

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Mammoth Discovery

Coal Miner Finds  
Mammoth Tusk

Pages 8-9

A Golden Harvest

Pages 12-13



# Sweet Summertime!



**Jordan Lamb**  
Chief Executive Officer

Time can slow down this summer! Oahe Electric crews are working on several grant projects we were awarded and are pleased to share one of them with you! We recently installed a DC Fast Charger at 1 Stop Travel Plaza east of Pierre, S.D. This charger has the capability to charge an electric vehicle in approximately 15 minutes depending on the vehicle's battery size. The brand of the charger is an enel x and can charge two vehicles simultaneously.



Recently, Oahe Electric linemen also participated in pole-top and bucket rescue training. The exercise is meant to train linemen on how to safely lower an injured co-worker from the top of a pole to the ground. Oahe Electric linemen perform pole-top and bucket rescue drills once a year.

One-by-one the linemen test their skills on how quickly they can strap on their climbing gear, climb a 35-foot pole and safely rescue a 175-pound dummy. The dummy must be secured with a rope before being safely lowered to the ground where co-workers are prepared to provide emergency first aid care until emergency medical professional arrive on scene to take over.



Bucket rescue training involves taking over the controls on the body of the truck and bringing the lineman to the ground safely.

Pole top and bucket rescue are an essential part of the safety training at Oahe Electric – safely rescuing a fellow lineman could mean the difference between

life and death. Pole-top and bucket rescue training and other safety training ensure our linemen and other employees are constantly reminded of the safety aspect of their job and the importance of using equipment in the safest manner possible.

Several members have recently contacted poles with farm equipment. In the event you happen to clip a pole or a line, please let us know immediately so we can fix the potential problem that can lead to outages or even injury. Equipment that typically hits line or poles includes spray planes, planters, combines (top of machine), combine heads, sprayers and grain drills. This photo pictures a recent incident in Canada. If you do happen to hit a pole with equipment, and a line falls on your equipment, **STAY IN THE CAB**. Electrocutation happens when your foot touches the ground while your hand is still grasping the ladder. If the machine starts on fire, jump off the machine, as far as possible, as the machine could be energized. "Hop" with two feet together until clear of the fall range of the line.



Oahe recently had discussions with WAPA and SPP regarding resource adequacy for the summer months. Drought in the southwest desert region creating lack of water replenishment has caused pricing in the southern footprint of SPP to increase in market pricing whether real time or day ahead. We continue to monitor these concerns and remediate with new generation and transmission assets. As part of this, Basin Electric Cooperative, our generation cooperative, declared the build of a new 1400 MW

**COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS**

**OaHE ELECTRIC**

(USPS No. 019-042)

**Board of Directors:**

- James Feller – Assistant Secretary  
605.962.6207
- Brandon Haag – President  
605.215.6758
- Ryan Noyes – Treasurer  
605.280.3500
- Ross Sperry – Secretary  
605.280.7770
- Kirk Yackley – Vice President  
605.258.2412

**Employees:**

- Tyler Arbach – Journeyman Lineman
- Austin Bergeson – Journeyman Lineman
- Mark Bruning – Line Foreman
- Matt Eldridge – Chief Operations Officer
- Trudie Feldman – Custodian
- Brady Gaer – Journeyman Lineman
- Sidney Geigle – Journeyman Lineman
- Sam Irvine – Executive Services Specialist
- Megan Jaeger – Membership Director
- Les Job – Journeyman Lineman
- Jordan Lamb – Chief Executive Officer
- Dan Lettau – Journeyman Lineman
- Steve Long – Power Supply Specialist
- Valerie Marso – Chief Financial Officer
- Tory Smith – Journeyman Lineman

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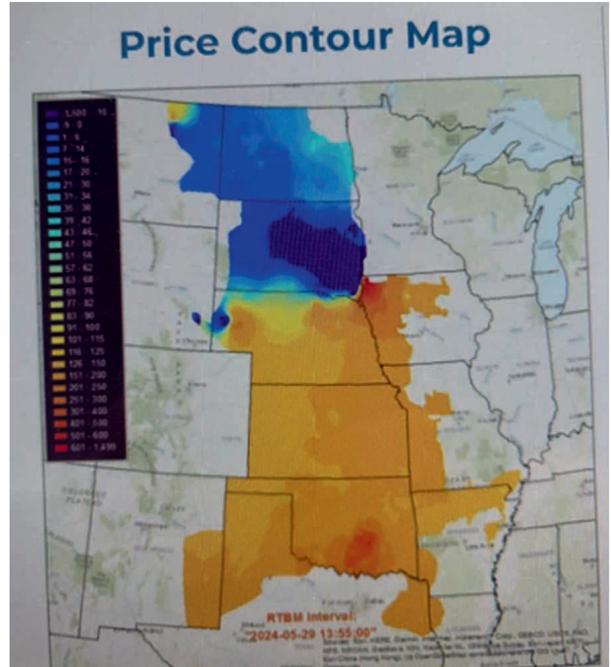
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**Our Mission**

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.

**Sweet Summertime, Continued**

natural gas generation facility in western North Dakota. We are also pursuing research in small modular reactors (SMRs) that are micro nuclear plants with deployment timelines of 18-24 months. Pricing in red/yellow represents higher electricity pricing, pricing shown in purple and blue represents lower.



Also in this newsletter, you will see the board of directors voted unanimously to propose a bylaw change that would set up two districts from which each director can be elected from. The board's goal

in this proposal is to ensure that there continues to be equitable representation of the members on the board of directors as the cooperative continues to change and grow. For that same reason, the board is also proposing that an additional director be added, increasing the number of directors on the board from five to six. Each district would then have an equal number of directors on the board. It is important to the cooperative that each member has a voice. If you have any questions regarding these changes, you can contact any of your directors. They would be happy to discuss it with you.

I hope you have a great July and I look forward to updating you all with the happenings at Oahe again in August!

God Bless our Members!

-Jordan

**Statement of Non-Discrimination**

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](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.

# Extreme Heat Preparation

### Learn How to Stay Hydrated

You need to drink enough water to prevent heat illness. An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of water daily. Everyone's needs may vary.

- You can check that you are getting enough water by noting your urine color. Dark yellow may indicate you are not drinking enough.
- Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- If you are sweating a lot, combine water with snacks or a sports drink to replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prepare if you have a medical condition or are taking medicines.

### Make a Plan to Stay Cool

Do not rely only on electric fans during extreme heat. When temperatures are in the high 90s, fans may not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

- Spending a few hours each day in air conditioning can help prevent heat illness.
  - If you have air conditioning, be sure that it is in working order.
  - If you do not have air conditioning or if there is a power outage, find locations where you can stay cool. For example, a public library, shopping mall or a public cooling center. Plan how you will get there.
  - Additional resources may be available from local government or community groups.
- Make sure you have plenty of lightweight, loose clothing to wear.
- Create a support team of people you may assist and who can assist you. Check in with them often to make sure that everyone is safe.

### Learn Emergency Skills

- Learn how to recognize and respond to heat illness.
- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power. Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power.

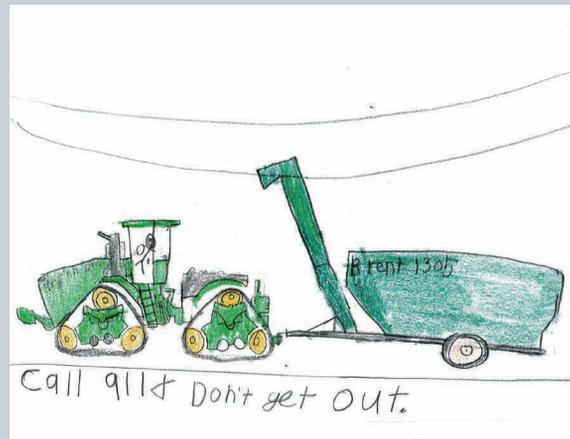
### Gather Emergency Supplies

- Gather food, water and medicine. Stores might be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home

Kit. In the event of a power outage, you may lose access to clean drinking water. Set aside at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Consider adding drinks with electrolytes. Include sunscreen and wide-brimmed hats.

- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies.
- Have a one-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.
- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up)
- Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

*Source: American Red Cross*



### Power Line Safety "Call 911 and Don't Get Out"

#### Hobie Klein, Age 12

Hobie Klein warns farmers to call 911 and don't get out of the tractor if contact is made with a power line. Hobie's parents are Dean and Karey Klein, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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

# Summer SALADS

## MOM'S VEGETABLE SALAD

### Ingredients:

#### Salad

2 cans diced carrots  
1 can green beans  
1 can yellow beans  
1 small can peas  
1 can cut baby corn

*Drain all the vegetables*

#### Add

1/2 cup diced green pepper  
1 cup diced celery  
1 diced medium onion

#### Dressing

Combine in a saucepan  
1/2 cup oil  
1 1/3 cup sugar  
1/3 cup white vinegar  
1/3 cup cider vinegar  
2 Tbsp water

*Combine in a saucepan and boil until clear*

### Method

Pour dressing over vegetables and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Keeps for a week.

**Debra Clow**  
Harrisburg, S.D.

## FRESH SUMMER SALAD

### Ingredients:

3 tbsps. olive oil, divided  
1 tbsp. lime juice  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1 1/5 cups fresh corn or thawed frozen corn  
1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved  
1/2 cup cucumber, finely chopped  
2 tbsp. fresh basil, minced  
1/3 cup crumbled Feta cheese or Parmesan cheese  
1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar or Italian salad dressing

### Method

Mix 2 tablespoons of oil, lime juice and salt in a small bowl. Cook corn in a skillet with remaining 1 tbsp. oil. Pour corn into bowl, cool slightly. Add tomatoes, cucumber and basil. Refrigerate. Before serving, drizzle with dressing, cheese and balsamic vinegar or Italian dressing.

**Barb Selland**  
Mitchell, S.D.

## CHICKEN SALAD

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt  
2 tbsps. mayonnaise  
1 tsp. parsley flakes  
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt  
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper  
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)  
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery  
1/4 cup chopped red onion

### Method

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.

[McCormick.com](http://McCormick.com)

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Cooperative Connections Card Program Vendors

### Automotive

<b>Graham Tire Company</b>	605-224-8643	Pierre	Receive a 10% discount on regularly priced service work. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
<b>Lamb Motor Company</b>	800-952-2222	Onida	Receive a free alignment check with the purchase of 4 new tires.
<b>Napa Auto and Truck Parts/Farnam's Genuine Parts, Inc.</b>	605-224-8624	Pierre	Receive 10-50% off retail price.

### Food/Convenience Store

<b>Branding Iron Bistro</b>	605-494-3333	Pierre	Enjoy \$1 off your order. Limit one per visit.
<b>Grey Goose Store</b>	605-945-0794	Pierre	Receive a free 20 oz. fountain soda or coffee with the minimum of a \$30 gas or diesel purchase.
<b>The Corner</b>	605-258-2400	Onida	Buy one breakfast sandwich at regular price, get second half off.

### Health/Fitness and Beauty

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

<b>Slumberland Furniture</b>	605-945-1997	Pierre	\$100 off a single item of \$599.99 or more. Some exclusions apply. See store for details.
<b>Lee Real Estate</b>	605-222-6003	Perre	Receive a FREE Comparable Market Analysis for real estate properties, which gives members current market values for home, land and commercial properties.

### Services

<b>Inman's Water Technologies</b>	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.
<b>Olson Plumbing Inc.</b>	605-224-6436	Pierre	\$50 discount on any electric boiler, Marathon water heater, or fireplace
<b>Small Engine House</b>	605-224-5815	Pierre	10% off parts and labor

### Sports/Recreation

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

<b>Fastenal</b>	605-224-4060	Pierre	10% off of fasteners and 5% off on all other products
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# Don't Let Your Finances Take a Summer Vacation



**Valerie Marso**  
Chief Financial Officer

Sweet summertime is finally here – my favorite. Vacations, boating, waterparks, camping, concerts, fireworks and more – translation, bye-bye money! So, in order to do the fun stuff, finding ways to save money and finding a steal of a deal become important!

If you're like me, there are things in your life that are routine. Get ready for work, get in your car, drive to the coffee shop on the way to the office. At lunchtime, drive to the nearest fast-food location and grab a quick bite. Once finally at home, stream an episode or two of your favorite show before bed.

Now as you look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, think about your daily routine and how much value it provided compared to the money spent. A morning latte costs about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink will set you back \$10, and a Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses total around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. And what is the real value – short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline?

The average daily cost of residential electricity is about \$4.57 and the average monthly electric bill for members of Oahe Electric is \$140. You could power your entire home every day for the price of that

medium latte. Brew your own coffee at home. You can even get the fancy stuff and still make it for a fraction of the price. Cook your own meals -watch for sales and do meal planning to make the most out of your groceries. Now we are talking about some real value!

Electricity provides things that we often take for granted. It goes beyond allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Electricity has remained relatively cost-stable even amidst rising inflation.

Oahe Electric does everything in our means to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value. It's not always easy, – some things are within our control, but many are not, such as cost of materials, interest rates, government policy and weather.

We consider all aspects when adjusting rates and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

We rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses and we need it to be reliable and affordable. We work each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money so you can focus on other things. Like having a fun filled summer!

## Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power



*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*

# Mammoth Discovery

**Shannon Marvel**

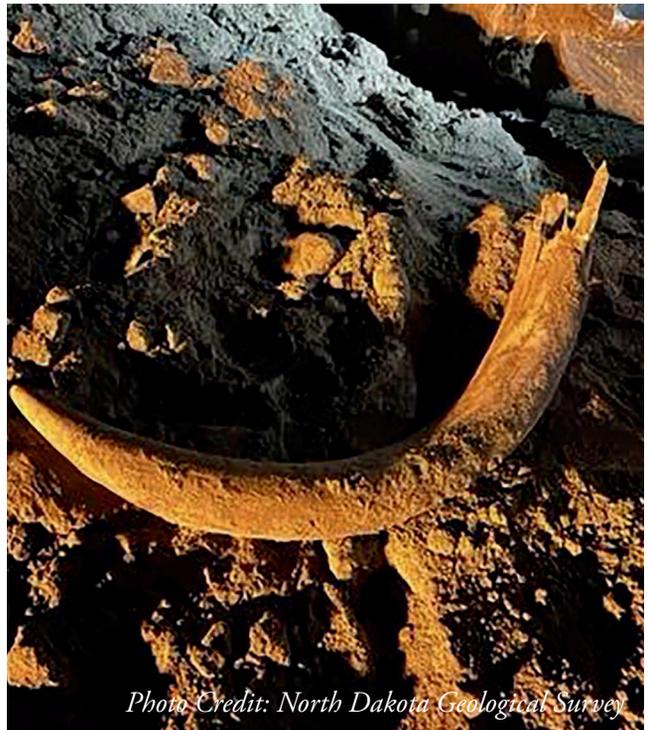
shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Over Memorial Day of 2023, a coal miner made a historic discovery at the Freedom Mine in North Dakota.

“The shovel operator just happened to take a scoop that had a complete mammoth tusk,” said Jeff Person, a paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey.

“The tusk was about seven-foot-long. That shovel must’ve picked it up just perfectly to not damage or break it. The driver reported the find to his superiors at the Freedom Mine, who then contacted us,” Person said.

The tusk was found in an old streambed. Other fossils



*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*

were found in the streambed, including “more than twenty bones from the skeleton, including ribs, a shoulder blade a tooth and parts of the hips,” according to a news release.

“Most of the mammoth fossils known from North Dakota are isolated bones and teeth,” stated Clint Boyd, Senior Paleontologist for the North Dakota Geological Survey, in the news release. “This specimen is one of the most complete mammoth skeletons discovered in North Dakota, making it an exciting and scientifically important discovery.”

The bones were sent off to the Paleontology Lab at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck to undergo extensive cleaning before being prepped to be dried out, which requires that the bones be

wrapped in plastic.

It could take up to another year for the bones to be dried out enough to be taken out of the plastic wrap, Person said.

At that point, the bones will be the focus of scientific research, he said.

According to the news release, “mammoths lived in North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, commonly called the Ice Age, and went extinct in this area around 10,000 years ago. Several species of mammoth lived in North America, including the Woolly Mammoth and the Columbian Mammoth. They lived alongside other iconic animals like saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Once the bones are fully cleaned, paleontologists will be able to identify which species was collected from the mine.”



*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*

## OUTAGE AND LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

If someone in your household depends on in-home life support equipment, please notify us immediately. Oahe Electric maintains a record of members who use devices such as respirators, supplemental oxygen, heart assistance devices, etc. These consumers are high priority during power restoration.

Because we cannot guarantee uninterrupted service, we strongly recommend these consumers have a backup power source and an emergency plan for extended power outages.

Members with special life-support needs should contact our office at 1-800-640-6243 and inform us of their situation so they can be included on our list.

## COVE HEAT SALE

Oahe Electric is offering great deals on our remaining Cove Heat inventory!

Call 1-800-640-6243 today to learn more!

## Bylaw Amendment

If you have any questions about the proposed bylaw amendment that will be voted on at your annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 21, please contact one of your directors. They would be happy to discuss it with you!

# Oahe Electric Director Elections to be Held

The annual meeting of the members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held on Sept. 21, 2024.

During the annual meeting, the members present will be electing two board members to fill two, three-year position. Any individual who satisfies the qualifications and complies with the nominating procedures set forth below, should be prepared to serve a minimum of 24 to 36 days per year attending meetings on behalf of the cooperative.

Petitions are available at the headquarters in Blunt.

Should there be any questions concerning the bylaw procedures or if you would like to request a petition, feel free to call or stop in at the office. Petitions are due by **Aug. 7, 2024**.

## Bylaws Governing Election of Directors

### Section 3 - Qualifications:

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who: (A) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative; or (B) is in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electrical or plumbing fixtures or supplies to members of the Cooperative; or (C) is an employee of the Cooperative.

Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors, by official motion shall remove such director from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatever the validity of any action taken at any meetings of the Board of Directors.

### Section 4 - Nominations:

Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make nominations by petition not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the principal office of the Cooperative. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting at statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by petition. There shall be no nominations from the floor unless no petition has been filed for a vacancy. In that event only, nominations shall be taken from the floor for that vacancy, and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nomination has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to action of the Board of Directors, the following proposed bylaw amendments and additions will be presented at and voted upon at the Annual Membership Meeting to be held on September 21, 2024, with the drive thru commencing at the hour of 3:00 o'clock P.M. CST and continuing until 5:00 o'clock P.M. CST in the Cities of Pierre, Onida, and Blunt, South Dakota, with the meeting to continue in-person at the Sully Buttes High School in the City of Onida, South Dakota beginning at 5:15 o'clock P.M. CST:

It is proposed that Article IV, Section 1 be amended to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE IV: DIRECTORS**

Section 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of six (6) Directors which shall exercise all the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law, the Articles of Conversion, or these Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the Members.

Explanation by Legal Counsel: This is a Bylaw Amendment proposal made by the Board of Directors. This Amendment increases the amount of Directors from five to six. This amendment is proposed due to the recent and projected future growth of the Cooperative.

It is proposed that a new section, and all following sections be renumbered accordingly, be added to Article IV to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE IV: DIRECTORS**

Section 2. Director Zones. For the purpose of election and qualification of Directors, the area comprising Oahe Cooperative, Inc.'s territory shall be divided into two zones from which Directors of the Cooperative shall be elected as follows:

1. Zone 1 shall consist of Sully County and Hughes County, less and except the area described in Zone 2, and any adjacent territory to which service is extended and which is not in any other zone and shall be entitled to three Directors.
2. Zone 2 shall consist of the area south of the north Hughes County line and west of 296th Ave. extended to the Missouri River and any adjacent territory to which service is extended and which is not in any other zone and shall be entitled to three Directors.

In the event the territory of the Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. should be enlarged in the future, the enlarged portion shall become part of the zone numbered from one to two as above described with the exterior boundary of which it has the greatest distance of its own exterior boundary contiguous.

Explanation by Legal Counsel: This is a Bylaw Amendment proposal made by the Board of Directors. This proposal would add Director Zones from which each Director can be elected. At this time all Directors are At-large, which means that they are not elected from designated locations. This addition to the Bylaws ensures all areas of the Cooperative have equitable representation on the Board of Directors.

It is proposed that Article III, Section 2 be amended to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE III: MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Members may be called by resolution of the Board of Directors, or upon a written request signed by any four (4) Directors, by the Board President, or by twenty per centum (20%) or more of all the Members, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Board Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. Special meetings of the Members may be held at any place within the Counties of Hughes and Sully, State of South Dakota, specified in the notice of the special meeting.

Explanation by Legal Counsel: This is a Bylaw Amendment proposal made by the Board of Directors. This amendment is proposed due to the previously listed amendment which increased the amount of Directors from five to six. This amendment increases the amount of Directors needed to sign a written request for a calling of a special meeting from three to four, which would be the majority of the new Board of six Directors.

It is proposed that Article V, Section 2 be amended to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE III: MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS**

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be held without notice immediately after, and at the same place as the annual meeting of the Members, for the purpose of organization and such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Board President or any four (4) Directors, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Board Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. The Board President or the Directors calling the meeting shall fix the time and place (which shall be anywhere in the United States) for holding of the meeting.

Explanation by Legal Counsel: This is a Bylaw Amendment proposal made by the Board of Directors. This amendment is proposed due to the previously listed amendment which increased the amount of Directors from five to six. This amendment increases the amount of Directors needed to call a special meeting of the Board of Directors from three to four, which would be the majority of the new Board of six Directors.



# A GOLDEN HARVEST

## The Buzz Behind Adee Honey Farms

**Frank Turner**

[frank.turner@sdrea.coop](mailto:frank.turner@sdrea.coop)

Three generations ago, the Adee family learned that a tumultuous time can lead to significant opportunity. During the 1930s, the Great Depression wreaked havoc on small rural communities and the agricultural industry. The value of crops and livestock plummeted, and the land became arid.

These hard times impacted many in the Midwest, including Vernon Adee, a rural teacher and rancher in Nebraska. Vernon needed a new way to provide for his family, and a letter from his brother held the answer: “I can’t sell chickens or hogs, but I’m doing well with honey. Be advised: Get a beehive.”

Following his brother’s advice, Vernon attended a foreclosure auction and purchased his first beehive. The decision to begin

beekeeping would inspire several more generations of the Adee family to continue in the trade.

Wanting to start their own operation, Vernon’s sons, Richard and Stanley, purchased a retiring beekeeper’s business through a trade magazine advertisement in 1957. Located in Bruce, South Dakota, the business included 1,500 hives and a breeding yard in Woodville, Mississippi. The acquisition marked the beginning of Adee Honey Farms, and what began as a small family farm quickly grew into the largest beekeeping operation in the country. Today, Adee Honey Farms supports more than 80,000 colonies and nearly 70 full-time employees.

“It started with survival and eventually became a family business,” said Bret Adee, Vernon’s grandson and the owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms. “I can remember being four or five years old and being in the field with my dad, holding the smoker and helping where I could. By the time I was in elementary school, I was loading trucks and moving boxes in the warehouse. Like anyone who grew up on a farm, I was involved in the family business by the time I could walk.”

From a young age, Bret has held a deep love and appreciation for the honey bee. The insect’s ability to cooperate and produce golden treasure while benefiting plants, crops, and the ecosystem at large makes them a unique livestock, unlike any other.

“To watch a hive grow and forage, and by the end of the summer make up to 150 pounds of honey – it’s just so exciting,”

said Bret. “It’s the dynamics of the biology that keeps it interesting.”

Right now, Adee Honey Farms is engaged in honey production in the Midwest, with their bees spread across South Dakota and the west edge of Minnesota and the south edge of North Dakota. Around the first week of August, Bret’s business will start the honey harvest, an event that can last until the first frost or even longer. For now, Bret said this year is shaping up to be a good season for honey production.

“It’s early, but I’m optimistic. The years when there is a lot of clover are the years that beekeepers do well,” said Bret. “We had a wet enough fall that enough clover germinated. We can always lose that to a hot dry wind... but we are optimistic right now.”

But bees aren’t just used to make honey; they also have hand in pollinating crops across the country. More than a neat fact, it’s also the second half of the beekeeping industry. The mere presence of honey bees can increase yields for crops such as alfalfa and sunflowers by up to 20 to 30 percent, depending on the variety of crop. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollination is responsible for more than \$18 billion in added revenue to crop production in the country.

Once the honey harvest is over, the bees will be loaded onto a truck to tour the country, traveling from the Dakotas to California and later to Texas in search of favorable weather and crops to pollinate. In fact, crop yields from California almond trees and apple trees are almost totally dependent on pollination from bees, enticing farmers from across the country to welcome

bees onto their land. Everyone benefits – even bees.

“It’s a win for the consumer who gets to eat the honey. It’s a win for the landowner who has the bees on his land, and if everything goes right, it’s good for the beekeeper’s family too,” said Bret.



Bret Adee, owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms, is a third-generation beekeeper in the Adee family. Photos courtesy of Adee Honey Farms.



## FOOD TRUCKS



*Photos Courtesy of Karli Hinds*

# Food Trucks

## How Karli Hinds Jumped Into the Business

**Shannon Marvel**

shannon.marvel@sdea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**- Karli Hinds**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hinds rotates between eight or so different food themes.

“Once in a while I come

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## REGISTER TO WIN!

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**AUG. 2-11**  
**Sturgis Motorcycle Rally**  
Sturgis, SD  
[www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com](http://www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com)

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.

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

**AUG. 3**  
**Prairie Fest**  
Armour, SD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**AUG. 20-22**  
**Dakotafest**  
Mitchell, SD

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

**AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2**  
**South Dakota State Fair**  
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
State Fairgrounds  
Huron, SD  
[www.SDStateFair.com](http://www.SDStateFair.com)

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

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

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

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

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