

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Mammoth Discovery

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# Small Steps Make a Big Difference on Electric Demand



**Ken Schlimgen**  
General Manager

Last month, I introduced the concept of electric demand and its impact on the cooperative. Beginning in July, you may have noticed a new line item on your electric bill that provides information about your demand usage. Although no charges are associated with your demand, I understand it might raise questions.

The demand information on your bill reflects the highest 30-minute average rate at which you used electricity during the billing period. Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW) and reflects your peak demand — similar to noting the highest speed you reached during a car trip. By understanding your peak demand, you can better manage your electricity usage, potentially lowering the cost of wholesale power to your cooperative and easing the strain on our electric infrastructure.

As our energy needs evolve with electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, battery storage and more, the infrastructure required to meet those needs also changes. By monitoring and providing demand information, we aim to accomplish two goals: to educate members by creating awareness of peak demand and to help members understand that when and how they use electricity affects the efficiency, reliability, and cost of operating our electric system.

You may have guessed that your cooperative is considering adding demand charges in the future. Some members with larger transformers are already paying for demand each month. Demand charges are one way for your cooperative to fairly recover costs while giving members another tool to manage their electrical usage.

The cooperative is currently recovering demand costs through the existing rate structure. Central Electric is a

If you are doing laundry and using an electric stove simultaneously, consider spreading out those tasks to lower your electric demand.

non-profit electric cooperative so rate adjustments are only used when necessary to cover increasing costs.

By paying attention to your demand usage, you can take steps to reduce it. Try to spread out the use of high-energy appliances, such as laundry machines or electric stoves, to different times of the day instead of running them simultaneously. Investing in energy-efficient appliances and lighting can reduce both energy consumption and demand. Be aware of your family's energy habits and look for patterns to identify opportunities to reduce peak demand.

Electricity has remained relatively cost-stable, although your cooperative is expecting higher wholesale costs for electricity in 2025. This is no surprise as inflation, labor, interest and federal regulations have increased significantly for our industry over the past two years.

Despite increasing costs, South Dakotans enjoy some of the lowest-cost electricity in the nation. Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It is vital in protecting our property, and it can entertain us and keep us comfortable in both our homes and work places.

As a member-owned cooperative, Central Electric does everything in its power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and electricity remains a great value. Our goal is to provide reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity. By working together, we can manage our energy resources more effectively and ensure that we all benefit from a robust and resilient power system.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact your cooperative.

Until next month, stay safe!

# CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

(USPS 018-963)

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- Hanson County - Mark Hofer - Secretary & NRECA Director
- Jerauld County - Mark Reindl, Treasurer
- Miner County - Robert Banks - Director
- Sanborn County - Todd VanWalleghe, Vice President
- Director-At-Large - Merl Bechen

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 cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at [www.centraleccoop.com](http://www.centraleccoop.com).

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**Contact Us**

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: 1-800-477-2892 or 1-605-996-7516  
Website: [www.centraleccoop.com](http://www.centraleccoop.com)

**Our Mission**

Provide reliable energy and services with a commitment to safety and member satisfaction.

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**ANNUAL MEETING AT THE CORN PALACE  
TUESDAY, SEPT. 10, 2024**

- Three-meat buffet 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Business meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Youth prizes and drawings for energy bill credits.
- Must be present to win.

## Board Meeting Summary

The board of directors met on May 20, 2024, at Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters for the regular board meeting. They reviewed reports by management including details on operations, member services, communications, service department and financials.

**BOARD REPORT**

General Manager Schlimgen updated the board of directors on the East River Electric Managers Advisory Committee, Basin Electric activities, SDREA Managers Meeting, Rural Electric Economic Development fund activities, the NRECA Legislative Conference and other management priorities.

Manager of Finance and Administration Uher shared that the billing department plans to display meter demand on all billing statements starting in July. Discussion followed.

Director Wolbrink reported on East River Electric happenings.

**BOARD ACTION**

The board considered or acted upon the following:

- A motion was made and seconded to purchase six acres of land by Plankinton. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve member loan for heating and cooling equipment. Motion carried.

There being no further business, President Wolbrink adjourned the meeting. The next board meeting was scheduled for June 17, 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT	YEAR TO DATE MAY 2024	YEAR TO DATE MAY 2023
Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Sales	147,584,999 kWh	144,734,117 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$ 15,718,732	\$ 14,675,260
Total Cost of Service	\$ 15,668,657	\$ 14,276,522
Operating Margins	\$ 50,075	\$ 398,738

# Extreme Heat Preparation

### Learn How to Stay Hydrated

You need to drink enough water to prevent heat illness. An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of water daily. Everyone's needs may vary.

- You can check that you are getting enough water by noting your urine color. Dark yellow may indicate you are not drinking enough.
- Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- If you are sweating a lot, combine water with snacks or a sports drink to replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prepare if you have a medical condition or are taking medicines.

### Make a Plan to Stay Cool

Do not rely only on electric fans during extreme heat. When temperatures are in the high 90s, fans may not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

- Spending a few hours each day in air conditioning can help prevent heat illness.
  - If you have air conditioning, be sure that it is in working order.
  - If you do not have air conditioning or if there is a power outage, find locations where you can stay cool. For example, a public library, shopping mall or a public cooling center. Plan how you will get there.
  - Additional resources may be available from local government or community groups.
- Make sure you have plenty of lightweight, loose clothing to wear.
- Create a support team of people you may assist and who can assist you. Check in with them often to make sure that everyone is safe.

### Learn Emergency Skills

- Learn how to recognize and respond to heat illness.
- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power. Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power.

### Gather Emergency Supplies

- Gather food, water and medicine. Stores might be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home

Kit. In the event of a power outage, you may lose access to clean drinking water. Set aside at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Consider adding drinks with electrolytes. Include sunscreen and wide-brimmed hats.

- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies.
- Have a one-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.
- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up)
- Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

*Source: American Red Cross*



### Power Line Safety "Call 911 and Don't Get Out"

#### Hobie Klein, Age 12

Hobie Klein warns farmers to call 911 and don't get out of the tractor if contact is made with a power line. Hobie's parents are Dean and Karey Klein, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.

# Summer SALADS

## MOM'S VEGETABLE SALAD

### Ingredients:

#### Salad

2 cans diced carrots  
1 can green beans  
1 can yellow beans  
1 small can peas  
1 can cut baby corn

*Drain all the vegetables*

#### Add

1/2 cup diced green pepper  
1 cup diced celery  
1 diced medium onion

#### Dressing

Combine in a saucepan  
1/2 cup oil  
1 1/3 cup sugar  
1/3 cup white vinegar  
1/3 cup cider vinegar  
2 Tbsp water

*Combine in a saucepan and boil until clear*

### Method

Pour dressing over vegetables and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Keeps for a week.

**Debra Clow**  
Harrisburg, S.D.

## FRESH SUMMER SALAD

### Ingredients:

3 tbsps. olive oil, divided  
1 tbsp. lime juice  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1 1/5 cups fresh corn or thawed frozen corn  
1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved  
1/2 cup cucumber, finely chopped  
2 tbsp. fresh basil, minced  
1/3 cup crumbled Feta cheese or Parmesan cheese  
1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar or Italian salad dressing

### Method

Mix 2 tablespoons of oil, lime juice and salt in a small bowl. Cook corn in a skillet with remaining 1 tbsp. oil. Pour corn into bowl, cool slightly. Add tomatoes, cucumber and basil. Refrigerate. Before serving, drizzle with dressing, cheese and balsamic vinegar or Italian dressing.

**Barb Selland**  
Mitchell, S.D.

## CHICKEN SALAD

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt  
2 tbsps. mayonnaise  
1 tsp. parsley flakes  
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt  
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper  
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)  
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery  
1/4 cup chopped red onion

### Method

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.

[McCormick.com](http://McCormick.com)

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.

# Rain, Rain, Go Away!

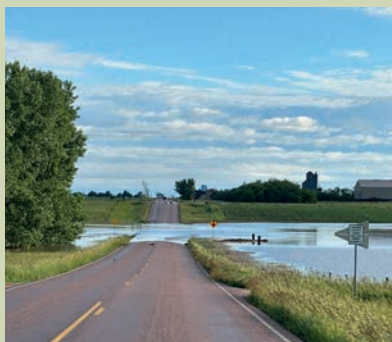
Typically, farmers are praying for rain during the hot summer months. This year, however, some of them might be praying for the rain to stop.

Record rainfall and flash flooding impacted much of Central Electric's service area in June. Several towns, counties and townships are dealing with the aftermath of flood waters that affected farms, homes, roads, bridges and culverts.

We extend special thanks to Central Electric's crews and contractors for working extra hard to stay safe and complete projects in extremely wet conditions.



Larson Digging didn't let a little water stop them from plowing in new underground for members south of Mount Vernon in June.



Flood waters affected many areas, including Betts Road, north of Central Electric's main office off Interstate 90.



Abernathy Post 16 of Gann Valley was recently awarded an Operation Round-Up grant to help purchase grave markers to honor United States Military Veterans at Spring Hill Cemetery. From left: Central Electric Manager of Member Services and Marketing Patrick Soukup, Central Electric Director Merl Bechen, Operation Round-Up Trustee Yvette Isburg, and project volunteers Ken Wulff, Carol Grabin, Elaine Wulff, Evelyn Wulff and Rick Woolegge.

## Operation Round-Up® Achieves \$200,000 Impact

Central Electric Cooperative's Operation Round-Up® grant program will surpass \$200,000 in local impact after the board of trustees recently pledged \$13,800 to support area projects. Through Operation Round-Up, participating cooperative members round up their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar, and the contributions are pooled together to support local causes.

Upon reviewing applications from several worthy organizations, the Operation Round-Up board of trustees approved the following grant awards at the June meeting.

### June 2024 Grant Awards:

- Alexandria American Legion Post 41: \$1000 for grave markers
- City of Emery: \$1000 for community center tables and chairs
- City of Kimball: \$1000 for ballpark improvements
- Crow Creek Ambulance Service: \$1300 for AED cabinets
- Dunham Historical Society: \$1000 for facility improvements
- Ethan Rural Fire Protection District: \$2000 for equipment
- Howard School District: \$1000 for preschool supplies
- Letcher Community Development Foundation: \$1000 for lake improvements
- Love Feast of Mitchell: \$1000 for nutrition assistance
- Tokata Youth Center of Fort Thompson: \$2000 for an outdoor activity space
- Town and Country Fire Department of Woonsocket: \$1000 for training supplies
- White Lake Cemetery Association: \$500 for cemetery improvements



A volunteer board of trustees made up of cooperative members from each county awards grants twice annually. Members of the board of trustees are Julie Dykstra of Stickney, Clarissa Glaus of Chamberlain, Yvette Isburg of Fort Thompson, David Jorgenson of Mitchell, LeAnn Moe of Alexandria, Amber Kolousek of Wessington Springs, Tami Moore of Howard, Dawna VanOverschelde of Letcher and cooperative director Merl Bechen of Mitchell.

Applicants do not need to be members to qualify for a grant. Eligible projects should have a positive impact for members and their local communities. Grant applications are accepted every six months. The next deadline is November 1, 2024. For more information, please call 1-800-477-2892, contact your local trustee or visit [www.centraleccoop.com](http://www.centraleccoop.com) and click on member programs.

# Sparking Innovation On The Farm

**Tara Miller**

Central Electric Cooperative, Manager of Communications

The year was 1950, and a teenager named Robert Moe was living on a farm in northern Hanson County when Intercounty Electric brought power to the prairie. His parents, Chester and Myrl, had three boys and three girls. Robert was the second youngest of the Moe children.

When farms started receiving power, welding manufacturers held demonstrations to sell their products to area farmers. So, Robert's dad and his brother, Roy, purchased a 220-volt Forney brand welder.

"Intercounty Electric started small group welding classes in each county. Hanson County's classes were held at an implement dealer in Alexandria," Robert said.

After several weeks of classes, Intercounty Electric organized a contest in each county to pick the best welder, and Robert emerged as the winner in Hanson County. His skills were further recognized in a four-county contest held at the Intercounty Electric office building, where he was again named the winner.

Robert presented the first-ever 4-H welding demonstration at the South Dakota State Fair.

"Because my welding demonstration required a special electrical connection, Intercounty Electric installed an electric plug on a pole in the middle of an empty lot on the state fairgrounds."

Robert fabricated livestock gates and other farm necessities. In 1953, he also made a metal grille guard for the family's 1952 International pickup. His welding demonstrations would earn him a trip to Chicago to attend the 4-H Club Congress in the electrical division.

At age 21, Robert joined the United States Army and served for two years before returning home to farm. He eventually met his future wife, Norma Northrup, who grew up on a farm served by Intercounty Electric east of Letcher on Highway 37.

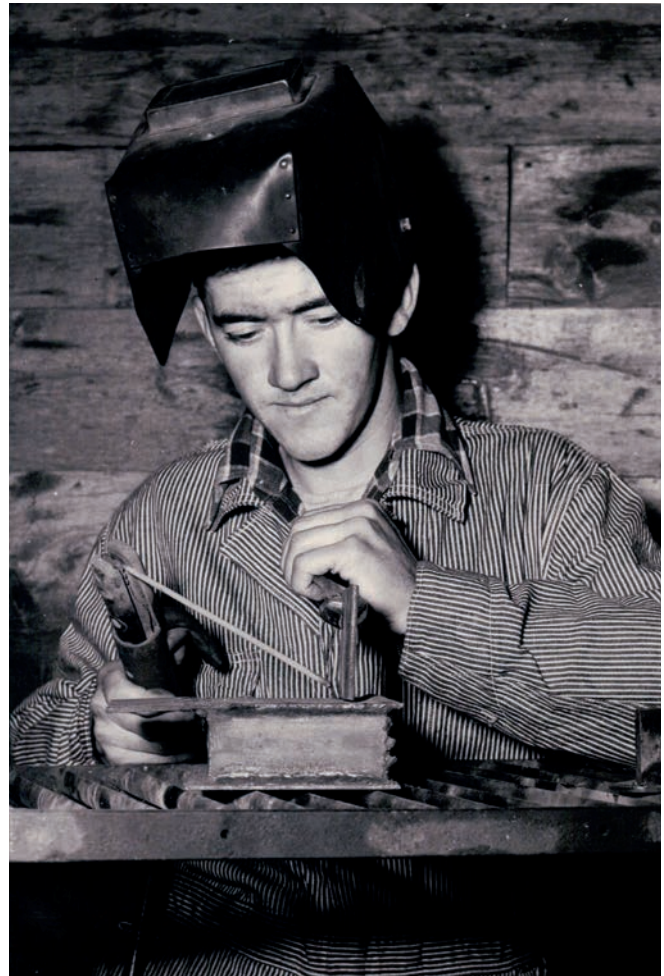
Robert and Norma grew crops and raised cattle on the Moe homestead for more than 25 years. They spent 32 winter seasons in south Texas and traveled around in an RV in the summer for 18 years before eventually moving to Mitchell.

Robert remembers, "Having a yard light was a handy new luxury when we first got electricity, but it got even better later when Intercounty offered a free all-night light if wired through the meter."

Norma said, "It's amazing to look at all that's changed with electric appliances. Refrigerators, deep freezers, water heaters, and washing machines."

However, Norma explained, one of the more profound impacts of electricity was how it would shape their children's lives. Their two sons, Kevin and Keith, both have successful careers related to computer technology, a field that would not exist without electricity.

Intercounty Electric merged with Tri-County Electric in 2000 to form Central Electric Cooperative, which today serves mostly rural portions of Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Miner and Sanborn Counties.





*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*

# Mammoth Discovery

**Shannon Marvel**

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Over Memorial Day of 2023, a coal miner made a historic discovery at the Freedom Mine in North Dakota.

“The shovel operator just happened to take a scoop that had a complete mammoth tusk,” said Jeff Person, a paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey.

“The tusk was about seven-foot-long. That shovel must’ve picked it up just perfectly to not damage or break it. The driver reported the find to his superiors at the Freedom Mine, who then contacted us,” Person said.

The tusk was found in an old streambed. Other fossils



*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*



were found in the streambed, including “more than twenty bones from the skeleton, including ribs, a shoulder blade a tooth and parts of the hips,” according to a news release.

“Most of the mammoth fossils known from North Dakota are isolated bones and teeth,” stated Clint Boyd, Senior Paleontologist for the North Dakota Geological Survey, in the news release. “This specimen is one of the most complete mammoth skeletons discovered in North Dakota, making it an exciting and scientifically important discovery.”

The bones were sent off to the Paleontology Lab at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck to undergo extensive cleaning before being prepped to be dried out, which requires that the bones be

wrapped in plastic.

It could take up to another year for the bones to be dried out enough to be taken out of the plastic wrap, Person said.

At that point, the bones will be the focus of scientific research, he said.

According to the news release, “mammoths lived in North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, commonly called the Ice Age, and went extinct in this area around 10,000 years ago. Several species of mammoth lived in North America, including the Woolly Mammoth and the Columbian Mammoth. They lived alongside other iconic animals like saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Once the bones are fully cleaned, paleontologists will be able to identify which species was collected from the mine.”



*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*



These students were selected to attend the 2024 NRECA Youth Tour Trip to Washington, D.C. Pictured from left: Avarie Prien of Letcher, Daniel Leiferman of Kimball, Robert Hine of Wessington Springs, Carson Ferry of Fulton, Madisyn Raymond of Ethan, Alexys Fink of Plankinton and Kitahna Charging Hawk of Fort Thompson.

## Students Attend NRECA Youth Tour

Thirty-six students representing 18 South Dakota electric cooperatives headed to the Washington, D.C., area June 15-21 for the 2024 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

The program, which can trace its existence back to 1957 when Lyndon B. Johnson encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capital, empowers teens to engage in their communities and learn about the importance of political involvement. More than

1,300 teens have represented the Rushmore State since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963.

The 2024 group visited many 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 played a recurring theme in the trip as students viewed it at

the Smithsonian's Museum of American History and also heard an inspirational message centered on the flag from keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men's wheelchair basketball.

Students also met with U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Sen Mike Rounds while in the nation's capital.

## New HVAC Tech Hired

Heating and Cooling Technician Tanner Wenz of Mitchell has joined Central Electric.

Tanner started in June, and he brings valuable skills and experience to our team. He graduated from Mitchell Technical College in 2022 with a degree in heating and cooling technology. From 2022 to 2024, he worked for Direct Digital Controls in Sioux Falls to fulfill his Build Dakota Scholarship.

Tanner recently moved back to Mitchell, and we are excited to welcome him to the team.



Tanner Wenz



# Here to Help with New Construction, Improvement Projects



**Lincoln Feistner**  
Sales & Project  
Manager

For homeowners, maintaining an efficient and comfortable living space is crucial. At Central Electric, we understand your unique needs and offer a wide range of services, including residential and agricultural wiring, heating and cooling solutions and home appliance sales and service.

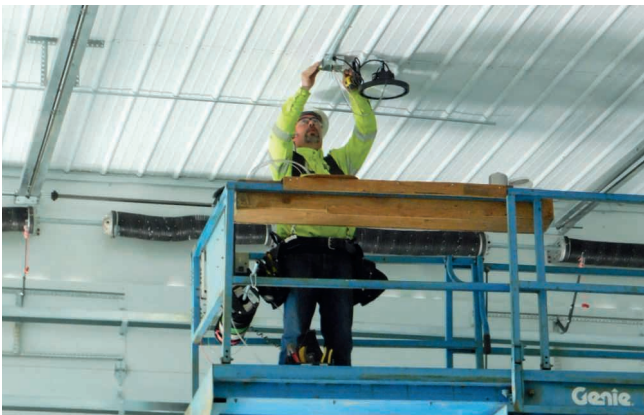
Our goal is to provide you with the reliability and efficiency you need to keep everything running smoothly.

## Electrical Wiring Services

Reliable electrical systems are the backbone of your home or farm. Whether you are adding a structure, updating an existing structure or converting overhead wires to underground, Central Electric is here to help. Our licensed electricians have extensive experience in handling various electrical needs.

## Heating and Cooling Solutions

Maintaining a comfortable temperature in your home is essential for your family's well-being. Central Electric offers quality heating and cooling solutions designed to meet your specific needs. Our team of HVAC professionals can perform routine maintenance or install an entirely new system.



Rodney Weber and the rest of the electrical wiring team can perform residential and agricultural wiring, including trenching.

## Home Appliance Sales and Service

Durable and efficient home appliances are getting more difficult to find these days. That's why we only carry the most reliable brands, including GE and Speed Queen. Central Electric offers a wide selection of quality appliances designed to withstand everyday use. Plus, you get service after the sale.

## Why Choose Central Electric?

As a cooperative, we are committed to providing exceptional service and high-quality products tailored to meet your needs. Our experienced team is dedicated to offering reliable solutions that enhance your home's efficiency and comfort.

Members and non-members can rely on Central Electric for all their electrical wiring, HVAC and home appliance needs. Call me at 605-996-7516 for a free estimate on your next project.



Electrician and Appliance Repair Technician Brandon Auch can install, service and repair a wide range of home appliances.



Aaron Punt and the rest of the HVAC team can install home heating and cooling systems. Ductless options are also available.



# A GOLDEN HARVEST

## The Buzz Behind Adee Honey Farms

**Frank Turner**

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

Three generations ago, the Adee family learned that a tumultuous time can lead to significant opportunity. During the 1930s, the Great Depression wreaked havoc on small rural communities and the agricultural industry. The value of crops and livestock plummeted, and the land became arid.

These hard times impacted many in the Midwest, including Vernon Adee, a rural teacher and rancher in Nebraska. Vernon needed a new way to provide for his family, and a letter from his brother held the answer: “I can’t sell chickens or hogs, but I’m doing well with honey. Be advised: Get a beehive.”

Following his brother’s advice, Vernon attended a foreclosure auction and purchased his first beehive. The decision to begin

beekeeping would inspire several more generations of the Adee family to continue in the trade.

Wanting to start their own operation, Vernon’s sons, Richard and Stanley, purchased a retiring beekeeper’s business through a trade magazine advertisement in 1957. Located in Bruce, South Dakota, the business included 1,500 hives and a breeding yard in Woodville, Mississippi. The acquisition marked the beginning of Adee Honey Farms, and what began as a small family farm quickly grew into the largest beekeeping operation in the country. Today, Adee Honey Farms supports more than 80,000 colonies and nearly 70 full-time employees.

“It started with survival and eventually became a family business,” said Bret Adee, Vernon’s grandson and the owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms. “I can remember being four or five years old and being in the field with my dad, holding the smoker and helping where I could. By the time I was in elementary school, I was loading trucks and moving boxes in the warehouse. Like anyone who grew up on a farm, I was involved in the family business by the time I could walk.”

From a young age, Bret has held a deep love and appreciation for the honey bee. The insect’s ability to cooperate and produce golden treasure while benefiting plants, crops, and the ecosystem at large makes them a unique livestock, unlike any other.

“To watch a hive grow and forage, and by the end of the summer make up to 150 pounds of honey – it’s just so exciting,”

said Bret. “It’s the dynamics of the biology that keeps it interesting.”

Right now, Adee Honey Farms is engaged in honey production in the Midwest, with their bees spread across South Dakota and the west edge of Minnesota and the south edge of North Dakota. Around the first week of August, Bret’s business will start the honey harvest, an event that can last until the first frost or even longer. For now, Bret said this year is shaping up to be a good season for honey production.

“It’s early, but I’m optimistic. The years when there is a lot of clover are the years that beekeepers do well,” said Bret. “We had a wet enough fall that enough clover germinated. We can always lose that to a hot dry wind... but we are optimistic right now.”

But bees aren’t just used to make honey; they also have hand in pollinating crops across the country. More than a neat fact, it’s also the second half of the beekeeping industry. The mere presence of honey bees can increase yields for crops such as alfalfa and sunflowers by up to 20 to 30 percent, depending on the variety of crop. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollination is responsible for more than \$18 billion in added revenue to crop production in the country.

Once the honey harvest is over, the bees will be loaded onto a truck to tour the country, traveling from the Dakotas to California and later to Texas in search of favorable weather and crops to pollinate. In fact, crop yields from California almond trees and apple trees are almost totally dependent on pollination from bees, enticing farmers from across the country to welcome

bees onto their land. Everyone benefits – even bees.

“It’s a win for the consumer who gets to eat the honey. It’s a win for the landowner who has the bees on his land, and if everything goes right, it’s good for the beekeeper’s family too,” said Bret.



Bret Adee, owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms, is a third-generation beekeeper in the Adee family. Photos courtesy of Adee Honey Farms.





# Plugged In With Patrick



**Patrick Soukup**  
Manager of Member Services and Marketing

In June, I had the opportunity to travel to Pierre for a meeting, so I decided to take the Ford Lightning down the road. With a full tank of kilowatts, I took the scenic route on Highway 34, and arrived in Pierre with 40 percent of my battery charge left. I drove the speed limit, which is 65 miles per hour. I took this route to achieve better miles per kilowatt hour, which is the metric used to calculate the efficiency of an electric vehicle (EV).

While in Pierre, I stopped at Beck Motors to use the EV charging station. It was a learning experience connecting to a different charger than we typically use, but I figured it out and was able to charge up to 68 percent, thinking that would give me enough energy for the trip home.

The meeting ran a bit later than expected, so I decided to take the interstate home at 80 miles per hour. The wheels were turning in my head and I was asking myself, can I make it back? As the battery charge showing on the dash was going down, I reached Chamberlain with an estimated 44 miles remaining. I decided it would be an excellent idea to have ice cream and add a few more kilowatts to the truck battery at the Electrify America charging station next to Dairy Queen. My driving behavior and choices dictated my need to charge a second time that day.

In summary, I traveled 320 miles at a cost of \$30.16 for an average cost of 9.425 cents per mile. I charged at two separate locations for an average cost of 40.6 cents per kilowatt hour. Charging at home would cost closer to 12 cents per kilowatt hour, so this highlights the value of home charging. A gas pickup that gets 15 miles per gallon would have cost \$68.27 with gas at \$3.20, so the EV pickup was less than half the cost to operate on this trip.

Driving an EV involves learning from each experience. If you want to discuss EVs or electricity in general, visit the Touchstone Energy building at Dakotafest in August. We will have the Ford Lightning and the electric Polaris Kinetic side-by-side available for viewing.



# Fort Thompson Health Fair



Each year, Fort Thompson Indian Health Service (IHS) hosts a local health fair to promote physical and mental health education.

The one-day event, held on June 13, offered something for everyone, including mammograms, teeth cleanings, vehicle safety demonstrations, face painting, inflatables and a meal.

Central Electric representatives attend this outreach event to meet with members and their families. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth to say hello.

# Member Discounts

Did you know that your cooperative membership earns you discounts with local and national retailers?

Simply download the Co-op Connections app or request a Co-op Connections card. Local businesses are encouraged to participate. There is no cost for your business to join. For more information, email [cec@centralec.coop](mailto:cec@centralec.coop) or call 605-996-7516.



BUSINESS	TOWN	DISCOUNT
605 Vision	Chamberlain	15% off services and materials. Cannot be combined with insurance or other offers.
AmericInn Lodge & Suites	Chamberlain	10% off rack rate. Not valid with any other offer.
Hair Expressions Salon	Chamberlain	\$25 off 1st set of eyelash extensions. \$20 off spa facial with microdermabrasion.
NAPA Auto Parts	Chamberlain	10% off non-sale items.
Ken's Service	Gann Valley	10% off tire repair services.
America's Mattress	Mitchell	Free set of sheets with qualifying purchase of \$500+.
County Fair Food & Fuel	Mitchell	7 cent discount per gallon on fuel purchases.
Dakota Sunset	Mitchell	5 cent discount per gallon of gas or fuel.
Daylight Donuts & Coffee	Mitchell	Donut and regular coffee for \$1.
Floor Tec Cleaning & Restoration	Mitchell	\$50 off duct cleaning. 10% off carpet cleaning.
Graham's Interstate Sinclair	Mitchell	7 cents off per gallon of gas/fuel.
M & H	Mitchell	5 cents off per gallon of gas.
Merchandise Outlet	Mitchell	10% off pair of boots. Some exclusions apply. Not valid with other discounts.
Miedema Sanitation	Mitchell	10% roll-off construction boxes.
Mueller Lumber Company	Mitchell	10% off lumber and regular priced in-stock merchandise. Excludes power tools and sale items.
New Leaf Body Spa	Mitchell	\$5 off 60 minute massage.
On Sight 24/7	Mitchell	10% off products.
Photography Unlimited	Mitchell	Free session and 10% off your order.
Sun Gold Trophies	Mitchell	15% off storewide. Some exclusions apply.
Tessiers Inc.	Mitchell	10% discount on residential service or maintenance work only. Cannot be used with any other discount.
Two Dreams Boutique	Mitchell	10% off in-store order.
Williams Musical & Office Equipment	Mitchell	10% off regular price.
Blessings Repeated Inc.	Plankinton	20% off a purchase of \$10 or more.
Hometown Family Health	Plankinton	\$1 off any nutrient injection.
Genevieve's Print*Art*Design	Wessington Springs	15% off labor for services.
Double D Body Shop	Woonsocket	\$5 off windshield chip repair.

Note: Discounts may be subject to change. Limits and exclusions may apply.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



**AUG. 2-11**  
**Sturgis Motorcycle Rally**  
Sturgis, SD  
[www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com](http://www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com)

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.

**JULY 26**  
**River City Friday Nights**  
6-10 p.m.  
Chamberlain, SD

**JULY 31-AUG. 1**  
**Brule County Achievement Days**  
Pukwana, SD

**AUG. 2-3**  
**Aurora County Achievement Days**  
Plankinton, SD

**AUG. 3**  
**Rockin' Ribfest**  
4 p.m.  
Wessington Springs, SD

**AUG. 4**  
**Mud Volleyball Fundraiser**  
Carthage, SD  
605-579-0322

**AUG. 4-5**  
**Hanson County Achievement Days**  
Alexandria, SD

**AUG. 4-6**  
**Davison County Achievement Days**  
Davison County Fairgrounds  
Mitchell, SD

**AUG. 5-7**  
**Jerauld-Buffalo Achievement Days**  
Wessington Springs, SD

**AUG. 5-7**  
**Miner County Achievement Days**  
Howard, SD

**AUG. 7**  
**Ag Appreciation Day**  
Sioux Empire Fair  
Sioux Falls, SD

**AUG. 8-10**  
**Sanborn County Achievement Days**  
Forestburg, SD

**AUG. 18**  
**Walk to Remember Honoring Lost Loved Ones**  
Granite Springs Lodge  
Alexandria, SD  
[HealingHopes.com](http://HealingHopes.com)

**AUG. 20-22**  
**Dakotafest**  
Mitchell, SD  
[ideagroup.com/dakotafest](http://ideagroup.com/dakotafest)

**AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2**  
**South Dakota State Fair**  
State Fairgrounds  
Huron, SD  
[SDStateFair.com](http://SDStateFair.com)

**SEPT. 10**  
**Central Electric Annual Meeting**  
Meal 5:30-7 p.m.  
Business Meeting 7-7:45 p.m.  
Corn Palace  
Mitchell, SD

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

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