



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Bringing the Light

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Spread Holiday Cheer**

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Manager's Column



Dave Eide
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I'm pretty sure most of you have seen the East River Electric transmission line upgrade taking place in Codington and Clark County. As you know, East River Electric Power Cooperative is our transmission provider, and brings us power from generators on the Missouri River dams and power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, our generation cooperative. The new East River transmission line upgrade is a very big deal for the members of Codington-Clark as it's a local improvement to the electric grid which increases reliability. The oldest lines being replaced were

installed in 1952. Some of the reasons for the upgrade include pole deterioration, conductor wear, access improvement (removal from the middle of sections), removal from as many sloughs as possible to avoid ice shear, and to increase the current carrying capacity of the conductor through voltage increases and increased cable size for future growth. There will be four transmission rebuild projects completed this winter. The first is a 9.56 mile rebuild from the Watertown WAPA Substation just east of Watertown going north to the Waverly Substation. The second is 9.9 mile rebuild from the Waverly Substation going north to the Rauville Substation. The third is a 21.35 mile rebuild from the east side of Lake Pelican, going south and west to the Henry Substation. The fourth is a 16 mile rebuild going west from the Henry Substation to the Clark Substation. In total this adds up to about 57 miles of transmission rebuild right in our service territory.



New line being strung on a line northwest of Henry.



A completed section of transmission line north of Watertown.



Insulators being bolted onto a new transmission pole

The conductor size on the new transmission line is 477 Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced (ACSR), it's capable of carrying 953 amps. The voltage of the line will be 69,000 volts, phase to phase, with insulators rated up to 115,000 volts, in case there is a need for increased capacity in the future. At 69,000 volts the lines will be capable of providing 113,760 kilowatts and, at 115,000 volts will be capable of providing 189,599 kilowatts. To put that into perspective, Codington-Clark Electric gets close to needing 40,000 kilowatts in the winter. Each transmission line might feed 4 or 5 substations, so there is more than enough line capacity for us.

There are four conductors on the new transmission line. Three are for carrying current to Codington-Clark members. The top wire is called a static wire, it serves two purposes; it is on top of each pole providing lightning protection for the three current carrying conductors and the pole itself. Having a grounded conductor on the top of each structure makes the structure look like it's at ground potential for lightning, making a lightning strike less likely, which helps avoid damage and outages. In the middle of the top conductor are 48 fiber optic pairs. The fiber optic strands are used for communication with the following: remote motorized switches, real

time meter readings in substations, opening circuits leaving the substation, opening up or deenergizing the entire substation, bringing back Codington-Clark member meter readings, operating Codington-Clark load control devices and more.

Codington-Clark Electric is served by eleven substations. When this transmission line rebuild is complete, we will have new transmission line feeding everyone of them except for two, the Crocker substation and the Florence substation. The transmission line feeding the Crocker and Florence substations is newer and in good condition.

As the manager of Codington-Clark, I look forward to the completion of the East River transmission upgrade as it will decrease outage times for our members which is a top priority. Again, I'd like to thank all of our members for working with East River on the easements and right of way issues to get this accomplished. It takes a collaborative effort to get things like this done. As always feel free to call, email or text me about anything you might have on your mind. Stay safe.



Remote motorized switches on a new transmission pole. This switch can feed the Florence, Waverly and Rauville substations from the north or south and open each substation for isolation.



A spliced static/fiber cable in a coil. The fiber optics are spliced using a special tool. The splice itself is housed in the container shown.



Controls for the motorized switch at the bottom of the pole.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

CODINGTON-CLARK ELECTRIC

(USPS 019-073)

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Be Prepared for Winter Driving

Prepare Your Car for Winter

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze

Remember to keep your car's emergency preparedness kit fully stocked, too.

Before You Start Out

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side mirrors
- Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features, like automatic emergency braking, to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

How to Avoid a Crash

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill

If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve.

Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

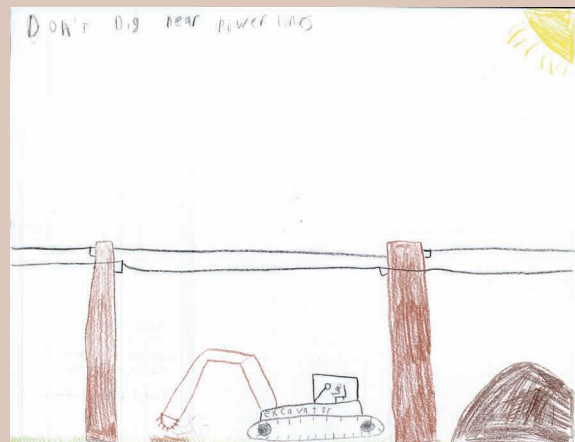
Know Your Car's Capabilities

My Car Does What? is a national campaign to help educate drivers about the safety features built into vehicles. Search for your car and find out what safety features are already built in.

Traction control is now standard on most new vehicles. This function helps your vehicle gain traction on snowy, icy or wet surfaces, particularly when accelerating from a stopped or slowed position, or when trying to make it up a slippery hill.

Anti-lock braking system (ABS) helps you steer in emergencies by restoring traction to your tires and is standard on most new vehicles. ABS may vibrate or pulse when engaged. This is normal. Continue to press and hold pressure to the brake pedal.

Remember, you are your car's best safety feature. Take precautions to ensure you arrive safely at your destination. If you become stranded in an unfamiliar area, do not leave your car. Light flares in front and behind the car and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, mud or objects.



Don't Dig Near Power Lines

Hayes Schomp, Age 10

Hayes Schomp cautions people to be careful where they dig. Hayes is the son of Thad and Devan Schomp from Eklton, S.D., 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.

HOLIDAY FAVORITES

OYSTER STEW

Ingredients:

- 1 qt. medium/large oysters
- 1 medium onion (diced)
- 2 qts. half and half
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 lb. real butter (no cheating here)
- 3 tbsps. Worcestershire Sauce

Method

Before you know it, Christmas Eve will be here so get ready the traditional Oyster Stew. In a saucepan, saute onions and oysters with the butter. Simmer untill the oysters crinkle. In a crock pot, add half and half, cream of mushroom soup, and Worcestershire Sauce. Then, add the oysters, onion and butter. Season to taste with fresh ground black pepper and salt. Simmer for six hours on low heat (high heat will curdle the milk). Serve with oyster crackers.

Kari Larson- Reder
Warner, S.D.

BETTER THAN CANDY PIE

Ingredients:

- 1 nine in. chocolate ready crust
- 1 cup sliced bananas
- 1/4 cup chopped, dry roasted peanuts
- 1 small pkg. instant butterscotch pudding
- 2/3 cup dry milk
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 2 tbsps. peanut butter
- 3/4 cup whipped topping
- 2 chocolate graham crackers, chopped

Method

Mix together dry milk, pudding, and water with wire whisk. Add peanut butter. Cover bottom of pie crust with bananas. Spread pudding mixture over bananas. Spread whipped topping next. Sprinkle with chopped peanuts and chopped graham crackers.

Janet Ochsner
Box Elder, S.D.

CHRISTMAS CRACK BARK

Ingredients:

- 1 sleeve saltine crackers, (about 35 crackers)
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/8 tsp. sea salt
- 1 1/2 tpsps. pure vanilla extract
- 1 pkg. (10 - 12 oz.) chocolate chips, semi-sweet, milk or dark chocolate

Method

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or foil. Spray lightly with no-stick cooking spray. Arrange crackers on baking sheet in single layer so that the edges almost touch. Heat butter and brown sugar in two-quart saucepan on medium heat. Bring mixture to a boil, stirring frequently. Simmer two to three minutes. Remove from heat; stir in salt and vanilla. Pour caramel sauce over crackers and spread to evenly coat crackers. Bake six minutes. Remove pan from oven. Sprinkle chocolate chips over caramel layer. Let stand five minutes. Spread chocolate chips into an even layer on top of caramel. Refrigerate 2 hours or freeze 30 to 45 minutes or until firm. Break or cut into pieces to serve. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator up to one week.

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

How Energy Efficiency Contributes to a Better Grid



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Q: What does “peak energy time” mean, and why should I use less energy at home?

A: “Beat the peak” has become a unified message among South Dakota’s electric cooperatives as the demand for electricity grows year after year. Your electric co-op must deliver around-the-clock electricity to power your life. To understand why it is so important for everyone to use less energy when there is high demand for electricity, known as peak times, let’s start with the complex system that delivers electricity to your home.

The U.S. power grid is often considered one of the largest machines in the world. Some could argue it is our country’s greatest achievement because reliable electricity has become essential to our daily lives and our economy.

The U.S. has three main interconnected power grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Each interconnection has regional balancing authorities, which are organizations that ensure electricity supply constantly matches electricity demand.

The interconnections are powered by electric generation in various sources, including hydropower, nuclear, coal, gas, wind, solar and more. Some of these generation sources can supply power constantly or be ramped up or down depending on demand, while others supply intermittent power. The energy produced by these sources connects to the grid and moves along transmission lines that allow power to travel long distances.

Your electric co-op is known as a distribution utility, which operates the power infrastructure connecting transmission lines to the distribution power lines that bring electricity to your home.

This whole system and the more than 2 million people who operate it are continually working behind the scenes so we can take advantage of a 24/7 supply of electricity at the flip of a switch.

Throughout the day, demand for power supply

fluctuates. If supply and demand fall out of balance, local or widespread blackouts can occur. To maintain reliable power, especially during peak times, there must be enough power supply to equal demand.

Due to supply and demand, the cost to buy power is higher during peak times. Peak times vary across the country but are typically in the morning as we start our day and, in the evening, when we return home.

The demand for power increases every year. The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects residential consumption of purchased electricity will increase between about 14% and 22% from 2022 to 2050. Industrial, transportation and commercial consumption is also projected to experience increased demand.

As generation, transmission and distribution utilities work to increase production and maintain and protect our grid, it’s important for all of us to take steps to use less energy every day. In turn, it will help you save on your monthly electric bill.

To beat the peak, think about how you can use less energy in the morning and evening. Start with the area that uses the most energy by adjusting your thermostat during peak hours, either up or down a few degrees depending on the season. A smart thermostat can do this for you automatically.

Are there certain appliances or devices you can wait to run until after peak hours? For example, start the dishwasher or dryer before you go to bed. If you have an electric vehicle, program it to charge overnight instead of right when you return home in the evening. Smart power strips ensure your devices are not pulling power when they are turned off. These devices work well for TVs and gaming devices.

If you have appliances that are 10+ years old, consider replacing them with new, efficient ENERGY STAR®-rated appliances. Your electric cooperative may have rebates to help lower the initial cost.

By embracing energy conservation, we can all make small changes that have a big impact on our community and the intricate system that powers our lives. To learn more about your local peak times and how you can use less energy, contact your electric co-op.

Miss South Dakota

Shannon Marvel

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Six years ago, Miranda Orth O'Bryan had just finished her first year at South Dakota State University when she set her eyes on the Miss South Dakota crown.

Her good friend and reigning Miss SDSU at the time – Miranda Mack – had just been crowned Miss South Dakota 2017.

It inspired her to throw her own hat into the ring.

Soon after, O'Bryan realized it was so much more than a beauty pageant.

"The moment that I set foot on my first local competition stage I was hooked," O'Bryan said.

"I didn't even realize at that point what it would mean to be Miss South Dakota, and over the years I realized how impactful it is to have that platform."

O'Bryan was crowned Miss South Dakota 2023 last June.

According to the organization's website, the Miss America opportunity has evolved over the years to better serve the women involved in the program and the communities in which they live.

"Throughout the competition and in interviews, delegates have the opportunity to connect with the judges, showcase their community service initiatives, and demonstrate how they are uniquely qualified for the exciting 365-day opportunity of being Miss America," the website reads.

The 25-year-old Martin native knows a thing or two about community leadership and the importance of community service.

That's because she grew up in a rural co-op family.

Her grandpa is Wayne Sterkel, who served as general manager for Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. from 1982 through 2017.

Her membership with the cooperative began before she was even born.

According to O'Bryan, her mother's baby shower celebration was hosted right in the co-op's conference room.

Her parents, Mikaela and Chris O'Bryan, would gather at the co-op's headquarters in Martin for many special occasions

throughout the years.

"We'd go to the annual meeting every year. That's what built me up and gave me opportunity," O'Bryan said. "It's important. A lot of people may not understand. They say, 'Why they'd ever need to go to a rural electric cooperative meeting?' But that's your opportunity to connect with the people who keep your lights on and your community."

O'Bryan was also in the group of high school students who visited Washington, D.C. through the South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Tour. She also won a \$1,000 scholarship to attend South Dakota State University through the Lacreek Electric scholarship program.

"Without seeing that those opportunities were there, I would've never thought about pursuing greater ones down the road," O'Bryan said.

Growing up, O'Bryan was heavily supported by the community services within the small, rural community of Bennett County, especially the public library.

O'Bryan said her mother had her at a young age and during her childhood, money was tight.

She fondly recalls spending countless hours at the public library in Martin with her grandmother while her parents were at work.

The library became an invaluable resource for O'Bryan.

So as part of her community service initiative as Miss South Dakota, she's doing what she can to highlight, support and enhance reading resources so more children have access to the same opportunities as she did.

"Reading has always played a significant role in my life. Growing up with a single mom who was attending college, living on Medicaid, and in free/reduced housing meant I might not always get the new Barbie I wanted, but a book was never turned down," O'Bryan wrote in her blog.

"I spent my nights living in a crime-stricken neighborhood bonding with my



mom and adoptive dad over tales of far-off lands and grand adventures. As a young girl on the Pine Ridge Reservation, I spent my time reading in my mom's classroom and my grandma's library in Martin, engulfed in as many books as I could get my hands on."

She hit the ground running after winning the state crown, launching a successful reading initiative which put 10,000 books in school libraries statewide.

She's the published author of a children's book, *Jericho the Journalism Kitty*.

She founded Page Turners: Fall in Love with Reading, a program that encourages children to read.

Building a foundation for children to access literature regardless of their household income or location was the first step.

Now she's working with youth throughout the state and making visits to classrooms in an effort to spark a love of reading within their young minds.

O'Bryan shares with classrooms how reading influenced her success and showing just how powerful literacy is in personal development.

"I see it happening – people are finding that passion. Reading is a foundation for everything in life," O'Bryan said.

She firmly believes and serves as living proof that it's not where you started that determines your future successes.

"It's where you're going," she said.

And during the first week of January, O'Bryan is going to Orlando, Fla. To compete against 50 other women for the Miss America crown.

The Miss America Pageant is slated for Jan. 6-14 at the Walt Disney Theater in the Dr. Phillips Center for Performing Arts.



BRINGING THE LIGHT

Electric Cooperatives Spread Holiday Cheer

Frank Turner

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While Santa's elves are hard at work at the North Pole, South Dakota's electric cooperatives are working to bring their own magic to their local neighborhoods, illuminating local parades with festive lights. Black Hills Electric Cooperative is just one of many examples of how a co-op can not only bring light but also creativity to their community.

Every December, Black Hills Electric crafts an exceptional float for the annual Custer Parade of Lights. For Bill Brisk, the manager of operations at Black Hills Electric, the parade isn't merely an event – it's a cherished tradition for their co-op.

As the parade approaches, the Black Hills Electric workshop bustles with

activity, mirroring Santa's very own workshop. Guided by a design from Brisk, linemen and staff assemble their unique Christmas float – crafting, welding and fabricating many of their designs from scratch.

"Just a few nights before the parade, we host a family night where we bring out the families of our employees,"



said Brisk. “The co-op provides food and drinks and we all work together to finish the float.”

In just two weeks, the co-op repurposes discarded equipment and scrap parts into creative masterpieces. One year, the co-op created an oversized shopping cart from old pipe laying around the shop. The next, they used retired meter loop pipes, guy wires, and meter covers to create palm trees and coconuts for a beachside Santa scene. Even Willie Wirehand, the co-op’s safety mascot, has been outfitted for a festive float. Despite being fabricated from old parts, the end result is always something worthy of a debut at the North Pole.

“Most everything we do is built in our shop,” said Brisk. “We do all

of the fabrications ourselves, and we haven’t had a flop yet.”

Luckily, the co-op’s efforts haven’t gone unnoticed. Since 2015, they’ve clinched an award every year at the Custer Parade with the only exceptions being 2020 and 2021 when the pandemic halted festivities. Their trophy collection holds a wide range of awards, boasting awards like the Rudolph’s Choice Award, Best Light, Best Music and most recently, the Custer Fruit Cake Award.

Dawn Murray, the executive director of the Custer Chamber of Commerce, expressed her admiration. “They really go all out. Beyond the parade, they even participate in our scarecrow decorating contest. I remember one year they had a scarecrow up in a

bucket truck, which was really cool.”

Yet, for Black Hills Electric, Custer is just the beginning. The co-op has grand visions for a broader festive footprint. With a service area that stretches from just south of Terry Peak to Nebraska, Brisk sees even more opportunities to shower communities with holiday cheer.

“It’s a festive time of year and something that we want to extend out to different towns in our service territory,” said Brisk. “Seeing the kids’ eyes brighten when we light up our float for the first time really makes the whole thing worth it, and if we can spread that to more of our members, all the better.”



\$5,000 in academic scholarships available

Codington-Clark Electric, along with its partners, is offering \$5,000 in college and technical school scholarships for the 2024-25 school year.

Additional information and application forms are available from Codington-Clark's website www.ccelectric.coop or from area high schools.

The deadline for all scholarship applications is 4:30 p.m. February 14, 2024.

CODINGTON-CLARK ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Codington-Clark Electric will award (4) \$500 scholarships and again partner with CoBank to award (2) \$1,000 scholarships for the 2024-25 school year. The program is designed to recognize certain academic achievements by children of member-consumers of Codington-Clark Electric and to encourage students to attend a South Dakota post-secondary institute.

The scholarships must be used for

educational costs and the student must enter school in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given.

The applicant must be a student who is planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year, or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school located in South Dakota. Codington-Clark Electric will pay scholarships after the completion of the first semester. Checks will be made payable to the student and will be distributed by Codington-Clark Electric.

One application covers both scholarships.

BASIN ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP

Codington-Clark Electric will again partner with Basin Electric Power Cooperative to offer a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity for the 2024-25 school year.

Applicants must be students who are enrolling or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate

course of study at an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school for the 2024-25 school year.

The \$1,000 award is part of the Rural Electric Cooperative Scholarship Program developed and funded by Codington-Clark Electric's power supply partner, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Basin Electric operates a generation fleet that produces about 75 percent of the electricity used by Codington-Clark Electric members. Each of Basin Electric's member cooperatives will award a scholarship to a dependent of a consumer. That means one student whose parents are Codington-Clark Electric members will win a \$1,000 scholarship.

Applications will be considered by Codington-Clark Electric and then submitted to Basin Electric for scholarship distribution.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

CCEC WILL BE CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 23 & 24

CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 25

NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1

Power outage checklist

When the power goes off, don't panic. Grab the following checklist and do a little troubleshooting.

✓ Power is off in one area of building only. (Check for blown fuse or tripped breaker on one or more circuits in electric panel. Replace fuse or reset breaker.)

✓ Power is off in entire building. (Check building's electric service panel for blown main fuse or tripped main breaker. Replace or reset.)

✓ Power is off in buildings on site. (Check main breaker, usually located in metal box below electric meter. Move main breaker switch to "off" position and then to "on" position, even if switch appears to be in "on" position.)

✓ Check with neighbors to see if they have power. (If they have power, the problem is unique to you and you may want to contact your electrician. If they also have no power, the problem is likely utility-related.)

Call Codington-Clark Electric and report the problem using the outage reporting phone number 1-844-968-1976.

Electrifying Education

What do socks, atoms and bicycles have in common? All these materials were used to teach nearly 500 children in schools throughout Codington-Clark Electric Co-op's service territory about electricity.

Co-ops in the Classroom is a program offered by Codington-Clark Electric's wholesale power provider, East River Electric Power Cooperative. Jenny Gross, Education and Outreach Coordinator for East River, travels throughout East River's service territory in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota to teach children about electrical safety, generation, conservation and economics. In October, Gross brought this energy education to 23 classrooms in Codington-Clark Electric's territory.

During the hour-long presentations, Gross took the students on the journey of electricity at the atomic level, all the way to the hundreds of miles it travels from the power plant to our homes.

A variety of hands-on demonstrations engaged the students. A Van de Graaff generator demonstrated the movement of electrons with some hair-raising results. "That one is always a crowd-pleaser," said Gross. "Not only does it provide a visible

and audible example of how electricity moves, students also get a kick out of seeing their hair stand up and shocking their friends. Sometimes we even get the teachers to join in."

Another device that invokes a lot of excitement is the Pedal Power bicycle generator. Students are asked to become power plants as they provide the energy that produces electricity for lights and small household devices. "The Pedal Power turns the concept of electricity from something abstract into something tangible. By providing the energy needed to make a light bulb turn on, the students are able to quantify just how much more energy an incandescent light bulb requires than a CFL or LED," said Gross.

By the end of the presentation, students had developed a new understanding and appreciation for electricity.

"As your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, Codington-Clark is committed to the communities we serve.



A Van de Graaff generator demonstrated the movement of electrons with some hair-raising and shocking results for a student.

By providing this service to the schools in our territory, we can reach thousands of people with the critical messages of electrical safety and conservation," said Dave Eide, General Manager for Codington-Clark Electric.

This is the 13th year Codington-Clark Electric has brought the Co-ops in the Classroom program to area schools, but we are already making plans to bring the program back next year. Contact the energy experts at Codington-Clark Electric for more information on energy education opportunities.



East River Electric's Jennifer Gross with Willow Lake fifth-grade students.



Garretson Childcare helpers are getting ready to help grow their daycare.

REED FUND

Powering Your Community

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

The community development financial institution powered by rural electric cooperatives in South Dakota is about to reach a major milestone.

The (Rural Electric Economic Development) Fund's total dollar amount in projects impacted is anticipated to reach \$1 billion by the end of 2023, according to Eric Fosheim, Economic Development Manager for REED.

REED also exceeded 10,000 in jobs impacted (created or retained) since its creation in 1996.

"Currently, we sit at just over \$998 million in total projects impacted," Fosheim said in October.

The REED Fund is a 501(c)3

corporation and operates as a revolving loan fund that provides financing for economic development projects in rural areas.

Those projects that receive REED Fund dollars must promote growth and be a catalyst in creating more business, wealth and job opportunities within the rural community. The projects are also expected to improve infrastructure and economic base in rural areas.

The REED Fund provides financing from the federal government and other lender, in addition to revolving interest payments collected over the years. The REED Fund does not use money generated by electric rate charges.

Fosheim said that as of September 30, REED has issued 401 loans for a total of \$125.26 million.

"This includes \$104,174,418 in loans made using REED dollars and \$21,082,793 from the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program," Fosheim said.



Central Electric General Manager Ken Schlimgen, left, delivers REED funding to Mitchell Technical College.

Fosheim said it isn't entirely surprising that the \$1 billion was hit this year.

"REED has seen steady growth over the years, but typically sees higher than normal application volume in times of rising interest rates. In addition, costs are rising as well, so total project costs for each individual project have been higher as well.

Dakota Energy General Manager Chad Felderman has been on the REED Fund board since 2018.

He said the impact the REED Fund has on local communities is unique, noting that the businesses the fund helps aren't necessarily ones that Dakota Energy provides electricity to, but are ones that help our communities, "which in turn helps our members where they live," he said.

"It is gratifying to help our hospitals, fire departments, and schools purchase equipment so our small communities can provide those essential services," Felderman said.

One of those projects funded by REED is the Huron Regional Medical Center dialysis building.

"We are proud to support HRMC in sustaining and expanding local access to critical medical services right here in our community," Felderman said.

Douglas Electric Cooperative General Manager Jay Spaans echoed Felderman's sentiment, noting that the REED Fund is special because co-ops get to loan money to businesses that they don't always serve.

"For us, it is just about making

improvements in the community. Sure, we would like to serve the load, but even if the new load doesn't reside in our territory, we still will fund the loan," Spaans said. "It is all about the greater good for our communities."

West River Electric CEO Dick Johnson also serves on the REED Fund board. He's one of the first board members to represent a co-op in the western part of the state. The REED Fund was originally set up by co-ops in eastern South Dakota. After two decades of successful growth and development, the REED Fund decided to allow co-ops in western South Dakota to join in 2017. Johnson said West River Electric was one of the first western co-ops to be accepted into the REED Fund.

"It was one of the best things we could ask for. We were struggling with our own revolving loan fund but we had primarily loaned to government entities, no businesses," Johnson said.

"When we became members of REED that gave us another tool in our toolbox to offer our members who were interested in our area or needed to expand their businesses or infrastructure."

West River Electric hasn't had many loans, but Johnson is still encouraged by what he's seen as a board member.

"Sitting on the Board and seeing the applications and the impact we are having on the economy of small towns all over South Dakota is phenomenal," Johnson said.

Johnson had high praise for the folks at the REED Fund office in Madison, calling

them a "class act" who really understand the region's rural areas.

"They work hard to say yes and somehow make it work. The fact that the local co-op board can help make the decision to move a project forward is unheard of – real boots on the ground who are in the communities we serve and understand what is needed to thrive," Johnson said. "It is a unique model just like the cooperative business model."

Did You Know

From 2018 to 2022, electric cooperatives in South Dakota spent \$5.7 Billion on capital investment, operations, and maintenance activities and retired \$102.8 Million in capital credits paid to consumer-members.

Through these expenditures, co-ops drive economic benefits in their local communities and throughout the state.

Over the five-year period, electric co-ops in South Dakota are responsible for:

STATEWIDE IMPACT

- \$4.2 Billion to South Dakota's Gross State Product (GSP)
- An average of 5,848 jobs in South Dakota each year
- \$2 Billion in labor income in South Dakota
- \$194.1 Million in federal taxes
- \$423 Million in state taxes
- \$418.4 Million in local taxes

All of these impacts occur in counties where electric cooperatives operate, showcasing the substantial local economic benefits that co-ops provide in the communities they serve.



Participants celebrate the groundbreaking for the National Music Museum in Vermillion.



Cameras give producers the opportunity to monitor one of the ranch's most valuable assets: cows!

BOVINE BABY MONITORS

Local Producers Blend Tradition with Innovation

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

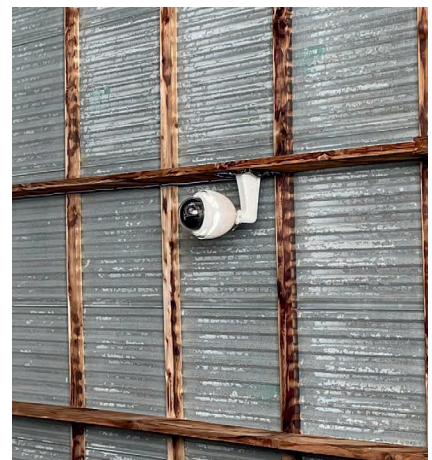
Just as parents rely on baby monitors to keep an eye on their sleeping infants, ranchers across South Dakota are embracing advanced camera systems to protect their prized newborn calves. These bovine baby monitors offer a crucial safeguard, ensuring the safety of one of the ranch's most valuable assets.

Producers Logan and Layton Hendrickson, hailing from Meadow, S.D., represent the sixth generation of their family's operation in farming and ranching in South Dakota. The

surveillance technology utilized by Logan and his family, however, is a far cry from the farming practices of Logan's great-great-great-grandfather, Franz Seidel, who at the unlikely age of 56, established their farmstead in 1907 after fleeing from unsettled times in Russia. Despite a legacy spanning over a century, the Hendrickson and Seidel family operation proves that even a long-standing operation can embrace new technologies and modern solutions.

"Our farm has been passed down through the generations, and we have been building on it ever since, like Lego bricks," said Logan.

Recent winters marked by challenging weather and significant snowfall have emphasized the role of cameras during the calving season. After all, it doesn't matter whether the sun is shining or a blizzard is rolling in, nature persists. Beyond staying warm, these cameras offer producers a less invasive method of observing their cattle, reducing the amount of stress put on cow and calf pairing. Installed in their barn, the Hendrickson's camera system streams live video of the cows straight to



The Hendrickson family uses a camera to keep an eye on their cattle during the calving season.



The Hendrickson-Seidel ranch is a sixth-generation operation in northwest South Dakota.

a cellphone, often without the cows ever knowing.

“We aren’t in their space, disrupting their natural habits,” he said. “All we have to do is pull out our phones and we know what is going on.”

In addition to convenience, cameras can also help producers catch complications that arise following the calving process. For instance, accessible oversight can allow a producer to prevent an unruly cow from unintentionally harming their newborn calf. The result is a better operational efficiency, fostering a more relaxed environment during an otherwise stressful time and creating better outcomes for both the calf and mother.

“It doesn’t take long for these systems to pay for themselves,” said Logan. “And at the end of the day, it creates a more comfortable experience for the cow and calf during a very stressful time.”

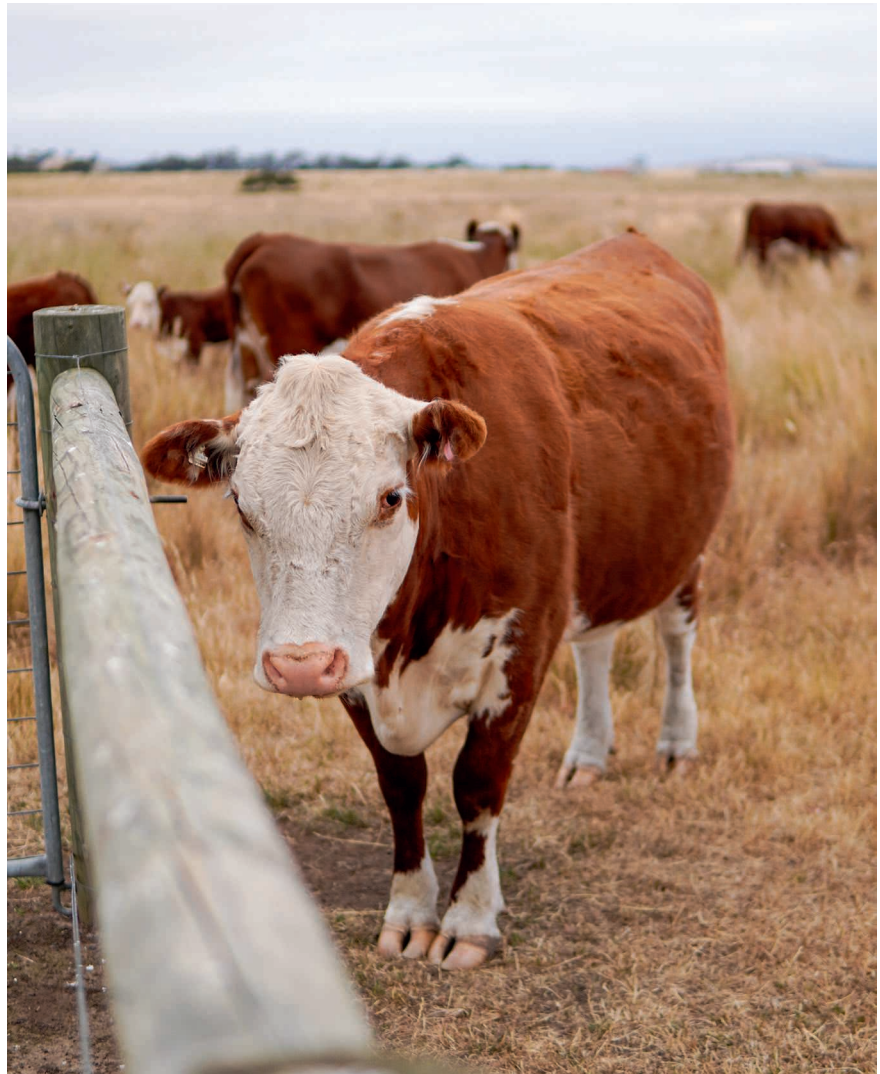
The development of technology on the Hendrickson-Seidel ranch isn’t just limited to cameras. Their family operation like other operations across the state has seen development in nearly every aspect of their operation through the generations.

“It’s not technology in the sense of having the latest electronics but technology in the sense of development,” said Logan. “My great grandfather went from using a 20-horsepower tractor with steel tracks at the beginning of his career

to using a 400-horsepower tractor with auto-steer and air conditioning.”

Whether it’s record-keeping on your cellphone or using advanced technologies like GPS guidance, Logan said his family has utilized new technologies in a way that has kept their operation competitive and relevant for over a hundred years, proving the old myth, “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks,” simply isn’t true.

“One of the first people to adopt a new technology on the farm is my grandfather,” said Logan. “He is the person pushing to new innovations because he sees the economic benefit long before any of us do.”





Dec. 14-17
Christmas at the Cathedral
 521 N Duluth Avenue,
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-988-3765

DEC. 2
Tabor Parade of Lights
 Vendor Fair
 4 p.m.
 Parade of Lights
 5:30 p.m.
 Ham Drawing
 7:30 p.m.
 Tabor, SD

DEC. 2
Julefest Scandinavian Christmas Festival and Bazaar
 8 a.m.
 Our Saviors Lutheran Church
 Spearfish, SD

DEC. 3
Hartford's Hometown Christmas
 7:30 a.m.
 Hartford, SD

DEC. 8-9
Alexandria's Winter Festival
 5 p.m.
 Alexandria, SD

DEC. 8-9
Junkin' Market Days
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Center
 Sioux Falls, SD

DEC. 9
Parade of Lights
 5:30 p.m.
 Wessington, SD

DEC. 10
Hill City Senior Saturday Breakfast
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 17
Christmas Cantata
 3 p.m.
 Hermosa United Church of Christ
 Hermosa, SD

NOV. 24
Parade of Lights
 7 p.m.
 Dakota Avenue
 Huron, SD

NOV. 25
Mid-Winter Fair
 Gregory Auditorium
 Gregory, SD
 605-830-9778

NOV. 30
Christmas on the Prairie
 5 p.m.
 Miller, SD

NOV. 30-DEC. 3
Hatchery Holidays
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery
 Spearfish, SD

DEC. 1-2
Christmas in the Hills
 Hot Springs, SD

DEC. 1-30
Trees and Trains Exhibit
 SD State Railroad Museum
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 1-30
Holiday Express and Holiday Express Spiked
 1880 Train
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 2
Rapid City Garden Club's 62nd Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale
 8 a.m.
 Central States Fairgrounds
 Rapid City, SD

DEC. 2
6th Annual Holiday Party, Tour of Homes, Silent Auction
 4 p.m.
 Olive Grove Golf Course
 Groton, SD

DEC. 2
Parade of Lights
 6 p.m.
 Redfield, 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.