

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Mammoth Discovery

**Coal Miner Finds
Mammoth Tusk**

Pages 8-9

A Golden Harvest

Pages 12-13



Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative **MARKETING PROGRAM**

Whether you're building a new home, remodeling an existing home, building a new business facility or just looking to upgrade your heating and cooling system, your cooperative has a program designed to help. We also offer a great rebate program on lifetime-warranty water heaters.

The marketing program for 2024 consists of cash rebates, reduced electric rates and loans. Cooperative members can take advantage of the following rebates, rates and loans:

Reduced Electric Rate.....5.7 cents per KWH

- Electric Heating Systems are eligible for the reduced electric rate on all energy used by the heating system.
- System will be submetered to determine usage.
- Heat pump installations are eligible for reduced rate year-round with air conditioning function controlled by load management system.
- Co-op furnishes load management control device at no cost to member.

Residential Heating

- Electric Heat Pumps - 2 tons and larger.....Incentive: \$600 rebate**
- Electric Heat Pumps (with electric resistance).....Incentive: \$700 rebate**
- Mini-Split Heat Pump - under 2 tons.....Incentive: \$300 rebate**
- Mini-Split Heat Pump - (with electric resistance).....Incentive: \$350 rebate**

Lifetime Warranty Water Heaters

Replacing existing tank (non-lifetime warranty) \$6 per gallon
(50-gallon tank = \$300 • 85-gallon tank = \$510 • 100-gallon tank = \$600)

New Home Construction \$6 per gallon

- All life-time warranty water heaters must be connected to load management system to receive rebates.
- Controlled electric water heaters are eligible for up to a \$5 monthly credit. No other rate discounts apply.
- Cooperative provides load control device at no cost to member.
- Large capacity grid-enabled water heaters must be activated by the cooperative for full heating capacity.
- Rebates are based on nameplate capacity.

Loans for Members

Codington-Clark has 3 loans available for members of the cooperative.

- Heat Pump Loan – air-source or geothermal
- Irrigation System Auto Restart Equipment Loan
- Energy Efficient Loan
 - Caulking
 - Wall, floor, ceiling, duct, pipe and water heater insulation
 - Storm or thermal windows and doors
 - Clock thermostats
 - Attic ventilation fans
 - Electric water heaters, which reduce consumption of electricity
 - Devices that reduce the maximum coincidental or non-coincidental demand on the electric system

Terms of the Loans

- Loan amounts not to exceed \$20,000 for air-source heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps and irrigation auto restart loans.
- The interest will be 5 percent annually on the unpaid balance.
- The maximum length of the loan will be 84 months.
- Loan amounts not to exceed \$10,000 for Energy-Efficient Home Improvement Loans.



For more information regarding Codington-Clark's incentive programs, call our office at 605-886-5848 or 800-463-8938.



CCEC's Jarod Suttten went over a variety of electrical safety scenarios.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

According to Jodi Loehrer, forty-four Codington County area youth learned how to identify and deal with hazards on the farm on June 18 at the Codington County Extension Complex. The Codington County Extension Progressive Agriculture Safety Day drew children ages 8 to 12 from throughout the county for one-day on how to take responsibility for their own safety, respect parents' safety rules and share safety tips with their family and friends, said Jodi Loehrer, SDSU Extension/Codington County 4-H Youth Program Advisor, coordinator of the event.

Hands-on experiences led by local community members taught Safety Day participants lifelong farm safety lessons. Over time, Loehrer said she

hopes that by sharing and applying the lessons learned at the Safety Day, participants will help to reduce the number of rural children who die or are injured in farm incidents. The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day was sponsored by the Progressive Agriculture Foundation and its sponsors.

Codington-Clark Electric's Jarod Suttten demonstrated to the children why it is important to stay away from power lines. Participants learned why they should not climb trees near power lines, fly a kite near a power line, what they should do if a power line falls on a vehicle they are in, why they should not play in a substation along with a variety of other electrical safety scenarios.

COOPERATIVE

CONNECTIONS

CODINGTON-CLARK ELECTRIC

(USPS 019-073)

Board of Directors

President:

Alfred "Ben" Schleusner, Watertown

Vice President:

Daniel Thyen, Watertown

Secretary:

Roy Gjerde, Vienna

Treasurer:

John Rider, Henry

Directors:

Benjamin Fleming, Florence

Russell Foster, Garden City

Russell Hurlbert, Raymond

Michael Meland, Webster

David Warkenthien, Clark

Management Staff

Dave Eide, Manager

Tammy Popham, Staff Assistant

Tasha Torgerson, Office Services

Manager

Jarod Suttten, Member Services

Manager

Jared Terhark, Distribution System

Manager

To report a power outage:

1-844-968-1976

Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, PO Box 880, 3520 9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201-0880. Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Watertown Post Office, Watertown, SD 57201 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 880, 3520 9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201-0880; telephone (605) 886-5848

www.ccelectric.coop

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

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.

Types of Heat Pumps



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Q: My heating system is 10-plus years old, and I want to switch to a heat pump. Can you help me choose the best option for my home?

A: Heat pumps have been around for decades, and in that time, the technology has come a long way. In my opinion, they could use a rebrand.

The name heat pump does not highlight the benefit of air conditioning that comes with the technology. Heat pumps are highly efficient because they don't use energy to create heat. Instead, they use energy to move heat – into the home in the winter and out of it in the summer. They typically produce about three times more energy than they use.

The most common types of heat pumps are air source and ground source. Air source heat pumps transfer heat from the outside air, even if it isn't particularly warm outside. Ground source, or geothermal heat pumps, transfer heat between your home and the ground. With a lower upfront price tag, air source heat pumps are more common.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, air source heat pumps can reduce heating use by about 65% compared to an electric furnace. They come in a variety of styles and configurations to fit different homes. Air source heat pump technology has been popular in warmer climates for decades. There are now cold climate versions available, too.

Here's an explanation of how each type operates:

Ducted air source heat pumps are ideal for homes with existing ductwork or homes where ductwork can be feasibly added. Replacing an aging central air conditioning system with a heat pump can significantly reduce heating costs.

Ductless heat pumps, or mini-split heat pumps, also draw heat from the outside air. They are a great solution for homes that do not have existing ductwork.

There are many configurations to suit

different home layouts. New options on the market allow for coupling with gas or propane backup heat, which might be a good fit for your home. Ductless heat pumps can be a great option for homes with wood stoves. This can help home air quality, heat the home without gathering wood and provide air conditioning in warmer months.

Geothermal heat pumps transfer heat from the ground to your home. They are even more efficient than air source heat pumps, reducing energy use by 70% to 80%, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. They can also heat water for use in the home, which saves on water heating costs.

From a user experience perspective, heat pumps are a little different because the heat from the register doesn't feel quite as warm as oil, electric, natural gas or propane heat. That can take a little getting used to, but the efficiency gains and energy savings make the investment worthwhile.

Before buying a heat pump, compare equipment ratings. The higher the rating, the more efficient the equipment. If it is time to replace your heating system, I recommend making the switch to a heat pump to conserve energy and potentially save on your electric bills.

Understanding the Backup Heat Feature

Most heat pump systems are installed with a backup or auxiliary heat for cold weather. This auxiliary heat can be electric coils, gas, propane or oil, which is usually more expensive to operate. This helps keep your home warm on cold days, but you don't want to use it if you don't need it.

For some heat pumps, turning up the thermostat too quickly or too high can trigger the backup heat. Typically, your thermostat will display emergency or auxiliary heat when using this feature. Speak to your HVAC technician to ensure your thermostat is set to maximize efficiency.

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.

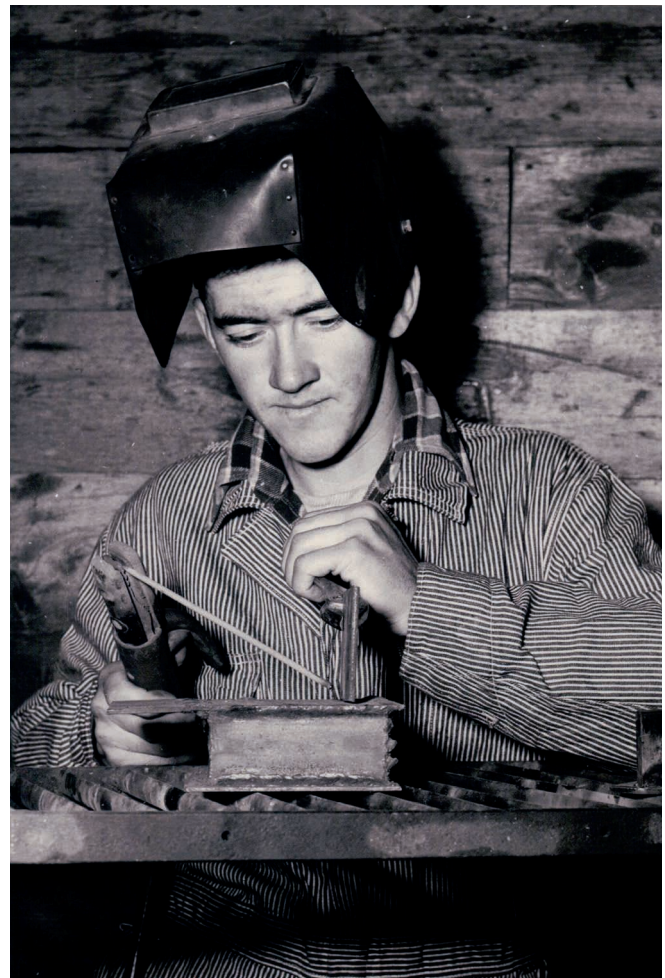




Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

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

Trees – An Electrical Hazard

Member safety is first and foremost at Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative. Every year people are injured or even killed when they climb or trim trees near power lines.

Trees don't have to physically touch an energized power line to be dangerous. Electricity can arc (jump) from the power line to nearby trees given the right conditions, like a voltage surge on the line from a nearby lightning strike. Such a condition can kill anyone caught near the tree and can cause a fire.

High voltage lines are not insulated, and direct contact usually results in death by electrocution. A tree contacting a power line can also become energized, injuring someone touching the tree. Children should never climb or play in trees near power lines. Trees contacting power lines can also start fires, endangering lives and property.

The National Electric Safety Code specifies that power lines maintain specific distances from nearby objects—including trees. The code requires



If you observe trees in the line as shown, please contact the office with the location.

greater clearances for higher voltage lines. For the same safety reasons, transmission line rights-of-way are wider than for local distribution lines.

Reliable electric service is also an integral part of our lives. Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative strives to

provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service. To achieve these goals, we must manage trees near power lines.

If a utility representative contacts you about trimming trees near power lines, please give permission. The outage you help save will likely be your own.

DAKOTAFEST®

Dakotafest, South Dakota's premier agriculture event, is scheduled for Aug. 20-22, just south of I-90 near Mitchell, S.D.

There will be more than 500 exhibitors displaying the latest and greatest in agricultural products. Come visit South Dakota's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives and cool off in Building 215, which is air-cooled by electric geo-thermal heat pumps. Electric co-op representatives will demonstrate new electric products.

Exhibits are open:
Tuesday, August 20 - Thursday, August 22, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Daily

REGISTER TO WIN



A Milwaukee battery-powered weed eater and leaf blower

2024 Washington D.C. 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 a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson where he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capital so they "can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," encourages teens to engage in their communities and learn about the importance of political involvement. More than 1,300 teens have represented the Rushmore State since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963.

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

Students also met with the state's congressional delegation with a short meet and greet with U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Sen Mike Rounds. Also, while in D.C. Youth Tour participants from across the country while touring many of our nation's historical sites – including the National Archives, Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, U.S. Supreme Court, and many more.



"My favorite thing from the trip was talking with our legislators. We learned about what they were doing and how they represent us," said Mallory Gant, who represented Charles Mix Electric Association on the trip. Gant was also selected as this year's South Dakota Youth Leadership Council representative. There, Gant will have the opportunity to represent South Dakota at 2025 NRECA PowerXchange in Atlanta, GA, from March 7-12, 2025

Youth Excursion to N.D.

The annual Youth Excursion sponsored by South Dakota's electric cooperatives is July 22-24. During the three-day excursion, students will meet new people and learn how power arrives through coal mining, electricity production and energy marketing.

They will also learn about the basics of cooperatives, how the region's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives work together and career opportunities at cooperatives.

Hadley Gjerde, Willow Lake High School will represent the cooperative at the 2024 SDREA Youth Excursion.



Hadley Gjerde will be representing Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative during Youth Excursion 2024



A GOLDEN HARVEST

The Buzz Behind Adee Honey Farms

Frank Turner

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.



FOOD TRUCKS



Photos Courtesy of Karli Hinds

Food Trucks

How Karli Hinds Jumped Into the Business

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdea.coop

Karli Hinds was working a typical corporate 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job when she realized she wanted a life where she had the flexibility to travel with her husband.

“So I had actually quit my job and stayed home for six months or so,” Hinds said. “Then I wanted something I could do but still have the flexibility to travel.”

Hinds had a couple ideas, one that had to do with the fact that she’s a “foodie.”

“I started cooking really young. I would say I was making meals by myself when I was in middle school,” she said.

The idea for opening a food truck was at the forefront of her mind, given that she was not interested in having a storefront.

“I didn’t want the hassle and responsibility of it. I wanted a business I could rely on myself and not have to rely on several employees,” Hinds said.



“On my second day in the food truck, I was serving Tex Mex, and I had a crazy line. It was just insane. I wanted to quit right then, but I also was thinking, ‘this is going to work.’ It was a good turnout, and it was only my second day.”

- Karli Hinds

Financially, there are pros and cons to starting up a food truck business.

Hinds said there’s limited finance options for food trucks while at the same time, there’s more cash that you must have on hand to get started.

Finding a food truck or trailer was the next challenge and proved to be fairly difficult for Hinds at first.

“We wanted one that was brand new,” Hinds said. “Most of the manufacturers are out of Mexico, and they don’t always have the best reputations. We really struggled with finding a reputable company to build a trailer with me. Somehow, we found a random post on Facebook from a guy that was selling brand new food trailers somewhere in the middle of nowhere in Iowa.”

Hinds and her husband walked through the trailers and picked out what they liked and didn’t like before finally deciding on the one to get.

Hinds uses the food truck to cook up an array of menu items every week.

“I’m actually a really picky eater, believe it or not,” Hinds said. “I didn’t want to specialize in one thing. People in small towns know we get kind of burnt out from eating the same thing over and over.”

Hinds rotates between eight or so different food themes.

“Once in a while I come

up with something new to add within that theme,” Hinds said. “My best seller is always my smash burgers.”

She’ll find her recipes on the popular social media app, Tik Toc.

On her second day of business, Hinds knew her food truck business would be sustainable.

“On my second day in the food truck, I was serving Tex Mex, and I had a crazy line,” Hinds said. It was just insane. I wanted to quit right then, but I also was thinking, ‘this is going to work.’ It was a good turnout, and it was only my second day.”

Hinds said the job isn’t always fun and is physically demanding.

“The hours are a lot more chaotic,” she said. “The problem-solving aspect is better as I don’t have a chain of command that I need to go through to make things right with the customer.”

During the winter months, Hinds delivers lunches a couple days out of the week.

“It’s just one item and I deliver them in town within Vermillion,” Hinds said. “That’s just something that I do that’s a little bit different than other food trucks.”



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

AUG. 2-4
Arlington Days
Arlington, SD
605-690-5717
Follow Arlington Days, South Dakota on Facebook & Instagram

AUG. 3
Prairie Fest
Armour, SD

AUG. 3
Bloomin' Quilt Party
12-5 p.m.
Bennett Barn
Aurora, SD
605-690-3246

AUG. 6-8
IDEAg's Farmfest
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Redwood County, MN
651-316-4369

AUG. 7
Ag Appreciation Day
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 10
Perseid Meteor Shower
Palisades State Park
Garretson, SD

AUG. 10
Camaro Fun Days
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Pioneer Park
Brookings, SD

AUG. 10-11
Fur Trader Days
Geddes, SD
605-680-2160

AUG. 17
6th Annual Black Hills Super 6 Mountain Bike Race
3 hour race, 10 a.m.
6 hour race, 8 a.m.
Northern Hills Area CASA
Spearfish, SD

AUG. 18
Arlington Car Show
Arlington, SD
605-203-0728

AUG. 20-22
Dakotafest
Mitchell, SD

AUG. 22
61st Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2
South Dakota State Fair
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
State Fairgrounds
Huron, SD
www.SDStateFair.com

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

SEPT. 14-15
2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival
Delmont, SD

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

OCT. 17
Co-op Month Celebration
Cherry Rock Farms
Brandon, SD

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.

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