

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



Working on strategies to improve reliability and save money



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

The electric industry is in the middle of one of the most challenging times in history as new policies, regulations, technologies, and customer expectations are driving significant changes.

We continue to work closely with our power supplier, East River Electric Power Cooperative (East River), on a focused strategy that prioritizes the 5 Rs of energy: reliable, responsible, resilient, responsive, and reasonable.

RELIABLE

24/7 reliability requires a focused strategy and long-term investments. We continue to support an all-of-the-above approach as it pertains to electric generation to meet the electric needs of our member-owners. Power line infrastructure, both distribution and transmission, play an important role in reliability and we must continue to invest in our maintenance programs and look to rebuild lines when needed.

RESPONSIBLE

Included in an all-of-the-above energy resource strategy is environmental responsibility. 46.2 percent of the power provided to the cooperative's membership came from carbon free resources, like wind and large hydro. Basin Electric, our wholesale power generation cooperative, has installed emission control technologies at power plants and they continue to investigate carbon capture technology for their power plants. Basin Electric is a world leader when it comes to capturing and storing carbon dioxide as it has done this for years at the Dakota Gas Company.

RESILIENT

Basin Electric, East River, and Lyon-

Lincoln work to ensure it has power generation, transmission and distribution resources that are resilient to weather extremes. However, Mother Nature has her own thoughts on this effort over the years. In addition to Mother Nature, we are also focusing on protecting our resources from hackers and other wrongdoers.

RESPONSIVE

When circumstances change on the electric grid or outages happen, your cooperative is responsive to get the power restored as safely and as soon as possible. The cooperative, through East River, has a successful demand response program to temporarily control water heaters, large loads with generators, air conditioners and irrigation. In exchange, the members who volunteer for the program(s) receive a discounted rate and/or rebates.

REASONABLE

Maintaining reasonable rates is a key focus for your cooperative. While costs of many goods and services have gone up steadily over the last several months and years, your cooperative has maintained its current rates since Jan. 1, 2017. We will be studying our cost of service and rates later this year and this will guide us as we look at rates over the next few years.

No matter what the future holds, your electric cooperative is ready. Please save June 1st and join us for this year's annual meeting to learn more about how the cooperative is meeting the challenges of the future. We will have the Lincoln County Pork Producers making their famous pork chops and sides will be provided by the Country House Restaurant from Lake Benton. Kyle Kulla – 1433401

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**

**LYON-LINCOLN
ELECTRIC**

(ISSN 1540-6989)

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www.llec.coop

Lyon-Lincoln Electric hours May 2 to September 30, 2022 are 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday.

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Jessica Gums, Editor

TIRED OF WRITING CHECKS?

Sign up for Lyon-Lincoln Electric’s Automatic Payment Plan

Lyon-Lincoln Electric has a convenient, free Automatic Payment Plan to help you never forget to pay your electric bill again.

Your payment is automatically transferred from your checking or savings account each month, direct to Lyon-Lincoln Electric. The transfer will happen on your bill’s due date.

Lyon-Lincoln’s Automatic Payment Plan is designed to save you and us time and money. The plan is a safe, easy way to pay your electric bill. The plan protects you from mail delays and keeps your

The plan is a safe, easy way to pay your electric bill. The plan protects you from mail delays and keeps your good credit rating intact.

good credit rating intact. You will still receive a bill, so you know how much we will be deducting from your account. Please call the office toll free at (800) 927-6276 or (507) 247-5505 if you have any questions about this method of payment or would like to set up an Automatic Payment Plan by phone.

Authorization for Automatic Payment

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN.

Name (as it appears on your bill): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____ Lyon-Lincoln Electric Account No.: _____

Please designate bank or credit union you want to use to pay your monthly electric bill. (Include branch, if applicable.)

Bank: _____ City & State: _____

Bank Routing Number: _____ Bank Account Number: _____

Payment is deducted from your bank account on the date indicated on your billing statement. Please indicate the date (on or after) you want Auto Pay Plan to start: ____ / ____ / ____ .

Please Read and Sign

I authorize Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative Inc. and the financial institution named above to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. I agree that each payment from my account shall be the same as if it were a check or withdrawal personally signed and authorized by me. This authority will remain in effect until I notify Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in writing to cancel in such time as to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution three (3) days before my account is charged.

I have read and agree to the terms of the Automatic Payment Plan.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

PLEASE RETURN THIS ORIGINAL AGREEMENT TO:

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC
 PO BOX 639
 TYLER, MN 56178

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.



BOARD NEWS

Win Money

Find Your Name & Member Number and Win \$

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Cooperative Connections. If you find your name and member number, call the office and let us know and you'll receive an energy credit. The amount of the credit is \$20.00.

In last month's Cooperative Connections, Alan Widmark and Jon Fadness spotted their names and will receive an energy credit. Once again there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue. Good Luck.

ENERGY SAVING TIP

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists, you should add more. Insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots.

February Board meeting minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, February 28, 2022. Directors present were James Rokeh, Jared Dritz, Mary Gunnink, Galen Grant, Scott Johnson, Merv Anderson, Sandy Ludeman, and Dale Fier. Kathy Schreurs was absent. Also present at the meeting were General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, and Attorney, Michael W. Cable.

The Board and others in attendance stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance before the meeting was called to order.

President Ludeman called the meeting to order and routine business was conducted including approval of January 24, 2022 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Kristi Jensen, Finance Manager, gave the Financial and Statistical Report for the period ending December 31, 2021.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, reviewed with the Board the January Outage Report. Mr. Lamote also indicated that the linemen were continuing to perform meter change outs, were continuing to work on tree trimming, and that 80% of the line patrol was done. Mr. Lamote also indicated that the Annual Inspection on Truck No. 39 will be completed.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, gave his monthly report. Mr. Jeremiason updated the Board on future EV options. Mr. Jeremiason advised the Board that the last phase of the Cogeneration Compliance Filing and Reporting was to be reviewed by the board. Mr. Jeremiason reviewed with the Board Rate Schedule No. 14 being the Minnesota Renewable Energy Rate Under 40kW and reviewed with the Board the rates that were recommended for residential, residential-seasonal, irrigation, commercial and

industrial under 1,000kva, commercial and industrial over 1,000kva, public street and highway lighting, and public authority.

General Manager Timothy O'Leary then gave his manager's report; some of the items reviewed were as follows: The Board reviewed the power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to budgeted amounts and looked at line loss for the system. Mr. O'Leary reported on the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. MAC Meeting and East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.'s efforts to replace their existing load management system. General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, discussed with East River the technology to be used and implementation plan that are available to Lyon-Lincoln Electric. Mr. O'Leary then reviewed with the board his upcoming meetings, events, and notices.

The Board reviewed the December Cyber Security Program Report dated February 3, 2022 and then reviewed the Nominating Committee Minutes of February 16, 2022.

The directors reported on training sessions and meetings attended and reviewed and discussed upcoming meetings and educational workshops to be held.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:03 o'clock P.M. at which time they watched the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. Monthly Video Report which included the Basin Summary. At 12:44 o'clock P.M. the Board reconvened the meeting.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Policy Committee that were held on January 24, 2022 and the full board had received Policies 401-406. The Committee had no recommended changes to these Policies.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made and carried to adjourn.

Plan carefully when planting trees

If you are considering planting a tree, carefully select its location before you begin digging. Also, call 811 before you break ground to get underground utilities marked. If trees are planted in the wrong location, they can be expensive to maintain and even dangerous. Lyon-Lincoln Electric and Safe Electricity offer tips on how to pick an optimal location.

A mature height of fewer than 15 feet is recommended if planting near lines. Some trees that are generally not tall enough to interfere with lines include crabapple, honeysuckle, juniper, flowering dogwood and hawthorn.

Trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles or too close to electrical equipment.

Once you have a tree selected, call 811

before putting a shovel to the ground. The “Call Before You Dig” number is a free service that locates and marks public underground utilities in your yard or on your land. Call several business days before you dig. Locators will mark public underground utilities such as electric, gas, water, cable and fiber. The service does not mark privately owned lines or pipes. Kyle Carey – 1455000

Other tree tips:

- If your established trees are growing into power lines, contact us to ask about them. In some cases (depending on the location), we will come out and trim the tree. If it is your responsibility, do not take on the task yourself. Only tree trimmers who are line-clearance certified are legally allowed to prune and trim trees within 10 feet of power lines.

- It is important to have trees trimmed. Limbs can fall on power lines during bad weather, resulting in outages or blinks. Broken or drooping limbs could also cause a fire.

- Tall-growing trees with a mature height greater than 45 feet should be planted at least 45 feet away from lines to avoid future pruning. Some of these trees include oak, white and blue spruce, most pines and most maples.

- Be sure no one climbs a tree near power lines. If branches are touching the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches that do not touch lines could become energized if a child’s weight is added. A child could climb high into the tree and be able to reach the line.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

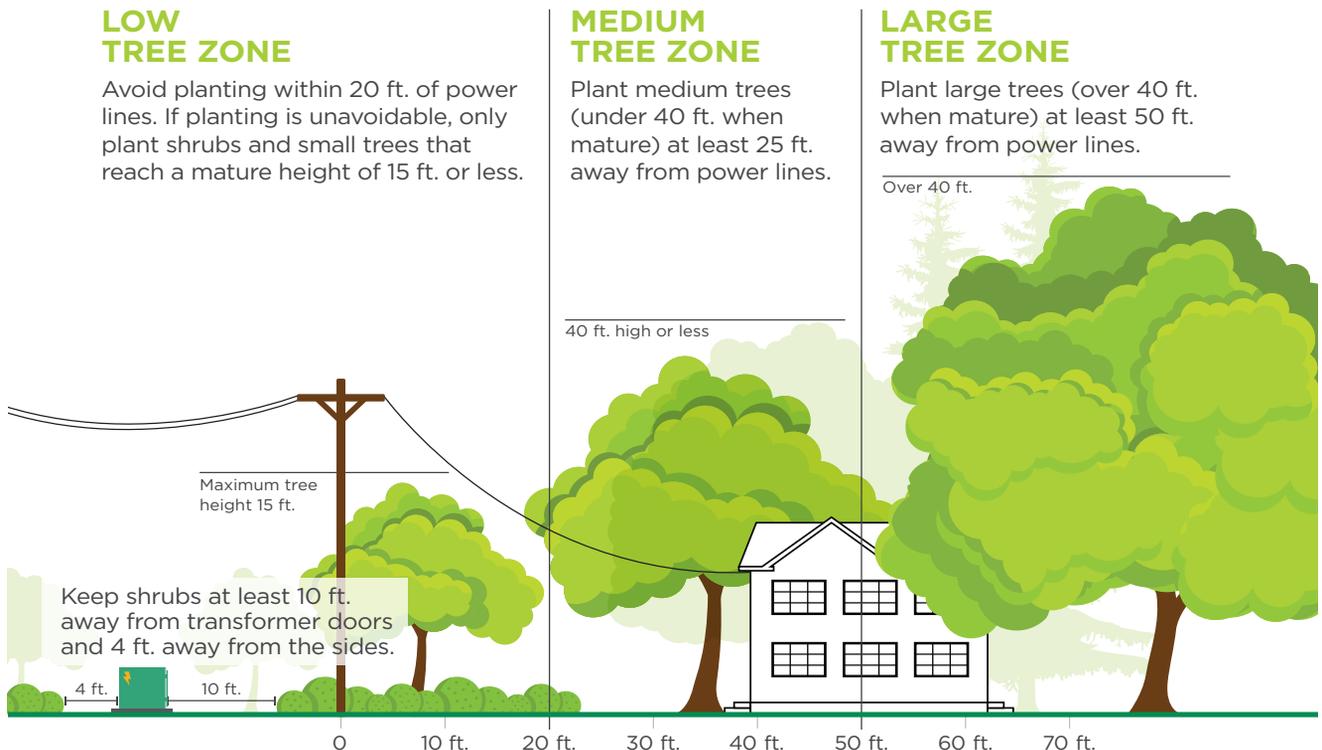
Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.



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



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



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.



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.”

TIPS FOR DRIVERS AND RIDERS



#SeeMotorcycles: Keep a safe distance and other safety tips

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month - a good reminder to watch for motorcycles when out on the road.

“Traffic is returning to pre-pandemic levels, families are planning for summer road trips and interest in motorcycling is seeing strong growth,” according to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). “This means more drivers and riders will be out on the roads this summer.”

Per vehicle miles traveled, motorcyclists are approximately 29 times likelier than those in passenger vehicles to die in a motor vehicle crash and four times likelier to be injured, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The MSF reminds everyone to look out for one another, whether you are a car or truck driver, motorcycle or scooter rider, bicyclist or pedestrian.

FIVE TIPS FOR DRIVERS

1. Take an extra moment to look for motorcycles. Because of their small size, motorcycles can be easily hidden in a car’s blind spots, so check and check again before changing lanes or making a turn.

2. Predict that a motorcycle is closer than it looks. A motorcycle may look farther away than it is because of its size, and it may be difficult to judge its speed.

3. Keep a safe distance. Motorcyclists often slow down by rolling off the throttle or downshifting, thus not activating the brake light. Because of this, allow more following distance than you would for a car - about three to four seconds.

4. Understand lane shifting. Motorcyclists often adjust their position within a lane to be seen more easily and to minimize the effects of road debris, passing vehicles and wind. Understand that motorcyclists adjust lane positions for a purpose.

5. See the person. When a motorcycle is in motion, see more than the motorcycle, see the person under the helmet, who could be your friend, neighbor or relative.

FIVE TIPS FOR RIDERS

1. Be visible to others. Motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles, so wear bright clothing and a light-colored helmet. Have your headlight on, day and night,

and avoid riding in the blind spots of cars and trucks. If possible, flash your brake light when slowing down and before stopping.

2. But pretend you are invisible. If you assume others on the road cannot see you, and any car that can hit you will hit you, you will tend to ride with a hyper-aware - and much safer - mindset. Take extra responsibility for your safety and always ride defensively.

3. Gear up for every ride. Wear proper riding gear from head to toe. Full-face helmets provide the best protection, and jackets, pants, gloves and boots that are made for riding will generally be made of abrasion-resistant material, include protective armor and provide additional comfort.

4. Use good street strategies. Constantly search the road for changing conditions and use the Search-Evaluate-Execute (SEE) strategy to assess and respond to hazards before you have to react to an emergency.

5. Before you ride, check your bike. Make a habit of doing a pre-ride check, which includes looking over your tires and wheels, checking fluids, cables, your bike’s chassis, lights, electronics and the stands. Use the T-CLOCS inspection checklist, available at msf-usa.org, to help you.

Operation RoundUp® program benefits community through member contributions



Pictured here are Avera Tyler Ambulance crew members with their recently purchased upgraded pagers provided by Operation RoundUp Grant funds. Shown left to right are Chelsey Steinwand, Gretchen Tommeraasen, Kimberly Fedde, Bethanni Jobe, Teri Hively, Wayde Kenneke, Jeffrey McCall, and Mike Rider.



Operation RoundUp® is a program made possible by Lyon-Lincoln Electric members who round up their monthly electric bill to the next dollar. The extra cents go directly into a Trust that is administered quarterly in grants to community organizations. A board of trustees adheres to specific guidelines to ensure your dollars are spent wisely.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Trust, Inc. was held March 7th, 2022. The board reviewed applications and the following grant requests were approved. The next meeting will be held June 7th, 2022. Applications for grants can be found at www.llec.coop under the "Your Cooperative" tab. Applications are due May 25th, 2022.

- **Lincoln County Horticultural Society** - \$500 towards Lincoln County Fair Grounds flower gardens
- **Lincoln County Sheriff's Office** - \$1,000 towards "10 Seconds to View of Lifetime on the Web" technology & social media curriculum
- **Lyon County Junior Achievement** - \$1,500 towards 2022 Junior Achievement curriculum
- **Minneota Post Prom Committee** - \$100 towards After-Prom food, games, and other activities for students
- **True Friends** - \$1,000 towards outdoor enrichment programs for individuals with disabilities
- **United Way of Southwest MN** - \$1,250 towards "Stuff the Bus" school supply distribution
- **University of MN Extension, 4-H** - \$1,500 towards Southwest regional 4-H Summer camp
- **Wheels Across the Prairie Museum** - \$1,000 towards construction of building to house military artifacts



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

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

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 27-30
45th Annual Kingswood Rummage Sales
 Southwest Sioux Falls, SD,
kingswoodrummage.com

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

JULY 6
St. Mary's CCW Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour
 Tracy, MN, www.facebook.com/TarcyAreaGardenTour

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