

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Crisp Breezes and Corn Mazes

Autumn Family Fun
Pages 8-9

Rodeo Champions
Pages 12-13

Go Above and Beyond for a Safe Harvest



Matt Eldridge
Chief Operations
Officer

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. However, even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant. That's because farming is considered one of the most dangerous jobs.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size, height and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farm workers can overlook the power lines overhead. However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

360 Awareness

Awareness of your surroundings, around, above and below, and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's

location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground powerlines, defective wiring in farm buildings and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used. If you plan to install new grain bins or you're concerned about the proximity of power lines to existing grain bins, contact Oahe Electric.

Smart Harvest Safety Tips

To ensure a safer harvest season, SafeElectricity.org recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- **Exercise caution near power lines.** Be careful when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- **Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines.** Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.
- **Lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators before moving or transporting equipment.** Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- **Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path.** Doing so could result in electric shock or death.
- **Avoid using metal poles inside bins.** Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside or around bins.
- **Hire qualified electricians.** Ensure that qualified electricians handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. However, if it happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

1. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.



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

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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

OAHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, 102 S. Canford, Blunt, SD 57522, for its members. Families subscribe to Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to Oahe Electric Cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living. Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Blunt, SD 57522 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522-0216; telephone (605) 962-6243; fax (605) 962-6306; e-mail oahe@oaheelectric.com; www.oaheelectric.com

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.

Lineman's Lense

A phase floater malfunctioned and burned through the pole, resulting in an outage. Prior to this, the phase floater caused intermittent blinking lights in the area.

Occasionally, identifying the cause of outages isn't as easy as spotting a downed wire or pole!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep you home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.

WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS

Each year in the United States, there are about 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes and about 300 people struck by lightning. Of those struck, about 30 people are killed and others suffer lifelong disabilities. Most of these tragedies can be prevented. When thunderstorms threaten, get inside a building with plumbing and electricity, or a hard-topped metal vehicle!

The National Weather Service collects information on weather-related deaths to learn how to prevent these tragedies. Many lightning victims say they were “caught” outside in the storm and couldn’t get to a safe place. Other victims simply waited too long before seeking shelter. With proper planning, similar tragedies can be avoided.

Some people were struck because they went back outside too soon. Stay inside a safe building or vehicle for at least 30 minutes after you hear the last thunder. While 30 minutes may seem like a long time, it is necessary to be safe.

Finally, some victims were struck inside homes or buildings while they were using electrical equipment or corded phones. Others were in contact with plumbing, outside doors, or window frames. Avoid contact with these electrical conductors when a thunderstorm is nearby.

AVOID THE LIGHTNING THREAT

- **Have a lightning safety plan.** Know where you’ll go for safety and ensure you’ll have enough time to get there.
- **Postpone activities.** Consider postponing activities if thunderstorms are forecasted.
- **Monitor the weather.** Once outside, look for signs of a developing or approaching thunderstorm such as towering clouds, darkening skies, or flashes of lightning.

- **Get to a safe place.** If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, seek safety immediately. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing are best. A hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed is also safe. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning.
- **If you hear thunder, don’t use a corded phone except in an emergency.** Cordless phones and cell phones are safe to use.
- **Keep away from electrical equipment and plumbing.** Lightning can travel through the wiring and plumbing if your building is struck. Don’t take a bath or shower, or wash dishes during a storm.

Source: National Weather Service



Power Line Safety “Don’t Fly Kites Close to Power Lines”

Lillee Pannell, Age 11

Lillee Pannell cautions kite flyers to be careful around power lines. Great advice, Lillee! Hobie’s parents are Scottie and Kimberly Pannell, members of Southeastern 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.

Summertime SWEETS

SUMMER FRUIT TART

Ingredients:

1 refrigerated pie crust
1 egg white, lightly beaten
1/3 cup sugar
2 tbsps. cornstarch
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ginger
2 cups sliced peeled peaches,
(about 3 peaches)
1 cup blueberries
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Method

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Prepare crust as directed on package. Place on foil-lined 12-inch pizza pan. If necessary, press out any folds or creases. Brush crust with about 1/2 of the beaten egg white. Mix sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon and ginger in medium bowl. Add fruit and vanilla; toss gently. Spoon into center of crust, spreading to within 2 inches of edges. Fold 2-inch edge of crust up over fruit, pleating or folding crust as needed. Brush crust with remaining egg white. Bake 20 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Cool slightly before serving.

McCormick

RHUBARB PIE

Crust

1-2 cups flour
1/2 stick butter or margarine
1/4 cup water

Add ingredients and knead to complete a pie crust. Amounts will vary due to humidity. Knead dough into pie pan and poke holes into the bottom as needed. You may make creative edges as you wish, however it is not necessary.

Pie

3 tbsps. butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
3 eggs, separated
2 tbsps. flour
1/8 tsp. salt
2 1/2 cups rhubarb
Smucker's Caramel Sundae
Syrup

Soften butter or margarine and stir together with the sugar, egg yolks, flour and salt. Beat egg whites until stiff. Add rhubarb and fold in the egg whites. Add the filling to the 8-inch unbaked pie crust. You may add a drizzle of Smucker's sundae syrup for additional flavoring before baking. Bake in oven set at 400 degrees until golden brown. You may also add more Caramel syrup to pie after baking for ultimate effect.

**Lisa Soukup (Kummer)
Tea, S.D.**

PEACH DELIGHT

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter, melted
1 3/4 cups flour
Pinch of salt
2 tbsps. sugar
2 cups water
2 cups sugar
4 tbsps. cornstarch
3 oz. package peach jello
1 tbsp. butter
10 fresh peaches

Method

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine butter, flour, salt and 2 tbsps. sugar. Mix and pat in 9x13 inch pan which has been sprayed with Pam. Bake for 15 minutes. Let cool when done baking. Combine 2 cups sugar and 2 cups water. Whisk in 4 tbsps. cornstarch until smooth. Cook until thickened in the microwave – stirring often. Remove from microwave and add 1 tbsp. butter and package of peach jello (do not add any water). Stir until dissolved and let cool. While cooling, dip fresh peaches in hot water and plunge in cold water bath. Remove skins and pits. Place back in cold water until all peaches are peeled. Drain peaches, slice into bite size pieces and mix into cooled peach glaze. Carefully pour the glaze over the crust and chill until firmly set. May be served with whip cream. You can substitute strawberry jello and sliced strawberries in place of the peaches. This makes a delicious cool summer dessert.

**Shirley Fletcher
Rapid City, S.D.**

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.

Official Notice

Annual Meeting of the Members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The annual meeting of the members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Sully Buttes High School in Onida, SD, as well as drive thru locations in Blunt, SD and Pierre, SD, from 3 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. on September 21, 2024, to take action on the following matters:

1. Review of the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Presentation and consideration of reports, officers, directors and committees.
3. Election of directors.

In conjunction with the election of directors, for two terms of three years, the following members have been nominated for director by petition, pursuant to the bylaws:

For term of three years:

Brandon Haag, Pierre, SD

Ross Sperry, Onida, SD

4. All other business that may properly come before the meeting.

NOTICE:

Oahe Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is accessible to the handicapped. If special assistance is needed, please contact Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 216, Blunt SD 57522 or call 1-800-640-6243.

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF OAHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

September 16, 2023

The seventy-second Annual Meeting of the members of the Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the Cooperative) was held at the Sully Buttes High School in Onida (Sully County South Dakota) on the 16th day of September, 2023, pursuant to provisions of the bylaws and upon notice having been given by the secretary to all of the Members of the Cooperative.

A drive-thru format was offered in Blunt (Hughes County South Dakota), Onida (Sully County South Dakota), and Pierre (Hughes County South Dakota) in addition to the in-person meeting. Registration was declared open at 3:00 p.m. Members received printed cooperative reports as they registered at all drive-thru locations and the in-person meeting. Registration ended promptly at 5:00 p.m.

The business meeting was called to order at 5:15pm by President Kirk Yackley, who presided.

President Yackley declared a quorum with 458 members registered.

The invocation was performed by Pastor John Fette.

On behalf of the cooperative, Vice President James Feller presented Years of Service awards to the following individuals: Jordan Lamb, CEO, 5 years; Kirk Yackley, director, 10

years; Trudie Feldman, Custodian, 10 years; Tyler Arbach, Journeyman Lineman, 10 years; and Matt Eldridge, COO, 25 years.

Vice Secretary Brandon Haag presented the Proof of Mailing and the Count of Membership (2,159) on the date of the annual meeting.

President Yackley called for approval, without reading, of the minutes of the annual meeting of August 20, 2022, as printed in the annual meeting programs. A motion was duly made and seconded that the reading of the minutes of August 20, 2022, be waived and that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

In video presentations, Office Manager Marso reported on equipment shortages and lead times, as well as the financial condition of the cooperative. Operations Manager Eldridge reported on the projects the operations department worked on in the last year.

General Manager Jordan Lamb reported on the cooperative, including our generation portfolio and the long range forecast.

President Yackley called for new business, of which there was none, after which he called for unfinished business, of which there was none.

There were two candidates for the two offices of Director for three-year terms, Ryan Noyes of Pierre, South Dakota, and Kirk Yackley of Onida, South Dakota. Attorney Hegge announced both directors were elected by acclamation.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

The Talented Office Team at Your Service

Part 1 of 3



Valerie Marso
Chief Financial Officer

We have a small but mighty front office of three that takes care of 2,159 members, 3,351 meters and a consistently growing membership! I am extremely proud of these girls for their dedication, problem solving abilities and compassion for our members.

If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting us in person yet, or even if you have, let's get to know a little bit more about us and our functions at your cooperative!

Megan Membership Director - 15 years

You can just think of me as the keeper of all information related to member billing. My job is to set up and process new services, meter changes, transfers, consumer payments, transformer changes and rate schedules. I also answer phones, billing questions, mail out new member packets, process daily deposits and monthly automatic payment files and greet people as they come into the building and more.

Starting in January 2024, I became a member of the safety committee and help with the planning and execution of the monthly safety meetings. As chairman, I keep the minutes of the committee meetings up to date and plan the monthly safety committee meeting agenda.

My favorite part of working at Oahe Electric is that we are a small cooperative in terms of the number of employees but mighty in our principles to serve our consumers. We are like a little unique and diverse family. Overall, we care about each other, not only on the job, but outside of the office as well.

I am not one to "toot my own horn," so when the question about a significant project and/or achievements was presented, I have

a hard time answering. I believe that doing all the things at your job to the best of your ability is important, work ethic is important. We work as a team in the front office, so most projects are a team effort. Currently we are tackling an idle service project and we took on a small and large commercial billing project and a security light project all in the past couple years. I cannot take sole credit for any of them but will say they were all done with the best interest of the consumers in mind.

I am motivated to serve others to the best of my abilities, whether that be in my personal



or professional life. My husband Jerid farms in the area and we have been married almost 18 years. We have three amazing daughters (Jaydn, Jaycee and Jovi). They are the loves of our lives and our greatest accomplishments.



CRISP BREEZES AND CORN MAZES

A broken-down 1950s-style Chevrolet pickup welcomes visitors to the Back Forty Beef corn maze. *Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.*

Celebrating Autumn on the Family Farm

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

The first signs of autumn sweep across the plains as daylight dwindles and treetops wither into amber. For some, the nostalgia of fall is evoked by the first crisp breeze at a football game or the taste of a freshly picked apple from the orchard. But for Clint and Kelly Brandlee, Lake Region Electric members living in rural Pierpont, the magic of the harvest season begins with the opening of their family-owned corn maze.

The Brandlee family homesteaded their land in 1886 on the western edge of the Coteau Hills, an area characterized by rolling hills, fertile ground and native pastures. With deep roots extending through five generations of ranching and farming, Clint and Kelly's daughters, Jaycee

and Kylie, represent the sixth generation on the farm.

Over the years, the family has maintained their commitment to traditional farming values while embracing innovation. In 2020, Clint and Kelly

transformed their operation into a direct-to-consumer agriculture business, launching Back Forty Beef, LLC. Their new venture allowed them to provide locally raised beef at a fair price while giving customers the opportunity to see



Back Forty Beef hosts a number of family-friendly events including duck races. *Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.*

how their animals and crops are raised, from farm to table.

“During the pandemic, people were looking for a direct source for their beef, and we wanted to provide that,” Kelly said.

Through Back Forty Beef, Clint and Kelly supplied their area with local beef and discovered new ways to engage their community. Just last year, the two started an annual tradition by planting a 12-acre, agriculture-themed corn maze as a way to bring something new to their part of the state. In just a year, the maze has become a hub for families to come together and celebrate agriculture and the harvest season.

“We wanted to do something really fun and get families outside in northeastern South Dakota during the fall, and what better way to do that than through a corn maze?” Kelly said. “It’s a way for us to share our passion for agriculture and our story. As a population, we are getting two to three generations removed from the farm. There is less of a connection to rural life, so any time we can provide people an opportunity to get out onto the farm and learn something, that benefits the whole of agriculture.”

This fall, Clint and Kelly are again inviting their surrounding communities to visit their homestead and explore this year’s newly designed maze. The maze is set to be open to the public every weekend after



A bird’s-eye view of last year’s Back Forty Beef corn maze. Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.

Labor Day to the last week of October. The theme is pollinators, featuring images of a corn cob, flower, bee and barn. Several twists and turns will be embellished with fun facts about pollinators and crop production in South Dakota, making it an educational experience for all ages.

Along with the corn maze, Back Forty Beef is planning to incorporate other family-friendly activities, including duck races, farm animal exhibits, farm basketball, a straw mountain slide and more. Back Forty Beef will also host a farm store where customers can buy everything from local pumpkins to their homegrown beef.

Other local businesses are also joining

in the fun. A different local food truck is scheduled to attend each weekend during the open season, and local businesses are offering small discounts and deals for participants who complete the maze.

“There are checkpoints in the maze, and each checkpoint is equipped with a fun fact and a partnered local business,” said Kelly. “For example, Dairy Queen is offering a buy one, get one free offer for those who hole punch their card at their checkpoint and read the fun fact about pollinators and production agriculture.”

Clint and Kelly’s efforts to engage the community have resulted in a community that engages with their business. Like many other direct-to-consumer operations, Back Forty Beef has its own website and online shop for its brand of beef, dairy products, merchandise and even hand-poured tallow candles. The Brandlee family has also found success through their beef subscription club where boxes are regularly delivered to the doorsteps of customers every month. Whether it’s through the corn maze or the subscription beef boxes, Kelly said the local community has fully embraced Back Forty Beef.

“We had a lot of people who attended that had never done a corn maze before, so a lot of people were excited to do something new and different,” said Kelly. “We had a great turnout to our maze last year, and that’s why we decided to do it again.”



Owner-operators of Back Forty Beef, Kelly and Clint Brandlee and their two daughters, Jaycee and Kylie. Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.

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.

BALLOT

It is proposed that Article IV, Section 1 be amended. The full text of proposed Article IV amendment has been previously printed in the Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections Newsletter.

Explanation by Legal Counsel: 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 subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly, be added to Article IV. The full text of proposed Article IV section and amendments have been previously printed in the Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections Newsletter.

Explanation by Legal Counsel: 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. The full text of proposed Article III section 2 amendment has been previously printed in the Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections Newsletter.

Explanation by Legal Counsel: 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 of the members 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. The full text of proposed Article V section 2 amendment has been previously printed in the Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections Newsletter.

Explanation by Legal Counsel: 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.

Vote YES to:

- Adopt the addition of proposed amendment of Article IV, Section 1 Arbitration.
- Adopt the addition of a new section, and renumbering of all subsequent sections, of Article IV
- Adopt the amendment of Article III, section 2
- Adopt the amendment of Article V, Section 2

Vote NO to reject the above listed adoptions and amendments.

Yes

No



RODEO CHAMPIONS

Short Go Finalists Win Touchstone Energy Shirts During the State Competition in Ft. Pierre

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

South Dakota's electric cooperatives united in celebrating rodeo on June 15 during the state high school competition in Ft. Pierre, S.D. Cowboys and cowgirls competed in events that mimic the daily chores of a typical rancher, racing to place in the Short Go.

Short Go state finalists earned the coveted Touchstone Energy shirts that mark them as the top competitors of a beloved rural pastime. After a season of competing, the visual representation of wearing this shirt is

more than a fashion statement.

"These shirts are almost like a trophy," said Kylee Ellerton, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D. "It's something you can keep and look back on to remember."

Ellerton earned the Short Go shirt, sponsored by Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives. She won 10th place in goat tying at state.

"My grandpa and dad grew up rodeoing," Ellerton said. "So, I got started in rodeo pretty young."

High school rodeo events began in 1949, and by 1951, South Dakota was among five states that established the National High School Rodeo

Mataya Ward keeps her eyes on a goat she tied during the Short Go. Photo credit: Charles Minor

Association.

It's a shared heritage for many in the state, and electric cooperatives have a 22-year history of celebrating rodeo by sponsoring the Touchstone Energy Short Go Shirt program. More than \$150,000 has been given to this program since 2002, and these funds are used to honor the contestants who make it to the Short Go round



Photo credit: Charles Minor



Kailey Deknikker rounds a Touchstone Energy barrel during the state Short Go in barrel racing. Photo credit: 4-C Photography

of the state finals competition in their respective events.

Kailey Deknikker, member of Southeastern Electric Cooperative in Lennox, S.D., has a passion for rodeo and wishes to go as far as she can in the sport. She will be attending Mitchell Technical College this fall for business management and joining

the college rodeo team in barrel racing and pole bending.

“The shirt shows that your hard work paid off,” explained Deknikker after placing in the Short Go and winning a Touchstone Energy Short Go shirt. “It shows your accomplishment.”

Decknikker placed 7th in barrel

racing after running a time of 18.246 seconds in the 1st Go, 17.802 seconds in the 2nd Go, and 18.078 seconds in the Short Go.

Leighton Sander, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D., won 6th place in the bareback riding Short Go competition. Sander works with his family on a cow/calf operation outside of Custer, S.D.

“There’s some pride that goes with wearing that Short Go shirt,” said Sander. “You go to a rodeo and see a couple people wearing those shirts outside of the high school season, and you think, ‘they must have been good enough to make it to the Short Go – I better watch that guy.’”

Sander explained that his draw to one of the toughest events in the sport of rodeo is the adrenaline rush. He hopes to use his bareback riding skills in future horse training efforts while noting, “being able to stick to a horse is important.”

“I don’t know how to explain it,” Sander said. “It’s super scary before you start, but once you climb into that chute and they open up the gate, it’s like eating your favorite cake.”



Finalists wear Touchstone Energy Short Go shirts. Photo credit: Charles Minor

Your 2024 Annual Meeting

All registered members will receive a \$30 BILL CREDIT!

DRIVE THRU

TIME: Come and go from 3-5 p.m.

LOCATIONS: (see right for maps and more details)

- **Blunt:** Oahe Electric Headquarters
- **Onida:** Sully Buttes High School
- **Pierre:** North of Hwy 14/83, off 293rd Ave./Williams St.

Register, receive cooperative reports, get your bill credit and head for home! That quick and easy!

IN PERSON

TIME: Registration and refreshments from 3pm-5pm, followed by a business meeting at 5:15pm

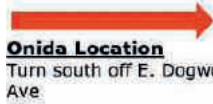
LOCATION: Sully Buttes High School Gym, Onida, SD

ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS WILL BE ENTERED INTO DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS FOR THOUSANDS WORTH OF ADDITIONAL BILL CREDITS!!

ANNUAL MEETING
 Saturday, September 21, 2024
 Your Attendance Choice:
 IN PERSON or DRIVE THRU



Blunt Location
 Turn south off HWY 14/83 onto S. Commercial St.
 Proceed through Oahe Electric parking lot to register.
 Exit onto HWY 14/83 via S. Canford St.



Onida Location
 Turn south off E. Dogwood Ave.
 Proceed through SBHS parking lot to register.
 Exit onto S. 11th St.



Pierre Location
 Turn north off HWY 14/83 onto N. 293rd Ave./Williams St. (north of HWY across from Titan Machinery) – look for the Oahe Electric trucks.
 Turn where indicated to register.
 Exit onto N. 293rd Ave./Williams St.

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, audiotope, 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. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

One Member; One Vote Cooperative Democracy



David Larson
Attorney

As a cooperative, Oahe Electric operates as a representative democracy – meaning that the members of the cooperative control its governance through their election of the cooperative’s board of directors.

State law provides that in all matters put to a vote of the members, each member has and is limited to one vote.

While this concept seems simple and nearly everyone agrees with it, applying the rule can have some unexpected twists. These occur in two principal areas: (1) voting by corporations and other entities and (2) voting by husbands and wives.

Voting by corporations and other entities, including partnerships, LLCs, rural churches and cemetery associations, presents a problem because these entities of necessity must designate an individual to vote on their behalf. This creates a potential of conflicting with the one-member, one-vote rule if a single person attempts to vote more than one membership – if allowed it would have the undemocratic effect of allowing one individual to hold and vote multiple ballots. To prevent that, the one-member, one-vote rule has long been interpreted

to limit each individual to one ballot only. Entities wishing to vote are required to designate as voting representative an individual who would not otherwise intend to vote.

Although there may have been some confusion about this in the past, this one-person, one-vote rule will be adhered to in the future at all cooperative elections. In part, the purpose of this article is to provide members advance notice so that any entities desiring to vote will have the opportunity to make an appropriate designation of a voting representative. A designated voting representative must be someone who will not be voting another membership.

In the case of husbands and wives, there are two rules which allow either, but not both, to vote a single membership. In cases where the husbands and wives hold a joint membership, either may cast a vote on behalf of that membership. In the case of a single membership, held by either spouse, the nonmember spouse can cast a vote of the member spouse in the absence of the member spouse. In both situations, either but not both spouses may vote. Of course, if each spouse holds an individual membership, each is entitled to vote their own membership, but not the membership of an absent spouse.

Adhering to democratic principles is one of the key elements of cooperative governance. Doing so sets them apart from nearly all other business organizations. Maintaining a voting process in keeping with these democratic principles is a vital concern to all of the members.

Authorization to Vote

Non-individual members of Oahe Electric may vote at the annual meeting by completing this form and presenting it at the registration desk. Each member organization should designate a representative and be signed by an officer or member of the governing body.

Organization (Corporation, Business, School, Church, etc.)

Address

I, _____ attest that the above organization is a member of the Cooperative and has authorized me as their voting delegate to represent them on all matters of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. at its 73rd annual meeting of members on September 21, 2024.

Signed: _____ Title: _____

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



Photo Credit: SDStateFair

SEPT. 20-22 **South Dakota Festival of Books**

Various Locations
Brookings, SD
605-688-6113

SEPT. 27-29 **Coal Springs Threshing Bee and Antique Show**

Meadow, SD
605-788-2299

OCT. 5-6 **Run Crazy Horse Marathons**

Crazy Horse
605-390-6137
www.runcrazyhorse.com

OCT. 5-6 **Magic Needlers Quilt Show**

Codington County Extension Complex
Watertown, SD
605-881-3273

OCT. 5-6 **The Black Market**

Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Expo Building
Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-6004

OCT. 6 **Giant Pumpkin Festival**

Bentley Memorial Building
Bison, SD
Enter Pumpkins by 11:30 a.m.
605-244-5475

OCT. 10-11 **Rural Women Conference**

The Lodge of Deadwood
Deadwood, SD
SouthDakotaWomenInAg.com

AUG. 28-SEPT. 2 **South Dakota State Fair**

7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Huron, SD
www.SDStateFair.com

SEPT. 1 **Studebaker Car Show**

10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Custer, SD
605-673-2244

SEPT. 2 **Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show**

Starts at 1 p.m.
Clear Lake, SD
605-881-8405

SEPT. 6-7 **Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll**

Vermillion, SD
www.sdbbq.us

SEPT. 8 **Homesteader Day**

1-4 p.m.
Valley Springs, SD
Beaver Creek Nature Area

SEPT. 12-15 **South Dakota Film Festival**

Downtown Capitol Theatre
Aberdeen, SD
605-226-5494

SEPT. 13-14 **Black Hills Polkapalooza**

Each Night at 4-10 p.m.
Palmer Gulch
Hill City, SD
605-574-2525

SEPT. 13-14 **Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show**

Davison County Fairgrounds
Mitchell, SD
605-359-2049

SEPT. 14-15 **2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival**

Delmont, SD
605-928-3792

SEPT. 17 **EV Expo**

W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

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

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