

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Great Goats

Goats gaining
in popularity
Pages 8-9

Irrigators benefit
from load control
Pages 12-13

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



ARE ELECTRIC VEHICLES A BUY?



Jordan Lamb
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Electric utilities aspire to grow load and revenues on their system to give back to investors. Electric cooperatives aspire to provide public services to rural communities at wholesale costs and return margins to its member owners. As an Oahe Electric Cooperative member, I'm sure you've had people ask you or have personally thought about purchasing an electric vehicle. As a cooperative, we take pride in opportunities to educate our members from a neutral and trustworthy perspective that provides members with value in choice. Electric

vehicles (EVs) may be beneficial or a hassle to an individual member, so we will lay out pros and cons of the up-and-coming industry.

The pros are numerous and affect time, money and safety. You will no longer need to change oil in your vehicle or worry about your radiator coolant, engine temperature, radiator fan or alternator malfunctioning or blowing up. You will see a huge savings on gasoline compared to electric vehicles. Oahe's base rate to members lies at 9 cents/kWh excluding the incentive rates for heating and air conditioning, coming in at 5.5 cents/kWh.

Standard vehicle at 22 mpg, gasoline at \$4 per gallon: \$4 of gas = 22 miles of travel

Electric vehicle at \$0.09 per kWh: \$4 of electricity = 136 miles of travel

Electric vehicles travel roughly three miles per kWh of electricity. If you drive 15,000 miles annually, a gasoline vehicle would cost \$2,727 in fuel per year. An electric vehicle would cost \$440 per year to travel this same 15,000 miles, a savings of \$2,287 per year. Oahe is currently developing rate structures for its members to take advantage of electric vehicles and the affordability of fuel to rural areas through our existing electric infrastructure.

The cons are also numerous and affect infrastructure necessary to accommodate, penalties during peak usage times, range anxiety for the electric vehicle owner and lower performance during extreme cold temperatures (which central South Dakota NEVER sees). Oahe Electric has ample capacity on its system to accommodate electric vehicles on its system. However, if a housing development of say 100 people all owned electric vehicles and charged them at the same time, it could require Oahe to upgrade lines. If an individual at their own home currently uses its full transformer capacity, it could cause the need to upgrade the transformer at their

individual home. For this reason, we strongly encourage members to contact us prior to purchasing an EV to ensure we have ample capacity to their home while avoiding dangerous situations by overloading existing equipment. Some utilities charge penalties for charging EVs during their peak usage (similar to a demand charge on several of our existing rates). If a 10kW charger charges only one time per month, Oahe would be billed from upstream a demand charge of roughly \$200. At the same time, Oahe would only net \$5 for that single charge, costing members \$195 in a loss. It is important that all of our membership works together to avoid peak billing times to keep energy and charging costs low while ensuring other members or themselves are not footing an unnecessary bill.

Range anxiety for the owner of a vehicle is very common, especially new EV owners. Most electric vehicles advertise ranges of 300+ miles. However, during cold temperatures, that range decreases. We recently had a fellow cooperative driving through town near our headquarters in a Nissan Leaf. The range for the vehicle was around 250 miles when fully charged, but in -30 F temperatures, the range was decreased to roughly half of the standard.

It is important to consider several things when purchasing an EV. What range should you purchase? Do you drive frequent short commutes or longer trips? Do you foresee yourself nervous about the range of a vehicle during colder temperatures? What charging station locations are there for you to DC Fast Charge? (Oahe recently received a grant for this and will be installing one near Pierre, S.D.) If you have any questions, please call in and we can provide additional insight to help aid your decision. We are here to provide information and value to our members, and to help in any way we can!

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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. Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at 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.
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COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

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(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.

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 1

It's hard to believe, but "that time of the year" has come around very quickly! It's time to start planning the annual meeting!

As a member of a cooperative, it is important to attend annual meetings in order to keep abreast of the happenings occurring here. Because remember – it's your cooperative and you are a member owner. Also, Oahe Electric is very interested in your thoughts or ideas concerning our annual meeting. If there is something that you would like to share, any ideas for changes, etc., please let us know!

So please mark your calendars for Oahe Electric Cooperative's 71st annual meeting!

THANK YOU

Dear Oahe Electric,
Thank you, I appreciate the time that you took in looking over my application. I plan on attending the School of Mines this coming fall. I would like to think of myself as hardworking and persistent. Thank you again for the scholarship.

From,
Creed Schnee

Heather and I would like to thank Oahe Electric for the great gifts rewarded for the question of the month! All the items will be put to very good use with spring and summer activities rapidly approaching!! We look forward to each publication of the news letter and the interesting and entertaining information it provides.

Thank you,
Bill and Heather Harding

Dallas Heninger Memorial Bull Ride



Who's Graduating This Year?

We know we have many seniors graduating in the near future, and we want to hear from you! Send Oahe Electric a graduation announcement at PO Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522, and you might just receive something back!

Have a Successful Planting Season Rooted in Safety

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Oahe Electric urges them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks – helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating pre-planned routes that avoid hazard areas.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Oahe Electric for help. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives.

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Budget-friendly efficiency upgrades

There are two ways to measure energy efficiency improvements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EV REGISTRATIONS SEE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE



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

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

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



Stay away from power lines

Naomi Goldade

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

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

SUPER CASSEROLES

CHICKEN AND CHEESE CASSEROLE

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

METHOD

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

**Jeanette Kleinsasser,
Iroquois**

ONE DISH CHICKEN AND RICE

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

METHOD

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

Becky Walker, Sioux Falls

TUNA PASTA CASSEROLE

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

METHOD

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

familyfeatures.com

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

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

This month's question is: What is the deadline to sign up for this year's Auto Pay promotion?

Please submit your answer via email to oahe@oaheelectric.com with the subject line of "Question of the Month." A surprise gift will be sent to the winner!

WINNER OF QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The Question of the Month winners for the March 2022 publication were William and Heather Harding. They correctly answered the question "What are the sign up months for budget billing?"

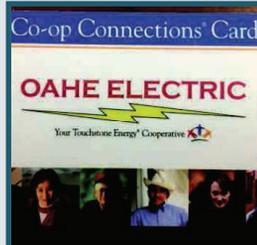
The answer was May and June.

Congratulations and we hope you enjoyed your prizes!

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!



Cooperative Connections Card Program Vendors

Automotive

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.

Food/Convenience Store

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.

Health/Fitness and Beauty

Anytime Fitness	605-224-4011	Pierre	Receive a free two-week mini-membership.
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Home/Garden

Slumberland Furniture	605-945-1997	Pierre	20% off any regular priced Lazy Boy items. Excluding special orders.
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Services

Inman's Water Technologies	605-224-5111	Pierre	Receive a 10% 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

Sports/Recreation

Teton River Traders Gun Shop LLC	605-224-1371	Ft. Pierre	2% discount. Payments made by credit cards do not qualify for discount.
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Retail

Fastenal	605-224-4060	Pierre	10% off of fasteners and 5% off on all other products
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GOATS STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT



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

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

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Matea Gordon's goats always keep her guessing.

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

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

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

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

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

The brother-sister duo are part of a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moose sees goat-breeding as a gift



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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, Moose can be contacted at 507.530.3175.



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FREE MONEY!



Valerie Marso
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From water heaters to irrigation systems, Oahe Electric offers rebates and incentives that will save our members money on products that can help them save time and energy. As a member-owned,

not-for-profit electric cooperative, we don't exist to make money from selling electricity. We exist to provide power at the lowest possible rate and we are committed to helping our members conserve energy and keep their money where it belongs – in their pockets. We achieve that goal through our load management program, energy efficiency incentives and rebate program.

A load management receiver is a device that controls the amount of electricity being used during times of peak demand in our service territory. Peak demand is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of members are using energy consuming devices (lights, water heaters, grain bin dryers, irrigation pivots, heating systems etc.) at the same time.

Submeters record usage for heating and air conditioning separately from all other usage in your home in order for it to be calculated at the reduced rate of 5.5 cents vs 9 cents per KWH. It is the members responsibility to request a submeter when qualifying equipment is installed and no adjustments will be made for usage not recorded with a submeter.

If you have purchased equipment that qualifies for our rebate program, please call the office and we will add you to the schedule

for sub-meter and/or load manager receiver installation and obtain the necessary information to complete the paperwork and issue rebate(s). We anticipate another very busy spring and construction season, so it will be imperative that you keep us informed of progress/completion of your project.

Below is a quick reference of our rebate and incentive programs available along with the qualifications. Please feel free to call us with any questions you have.

ELECTRIC HEATING SYSTEMS

All heating equipment must be new. Members are only eligible for rebates once every 10 years per structure.

1. Electric Furnace OR Electric Boiler OR Resistance Heat (8 kW minimum)

- 100 percent efficient
- \$200 Rebate
- 5.5 cents per kWh for heating usage

2. Air Source Heat Pump WITH Electric Furnace Backup

- 250 percent efficient
- \$600 Rebate
- 5.5 cents per kWh for heating and cooling usage
- Must be energy star rated and

have minimum 15 SEER /HSPF 8.2 rating

3. Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (Minisplit)

- 250 percent efficient
- \$300 Rebate
- 5.5 cents per kWh for heating and cooling usage
- Must be under two tons

4. Geothermal Source Heat Pump

- 350 percent efficient
- \$600 Rebate
- 5.5 cents per kWh for heating and cooling usage

SUB METERS

All electric heating systems will have their usage recorded by a sub-meter. Oahe Electric must be notified by member or electrician of the need for sub-meter installation.

- Sub-meter must be installed on the outside of the structure
- If breaker to sub-meter is turned off, all usage will be billed at the regular rate of 9 cents per kWh, instead of the reduced rate of 5.5 cents per kWh

WATER HEATERS

All water heaters must have a lifetime warranty (i.e.- Marathon or Westinghouse), have a minimum of 50-gallon capacity, and be controlled by load management. Members are only eligible for rebates once every 10 years per structure.

- \$6 per gallon rebate
- \$4 monthly bill credit

COMMERCIAL LIGHTING

Commercial accounts are eligible when replacing less efficient lighting with more efficient lighting. Must have a minimum of 250 watts in lighting reduction to qualify.

- 20 cents per watt reduction
- Maximum payment per structure is \$1,000

THIRD-PARTY IRRIGATION AND/OR GRAIN DRYER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Must be able to receive notice regarding load control via email, text or voice with less than a 15-minute delay. Also must provide Oahe Electric with customer bypass information.

- One-time, \$750 rebate per device
- If member discontinues third-party control within five years and requests a cooperative control be reinstalled, member is required to pay for a new load management receiver, up to \$500

Oahe Awards \$7,000 in Scholarships

Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. has awarded Jenna Bush a \$2,000 scholarship, which is funded by Oahe Electric and Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, N.D., and is for use during the 2022-2023 school year.



Jenna Bush

Jenna is a senior at T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre. Some of the activities she participates in are volleyball, basketball, track and field, dance and trap shooting, as well as many other community involvement activities. She plans on attending South Dakota State University, majoring in human biology, after which she will be going on to pursue a degree in optometry. She is the daughter of Jeff and Michele of Pierre. Congratulations Jenna, keep up the great work!

In addition to the \$2,000 scholarship with Basin Electric, Oahe Electric also awarded five \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships were awarded to Ela Petersen, Lucas Schwarz, Matthew King, Creed Schnee and Ashton Lee, all seniors at T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre.

Ela is involved in dance, Gov2Gov leadership and mentoring program, FBLA, and student council, as well as many community outreach programs. Her intention is to attend Lake Area Technical College and study business entrepreneurship and photography.



Ela Petersen

Ela is the daughter of Chris and Josie Petersen of Pierre. Congratulations Ela, we wish you the best of luck in your career goals!

Lucas participates in Judo, FTC and 4-H fundraising, and volunteers at Feeding South Dakota. He plans on attending the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to obtain an engineering degree. Lucas is the son of Matt and Clare Schwarz of Pierre.

Congratulations Lucas, we hope you realize your dreams and find much success!

Matthew has participated in wrestling and spends his extracurricular time working at CAT/Butler Machinery and participating in his church's mission trips to Mexico. Matthew plans on Lake Area Technical College in their ThinkBig program, where he will get his associate of applied science degree upon graduation. Matthew is the son of Thomas and Maria King of Pierre.



Matthew King

Congratulations Matthew and good luck achieving your goals, we

wish you the best of luck on your journey!



Creed Schnee

Creed spends his time outside of school with the Rotary Club. Creed plans on attending the School of Mines and Technology where he will major in mechanical engineering. He is the son of Heath and Lana of Pierre.

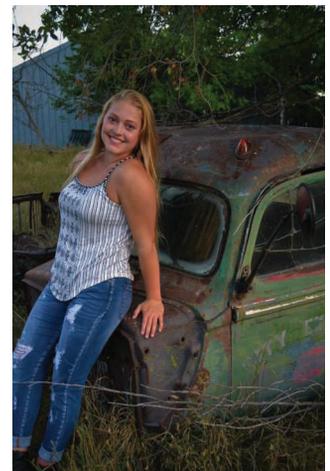
Congratulations on your achievements Creed, and best of luck with your future goals!

Ashton has been involved in FBLA, Gov2Gov leadership and

mentoring program and hockey, both as a peewee coach and as a captain for her team. Her plan is to attend Jamestown University, play hockey and study kinesiology and physical therapy, after which she will move on to a school in Fargo to receive her D.P.T. Ashton is the daughter of Levi and Loni Stewart of Pierre.

Congratulations Ashton, we wish you the best of luck in achieving your ambitions!

Ashton Lee



THE POWER OF LOAD MANAGEMENT

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

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

Billy Gibson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



NATIVE SPECIES GARDENING

Southeastern Electric member Sue Nipe of Sioux Falls puts in a lot of work tending to her native species garden but also receives many rewards for her efforts. *Photos by Brett Snyders*

Native species gardens are good for the environment, diet and soul

Billy Gibson

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If you're a big fan of grass, you might not be too impressed with Sue Nipe's yard. That's because there's isn't a blade of grass to be found.

Nipe lives in a conventional middle-class subdivision in southeast Sioux Falls, but there's nothing conventional about her yard. She's a huge proponent and practitioner of native species gardening and her property stands out prominently from all the rest.

Diagnosed with celiac disease in 2013, Nipe decided to focus on eating healthy and growing much of her own food right there on her own plot of

suburban ground. She decided to pull out all the grass and weeds by their roots, plant some vegetables and herbs - along with a smattering of ornamentals - and before long her corner lot was bursting with native species from porch to curb.

Her key to maintaining a thriving native species garden? Well, there are several, but mulch appears somewhere at the top of the list. Ecologically friendly wood mulch, she explained, is necessary to keeping the weeds out and locking in the moisture.

"I put mulch around everything," Nipe said, noting that she purchased 150 bags of wood mulch last year and had just one weed-pulling session over

the entire spring and summer seasons

"Some try to use small rocks but most of the time they have them removed because during the summer they heat up and burn the plants from the bottom up," she cautioned.

Nipe said native species gardens are in many ways easier to maintain than exotics and are better for the local ecosystem because the plants have adapted to the climate and soil conditions over many generations, are largely resistant to pests and fit into the natural landscape both ecologically and aesthetically.

They are also better at preventing soil erosion, they help reduce air pollution in the local area, use less water, and they provide nectar, pollen and seeds for native butterflies, insects and birds to munch.



A visitor would be hard-pressed to find a blade of grass in Nipe's home landscape.

Moreau-Grand Electric member Doug Hofer is a horticulture teacher at the Cheyenne River School System in Eagle Butte. He said teaching students about the benefits of cultivating native species is important to the preservation and conservation of the landscape.

He uses the school's well equipped greenhouse to teach his students about the fundamentals of horticulture, including vegetables, ornamentals,

succulents and herbs. Toward the end of each semester, the students are instructed to choose a native species that they can find and identify on the prairie, conduct some research and produce a slide show on the topic. They also sell their plants at local markets in the spring and donate their proceeds to their FFA chapter.

Hofer also teaches a class on wildlife and fisheries at the school.

"Everything with the environment and landscape all tie in together," he said. "I think students need to learn about native species and working with those plants that have adapted to our climate and thrive in our part of the world. We also talk about how these plants and herbs have been cultivated and used by people who have inhabited the Great Plains for hundreds and thousands of years."

Studer named winner of TSE's Distinguished Service Award



East River Electric's Chief Member and Public Relations Officer Chris Studer has been named the 2022 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Distinguished Service Award recipient. Touchstone Energy Board President Deb Mirasola presented Studer with the award at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in Nashville.

Studer was honored for promoting the cooperative difference and helping Touchstone Energy evolve into a strong brand with more than 650 members in 46 states.

"Chris exemplifies the values of our brand and provides unwavering support to his member systems and local community," Mirasola said.

PHOTO CONTEST: WINTER IN JULY

By the time the summer heat sets in, many South Dakotans will be looking back with fond memories of the winter season.

Readers of Cooperative Connections are invited to send us a photo of your favorite experience from the winter of 2022. The top selected photos will be published in the July edition. A \$50 gift certificate will go to the winning photographer.

Send your photo to billy.gibson@sdrea.coop with the subject line "Winter Memories." File format should be jpeg, PNG or PDF.

The deadline to enter is May 20. Good luck to all contestants.



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

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



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

APRIL 22-24
36th Annual Korkow Ranch Rodeo School
 Korkow Ranch, Pierre, SD, 605-224-5607

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

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

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

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

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

MAY 3-8
Come From Away
 Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, www.washingtonpavilion.org/event/come-away

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUNE 3-5
Lake Andes Fish Days
 Citywide, Lake Andes, SD, 605-487-7694

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