

# Cooperative Connections

United States®  
**Census  
2020**

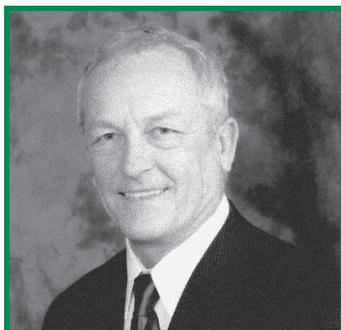
**Census 2020:  
Be Counted.  
It Matters.**

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**Safety Shines  
at Stock Show**

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# What is an Electric Cooperative?



**Rodney Haag**

rhaag@oaheelectric.com

An electric cooperative is a private, nonprofit company whose purpose is to deliver electricity to its customers or members. As a cooperative, they are required to fulfill two requirements including reinvesting revenue into their service area communities through stable rates and infrastructure or returning it to members through patronage capital. Cooperatives are also required to operate using a model of democracy.

## Member-Owned and Operated

Because electric cooperatives are member-owned and operated, democratic processes allow them a vote in annual cooperative board elections of which elected directors are nominated from among the members. Cooperatives also encourage members to voice their thoughts and ideas within the company. Members maintain equal status and work together for the good of the community and adhere to these seven guiding principles:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community

## The Advantages of Electric Cooperatives

Making the decision to join your local electric cooperative rather than continue to rely on commercial electrical utilities is an advantageous one that begins benefiting members right away. Some of these member benefits include:

- Upon joining an electrical cooperative, you are considered a member and owner rather than a customer.
- Electric cooperatives are service focused. They are dedicated to providing electricity to rural areas while commercial utility companies are hesitant because they can make more profit on in-town homes and businesses.
- Cooperatives follow democratic processes and allow each of their members to vote in board member elections, participate in policy making and influence the company in sharing their ideas and concerns.
- Cooperatives are community focused and work to improve the sustainability and well-being of their local and surrounding communities.
- Electric cooperatives return their revenues or margins to cooperative members in the form of capital credits.

**Because electric cooperatives are member-owned and operated, democratic processes allow them a vote in annual cooperative board elections of which elected directors are nominated from among the members.**

# Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 019-042)

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## Our Mission

Oahe Electric delivers high quality, low-cost electric service to our local member-owners. As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we are committed to meeting the highest standards of customer satisfaction. We do business with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. As an electric co-op, we are part of America's most trusted network of high quality energy providers.

# Rural Mainstreet Index

By Russ Hohn, Member Services Advisor

Recently, Congress passed the RURAL Act, protecting more than 900 electric cooperatives throughout the nation from the risk of losing their tax-exempt status when they accept government grants for disaster relief, broadband service and other programs that benefit co-op members.

The Senate's vote to approve the legislation came two days after the House approved it as part of a sweeping tax and spending package. President Trump has signed it into law.

The RURAL Act was NRECA's top legislative priority for the year because of the profound threat to the business model of not-for-profit co-ops. Tens of thousands of co-op leaders, employees and members across the country rallied to advocate passage of the bill.

"This package preserves the fundamental nature of the electric cooperative business model and will save electric co-ops tens of millions of dollars each year," said CEO Jim Matheson. "Moreover, it protects co-op members from unfair increases in their electric rates and provides certainty to co-ops that leverage federal and state grants for economic development, storm recovery and rural broadband deployment."

Lawmakers passed the popular bipartisan legislation in the final hours of the 2019 session as part of a larger tax and spending bill that funds the government through September 2020.

The bill's passage fixes a problem created in 2017 when Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which redefined government grants to co-ops as income rather than capital. That change made it difficult for many co-ops to abide by the 15 percent limit on non-member income to keep their tax-exempt status. The RURAL Act once again exempts grants from being counted as income and is retroactive to the 2018 tax year.

Without the fix, some co-ops would have had to start paying taxes this spring after receiving grants in 2018 or 2019 to repair storm damage, bring high-speed internet to rural communities or invest in renewable energy and energy-efficiency programs. Many co-op leaders feared they would have to raise rates for members to pay the new taxes.

The legislation attracted more than 300 co-sponsors in the 435-member House and nearly two-thirds of the senators. The effort was led in the House by Reps. Terri Sewell, D-Ala., and Adrian Smith, R-Neb., and in the Senate by Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Tina Smith, D-Minn.

NRECA lobbyist Paul Gutierrez credited the victory to a collaborative campaign strategy that included co-ops' grassroots efforts to alert their senators and representatives to the issue.

"This was an amazing NRECA team and membership effort, including co-op members at the end of the line," he said. "We had great legislative champions in the House and Senate, and they worked tirelessly to get this included in the final tax package."

## Statement of nondiscrimination

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.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov) USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# Extension Cord Safety Tips

Not enough cord for your lamp or radio to reach the nearest outlet? Just plowing through the junk drawer for an extension cord? This may not be a good idea. Extension cords can be very helpful in delivering power right where we need it. However, regardless of the gauge or rating of the cord, an extension cord is a temporary solution, and is not meant to be used as a long-term extension of your household's electrical system.

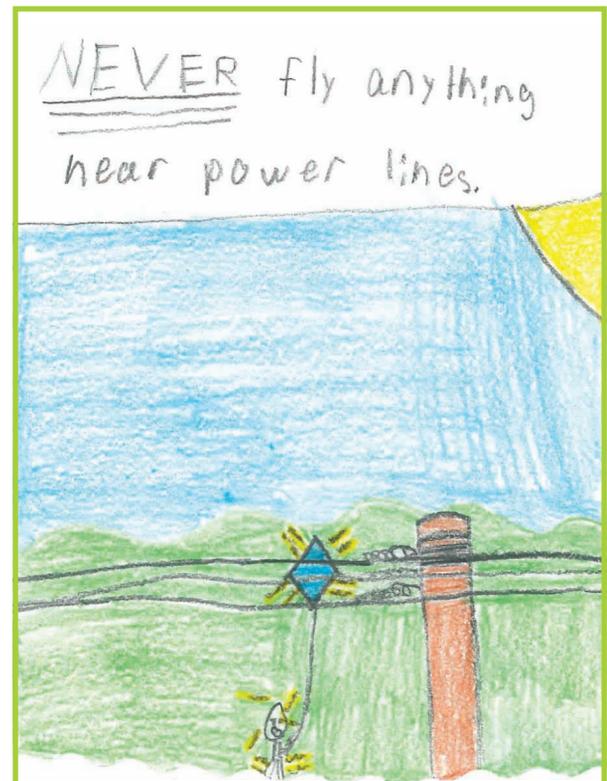
Using extension cords properly is critical to your safety. With continuous use over time, an extension cord can rapidly deteriorate, creating a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips for staying safe from electric shock and electrical fires:

- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.
- Do not substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- Do not run through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a fire hazard.
- Do not use an extension cord for more than one appliance.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.
- Multiple plug outlets must be plugged directly into mounted electrical receptacles; they cannot be chained together.
- Make sure the extension cord or temporary power strip you use is rated for the products to be plugged in and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- The appliance or tool that you are using the cord with will have a wattage rating on it. Match this up with your extension cord and do not use a cord that has a lower rating.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can give you an electric shock or burn.
- Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug. Do not cut off the ground pin to force a fit. This defeats the purpose of a three-prong plug and could lead to an electrical shock. Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Use extension cords with polarized and/or three-prong plugs.
- Buy only cords approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Intertek (ETL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Source: esfi.org



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Never fly anything near power lines."**

**Gage Cumbow, 12 years old**

Gage is the son of Ryan and Kyley Cumbow, Pierre, S.D. They are members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Blunt, S.D.

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



# Seafood Sensations

## Hot Crab Dip

- |                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 1/2 tsp. ground mustard         |
| 1 cup mayonnaise                      | 1 lb. lump crabmeat             |
| 2 tsp. OLD BAY® Seasoning             | 1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, Old Bay Seasoning and ground mustard in medium bowl until well blended. Add crabmeat; toss gently. Spread in shallow 1-1/2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese and additional Old Bay Seasoning, if desired. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serve with assorted crackers or sliced French bread. Makes 28 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 110, Total Fat 10g, Cholesterol 30mg, Sodium 181mg, Protein 5g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Seafood Casserole

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 (6 oz.) pkg. crab, tuna or salmon, drained | 4 eggs, beaten            |
| 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese                | 1 cup milk                |
| Onions, chopped                              | Salt and pepper, to taste |
|  | Paprika                   |

Spray an 8x8-inch pan or casserole dish. Combine seafood, cheese and onions. Put in pan. Beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over casserole; sprinkle paprika on top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Let stand a few minutes before serving.

**Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel, SD**

## Red Salmon Spread

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 (14 oz.) can red salmon, drained | 1 tsp. liquid smoke  |
| 6 oz. cream cheese, softened       | 1/2 tsp. garlic salt |
|                                    | Parsley flakes       |

Remove skin and bones from salmon; cut into small chunks. Combine cream cheese, liquid smoke and garlic salt. Add salmon. Shape into 2 or 3 balls. Sprinkle with parsley flakes. Refrigerate. Serve with assorted crackers.

**June Herke, Watertown, SD**

## Crab Lasagna

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/4 cup chopped onion                | 12 oz. cottage cheese       |
| 1 stick butter                       | 1 egg                       |
| 1 quart half-and-half                | 1 T. parsley                |
| 1/2 tsp. minced garlic               | 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese     |
| 4 T. cream cheese                    | 12 uncooked lasagna noodles |
| 24 oz. pkg. imitation crab, shredded | 2 cups mozzarella cheese    |

Saute onions in butter. Add half-and-half, garlic and cream cheese. Prepare 9x13-inch pan. Assemble layers as follows: 1 cup sauce, top with lasagna noodles, 1/2 of cottage cheese mixture, 1/2 of crab, 1 cup sauce, lasagna noodles and 1 cup mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers. Cover with foil; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour. Remove foil and bake an additional 20 minutes until bubbly and cheese starts to brown. Let set 10 minutes before serving.

**Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD**

## Crab or Shrimp Salad

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 (7-oz.) pkg. ring, shell or spiral pasta | 1 cup diced cucumber           |
| 1/2 cup diced celery                       | 1 cup Miracle Whip             |
| 1/4 cup diced onion                        | 1/2 cup Dorothy Lynch dressing |
| 1 (8 oz.) container mock crab or shrimp    | 1/2 tsp. salt                  |
|  | 1/2 tsp. pepper                |

Prepare pasta according to package directions. Toss together celery, onions, crab or shrimp and cucumbers. Add Miracle Whip, dressing, salt and pepper. Chill.

**Joyce Hermans, Milbank, SD**

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage, casserole or 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 June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.

# Sign Up for Auto Pay and Win \$50

## Auto Pay

Are you interested in making your life easier and maybe putting some extra cash in your pocket? Sounds like a dream, right? Make this dream a reality by signing up for auto pay for your electric bill and you will be entered into a drawing to receive \$50!

With the automatic bill payment plan, you won't have to spend time writing or mailing checks. Plus, your bill will be paid on time, even when you are on vacation. Actually, paying your utility bill won't take any time at all! Each month, the amount due for your electric bill will be paid automatically from your checking/savings account or credit or debit card. The payment will be listed on your monthly account statement and on your next bill from Oahe Electric.

Members who have already discovered how easy auto pay is have already been entered in to a separate drawing for a chance to win \$50! No additional work required! This is just our way of saying thank you for participating in the program.

## SmartHub and Online Bill Pay

You can also view and pay your bill online the day they are generated. Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc members have the opportunity to view their bills online. Subscribers are able to sign up to receive an e-statement and access our new account manage-

ment tool by going to our website – [www.oaheelectric.com](http://www.oaheelectric.com), clicking on the Payment Options box and then on the SmartHub link. Once you have registered as a new user, you can easily access your account. The SmartHub option offers features such as viewing previous month's bills, downloading billing data, payment history and paying your bill via credit card. You can also sign up for automatic payments on SmartHub. You will still receive a paper statement unless you request otherwise. When the new bills are calculated for the month (around the 10th), you will receive notification via e-mail that your new account information is available online.

## Budget Billing

Discover the convenience of having 12 equal monthly payments for your electric bill. The sign-up months for budget billing are May and June. If you would like more information, would like to sign up or if you would like to have your budget bill amount calculated, please call the office at 1-800-640-6243.

**Auto Pay, SmartHub/Online Bill Pay and Budget Billing** are just a few ways to make bill paying more convenient – use them together or separately. Just fill out the form below and return it to Oahe Electric, PO Box 216, Blunt, S.D., 57522 by May 22, 2020, to have your electric bill deducted from your checking or savings account and for your chance to win \$50!

(Please Print)

Since your electric bill will vary in amount, Oahe Electric will send you a statement showing the amount to be deducted from your account. The deduction will occur on the 20th of each month or the closest business day if the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday. Automatic bill payments will commence the month following receipt of this form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member Account Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(List all account numbers you want paid automatically)

Please deduct my Automatic Bill Payment from my:

Checking Account (or)  Savings Account (or)  Credit/Debit Card

Be sure to include a voided check with this form.

Bank Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Name \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Address \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Routing Number \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Type of Card Used for Payment:  Mastercard (or)  Visa (or)  Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. to deduct my utility payment(s) from the checking/ savings account or Credit/Debit card listed above. I understand if at any time I wish to discontinue this service, I will notify Oahe Electric.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperative Connections Card Program Vendors			
<b>Automotive</b>			
Graham Tire Company	605-224-8643	Pierre	Receive a 10% discount on regularly priced service work. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Lamb Motor Company	800-952-2222	Onida	Receive a free alignment check with the purchase of 4 new tires.
Napa Auto and Truck Parts/Farnam's Genuine Parts, Inc.	605-224-8624	Pierre	Receive 10-50% off retail price.
<b>Food/Convenience Store</b>			
Branding Iron Bistro	605-494-3333	Pierre	Enjoy \$1 off your order. Limit one per visit.
Gator's Pizza Pasta and Subs	605-224-6262	Pierre	Purchase any large pizza at regular price and receive a FREE order of breadsticks.
Grey Goose Store	605-945-0794	Pierre	Receive a free 20 oz. fountain soda or coffee with the minimum of a \$30 gas or diesel purchase.
The Corner	605-258-2400	Onida	Buy one breakfast sandwich at regular price, get second half off.
<b>Health/Fitness and Beauty</b>			
Anytime Fitness	605-224-4011	Pierre	Receive a free two-week mini-membership.
<b>Home/Garden</b>			
The Pink Petal	605-224-1775	Pierre	10% discount on cash and carry purchases - fresh floral only.
Slumberland Furniture	605-945-1997	Pierre	20% off any regular priced Lazy Boy items. Excluding special orders.
<b>Services</b>			
Airtech Heating and Cooling	605-945-0160	Pierre	\$50 discount on any new heat pump OR \$15 discount on any service call
Apryl's Animal House	605-224-9203	Pierre	10% off a grooming or boarding
Inman's Water Technologies	605-224-5111	Pierre	Receive a 15% discount on the rental price of a water softener and/or reverse osmosis drinking water system by paying a year in advance. Receive 10% off of the purchase price of a new Water Softener or reverse osmosis drinking water system when you mention this ad. Payments made by credit cards do not qualify for discounts/specials.
Olson Plumbing Inc.	605-224-6436	Pierre	\$50 discount on any electric boiler, Marathon water heater, or fireplace
Small Engine House	605-224-5815	Pierre	10% off parts and labor
<b>Sports/Recreation</b>			
Teton River Traders Gun Shop LLC	605-224-1371	Ft. Pierre	2% discount. Payments made by credit cards do not qualify for discount.
<b>Retail</b>			
Fastenal	605-224-4060	Pierre	10% off of fasteners and 5% off on all other products

## Winner of Question of the Month

The Question of the Month winner for the January 2020 publication was Francis Taft. He correctly answered the question, "How many TOTAL scholarships is Oahe Electric presenting to local students this year?" The correct answer is five scholarships - one \$1,000, three \$500 and one \$500 scholarship specifically for students attending a line construction and maintenance course.

Congratulations for providing the correct answer! He received an insulated grocery tote full of great prizes!

## Question of the Month!

This month's question is:

**Name one of the seven cooperative principles.**

Please submit your answer via e-mail to [oahe@oaheelectric.com](mailto:oahe@oaheelectric.com) with the subject line reading: Question of the Month. A winner will be chosen and surprise gift will be sent to them.

## Like Us!

You can now keep in touch with your cooperative on Facebook!

We will share with you the latest news, events, power outage updates, energy efficiency tips, money-saving rebates, load management information, legislative alerts, safety tips and much more!

We hope you "like" Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. on Facebook.





Self-responses to the 2020 census begin March 12 online, by phone or by paper.

# GET COUNTED

## Census 2020 Will Shape Region's Future

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

Census Day is coming April 1 and a push is being made in March to get people counted.

The census counts people where they are at on April 1, 2020.

The process opens March 12 when people can begin the online completion of the census. Most people will have received an invitation to respond to the census. The form will be mailed to USPS mailable addresses. Hand delivery will take place in cases where addresses are a rural/PO Box or non-USPS household unit. The card will have an address-specific code for responders to use, but they can still go online without the card.

“The goal on March 12 is to have as many people as possible go online and complete the census,” said Rob Timm, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Timm has been focusing on western South Dakota businesses and government agencies in preparation for Census 2020.

People can also complete the census by phone or complete a paper form.

On May 1, the labor-intensive process of sending enumera-

### The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.

We're making sure that **however you choose to respond**—online, by phone, or by mail—that **the census is accessible**. You'll receive an invitation to respond **beginning in mid-March**. You choose how you want to respond.



You can respond **online** in English or in 12 additional languages. The online questionnaire is accessible, following the latest web accessibility guidelines. We'll also have a video in **American Sign Language** available to guide you through responding online.



You can respond by **phone** in English or in 12 additional languages. You can also respond in English by **TDD** at 844-467-2020.



By mid-April, we'll mail a **paper questionnaire** to every household that hasn't already responded. (Some households will receive a paper questionnaire along with the first invitation in March.)

We'll have **braille and large print guides** available online to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire.



If necessary, you can respond **in person** beginning in mid-May. Census takers will visit all households that have not yet responded.

We'll have census takers available who can communicate in **American Sign Language** and additional languages. When the census taker visits to help you respond, you can request that another census taker who communicates in American Sign Language returns, if you prefer.

If you prefer, you may also choose to have another member of your household interact with the census taker.

**Responding is important.** A complete count helps ensure that services like Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and public transportation can support those who need them.

**Responding is safe.** All of the information you share with us is protected by law and cannot be used against you.

**Responding is accessible.** We're doing everything we can to ensure the ways to respond are accessible for everyone.

Any questions? Please visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). This website is 508 compliant and accessible to people of all abilities.

Shape your future  
START HERE >

United States  
Census  
2020

tors door-to-door to count people begins. An estimated 1,200 people will be serving as enumerators through July.

“We know there are tracts with low response areas,” said Timm. Census officials are working to improve those response rates.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on U.S. Census Bureau data. According to the report, “Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds” by the GW Institute of Public Policy, South Dakota was allocated more than \$2.3 billion in 2016. This money represented the allocation of funds from 55 large federal spending programs guided by Census 2010 data. Of that \$2.3 billion, nearly one-quarter was for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs while one-third went to U.S. Health and Human Services programs.

## Census Key Dates

**March 12:**  
Self-response begins  
and continues  
through July 2020.

**April 1: Census Day**  
**Dec. 31: Census  
Counts Delivered  
to President**

The report, by Andrew Reamer, a research professor at The George Washington University, noted that census-derived datasets help define eligibility criteria for various programs, compute formulas that geographically allocate funds, rank project applications based on priorities and set interest rates for federal loan programs.

Officials in Sioux Falls estimated that the community missed out on nearly \$1,600 per person for every person missed in the 2010 census.

The value of the census goes beyond dollars.

In Minnesota, the fate of the state’s 8th Congressional District is at stake. The U.S. House of Representatives is based on population. Minnesota currently has eight seats while Nebraska has three and South Dakota and North Dakota have one seat each.

“It’s not going to take a ton of your time and it makes a difference for South Dakota,” said Jake Droge, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Droge has been working with government agencies and businesses in eastern South Dakota.

## CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!  
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

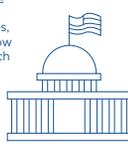
### Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.



### It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



### It's in the Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.



### It's about \$675 billion.

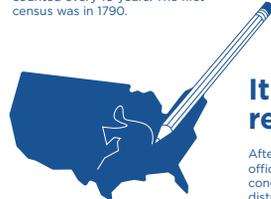
The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.



### It's about redistricting.

After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.



### Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



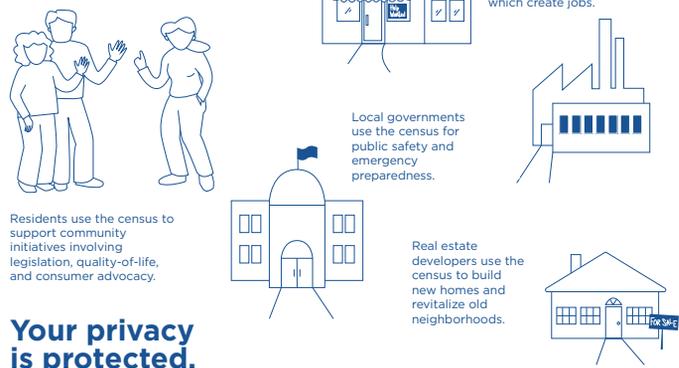
### Census data are being used all around you.

Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.

Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.

Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs.

Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



### Your privacy is protected.

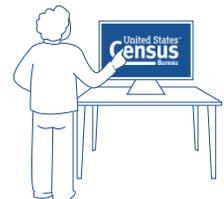
It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.



### 2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



### You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.





FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT  
[2020CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS](https://2020census.gov/partners)



# Small Change That Changes Lives

Several years ago, Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., implemented a program called Operation Round Up®. Operation Round Up® is just what the name implies. Each month, Oahe Electric Cooperative simply “rounds up” the electric bills of voluntarily participating consumers to the next highest dollar. The funds collected are then used to address charitable community needs, whether it is for an individual that may have experienced a personal tragedy, or an organization funding a special project. Since the program’s first disbursement in 2009, the program has distributed over \$100,000.

All Operation Round Up® donations are placed in a trust and are administered by an independent Board of Trustees. The board is made up of community leaders who serve on a voluntary basis. The board evaluates all requests for funds, determines who will receive funding and how all Operation Round Up® monies will be distributed. The region served by the Trust is primarily the electrical area served by Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., including Hughes and Sully counties. The most gratifying thing about Operation Round Up® is that it is an extension of the concept of neighbor helping neighbor that built our electric cooperative.

These easy-to-complete applications for funding are currently available and may be picked up at the office of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. in Blunt, S.D., or can be requested by phone at 605-962-6243. Applications can also be found on our website at [www.oaheelectric.com](http://www.oaheelectric.com). All applications are due by April 30, 2020. Completed applications may be mailed to: Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522. Applications may also be faxed to: 605/962-6306. After the deadline, the Board of Trustees will assemble and allocate the funds to those they feel are in the most need.

# We Need Your Help

## Oahe Electric’s Outstanding Capital Credit Checks

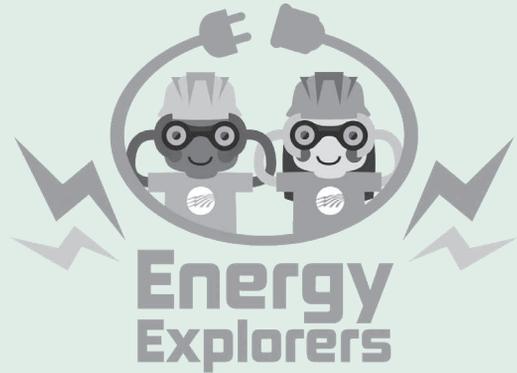
Please notify Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Blunt, S.D., at 1-800-640-6243 if you have a current address for any of the patrons listed below. We are aware that some may be deceased but need names and addresses of personal representatives to whom we could send the checks. Some patrons are current consumers. If you are holding a capital credit check, please cash it. If you have misplaced your check, please contact the office and we will reissue it for you. Thank you! This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Please refer to SDCL 47-16-54 through SDCL 47-16-57 for unclaimed capital credit forfeiture procedures.

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|--|--|---|
| Ahadi, M R   | Finley, H James                                  | Olson, Charles J  |
| Air Repair Inc<br>C/O Robert Sherer                                | Fisher, Sally S.                                 | Pease, Michael D  |
| Anderson, Kellie   | Garcia, Javier                                   | Pease, Michael D and Kathy S                              |
| AT&T Mobility  | Garrett, Carlin Estate                           | Preiser, Sheila   |
| Autumn Enterprises Inc<br>C/O Marty Vandeneysel                    | Garrett, Ronald J                                | Red Creek Farms<br>C/O Dean Newman                        |
| Batiz, Leann K   | Gerlach, W W Bunk Estate<br>C/O Mary Alleman     | Rivenes, Marvin G Estate                                  |
| Beckman, Mervin and<br>James E. Duffek                             | Gibson, Glenn                                    | Roede, Randy R and Terrie L<br>Estates C/O Amber Unrau    |
| Berry, Mavis L   | Gillette Dairy                                   | Roth, Loui Estate and Leann Way                           |
| Big Eagle, Latony  | Gomez, Frank and Lisa Pfeiffer                   | Rousseau Township Rural<br>Water Inc                      |
| Bixler, Walter E   | Goosen-Goertz, Bonnie J                          | Samco, Mason Estate                                       |
| Boyd, Shane Estate   | Gravatt, Tim                                     | Sand Livestock Assoc 1986-1 and<br>Chuck Sand Estate      |
| Boyles, Charles A Estate   | Grenz, John and Theresa                          | Sanborn, Robert D Estate                                  |
| Boys and Girls Club of Three<br>Districts C/O Ronda Hawk           | Griggs, Richard and Crystal                      | Schievelbein, Mark  |
| Bucholz, Michael And Kristin                                       | Groseclose, Mary B Estate                        | Schroyer, Gerald and Artalee<br>Estates C/O John Schroyer |
| Burnham, Harold  | Hartland Marshall, Janice                        | Sears, Randall J  |
| Campbell, Steven and<br>Amanda Sarvis-Campbell                     | Herald, Joddie                                   | Sheets, Maxwell J   |
| Carlton, Michael   | Huber, Kim Estate                                | Smith Plumbing and Daniel Smith                           |
| Clyde and Nita Colson Ptshp  | Jacobs, Valerie G                                | Smith, Wayne  |
| Connecticut Mutual Life<br>Insurance Co.                           | Jensen, Stephen and Tena Derzab                  | Sommer, Sue Estate  |
| Cowan, Chad and Jessica  | Johnson, Paul E                                  | Spotted Bear, Kenny                                       |
| Dakota Feeding Company LLC<br>C/O Rick Jenson or<br>Scott Mathisen | JQJ Marital Trust<br>C/O Brian And Holly Johnson | Sportsman’s<br>C/O Jim or Sandra Gerlach                  |
| Dakota Spur, Richard C Brandt                                      | JSA Inc./Steve or Janelle Allmond                | Spring Creek Mobile Estates<br>C/O Chris Hesla            |
| Darland Family Land LTD<br>C/O Steve Darland                       | Keeney, Ronna                                    | Steffen , Larry and Jeri R                                |
| Davis, Frank   | Killingsworth, Earl E. and Debbie                | Stewart Farms C/O Van Stewart                             |
| Davis, Michael and Mary L.   | Kuhr, Bernell F and Doris                        | Stover, Shaina  |
| Dean, Terry  | Lee, Paul Estate                                 | Telkamp, Tyrel and Ashton                                 |
| Dennis, Paul Estate  | Linn Real Estate<br>C/O Meredith Lee             | Thompson, Katie and<br>Kempton Olney                      |
| Deyonge, William   | Lovell, Blanche Estate                           | United Suppliers Inc                                      |
| Diamond Ring Farm<br>C/O Wilbert Ohlmann                           | Macleod, Barry                                   | Van Gerpen, Robert and Barbara                            |
| Dimmitt, Billy and Polly G   | Martell, Dan and Becky                           | Van Houte, Myra   |
| Dvorak, Jordan and Allison   | Middleton, Bradley J                             | Vanderlinden, Mark and Rita                               |
| Edwards, Charles and Marilyn                                       | Midwest Feeders Inc                              | Vilhauer, David Estate                                    |
| Erickson, Albert Estate  | Misterek, Thomas J and Tim                       | Wegner, Danny and Margaret                                |
| Fernandez, David   | Morgan, Vicki H                                  | Weinheimer Farms Inc.<br>C/O Ken Weinheimer               |
|  | Naughton, David                                  | Ziegler, Brian  |
|  | Nolte Construction and<br>Steve Nolte            |   |
|  | NPP LLC  |   |
|  | Oahe Plains System Corp                          |   |

# SPRING EFFICIENCY QUIZ

Spring is just around the corner! Take this quiz to learn how you can help save energy around your home. Hint: Check your work in the answer key below.



1. Sealing air leaks around \_\_\_\_\_ saves energy and keeps your home comfortable.  
A) doors B) windows C) both A and B
2. Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use, like \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) refrigerators B) cell phone chargers C) dishwashers
3. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave the room to save energy.  
A) True B) False
4. LED bulbs typically use \_\_\_\_\_ less energy than incandescent light bulbs.  
A) 25% B) 50% C) 75%
5. Planting \_\_\_\_\_ around your home can block unwanted heat from the sun.  
A) flowers B) shade trees C) vegetables



# Boots, Broncs and Safety

## Electric Safety Remains a Tradition at Black Hills Stock Show®

Courtney J. Deinert

courtneyd@centralec.coop

**“We’re just selling safety.”**

During the first week of February, people from across the region pull on their boots and gather in Rapid City, S.D., to celebrate the area’s deep history of cattle ranching at the Black Hills Stock Show.

The Black Hills Stock Show is the second largest event in the state, after the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

On the vendor floor, you can find anything a cowboy or cowgirl would dream of. Among the leather boots, hides, saddles and hats for sale, you can also find the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota booth.

“We’re just selling safety,” said Todd Eliason, assistant general manager at Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D. “We’ve been doing this for more than 20 years.”

The booth features a tabletop safety demonstration, also known as “Neon Leon” or “Power Town.” The table demonstration features a model farmyard with a barn, house, overhead power lines, ground transformer and props such as tree branches, a ladder, backhoe and line down on a tractor.

With the step of a pedal, the operator can conduct electricity through the lines and produce a shock or arch with the props.



With the step of a pedal, Central Electric’s Pat Soukup illustrates the effects of electricity when contacting a power line.

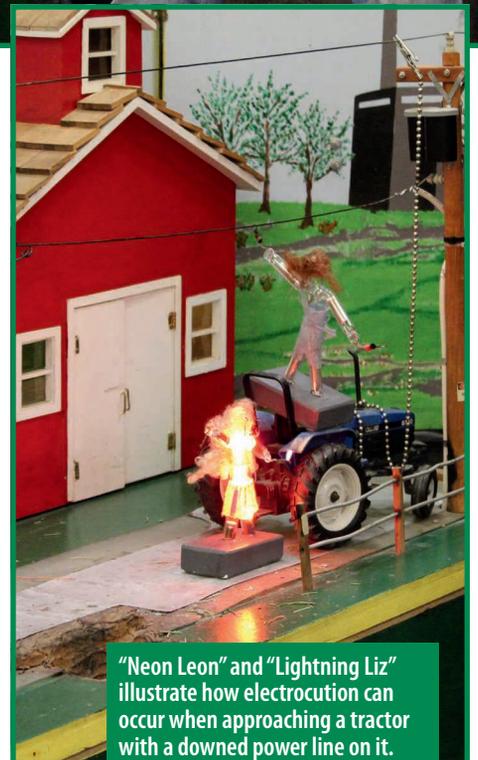
The presentation is designed to educate elementary-aged children about the dangers of electricity, but all ages gather to see the demonstration.

As parents and grandparents pass by the booth, they’ll smile and nod, likely remembering the presentation from their earlier days. Parents with young cowboys and cowgirls along will nudge them towards the booth to hear about the importance of respecting electricity on the farm.

Eliason recalls working at the safety booth one year and a young boy pointed at him and yelled, “That’s him!”

Eliason admits that his first thought was, “Oh, no. What did I do?”

However, the mother approached him in tears, gave him a big hug and said, “My son hit a power line with a tractor, and



“Neon Leon” and “Lightning Liz” illustrate how electrocution can occur when approaching a tractor with a downed power line on it.



The demonstration is designed for elementary-aged children but draws crowds of all ages.

because he saw your presentation, he knew to stay in the tractor. He is here today because of you.”

Many cooperative representatives across the state can share similar stories where children, farm wives and equipment operators knew exactly what to do in a dangerous situation involving electricity because they saw one of the cooperative’s electric safety presentations.

“When watching the demonstration, the kids probably don’t understand everything right away,” says Patrick Soukup, manager of member services/marketing at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D. “But it might get them asking questions about electricity and they’ll go look it up or bring it up in conversation.”

Kids rarely leave the booth empty-handed. Attendees can count on taking home a souvenir including pencils, rulers, band-aids, plastic hardhats, stickers and a variety of different hand-outs to remind them about the presentation.

Representatives from the electric cooperatives from across South Dakota take turns operating the demonstration at the booth.

During the Stock Show, the electric cooperatives also facilitate the high voltage

trailer demonstration held Thursday evening in conjunction with the sheep dog trials and mutton busting.

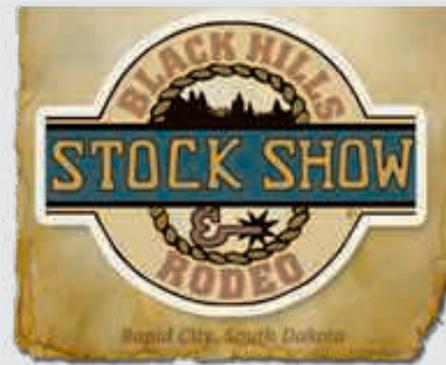
In addition to the Stock Show, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota provide energy efficiency and safety education at other events across the state, including the South Dakota State Fair and Dakotafest. You can also likely find them at your local home and farm shows, town festival, school

events and more.

To request a safety demonstration in your community, contact your local electric cooperative.



A young girl at the booth gets a closer look at overhead and underground conductor samples.



## Ranch Rodeo Events

One of the most popular events at the Black Hills Stock Show is the Ranch Rodeo. Teams from a five-state region compete for more than \$21,000 in cash and prizes.

Preliminary and final events represent real-life chores on the ranch and provide unique entertainment.

- **Steer Loadin’**  
Teams must sort and load a steer into the trailer and shut and latch the trailer.
- **Range Doctorin’**  
Teams must head and heel a cow, lay it on its rib cage, “doctor it” on the neck with medicine on a paint stick and remove the ropes.
- **Stray Gatherin’**  
Teams must head and heel a steer and tie any three legs.
- **Blake’s Trailer Loading**  
Teams will have trailers loaded with horses in the arena. They must unload their horses, rope two steers and load them into the trailer.
- **Rope, Mug and Tie**  
Teams must lay and tie down a designated steer.
- **Head, Heel and Brand**  
Teams must head and heel two steers, lay each on its side, and brand them.
- **Pendleton Ranch Bronc Ride**  
A team member must ride a bronc for 8-seconds and can hang on with both hands if desired.



East River Electric employees work the serving line at a previous feed. Pictured, from left, are Mike Jaspers, Business Development Director; Paul Lambert, radio, SCADA and LM foreman; Rory Johannsen, materials coordinator operator; Tom Boyko, CEO/General Manager and Kim Boyko.

# FEEDING FOR A CAUSE

## East River Electric to Hold 56th Annual Mountain Oyster Feed March 12

**Shayla Ebsen**

sebsen@eastriver.coop

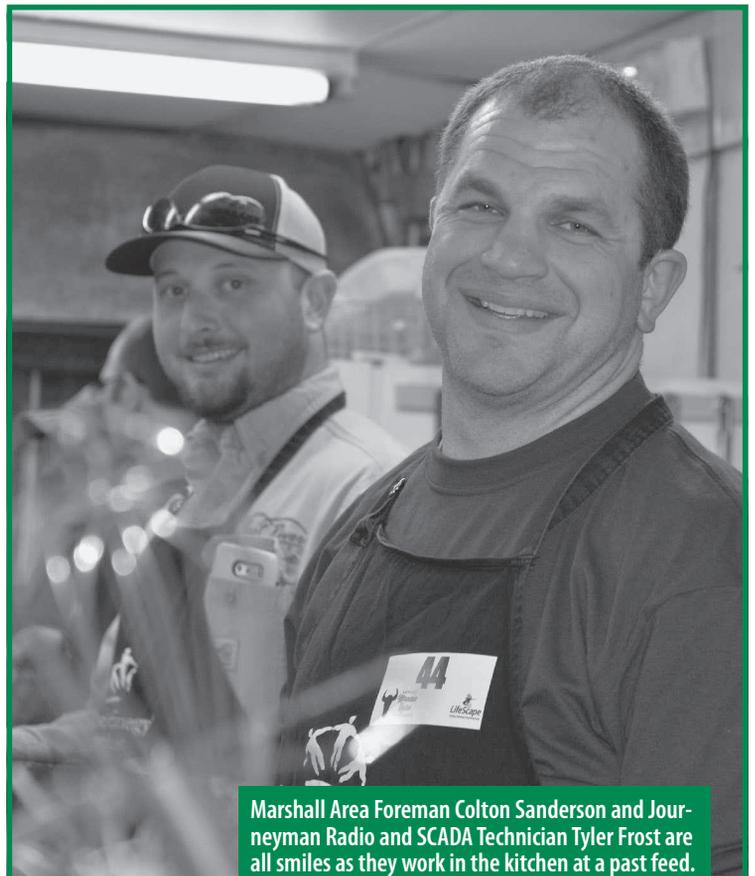
Mountain oysters will be the center attraction at a fundraising event held by East River Electric Power Cooperative on March 12.

Serving for the 56th annual Mountain Oyster Feed begins at 5:30 p.m. at Nicky's on the west edge of Madison, S.D.

But for those not so interested in the prairie delicacy, the event's menu will also include pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert. There will be a raffle, door prizes, silent auction and 50-50 tickets.

Proceeds from the event will once again benefit LifeScope, formerly Children's Care Hospital and School and SD Achieve, whose mission it is to empower children and adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. With more than \$275,000 contributed to LifeScope over the years, East River's Annual Mountain Oyster Feed has helped provide for the very best in medical care, therapy, education and other services for the children at LifeScope.

"LifeScope is so honored to benefit from this tremendous event each year. It is so fun and so



Marshall Area Foreman Colton Sanderson and Journeyman Radio and SCADA Technician Tyler Frost are all smiles as they work in the kitchen at a past feed.

unique, and it brings the community together in fellowship and food, but more importantly, it brings the community together in support of children with disabilities. The money raised over the years has made a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of Madison-area children and their families supported by LifeScape,” said Jessica Wells, LifeScape Foundation president. “This is a tradition we love and look forward to each year. We are so grateful for this event and for the people of this community that show their compassion and care by coming out in support of this each year.”

The partnership began about a dozen years after Children’s Care Hospital & School opened in 1952.

According to the history of the organization on LifeScape’s website, the school was a private, nonprofit organization started as a citizens’ grassroots effort to provide rehabilitation and education to children recovering from polio. Until then, children often never returned to school after recovering from the acute phase of their illness, as buildings were seldom accessible. As the polio threat waned, children with other disabilities were admitted, but the early mission of the organization was to serve children with physical disabilities only. More children were “mainstreamed” into public schools in the 1970s

and Crippled Children’s began serving children with more complex disabilities – the result of modern medicine’s ability to save sicker and more premature babies. Also in the 1970s, the organization began serving children in their own communities through the outreach program. The organization acquired an outpatient center in Rapid City in 1985 and was able to provide services throughout the state. The name changed to Children’s Care Hospital & School in 1994 and an outpatient rehabilitation center opened in Sioux Falls in 1999, serving children and adults. In 2012, Children’s Care celebrated its 60th anniversary.

“Every year, the East River Employees’ Committee seeks out donations of any kind and every year the community steps up in supporting our cause and making this event a success,” said Sam Anderson, East River Employees’ Committee chairperson. “East River takes pride in our community and is committed to benefiting non-profits in our area such as LifeScape.”

“The charity event was very successful and a direct tribute to our employees fulfilling



EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE  
**MOUNTAIN OYSTER  
FUNDRAISER**  
SERVING LIFESCAPE

03.12.20 THURSDAY | NICKY'S RESTAURANT | 5:30 P.M. SERVING BEGINS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT 

our Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives principle of Commitment to Community,” said East River General Manager Tom Boyko after the 2019 event, which saw the East River Employees Committee donate \$1,000, a total matched by East River Electric at \$1,000 and CoBank also contributed \$2,000. In total, the 2019 event raised more than \$25,000 for LifeScape.



Apprentice Substation Technician Tim Fuerst, Facilities Maintenance Technician Mark Even and Mechanic Terry Zingmark prep the mountain oysters for frying.

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**December 15-March 31**

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

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**February 21**

KORN and Breaking Benjamin, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

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**February 21-22**

Mardi Gras Weekend, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

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**February 22**

Cabin Fever Games, Yankton, SD, 605-665-8994

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**February 22-23**

48th Annual Farm, Home & Sports Show, Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD 605-224-1240

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**February 26**

The Harlem Globetrotters, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

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**February 27-29**

SD High School State Wrestling Tournament, All Classes, Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

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**February 27-March 1**

35th Annual SD State Dart Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

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**March 12-14**

SD State B High School Girls Basketball Tournament, Donald E. Young Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-224-9261

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**March 14**

28 Below Fatbike Race, Ride and Tour, Lead, SD, 605-641-4963

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**March 14-15**

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Davison County Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD, 701-361-9215



**February 20-25: Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454**

Photo courtesy: travelouthdakota.com

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**March 18, June 11, August 13 and October 8**

Kids Mystery Dinner Theater, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

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**March 19-21**

SD State A High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-224-9261

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**March 19-21**

SD State AA High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

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**March 19-21**

SD State B High School Boys Basketball Tournament, Barnett Center, Aberdeen, SD, 605-224-9261

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**March 20-21, 27-28**

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

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**March 21-22**

Gun Show, Codington County Ag Building, Watertown, SD, 701-361-9215

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**March 28**

Annual Ag Day at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

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**March 28**

SD High School All-State Band Concert, Mitchell Fine Arts Center, Mitchell, SD, 605-224-9261

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**April 3-4**

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876 or 800-999-1876

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**April 4-5**

Annual USD Wacipi, Vermillion, SD

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**April 11**

Eggstravaganza, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

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**April 17-19**

First Dakota Classic Archery Tournament, Yankton, SD, 605-260-9282

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**April 18**

Black Hills Gold & Treasure Show, Rapid City, SD

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**April 18**

Design Challenge, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-731-2348

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**April 25**

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

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**July 14**

Rock Nobles Cattlemen 2020 Summer Beef Tour, Nobles County Fairgrounds, Register Before June 1: \$20, After June 1: \$40, Worthington, MN, 507-967-2380, [www.mnsca.org](http://www.mnsca.org)

**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.**