

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Great Goats

Goats gaining
in popularity
Pages 8-9

Irrigators benefit
from load control
Pages 12-13

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



Are you ready to serve?



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

John F. Kennedy spoke these famous words: “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents for the common good.

I think the same can be said about our co-op, specifically with regard to our board members. Central Electric is blessed to have board members who are community-minded individuals with a variety of skillsets. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here, so they are our best resource to provide perspective on important community issues.

Central Electric will hold board elections this year at the Miner, Sanborn and Jerauld County District Meetings. Director Bernetta Burghardt, representing Miner County, has indicated she does not plan to run for another term. Bernetta has served our cooperative since 2004, and we will miss her perspective and commitment.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That’s why when we’re seeking new directors, we want folks with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. We’re seeking local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our friends and neighbors. But above all else, we’re looking for folks who love the community and want to see it thrive.

Serving on Central Electric’s board means you’re making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the cooperative that, in turn, benefit the larger community.

While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the interests of the cooperative and the community it serves. Board members typically provide input and guidance on budgets, cooperative goals and direction, community and charitable contributions, investments in equipment and technology, and involvement in economic development.

The energy industry is undergoing many changes. System replacement, technology advancements and increased emphasis on consumer preference is driving that change. Your cooperative is facing big decisions and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future.

In my opinion, you don’t need to be an expert in electricity or business to be a Central Electric board member. You do need to have a passion for the community, a willingness to actively learn and a desire to do the right thing. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer training opportunities to help directors understand the electric utility industry and the cooperative business model.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the cooperative and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way, I encourage you to consider running for a board position.

To learn more about Central Electric’s director election process, please visit our website to access the bylaws or give our office a call. There is also helpful information regarding director elections and the upcoming District Meetings on page 10 in this issue of Cooperative Connections magazine.

Until next month, stay safe!

To contact your cooperative with questions, please call 1-800-477-2892 or email cec@centralelec.coop.

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

Duane Wolbrink - President
Todd VanWalleghen - Vice President
Bernetta Burghardt - Secretary
Mark Reindl - Treasurer
Mark Hofer - NRECA Director
Roger Campbell - Director
Donita Loudner - SDREA Director
Jeff Gustafson - Director
Merl Bechen - Director At Large

Management Staff

Ken Schlimgen - General Manager
Brian Bultje - Mgr. of Operations
Dean Uher - Mgr. of Finance & Administration
Lincoln Feistner - Sales/Project Mgr.
Patrick Soukup - Mgr. of Member Svc. & Marketing
Tara Miller - Editor, Mgr. of Communications

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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.centralelec.coop

Our Mission

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

Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](http://www.fda.gov) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. Central Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Board meeting summary

The board of directors met Feb. 21, 2022, at Central Electric Cooperative's Betts Road Service Center for the regular board meeting. They reviewed monthly reports by management including details on operations, member services, communications, service department and financials.

BOARD REPORT

General Manager Ken Schlimgen updated the board on the following:

- East River manager group meeting
- SDREA manager meeting
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Rural Electric Economic Development
- Legislative cracker barrel sessions
- Economic development activities

Director Hofer provided updates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Director VanWalleghen reported on South Dakota Association of Cooperative (SDAC) meeting.

East River Director Wolbrink gave the highlights from the previous East River board meeting.

BOARD ACTION

The board considered or acted upon the following:

- A motion was made to approve a resolution authorizing Central Electric, acting as an intermediary, to apply to the REED fund for a \$300,000 zero interest loan on behalf of the Kimball School District. Motion carried.
- A motion was made to support the affordable housing project and the Meadowlark Development LLC application for a REED loan. Motion carried.

The next board meeting was scheduled for March 21. Please contact the cooperative office if you have questions about the board meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT	YEAR TO DATE FEB. 2022	YEAR TO DATE FEB. 2021
Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Sales	68,117,509 kWh	67,649,671 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$ 6,506,457	\$ 6,357,103
Total Cost of Service	\$ 5,758,013	\$ 6,330,557
Operating Margins	\$ 748,444	\$ 26,546

Budget-friendly efficiency upgrades

There are two ways to measure energy efficiency improvements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EV REGISTRATIONS SEE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE



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

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

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



Stay away from power lines

Naomi Goldade

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

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

SUPER CASSEROLES

CHICKEN AND CHEESE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

Jeanette Kleinsasser,
Iroquois

ONE DISH CHICKEN AND RICE

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

Becky Walker, Sioux Falls

TUNA PASTA CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

familyfeatures.com

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

FROM THE LANES TO THE LINES –

Guindon reflects on career as retirement approaches

Tara Miller

Manager of Communications

Central Electric Cooperative's Plankinton Area Foreman Curt Guindon, who has dedicated most of his life to serving cooperative members, plans to retire in May after an impressive and memorable career that began in 1976.

Guindon grew up in the Plankinton area where his family owned and operated the local bowling alley, Harbor Lanes, for more than 25 years. His parents, Don and Ruth Guindon, farmed outside of town, but they moved into Plankinton when Curt was about 11 years old.

He fondly recalls working for the family business. "It was a bowling alley and café. All the kids worked there," Guindon explained. He has three brothers and a sister.

Later on, his parents would eventually become city employees. Don worked in the maintenance department and Ruth was the

assistant to the finance officer, who coincidentally was Curt's wife Kathy's mother.

Guindon still remembers the day he happened upon a career opportunity with what was then known as Tri-County Electric. At the time, he couldn't have envisioned how this opportunity would shape his entire future.

"I was 18 years old, and I just graduated high school. I had to go to the lumberyard to get materials for the bowling alley. While I was there, Mike (Myron) Mebius, who was the line superintendent, asked me if I wanted a job. He told me to show up on Monday, so I did," Guindon said. "I never thought I'd be doing this for 46 years. I didn't have any idea what kind of work I would be doing, but I just stuck with it."

Guindon laughs about his first day on the job. "I walked into the office and the sign on the door said 'High Voltage. Do Not Enter.' So, I sat there and waited. Red Hoffman (then Tri-County Foreman) came out and said, 'That sign is just a joke, come on in.'"

And the rest is history. Guindon worked his way up the ranks, eventually earning his journeyman certificate and being promoted to foreman at the Plankinton outpost in 2010.

Guindon has seen a great deal of change since his early days on the job. One of those changes included Tri-County Electric joining forces with InterCounty Electric to form Central Electric Cooperative in 2000.

When he reflects on how the

industry has evolved, Guindon said technology is much different than it was decades ago. "We didn't have cell phones, so it wasn't as easy to get in contact with somebody. The foreman had a 2-way radio at home."

Guindon has weathered countless storms over the years, but he vividly remembers a major ice storm that hit the area in 2005. "There was thick ice hanging on the lines, some lines were buried in snow. We had to beat down the ice, try to get the wires back on and keep on trucking." He said it was cold and windy, and the repair work continued for another two to three weeks after the storm passed.

He also helped with power restoration efforts after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. "Jesse Baker (now the Kimball foreman) and I went to DeRidder, Louisiana. There was bad wind damage and a lot of trees down. We stayed in tents on an old air force strip." The heat was different than South Dakota heat, he said. "It didn't matter what time of day it was; it was constantly hot and humid."

Guindon said all the storm jobs were worth the effort, because he knows he was making a difference in peoples' lives by making sure they had power.

He didn't take this 46-year journey on his own. Curt married Kathy (Vlasman) on June 2, 1979, and she has been by his side for all the ups and downs.

"I grew up with my father in the electrical field, so I learned at an early age to trust in your loved one's coworkers to keep him safe when they were out," Kathy shared.



Curt Guindon of Plankinton served cooperative members from 1976 to 2022.

“Curt missed many events as the kids grew up, even going on an outage the day our daughter got married. He changed clothes, went to work, and came back during the reception,” she said. “We all knew he was helping others and that if we were in their shoes, we’d want him to be there too. I know it’ll be hard for him that first time the weather gets bad and he’ll be home in the warmth thinking about his coworkers out in the storm.”

Kathy is retiring from Aurora Plains Academy after 6.5 years at the end of April. She previously worked for

the Plankinton School District for 35 years. The Guindons plan to travel and enjoy quality time with family during their upcoming free time.

The couple has two children and four grandchildren. Their son, Derek Guindon, lives in Sioux Falls. Their daughter, Kyanna Huff, and her husband Ryan, live near Plankinton on the home place where Curt grew up. The Guindon’s grandchildren are Kristofer Guindon and Jena, Lily and Tyson Huff of Plankinton.

Guindon leaves his colleagues with these words of wisdom: “Work safely,

look out for each other, don’t get in a hurry and I hope you don’t have any big storms.”

Guindon’s last day at work will be May 13. He will be missed greatly by the employee group, board of directors and management. We trust he will enjoy his days fishing, hunting, golfing and gardening.

Hard work pays off, and now it’s time to have some fun. We wish Curt and Kathy a happy, healthy and prosperous retirement!

Local linemen return from helping restore power to hurricane-ravaged areas

By ROSS DOLAN
The Daily Republic

One of the first jobs facing journeymen linemen Curt Guindon and Jesse Baker today will be scraping the Louisiana mud from their eight-ton “digger” truck. Guindon, 47, of Plankinton and Baker, 24, of Kimball, returned Thursday to Central Electric Cooperative’s Mitchell office after more than two weeks of travel and hard work. The men joined a contingent of South Dakota linemen who helped restore power to Louisiana homeowners hammered by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Ken Schilling, Central Electric’s director of member services, said South Dakota’s statewide Rural Electric Association forwarded Louisiana’s request for volunteers and equipment to its membership. About 12 cooperatives and 21 volunteers responded. “The line superintendent asked who would be interested,” said Baker, a Central Electric employee for three years, “and we volunteered.”

On the nearly 1,300-mile trip south, the huge truck sucked up nearly 300 gallons of diesel fuel. The South Dakota convoy left Sept. 28 and arrived on Oct. 1 in DeRidder, La., home base of the Beauregard Electric Cooperative. The electric co-op serves nearly 40,000 people in seven parishes. Two 250-man tents were set up on a decommissioned airport runway to accommodate volunteers. “We were sleeping shoulder to shoulder,” said Baker, who was thankful the tents were air-conditioned. The first three days they were in Louisiana, temperatures surpassed 100 degrees. The workers’ base camp also featured catered meals and hot showers. While the food was good, both men agreed the lunches needed some variety. For some reason, they drew ham sandwiches every day. “We heard some had roast beef or turkey,” said Guindon, “but we never found the right box.”

See POWER, Page 11



CURT GUINDON, LEFT, and Jesse Baker, linemen for the Central Electric Cooperative, are shown with the eight-ton, digger-derrick truck they took to Louisiana. The pair joined forces with other line crews to restore power to areas struck by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Curt Guindon and Jesse Baker were featured by The Daily Republic in 2005 after they returned from Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina power restoration efforts.



↑
Curt Guindon

The Operations crew will wish Guindon farewell in May following 46 years of dedicated service.



In 2005, Guindon was recognized by Governor Mike Rounds following Hurricane Katrina.



Guindon (left) started his career at Tri-County Electric, which would eventually join forces with InterCounty Electric to form Central Electric Cooperative.



Curt and Kathy Guindon plan to spend more time with family when they retire this year.

GOATS STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT

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

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

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Matea Gordon's goats always keep her guessing.

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

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

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

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

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

The brother-sister duo are part of a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moorse sees goat-breeding as a gift



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



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

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

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

"They're a good starter animal and youngsters get used to them and many of the students stick with them. They kind of grow up together," she said.

"They're easy to handle. Once you get them halter-broke they'll go wherever you want. They're fun animals to show.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, Moorse can be contacted at 507.530.3175.

District Meetings & Director Election Details

Mark your calendar for local district meetings. Each member in attendance will receive a \$10 energy certificate.

Members residing in Jerauld, Miner or Sanborn County with an interest in serving on the Board of Directors may take out a nominating petition at Central Electric Cooperative's Betts Road office west of Mitchell. See the petition filing dates provided below. In order to be considered for a director position in your respective county, petitions must be returned by the close of the business day at 4:30 p.m. central time on the petition due date.

When filed, director petitions must bear the names of at least ten (10) Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. members from the director district in which the candidate is seeking election. Completed petitions must be filed at least twenty-five (25) days prior to the District Meeting.

District 6, Jerauld County, is currently represented by Mark Reindl of Wessington Springs. District 7, Miner County, is currently represented by Bernetta Burghardt of Fedora, who does not intend to seek reelection. District 8, Sanborn County, is currently represented by Todd Van Walleghen of Letcher.

District	Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Petition Available	Petition Due
Aurora County	May 23, 2022	Ag Building, Plankinton, SD	election in 2023	election in 2023
Brule County	May 19, 2022	4-H Building, Pukwana, SD	election in 2023	election in 2023
Buffalo County	June 16, 2022	Powwow Grounds, Fort Thompson, SD	election in 2023	election in 2023
Davison County	May 16, 2022	Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD	election in 2024	election in 2024
Hanson County	May 25, 2022	A1 Al's Pheasant Ranch, Emery, SD	election in 2024	election in 2024
Jerauld County	June 8, 2022	Springs Inn, Wessington Springs, SD	April 25, 2022	May 13, 2022
Miner County	June 13, 2022	4-H Building, Howard, SD	April 29, 2022	May 19, 2022
Sanborn County	June 6, 2022	4-H Building, Forestburg, SD	April 22, 2022	May 12, 2022

Director Election Bylaws

SECTION 4.05 Director Nominations

A. Nominating Petitions. An individual desiring to be a nominee for a Director position for which an incumbent Director's Director term is expiring must take out a nominating petition no more than forty-five (45) days prior to any Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors. Said member shall return the completed Nominating Petition to the Cooperative at least twenty-five (25) days prior to the Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors.

The completed nominating petition shall contain the name of the Nominating Petition Nominee; the Director position for which the Nominating Petition Nominee will run; and the printed names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and original signatures, of at least ten (10) Members residing in the Director District in which said nominee is seeking a directorship, or if for the Director-at-Large, ten (10) members residing in the Cooperative Service Area. After verifying that a Nominating Petition complies with this Bylaw, the Cooperative shall post the Nominating Petition nominees at the Cooperative's principal office.

B. Notice of Director Nomination. At least ten (10) days nor

more than twenty-five (25) days prior to any Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors, the Cooperative shall notify Members of the Director positions for which the incumbent Director's Director term is expiring; and Names and corresponding Director positions of all Nominating Petition Nominees;

SECTION 4.06. Director Elections

Members located or residing in each Director District shall elect Directors, except for the Director-at-Large, which shall be elected by the Members of the Cooperative Service Area, as follows:

A. For District Director positions at the District Meeting for which the incumbent Director's Director term is expiring.

B. For the Director-at-Large position at the Annual Meeting by all Members located or residing in the Cooperative Service Area.

C. From the Nominating Petition Nominees.

D. At the Director District meeting by Members residing in said Director District by Member's written ballot, except for the Director-at-Large who shall be elected at the annual meeting by Members located or residing in the in the Cooperative Service Area by Member written ballot. (Continued on next page.)

Director Eligibility Guidelines

Are you considering running for a position on the Central Electric Cooperative Board of Directors? Jerauld, Miner and Sanborn County director terms expire in 2022. Director nominating petition deadlines are noted in the table on page 10.

Serving on the board of directors for an electric cooperative involves committing yourself to the following standards and guidelines.

Central Electric Cooperative Directors must:

- Be willing and able to commit to 25+ working days per year to fulfill their duties
- Attend at least 10 out of 12 regular board meetings each year (third Monday each month)
- Be a cooperative member in good standing
- Pass a background check that indicates no felonies within the last five years
- Permanently reside in the district from which they are elected
- Have their primary residence served by Central Electric Cooperative or meet corporate qualifications
- Not be a close relative of an existing director unless the director will cease serving within 1 year
- Not be a close relative of an existing cooperative officer, employee, agent or representative
- Not be employed by or materially affiliated with another director
- Not be affiliated with an individual or entity directly and substantially competing with the cooperative
- Not sell goods or services in substantial quantity to the cooperative or its members
- Obtain director certification from National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- Comply with other reasonable qualifications determined by the board

This is a basic snapshot of director eligibility guidelines. A full list of director eligibility requirements is available in the cooperative's bylaws which can be viewed at www.centralec.coop. Please contact General Manager Ken Schlimgen at 1-800-477-2892 if you have director eligibility questions.

(Continued from previous page.)

F. By a plurality of the votes cast by a quorum of Members in person who are entitled to vote for the Director position. In case of a tie Director vote, the Director elected shall be determined by a drawing by lot. A quorum at any Member meetings, to include a Director District meeting and/or an Annual Meeting, shall consist of the minimum number of Members required by South Dakota law at the time of such meeting. If a quorum is not present within one (1) hour after the appointed time, no meeting shall be held. If an election of Directors is not held, a special Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors shall be held within a reasonable time.

G. Tellers shall be appointed to collect and count the ballots.

H. If only one (1) nominating petition has been turned in for a Director position for which the incumbent Director's Director term is expiring, no election shall be held in that District and the Nominating Petition nominee shall be deemed elected as the Director from said District.

I. Names of Nominating Petition nominees shall be printed on ballots in an order determined by drawing prior to the printing of ballots.

SECTION 4.07. Director Terms

A Director's term is three (3) years ("Director term"). A Director elected at the Annual District Meeting or at the Annual Member meeting will be seated following the adjournment of the recessed portion of the first regular monthly board meeting following the Annual Member Meeting and will terminate with the adjournment of the recessed portion of the first regular monthly board meeting following the Annual Member Meeting. The Cooperative shall stagger Director terms by dividing the total of authorized Directors elected from the Director Districts into three (3) groups of three (3) Directors each. Members thereafter will annually elect one (1) Director group. Decreasing the number of Directors or length of Director terms may not shorten an incumbent Director's Director term. Despite the expiration of a Director term, the Director continues to serve until a new Director is elected, or until the number of Directors is decreased. Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Director term of a Director filling a vacant Director's position is the remaining unexpired Director Term of the vacant Director's position.



THE POWER OF LOAD MANAGEMENT

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

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

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BURGHARDT ENCOURAGES NEW CANDIDATES TO RUN AFTER 18 YEARS ON CENTRAL ELECTRIC BOARD

Tara Miller

Manager of Communications

Since 2004, Bernetta “Bert” Burghardt of Fedora has represented Miner County on the board of directors for Central Electric Cooperative. With her sixth term nearing the end, she decided it’s time for a new face on the board and does not intend to seek reelection.

“I’ll miss it – the people in the office and on the board. I think we have a good culture,” she said.

Burghardt has been part of some major changes since 2004. The cooperative built the new headquarters on Betts Road in 2012 and hired a new general manager, Ken Schlimgen, to fill the shoes of Loren Noess, who retired in 2016. Burghardt also witnessed first-hand the introduction of digital communication technology on the board, in the office and out in the field.

So, what made Burghardt decide to run for a board position? “Somebody reached out and said, ‘I think you should consider running.’” She didn’t share who that individual was, but it seems they were keenly aware of her

capabilities. Burghardt was and still is actively involved with her church, and she served on the board of directors for Sanborn Telephone Cooperative (now Santel Communications). In addition, she worked for the law office in Howard, Mumford Protsch.

She was fortunate to have the support of her employers who allowed her time off to serve on Central Electric’s board. Vince Protsch, who was a veteran attorney for East River Electric Power Cooperative, served as counsel at Mumford Protsch.

Burghardt said 2004 was a rollercoaster year; after she was elected to Central Electric Cooperative’s board, she was diagnosed with cancer. At the same time, the War in Afghanistan called one of the law partners to serve, which led to staff downsizing at the law office. Part-time work was offered, and when the partner’s tour ended, her health restored and she resumed working full-time.

Burghardt hasn’t always lived in Miner County, but it’s always been her home. After attending South Dakota State College in Brookings, she and her husband Dick moved away – first to Chicago and then Minneapolis. Dick attended school to become an electronics technician, but his heart was in agriculture, and they returned home in 1974 allowing him to farm and raise cattle near Fedora.

Dick and Bernetta have three children and four grandchildren. Their oldest son, Steve, lives nearby and works for Dawson Construction of Howard. He is also a farrier, who trims and shoes horse hooves, and he helps Dick on the farm. Steve’s kids are Randy, Derick and Jessica. The Burghardts’ daughter, Jill, is a retired embryologist and lives in Pennsylvania. Neil, their youngest, lives in Brookings with his wife, Bridgit.

They have a son named Mason. Neil works for Daktronics and is also active with the family farming operation.

While Burghardt won’t be attending board meetings anymore, she doesn’t show any signs of slowing down. “I am working four days each week, and I don’t have any immediate plans to retire. I just think it’s time for somebody else to step in and participate as a director,” she said.

Board President Duane Wolbrink of Stickney said Burghardt will be sorely missed. “With her legal background, Bernetta keeps us on track with grammar, policies and bylaws. On top of that, she is a genuine and sincere person. Her perspective and expertise are appreciated.”

Central Electric Cooperative General Manager Ken Schlimgen agrees Burghardt’s presence has been a remarkable asset. He said, “The board and staff have a great deal of respect for Bernetta. Her strong character guides her in making sound decisions that are in the best interest of the cooperative and its members.”

Looking to the future, Burghardt said she hopes rural cooperative members will take ownership and embrace the cooperative model, which centers largely around community. “Come to the meetings. Participate and find out what it means to be a cooperative member.”

We wish Burghardt all the best as she moves on from her director position. She offers this advice for anybody considering running for a board position – “Do it! It’s truly a rewarding experience.”

Meanwhile, Burghardt will help keep the gears turning at Mumford Protsch law office on Main Street in Howard, just like she’s done for more than two decades.



Bernetta Burghardt stands outside Mumford Protsch, LLP on Main Street in Howard.

Reichert Promoted to Plankinton Area Foreman

Plankinton Area Foreman Curt Guindon has decided to retire in May following 46 years of dedicated service to the cooperative. Guindon started his career at Tri-County Electric as a lineworker in 1976. Tri-County joined forces with InterCounty Electric in 2000 to form Central Electric Cooperative.

With his upcoming retirement, we are pleased to announce that Journeyman Lineworker Jonathan Reichert has been selected as the new Plankinton Area Foreman.

Reichert is working closely with Guindon, Line Superintendent Dusty Roskens and Manager of Operations Brian Bultje as he shifts into his new role. Reichert has been employed by Central Electric since 2010. His experience will continue to be an asset to the cooperative and our membership in the Plankinton area as he transitions into his new role.



Jonathan Reichert



Curt Guindon

Register now for the Basin Electric Bus Tour

After taking a couple years off due to covid-19 restrictions, Central Electric Cooperative's Basin Electric Bus Tour is scheduled to hit the road again July 13-15, 2022.

Members who have not attended past tours are given first chance to participate. All other members will be placed on a standby list and will be contacted if openings become available.

For more information, contact Manager of Member Services and Marketing Patrick Soukup at 1-800-477-2892 or visit www.centralelec.coop/basin-electric-bus-tour.



If you contact a power line, **Stay Put**.
In case of fire, **Jump Clear** and
Shuffle or **Hop** at least 40 feet away.
www.PoweringYourSafety.com



CO-OP TRIVIA

Congratulations to last month's winners!

- Kid Prize Drawing Winner: Jasper Steele, age 8 of Mitchell, gets to choose between a remote control helicopter or an art projector.
- Adult Prize Drawing Winner: Vickie Hohn of Ethan will receive a 4-pack of LED light bulbs and a surge strip.
(Limited to one winner per household every 60 days. Answers do not need to be correct for entry in the prize drawing.)

Complete this month's billing trivia to enter the next drawing.

- What are the different options for making a payment on my Central Electric account?
 - Mail, drop box or in-person
 - Pay-by-phone
 - Online
 - All of the above
- When bills are calculated on the 1st of each month, what timeframe are members being billed for?
 - Previous month
 - Current month
- What are the benefits of having a SmartHub account?
 - Pay and view bills online
 - Monitor energy usage
 - Submit account changes
 - All of the above
- If members sign up for automatic payments, on what date are payments generally deducted?
 - 5th of every month
 - 15th of every month
 - 25th of every month
 - 30th of every month
- When members have service work performed, such as HVAC service, it is automatically included in the monthly electric billing statement.
 - True
 - False

(Name of Cooperative Member, Spouse or Dependent/Child)

(Mailing Address)

(Phone)

(Age) All ages are eligible, as long as the individual is a member, immediate family or dependent living in the same household as a member.

Submit entries by May 4. Email to cec@centralelec.coop or mail to:

Central Electric Cooperative
Attn: Trivia
PO Box 850
Mitchell, SD 57301

Correct answers from April issue:

- How many volts run through Central Electric's single-phase overhead powerlines? (**B. 7,200 volts**)
- How deep should high-voltage underground electrical wires be buried? (**B. 40" to 48"**)
- How deep should secondary low-voltage (120-240 volts) consumer underground electrical wires be buried? (**C. 30" to 36"**)
- What number should you call before digging? (**B. 811**)
- What should you do if you are inside a motor vehicle or farm equipment that comes in contact with a powerline? (**C. Stay in the vehicle and call 911. If you must exit due to fire, shuffle or hop with your feet together until you're at least 40 feet away.**)
- Which of these energy sources is renewable? (**A. Solar**)
- Which of these energy sources is non-renewable? (**B. Coal**)
- Which of these allows electricity to easily flow through? (**A. Conductor**)
- Who owns your electric cooperative? (**C. Local member-owners**)



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

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

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

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

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

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

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

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

APRIL 30-MAY 8
Country Crafts: Rustic Designs and More
 41450 264th Street, Ethan, SD,
 605-770-2411

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

MAY 8
Mother's Day Tours
 Historic Adams House and
 Days of '76 Museum,
 Deadwood, SD, 605-578-3724

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

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

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

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

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

MAY 20-22
Open House and Free Fishing Weekend
 Statewide, SD, 605-223-7660

MAY 21
Booth Day
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery,
 Spearfish, SD, dcboothfishhatchery.org

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

MAY 28
Deadwood Live: Hank Williams Jr.
 Outlaw Square, Deadwood, SD,
www.deadwoodlive.com

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

MAY 28-29
Black Hills Renaissance Faire
 Manuel Brothers Park, Lead,
 SD, www.blackhillsrenfest.com

MAY 29-30
Back When They Bucked Rodeo
 Days of '76 Arena, Deadwood,
 SD, 605-718-0810

MAY 30
Prairie Points Quilt Guild Show
 Harding County Memorial Rec
 Center, Buffalo, SD,
 605-641-5591

JUNE 2-5
Wheel Jam
 South Dakota State
 Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,
www.wheeljam.com

JUNE 25
Leap to Lane
 City Park, Lane, SD,
 605-539-1929

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