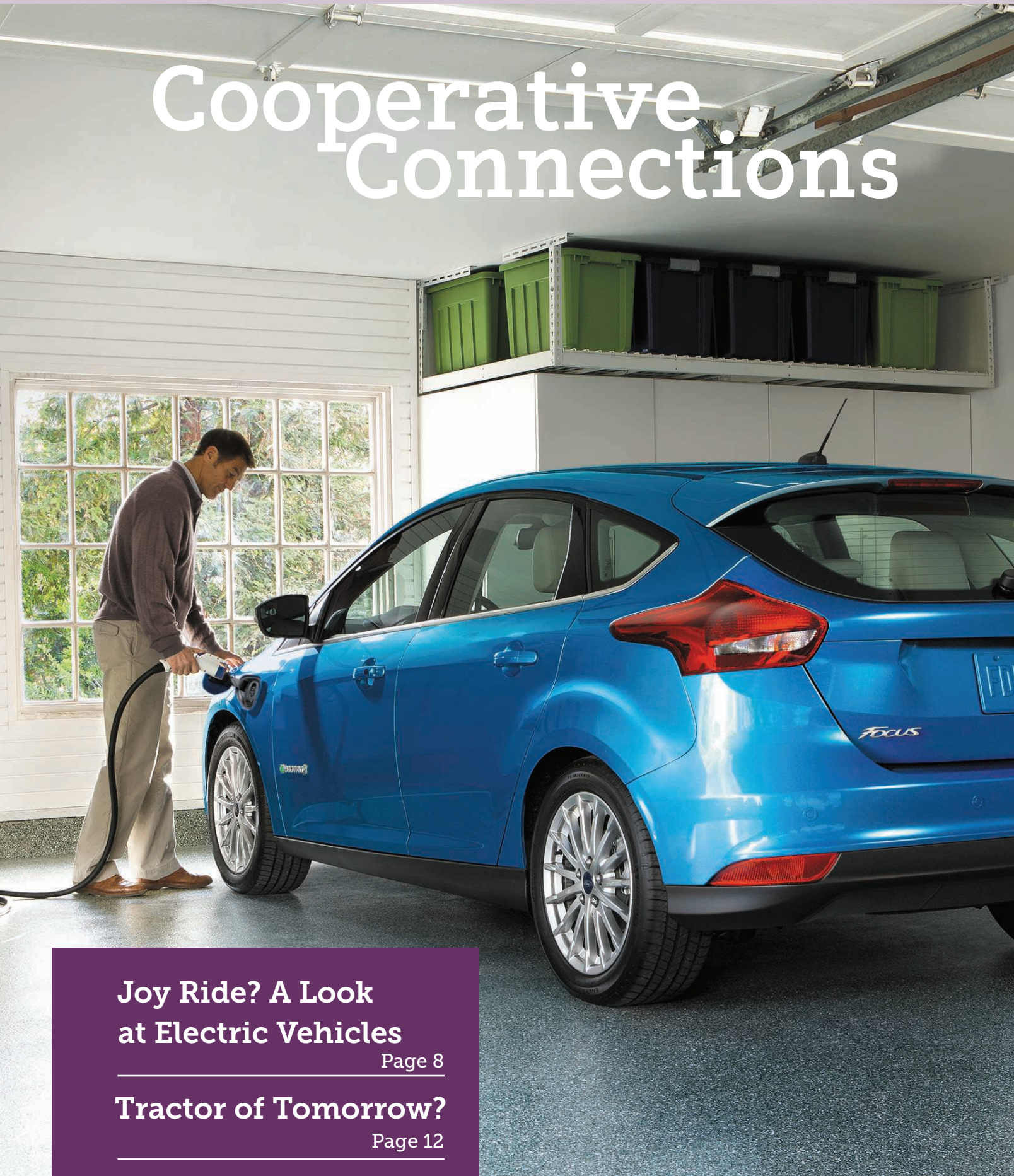
Cooperative Connections



Doing Your Part to Improve Power Reliability

"Grid Resiliency"

Ken Schlimgen

General Manager

If you are not participating and have an electric water heater, please consider allowing your cooperative to install a load management control.

The weather in April was far from normal. This was the first time in my 33 years at our cooperative that I recall rescheduling the Annual Meeting due to a winter storm. That storm was only to be followed by a more powerful Winter Storm Xanto which included sharp lightning strikes, high winds, and a combination of rain, snow, sleet, and ice.

Our distribution system held up very well during both of these weather events. The main causes of power outages were lightning and high winds, combined with ice, causing broken tree branches, poles and wires. Crews worked late on Friday and a long day on Saturday to get power restored to everyone.

A topic that is getting talked about a lot in the news media these days is "Grid Resiliency." This term refers to the ability of the entire electric system to withstand powerful storms, cybersecurity threats, or any type of attack that could result in power outages. It also includes the ability to accept different types of electric generating equipment – such as wind, solar, hydro, coal, and natural gas – and to allow them to work together reliably.

Your cooperative works not only to keep electric service on, but also to provide enough electricity to meet the peak energy demands of our members. Electricity use fluctuates throughout the day and throughout the various seasons. Your cooperative has to provide enough electricity during times of the highest energy use no matter the outdoor temperature, wind speed, cloud cover, or time of day.

Many of our cooperative members are already doing their part to improve "Grid Resiliency" for their cooperative. These members are participating in the cooperative's load management program and allowing their water heater, air conditioner, irrigation system, and/or standby generator to be controlled during peak periods.

Your participation in the cooperative's load management program yields significant savings that are passed either directly to you or indirectly through lower electric rates. If you are not participating and have an electric water heater, please consider allowing your cooperative to install a load management control. This improves the resiliency of your electric system and helps keep electric rates stable.

There are other ways that you can help with "Grid Resiliency." You can report problems like a broken pole, or frayed wire, or trees in close proximity to your lines. You can give us permission to remove problem trees rather than just trimming them away. You can authorize easements that allow your cooperative to make system improvements more cost effective.

It takes a proactive maintenance plan and constant improvements to keep our members supplied with electricity 24/7, 365 days a year. In 2018, your cooperative will invest almost $4 million in improvements to your distribution plant. This includes replacing 20 miles of overhead line with underground cable, rebuilding 8 miles of overhead line, and replacing 6 miles of underground cable with new cable.

Once this work is completed, we will be able to remove 10 miles of overhead line that is no longer needed. We will also be upgrading transformers, voltage regulators, and equipment in two substations, and building line extensions to new services.

We will continue to do our best to plan for and maintain a high level of "Grid Resiliency" to benefit you. Please consider doing your part by participating in load management and granting permission when needed to allow us to maintain your system.

Until next month, Be Safe.

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

(USPS 018-963)

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at www.centralec.coop.

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800-477-2892 or
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www.centralec.coop

Mission Statement

Provide Reliable Energy & Services with a Commitment to Safety and Member Satisfaction

Seats Available for July Trip

Basin Bus Tour

Need a quick getaway this summer? Sign up for the Basin Bus Tour on July 18-20, 2018!

The Basin Bus Tour is a great three-day tour of the Oahe Dam, a coal gasification plant, a coal generating plant and a working coal mine at Beulah, ND.

For just $25, you will receive round trip transportation, a two night stay in Bismarck, ND, and meals. For more information, please call 605-996-7516 or visit www.centralec.coop

Operation Round-Up Fundraiser

5K & Pancake Feed

Join us at the American Legion in Kimball, SD on Saturday, May 19th for a 5K run/walk and free will donation pancake feed.

Proceeds from the 5K will benefit Operation Round-Up and our local communities.

To register for the 5K or for more information, call 800-477-2892 or visit www.centralec.coop.

Employee Years of Service

Brian Bultje
June 9 - 32 years

Gene Gaikowski
June 12 - 1 year

Geoffrey Byrd
June 15 - 31 years

Al Spader
June 15 - 31 years

Tim Johnson
June 26 - 40 years

Thank you for your service to the cooperative!

Electrical Safety on the Farm

Farming is among the more dangerous occupations for several reasons, including potential for encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, the Safe Electricity program urges farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

Safe Electricity encourages farm managers to share this information with their families and workers to keep them safe from electrical accidents.

- Start each morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.
- Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.
- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay, will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

Electrical work around the farm can also pose hazards. Often, the need for an electrical repair comes when a farmer has been working long hours and is fatigued. At such times, it's best to step back and wait until you've rested.

Source: safeelectricity.org

Primary Elections Near

Voters in South Dakota head to the polls in June for the primary election while voters in Minnesota follow suit Aug. 14.

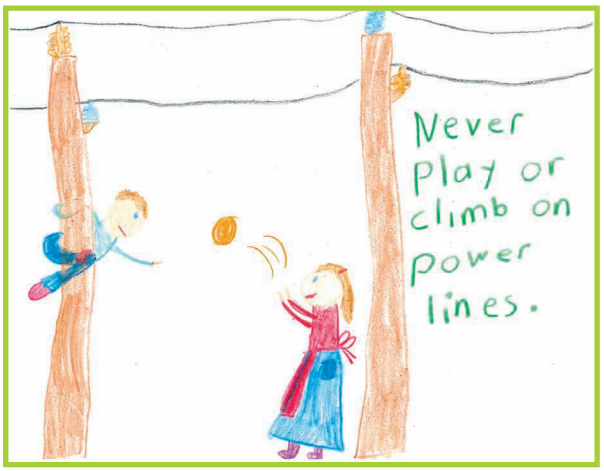
A primary election determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election.

In South Dakota, there are 24 House and Senate races with primary elections that will be decided on June 5. Those wishing to vote in the primary election have until May 21 to register to vote. Absentee voting began on April 20.

Minnesota's Primary Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 14. Minnesotans can vote by mail or in person from June 29 through Aug. 13.

As part of the election cycle, co-ops across the county are engaging in Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. The Co-ops Vote campaign seeks to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and their communities into the public discussion.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never play or climb on power lines."

Caroline Ekberg, 9 years old

Caroline is the daughter of Lance and Doris Ekberg, Hamill, S.D. They are members of Rosebud Electric Cooperative, Gregory, 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.

Dairy Delicious

Cream Cheese Chicken Taquitos

- 2 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/2 cup shredded cheese
- 12 6-inch flour tortillas

Place chicken, chili powder, garlic powder, cumin, cream cheese and water in crock pot. Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours or 4 hours on HIGH. Place 1/4 cup of the chicken mixture into each tortilla. Top with 1 to 2 T. shredded cheese. Roll tightly and place in a single layer on greased baking sheet. Bake at 400°F. for 10 minutes or until tortillas are slightly browned and cheese is melted.

Cortney Reedy, Tea, S.D.

Crunchy Ice Cream Bars

- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup peanut butter, creamy or chunky
- 4 cup Kellogg's Cocoa Krispies
- 1 pint ice cream

Mix corn syrup thoroughly with peanut butter. Pour over Cocoa Krispies and stir until well coated. Press mixture into a 9x13-inch buttered pan. Place in freezer to firm up. Cut into 12 3-inch squares. Place a slice of ice cream between 2 squares. Cut each square into 2 bars. Wrap individually in foil and keep in freezer until needed.

Cindy Reu, Luverne, Minn.

Strawberry Cheesecake Pie

- 2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- 1/4 cup chopped almonds
- 1 T. sugar
- 1 9-inch graham cracker crust
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups cold milk, divided
- 1 (3.4 oz) pkg. instant vanilla pudding

In a bowl, combine strawberries, almonds and sugar. Pour into crust. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth; gradually add 1/2 cup milk. Add pudding mix and remaining milk. Beat for 1 minute or until blended; pour over strawberries. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or until set.

Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, S.D.

Lemon Ginger Blueberry Muffins

- 2 cups flour
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. McCormick® ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp. McCormick® pure lemon extract
- 1 cup blueberries

Lightly grease 12 muffin cups or line with paper baking cups. Set aside. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, ginger and baking soda in large bowl. Mix sour cream, milk, oil, egg and lemon extract in medium bowl. Add to flour mixture; stir just until dry ingredients are moistened. (Batter will be thick and slightly lumpy.) Gently stir in blueberries. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3 full. Bake at 400°F. 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of muffins comes out clean. Serve warm. Makes 12 (1 muffin) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 213, Total Fat 9g, Sodium 122mg, Cholesterol 29mg, Carbohydrates 30g, Protein 3g, Dietary Fiber 14g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Cowboy Caviar

- 2 cans Mexicorn
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup Miracle Whip
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 can diced tomatoes and green chilies
- 6 green onions, chopped
- Fritos Scoops corn chips

Mix together all ingredients; serve with corn chips.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, S.D.

Please send your favorite dessert, salad and garden produce 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Central Electric crew assists with power restoration in Charles Mix county

"FRIDAY THE 13TH"

Mid- April storm Impacts Local Co-ops

Courtney J. Deinert

courtneyd@centralec.coop

The weather for April "Friday the 13th" forecasted a horror story feared by all electric utilities—wind and ice.

The preceding week, all news outlets stressed the potential magnitude of the late winter storm. Farmers prepared their livestock, and communities cleared events from their calendar. The main topic of conversation became remembering past storms and wondering if we were about to repeat history—1983? 1995? 2005?

After much uneasy anticipation, the storm termed "Xanto" moved into central South Dakota on Friday morning.

As rain and sleet tattered on the office windows, cooperative employees anxiously awaited to respond. Manager of Operations Brian Bultje stalked the weather radar and frequently checked in with crews, ready to form a plan of action. Office staff geared up to take the very first outage call and wondered how many would follow. Linemen actively waited on standby, preparing equipment for all possible system repairs and unsure if they would sleep that night.

Evening repairs in Charles Mix. Photo by Jon Reichert.

Charles Mix member Gary Hrdlicka offers extra horsepower to the Douglas Electric crew.Hrdlicka pulled the crew through deep snow in order to make line repairs.

Central Electric's system began seeing blinks and outages around noon on Friday, due to sharp lightning and high winds. Crews worked through the day to repair scattered outages from broken poles, wire breaks, blown fuses, and tree damage.

Later in the afternoon, thunderstorms transitioned into a white-out blizzard, and power lines on the eastern part of our system began carrying ice. Through the night and into Saturday morning, approximately 100 members across Hanson, Sanborn, Miner, and southern Davison county experienced outages. Visibility and road conditions prevented crews from traveling and to abandon attempts to restore power.

By later Saturday morning, the South Dakota Department of Transportation had opened interstate and highways exclusively for crews to begin restoration. The county plows stood by to open additional roads where needed. Crews restored all known outages by Saturday evening.

Several neighboring cooperatives suffered a greater impact from the storm. Central Electric sent Jesse Baker, Norton Truman, Jon Reichert, and Gene Gaikowski to Charles Mix Electric to assist with repairs Sunday through Tuesday.

Across South Dakota, 15 electric cooperatives were known to have a total of more than 14,500 members without power at some point throughout the storm, according to the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA).

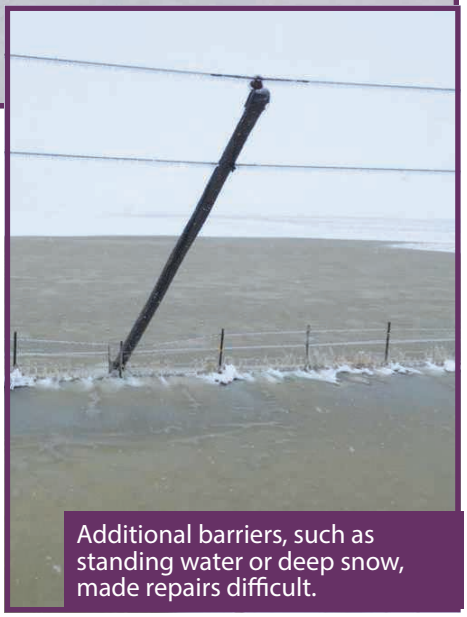
Winter storms are never welcomed. However, when asked about storm jobs and restoring outages, Mitchell Area Foreman Tim Harrington said, "This is why we became linemen."

"This is why we became linemen."

"They work in an environment that most of us would classify as dangerous and unforgiving but they make it look easy," explained General Manager Ken Schlimgen at the Annual Meeting following the storm.

"I would also like to say 'thanks' to the spouses and families of our employees. Often times they sacrifice family time or have to manage things by themselves so we can restore power for our members or attend important training."

We also thank our members for their calls, patience, and words of support for the crews and playing your part in the storm restoration.



Additional barriers, such as standing water or deep snow, made repairs difficult.

Ice weighed down the lines and split the top of this pole.

The 2017 Ford Focus, with a price tag in the $35,000 dollar range, can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, which is about average for all U.S. cars.

What You Don't Know about Electric Cars Could

THRILL YOU

Electric Vehicles Aren't Just for City Driving.

Paul Wesslund

NRECA Contributing Writer

If you want a really powerful car, maybe one that can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in less than 3 seconds, consider an electric vehicle like the NIO EP9.

You're right, that's too powerful. The NIO EP9 would also cost you more than a million dollars. But even more modest versions offer a respectable kick. The Chevy Bolt and Ford Focus, with price tags in the $35,000 dollar range, make the jump to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, which is about average for all U.S. cars.

There's a built-in reason electric cars hold their own in performance, says Brian Sloboda, a program and product manager at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"In an electric car, all of the power is going into the wheels. With a gas-powered car, a lot of power is lost inside the mechanical engine," says Sloboda. "If you sit in an electric car and the driver smashes down on the accelerator, you are going to be thrown into the back of your seat, much more so than many gasoline cars."

In March, Goodyear announced a new tire that would hold up better under the "instant torque from electric motors."

Photo Caption

But wait, there's more.

"The battery is at the bottom of the car, so you have a lower center of gravity, which means you can take the corners crisper," says Sloboda. "If you do a lot of driving in the hills or mountains, they are fun."

Electric vehicles hold a lot of other surprises compared to the

traditional view of them as a glorified golf cart. Even electric co-op in rural parts of the country are hearing interest from their members.

About 700,000 electric vehicles drive on U.S. roads today, according to an analysis by CoBank, a financier for electric co-ops. That number could jump to 3 million in the next five years, says CoBank. The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration projects electric vehicle sales growing from about 1 percent of the market today, to 12 percent by 2050.

Car makers are pushing those trends. In October, General Motors said it would launch 20 new electric vehicles by 2023. In January, Ford announced plans to invest $11 billion in a lineup of 40 hybrid and electric vehicles by 2022. In March, Volkswagen said it had secured $25 billion in electric car batteries and technology and plans to scale that up to $60 billion.

One of the most radical new notions about electric vehicles, advises Sloboda, is to think of them not as cars or trucks, but as consumer electronics.

"The internal combustion engine is a perfected technology, so those cars aren't improving at a very rapid pace," says Sloboda. "But electric vehicles are evolving at a very rapid pace, so you're really kind of comparing it to a cell phone or a computer."

What that means for consumers, says Sloboda, is that they might consider leasing an electric car rather than buying one, to make it easier to trade in the car to take advantage of the annual improvements in battery life, and other features.

Other unexpected benefits of electric vehicles that could speed their acceptance, says Sloboda, include range, maintenance and more competitive costs.

Will I run out of juice?

The electric vehicle industry has a term for the biggest roadblock to its growth—range anxiety. But Sloboda says the fear of getting stranded far from home with no way to refuel may be overblown, and getting less concerning.

"The range on the electric cars you can buy today is perfectly sufficient to cover almost everyone's daily commute," he says. Sloboda says that while electric cars won't work for someone regularly commuting 100 miles a day, "For most people, even in rural areas, that number is under 40 miles a day. Most electric cars on the market today have between a 120 mile range and some of them are getting close to a 200 miles."

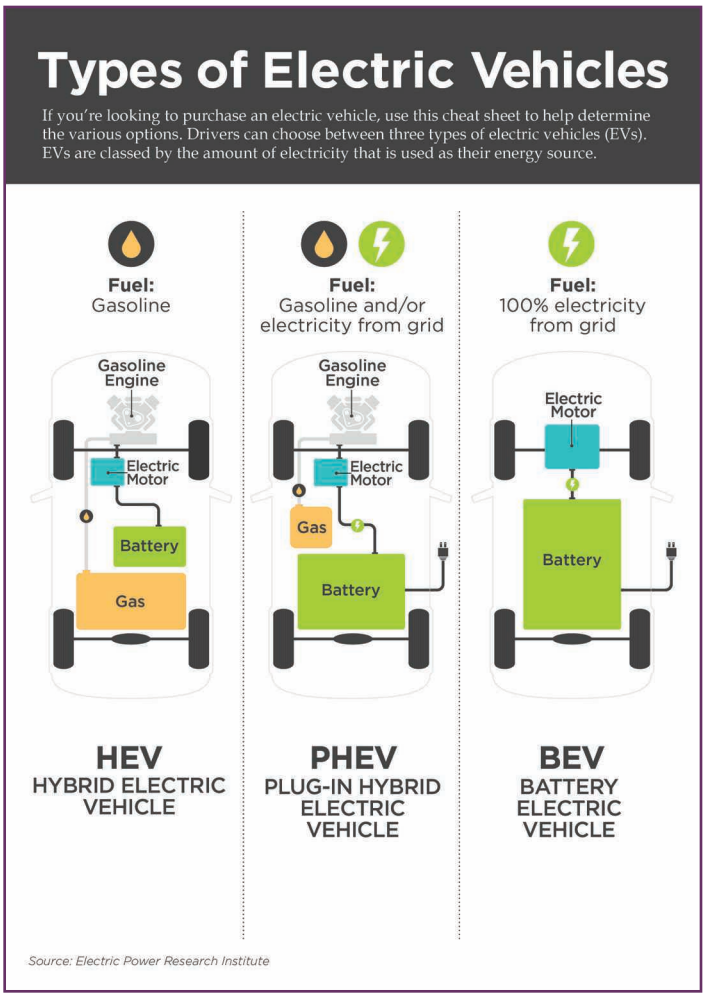
The Federal Highway Administration reports the average American drives 37 miles a day.

Less hassle

Electric car acceptance doesn't need to wait for a network or charging stations to appear around the country, says Sloboda. He sees refueling more like this: you plug your car into an outlet in your garage at the end of each day, and by morning it's fully charged.

"No more having to stop and fill your tank up once or twice a week," he says. "You can charge it at home while you're sleeping and wake up to a full tank every single day."

Electric cars can also save on maintenance, says Sloboda.



"With an electric vehicle, you don't have oil changes, and you don't really have transmission fluid changes," he says.

And regenerative braking in electric cars uses the electric motor to slow the car rather than relying only on brake pad friction. Sloboda says, "A lot of electric vehicle owners are saying they've never replaced their brakes because you just don't have the physical wear and tear on the brake pad."

Costs are coming down.

Sloboda says electric car costs today make them a luxury car, but that's changing. As electric car research, development and production increases, costs will be coming down. Tax breaks for electric cars at the federal level and in some states can reduce costs by several thousand dollars. And Sloboda notes that electricity costs less per mile than gasoline.

But one of the main reasons drivers buy electric cars is for environmental reasons.

Sloboda says an electric car "is cleaner than a gas-powered car, no doubt about it."

Another advantage of an electric car, he adds, is that "you're powering it with electricity from your local electric co-op."

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

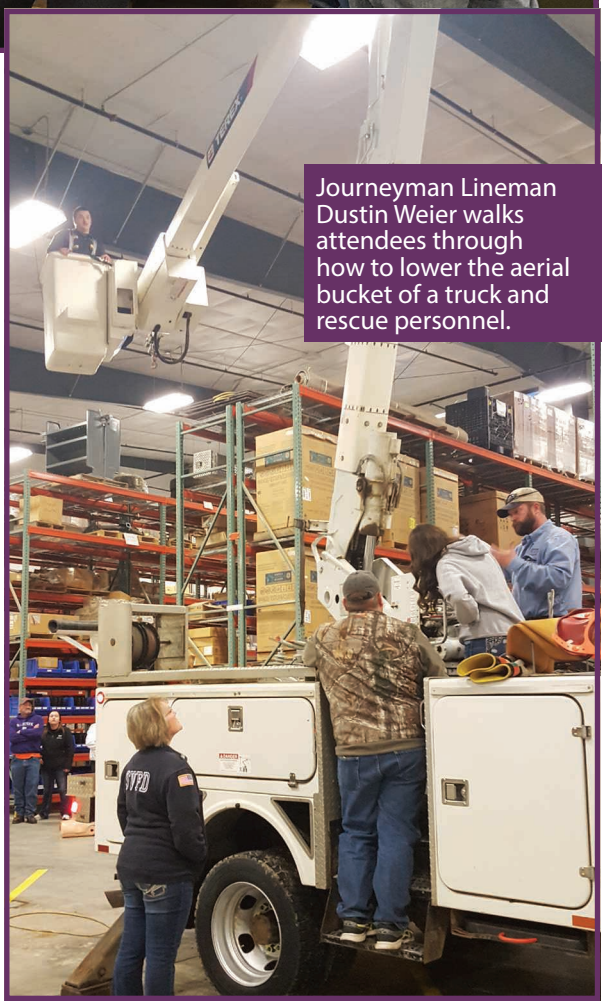
FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING

Staying safe while saving others.

Courtney J. Deinert
courtneyd@centralec.coop

Emergency responders are usually the first on the scene of an accident and are at the greatest risk from electric hazards.

Foreman Tim Harrington explains the hazards of working around underground equipment in an emergency.



Journeyman Lineman Dustin Weier walks attendees through how to lower the aerial bucket of a truck and rescue personnel.

Emergency responders are usually the first on the scene of an accident and are at the greatest risk from electric hazards.

Central Electric Cooperative conducted electric safety training at the Mitchell Office on April 17th for local fire departments, area law enforcement and other first responders. Nearly 30 attendees from 14 area departments were present.

Tim Harrington, Mitchell Area Foreman, explained the different types of meters, process for disconnecting power, and gave attendees a first-hand look inside underground equipment.

Journey Lineman Cody Riggs and Dustin Weier assisted attendees in rescuing personnel stranded in a bucket truck. The trucks are equipped so that the aerial basket can be operated from either the top of the basket or from the base of the truck.

"In the event there would be an emergency and our employees needed help, it is important that the area first responders have training on how to safely get our equipment away from the power lines and down to ground level," said Brian Bultje, Manager of Operations.

Patrick Soukup, Manager of Member Services and Marketing, also reviewed the components of a solar photovoltaic system and responding to an emergency involving this type of generation system.

"We are aware of several solar installations in our service territory," said Soukup. "We hope this training makes emergency personnel aware of the possibility of solar equipment present and how to keep themselves and others safe."

Central Electric Cooperative regularly provides safety training for local organizations, clubs or schools. For additional safety resources or to inqiure about scheduling safety presenation, contact Courtney Deinert at courtneyd@centralec.coop or 800-477-2892.

Nearly 800 cooperative members filled the Mitchell Corn Palace for the 18th Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING "TAKE TWO"

Despite a change in the date, the Central Electric Annual Meeting on April 19th was a success.

Approximately 368 members registered at the meeting, compared to 323 in 2017. Additionally, overall attendance increased from 2017 as well.

Pastor Dan Ziebarth of Mitchell Wesleyan Church, formerly an engineer for East River Electric, helped welcome members by giving the invocation.

Jim Headley of White Lake was re-elected as the Director-at-large and will serve another three-year term.

One highlight included electric vehicles on display with the help of Vern Eide, Iverson Chrysler, and Director Butch Morrison, who owns the Chrysler Pacifica displayed. Guest speaker Chris Studer, Chief Member and Public Relations Officer for East River Electric, presented on electric vehicles.

Additionally, employees helped hand out $25 energy certificates to 50 lucky attendees drawn at random.

Thank you to our members who participated in your cooperative's annual meeting!

Nathan Linke accepts the Jay Headley Memorial Scholarship.

Director Butch Morrison visits with a member about his plug-in hybrid electric minivan.

Left-right: SD Youth Tour Director Brenda Kleinjan, Shaina Determan, Heather Munsen, Isaac Kolousek, Anna Schwader, Renee Farmer, Collin Powell, Santana St. John

Ashley Henglefelt accepts the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship.

Central Electric Board of Directors, (left-right) Todd VanWalleghen, Jim Headley, Butch Morrison, Duane Wolbrink, Mark Hofer, Bernetta Burghardt, Roger Campbell, Donita Loudner, Mark Reindl

Meet the Electric John Deere

Battery-run Tractor Showcased in Paris

Kaley Lockwood
editor@sdrea.coop

In order for the SESAM to take off, the battery capacity will need to expand to support the sun-up to sun-down longevity of farm work.

A peak under the hood of John Deere's first, fully battery-powered tractor. The all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6r series tractors.

Green and yellow are arguably the second-most American set of colors, behind red, white and blue of course. This rings true particularly for those who operate John Deere machinery on a daily basis, as the growth of our nation is supremely dependent on the country's agriculture industry, including the good folks who support it.

Technology in recent years has been the catalyst for the boom and bust of many industries. In the past decade or so, advancements in farming technology have primarily been focused on automation and precision, but with the automobile industry moving towards electric vehicles, the ag-industry is following suit.

John Deere showcased the first, fully battery-powered tractor in 2017 at SIMA, an international agribusiness tradeshow in Paris. This technological innovation was given a 'special mention' as it truly the first of its kind. Nicknamed SESAM, for Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery, this all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6r series tractors.

In a press release by John Deere, SESAM is said to have all of the same "features and functionality of a 'conventional' tractor while offering the benefits of electric power." This emissions-free tractor runs at a lower noise level than other traditional tractors and is operated using two independent electric motors. The electrification of this tractor simplifies the moving parts and thus, greatly reduces the need for maintenance.

These two motors power an adapted DirectDrive transmission, producing 130 kilowatts of continuous power with a peak output of 400 horsepower, according to Farm-Equipment.com. The website also affirms that the tractor takes three hours to fully charge and can run up to four hours in the field with speeds ranging from 2 mph to 30 mph. As a comparison, the Tesla model 3 may have a capacity of up to 75 kilowatt hours of battery storage (kWh), providing a range of about 310 miles. The SESAM has a capacity of 130 kWh with a range of about 34 miles, which

means that this tractor uses a lot more electricity in a shorter period of time.

In order for the SESAM to take off, the battery capacity will need to expand to support the sun-up to sun-down longevity of farm work. In fact, the President and CEO of Autonomous Tractor Corporation, Kraig Schulz, purported that a 200 horsepower electric tractor would hypothetically need about 1,500 kWh of batteries to complete a full day's work. As energy storage technology continues to advance, it's only a matter of time before John Deere manufactures a tractor that can meet this need.

Although SESAM's battery technology may not yet be practical for a full day of farming, the all-electric tractor is a very exciting development for the agriculture industry. This is one of many future steps in the direction of electrifying agricultural machinery and integrating this equipment with renewables. As the press release stated, "The SESAM tractor is a major part of John Deere's vision of the energy-independent farm of the future."

This push towards electrification of farm machinery in lieu of using fossil fuels directly supports the beneficial electrification movement. This concept, known fully as "environmentally beneficial electrification," is gaining traction among a growing number of groups in the U.S. including local electric cooperatives. Frequently promoted as a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping the environment, beneficial electrification also helps consumers by providing products that are cleaner, quieter and easier to maintain. John Deere's SESAM tractor does just that.

Kaley Lockwood writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

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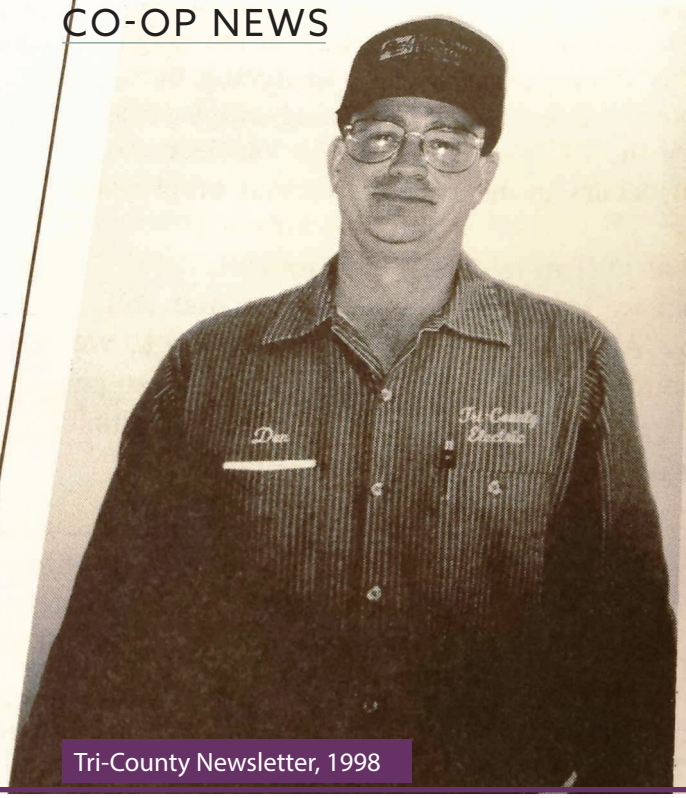

Tri-County Newsletter, 1998

Area Foreman Named

Don Patton, Crew Chief for Tri-County Electric at the Wessington Springs outpost has been promoted to Area Foreman.

Don has worked for Tri-County Electric since October, 1978 starting as a groundman and working his way up through the ranks to lineman, then crew chief.

Don, his wife Debra, and daughter Chantelle are well known in the Wessington Springs area and we at Tri-County Electric look forward to working with them in Don's new position.

Congratulations Don!

BEST WISHES, DON

Wessington Springs Area Foreman Retires after 39 years

"It's been quite a trip."

This May, Central Electric bids farewell to Wessington Springs Area Foreman Don Patton, who plans to retire after 39 years of service.

Patton's career began when Larry Jost knocked on his door one day and asked if Patton wanted a job. Patton joined Tri-County Electric in October 1978 as a groundman and worked his way up to lineman. He was promoted to Crew Chief in 1994 and Area Foreman in 1998.

Patton says his career flew by, especially as time went on: "I used to think, 'how can 365 days be any different than the previous year,' but now I understand."

"It's been quite a trip," said Patton. And he also won't miss the storm jobs: "There's nights we were out that I didn't think they'd end."

During retirement, Patton will still be "on call" but in a different way— "Grandpa On Call." He looks forward to spending more time with his daughter and grandchildren, traveling with his wife Deb during her work trips, and enjoying his hobbies including hunting, fishing, and camping.

General Manager Ken Schlimgen says, "Don's leadership and knowledge of our system will be missed but we wish Don and Deb the best in his retirement."

Tri-County Newsletter, 1983

Employees receive Eminent Service Awards for years of service. From left are Vern Hill, 5 years; Dick Faulhaber, 5 years; Don Patton, 5 years; Gary Kristensen, 10 years; Margie Schryvers, 15 years and Dean Houska, 35 years.

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May 26-27
Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

June – September Thursdays
Mitchell Farmers Market, 4:30 to 8 p.m., Corn Palace Plaza, Mitchell, SD, Contact Maria Payne at 605-995-8048 or mpayne@cityofmitchell.org (no event Aug. 23)

June 1-2
South Dakota BBQ Championships, Huron, SD, 605-353-7354

June 1-2
Howard Headers Cruise Night and Car Show, Registration 10:30 a.m. to Noon, Show Noon to 4 p.m., Cruise 6 p.m., Howard, SD, Gary at 605-203-1086

June 1-3
Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

June 1-3
Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

June 1-3
Wheel Jam, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

June 2
Annual Casey Tibbs Match of Champions, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-494-1094

June 2, 16, July 7, 21, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, 22
Lawn Mower Races, Pukwana, SD, 605-680-1718 or 605-682-9781

June 7-9
Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nick at 605-978-6924

June 15-16: Czech Days, Tabor, SD, www.taborczechdays.com, taborczechdays@yahoo.com

Photo courtesy: Becky Tycz, *Tyndall Tribune*

June 9-10
Siouxland Renaissance Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 866-489-9241

June 14-17
Jamboree Days, Hartford, SD, 605-359-4929

June 15-16
Wild Bill Days, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

June 15-July 13
River City Friday Nights, live entertainment, kids games, food and retail vendors, 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday evenings, Main Street, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Mollie Harmon at 605-682-9051

June 16-17
South Dakota Peach Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-789-4098

June 21-23
Senior Games, Mitchell, SD, Contact Howard Bich at 605-491-0635

June 22-23
Oahe Days Arts & Music Festival, Pierre, SD, oahedaysinfo@gmail.com

June 29
Naja Shrine Circus, Wall, SD, 605-342-3402

June 29-30
Heartland Quilters Guild Quilt Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 29th, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on 30th, Mitchell Wesleyan Church, Mitchell, SD, Contact Gwen Effling 605-770-2385

July 7
Ladies Only Fishing Tournament, American Creek Marina, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Kelli at 605-730-1697 or Brenda at 605-680-4494, Find "Fishing for a Cure – Ladies Fishing Tournament" on Facebook

July 10-15
4th Annual 3 Wheeler Rally, Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7174, www.d3wr.com

July 28
MVP Outdoor Vendor and Craft Show, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., James Valley Community Center, Mitchell, SD, Contact 605-995-8441

August 18
American Island Days, Inflatables, car show, Ag Olympics, Free Admission, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m., American Creek Campground, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Donna Buche at 605-680-1202

September 21-22
Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show, Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

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.