

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



This year's sunflower crop is expected to be bountiful as market forces have driven up demand and prices

Sensational Sunflowers

Sunflower market blooms

Pages 8-9

Everyone's welcome in the Chislic Circle

Pages 12-13

The rundown on Summer usage, outages, generation, & transmission



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

It has been hot and dry for most of the area this summer and this can be seen in higher electric bills as more air conditioning is being used to stay cool. Ninety percent of the consumers served by the cooperative are residential and farm residential accounts and weather plays a large role in electric consumption throughout the year. Through the end of June, our wholesale electricity purchases and sales to our members are 7% over budget with a majority of that coming from increased electric heat sales early in the year. If you would like to track your usage during the month or compare it to last year, you can sign up for SmartHub on our website.



The weather has played a role in extended outages in May and June. We experienced extended outages on May 12th and 30th due to damage done to our power supplier's transmission lines, East River Electric Power Cooperative (ER), and our local distribution system. ER sustained \$2.3 million dollars in damage during the storms on May 11th-12th and another \$.5 million on May 30th-31st. Broken poles and equipment caused extended power interruptions to all of the substations serving our members during both storms. We experienced \$60,000 in damage for the storm on May 12th and another \$80,000 in damage for the storm on May 30th. We have made repairs to known issues and we continue to look for other damage that may come up over the next several months. Please let us know if you are aware or see an unsafe condition so we can send someone to check it out.

The May 12th storm received a federal disaster declaration on July 8th, and we will be working with officials from the Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management team to apply for FEMA reimbursement on the damage sustained during that storm. The May 30th storm is still under review, and we will wait to see if that receives a disaster declaration in the near future.

The storms have put an additional spotlight on inflation and supply chain issues on getting materials. We continue to see extended lead times on transformers (up to a year for certain sizes) and poles.

We want to remind our members that if they are planning on building a new home, shop or adding to a current dryer setup to reach out to us early in the process to make sure we have or can order the materials for the project.

We continue to receive phone calls on power supply concerns. As I mentioned last month, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Co-op is in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) market through our membership in East River and Basin Electric. The SPP has identified that it has enough generating capacity to meet the needs of its service area based on the information submitted by the generating plants to supply the area. This could change if there is an extended extreme weather event or if power plants need to be taken offline for repairs, but there is enough capacity in the market at this time.

The other calls we are getting are about an Xcel Energy mailing that was sent out to landowners in Lyon County and eastern Lincoln County. The mailing highlights an area where Xcel would like to build a double circuited 345 kV transmission line. The transmission line would start in Becker and end at a yet to be determined transmission substation in the area. The transmission line would allow proposed wind and solar power projects to be built with the sales going to Xcel customers. Xcel has indicated that the \$500 million project would need MN Public Utility Commission approval and they would like to complete the project, if approved, between 2027 and 2028. The letter is the first part of the approval process and identifying possible line routes.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

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

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Jessica Gums, Editor



Safety is no accident at Lyon-Lincoln Electric

On July 11th, Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Safety Specialist Shawn Marthaler came to Lyon-Lincoln to provide safety training to employees. Marthaler, a former Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative employee, provided classroom and work site training for the employees. Lyon-Lincoln works closely with MREA and other organizations to provide employees and the public with foundational safety education and training. Tyler & Ranae Jenniges - 1506100

Safety training is vital to preventing utility line work accidents. The goal of this safety education is to reduce risks and ensure that everyone can get home safely. Safety training, safety meetings, crew observations, random safe acts, and inspections all help uphold our safety standard. We incorporate safety into everything we do.

On this visit, Marthaler met with the operations department to review how to protect themselves from hot weather. Following the classroom portion of the training, crews moved outside to practice in a real world environment. Crews took turns going through a pole top rescue simulation.

Safely rescuing a fellow worker could mean the difference between life and death.

Pole top rescue training prepares lineworkers to safely lower an injured worker from a pole top in the event of an incident or injury. Pole top rescue training is an essential part of the training required by anyone working on poles. In addition to the pole top training, employees also reviewed and practiced MayDay call procedures.



Take safety precautions during harvest season

Harvest season brings long, grueling hours in the field, which can make workers weary and prone to neglect safety precautions that can prevent serious or fatal electrical injuries. Every year, an average of 62 farmworkers are electrocuted in the U.S., and many more are injured by shocks.

Farm operators, their family members and farm employees are urged to beware of overhead power lines, to keep farm equipment safely away and to know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines.

The increasing size of farm equipment, particularly grain tanks on combines that have become higher with extensions, allows operators to come perilously close to overhead power lines over entrances to fields. It is vital to keep equipment safely away from these lines. Maintain a minimum 10-foot radius around electric lines.

Portable augers are the No. 1 cause of electrocution on the farm. Augers being maneuvered by hand around bin sites have caused the deaths of many farmworkers who became the path to ground for electricity when the top of the auger touched overhead power lines. Always retract or lower augers when moving or transporting.

Other equipment commonly involved in power line accidents includes oversized wagons, large combines and other tall equipment.

Harvest is the most likely period for farm-related injury accidents and fatalities. Combines and other equipment loaded onto trailers can contact power lines and cause electrocutions, as can raising the bed of a truck to unload. That's exactly how a 53-year-old Michigan truck driver was tragically killed when he raised the bed of his semitrailer truck while parked beneath a power line at the edge of a field. He was attempting to clean out the bed, and when he touched the truck bed, he became the path to ground for the electricity.

Follow these safety measures:

- Use a spotter when moving tall loads near power lines.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- Make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. These accidents are survivable if the right actions are taken.

STUDENTS LEARN HOW POWER IS PRODUCED

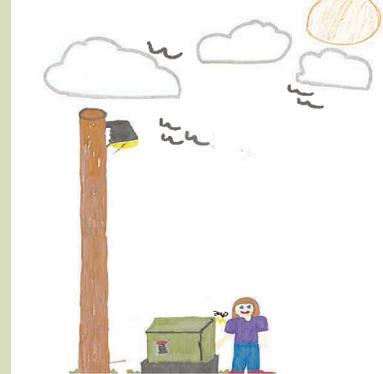
A group of high school students recently gathered together to take a trip and learn how electricity is produced and how it is used to power their homes, farms, appliances and local businesses.

The students traveled to Bismarck, N.D., to tour the power generation facilities of Basin Electric, which supplies electricity across nine states and is one of the largest power producers in the country.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Don't Mess With a Transformer Box



Beware of the green box

Cambrie Koistinen

Cambrie, age 11, advises electric cooperative members to use caution around pad-mounted transformers, also known as green boxes, because they contain high-voltage power equipment. Cambrie is the child of Lance and Holly Koistinen of Hayti.

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.

FRESH FROM THE GARDEN

ZUCCHINI SPINACH CASSEROLE

Ingredients:
 2 lbs. zucchini
 1 lbs. frozen spinach
 1 chopped onion
 4 cloves of garlic
 5 beaten eggs
 1/2 cup salad oil
 1-1/2 cup cracker crumbs (save 1/2 cup for top)
 1-1/2 cup cheddar cheese (save 1/2 for top)

METHOD

Cook and drain first four ingredients. Add eggs, salad oil, cracker crumbs and cheddar cheese. Add salt, pepper and parsley to taste. Spread the remaining crumbs and cheese on top. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes.
Glenda Morton, Sioux Falls

CREAMY CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:
 1 1/2 long English cucumbers cut in half moons
 1 1/2 lb tomatoes on the vine sliced in segments
 1/4 cup red onion thinly sliced (optional)
 3 tbsp dill finely chopped
 2 small garlic cloves grated
 1/2 cup sour cream
 1/2 tsp salt
 Ground black pepper to taste

METHOD

In a large bowl, add cucumbers, tomatoes, red onion, dill, garlic, sour cream, salt and pepper. Stir gently from the bottom in the center of the bowl until well combined. Serve salad within next six hours or so.
ifoodreal.com

CUCUMBER SANDWICHES

Ingredients:
 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
 1 pkg. Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix (dry)
 1 mini loaf of cocktail rye bread
 1 cucumber, sliced
 fresh dill weed, chopped

METHOD

The night before serving the cucumber sandwiches, mix together the cream cheese and the Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix. Refrigerate overnight. Shortly before serving, spread some of the cream cheese mixture on a slice of the cocktail rye bread. Top with a slice of cucumber and sprinkle with dill weed.

Elaine Rieck, Harrisburg

CHERI'S SALAD

Ingredients:
 1-1 lb. pkg. veggie spiral noodles
 2 1/2 c. diced ham
 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
 1 c. chopped celery
 1 bag frozen peas, thawed

Dressing:
 1/2 c. mayonnaise
 1/2 c. sour cream
 1 tbsp. mustard
 1 tbsp. sweet pickle juice
 3/4 tsp. onion powder
 1/3 c. sugar

METHOD

Cook noodles according to package directions, drain and rinse. Mix ingredients together in a bowl and set aside. Mix until blended and pour over salad. Stir until well blended.

Jan Antonen, Arlington

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 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



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 will receive a \$20 energy credit.

In last month's Cooperative Connections, Jeff Gladis & Christian & Leah Sanders 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

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills.

To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When its time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

BOARD NEWS

June Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, June 27, 2022. Directors present were James Rokeh, Jared Dritz, Galen Grant, Scott Johnson, Mary Gunnink, Sandy Ludeman, Dale Fier, Kathy Schreurs and Mike Longtin. 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 then called the meeting to order.

President, Sandy Ludeman, indicated the first order of business would be the election of officers and turned the meeting over to Attorney, Michael W. Cable, to conduct the election of officers. The Board conducted a ballot vote for the election of officers. After the ballot voting had been taken for the offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer a motion was made by Mr. Grant, seconded by Ms. Gunnink, and carried to cast unanimous ballots in favor of the following directors being elected to the following offices until their respective successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified:

President – Sandy Ludeman;

Vice-President – Dale Fier;

Secretary/Treasurer – Kathy Schreurs

President Ludeman then took charge of the meeting and routine business was conducted including approval of the May 23, 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 April 30, 2022. The Board was also presented data concerning RESCO's Capital Credit Retirement, updated IRS mileage rates, and gave an update concerning the recent storm damage and the FEMA meeting attended by staff.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, reviewed the May Outage Report and informed the board of 2 safety meetings held. They included Forklift/Skid Steer Training conducted by

Shawn Marthaler, MREA's Safety Instructor, and Annual Switchman Training conducted by Colton Sanderson from East River Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mr. Lamote then indicated that the linemen were continuing to work on poles from the recent storm damage and that the construction season had started with various jobs concerning underground projects. He also advised the Board that Central Applicators had started spraying the right-of-way and the Highway 68 Project was finished.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, gave his monthly report. Mr. Jeremiason advised the Board that FirstNet, an AT&T network, provided Lyon-Lincoln Electric with a mobile Wi-Fi system to try. This device would turn our trucks into a Wi-Fi hotspot, providing better coverage, improve iPad functionality and another redundancy for internet access in a disaster situation that will be installed on a truck. Mr. Jeremiason also advised the board that work continues on updating the Cooperative's Emergency Response and Disaster Recovery Plan.

General Manager Timothy O'Leary then gave his manager's report; some of the items reviewed were as follows: The Board reviewed the May 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 which included an East River cyber update, market capacity issues, "When Accidents Happen Panel" at MREA, and then reviewed with the board upcoming meetings, events, and notices.

The Board reviewed the May Cyber Security Program Report dated June 1, 2022 and then watched the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. Monthly Video Report which included the Basin Summary. There was general discussion concerning the Annual Meeting held on June 1, 2022. The directors reported on training sessions and meetings attended and reviewed and discussed upcoming meetings and educational workshops to be held.

With there being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made and carried to adjourn at 1:00 o'clock P.M.

What would you do if you encountered a downed power line?

While typically not an everyday occurrence, overhead power lines, padmount transformers (green boxes) or other electrical equipment can become damaged due to storms, fires, car accidents, animal interference or from a car slipping off the road, for example.

(Spoiler alert. Do not do any of these things.) If you were in an accident involving a downed overhead power line, would you get out of the car and run? If you saw a car accident involving a downed line or damaged green box, would you run to the scene to help? If you saw a downed line across a road, would you approach it or try to move it?

Any of these actions can cause serious injury or electrocution (death). Downed lines and other damaged equipment can energize the ground, nearby people and objects. Never go near a downed power line or try to move it with an object. Electricity can jump from a wire or object to you to find the quickest path to ground.

The safest place to be after an accident involving a downed power line is inside your vehicle or cab. Unless your vehicle is on fire or giving off smoke, here is what you should do:

1. **Stay inside your vehicle or cab.**
2. **Call 9-1-1 and report that there are downed or damaged power lines.**
3. **Try to remain calm.**
4. **Wait for the utility crew to arrive to deenergize the power.**
5. **Do not get out until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.**

If you must get out of the vehicle because it is on fire, cross your arms over your chest and make a clean, solid jump out, then intentionally hop with your feet together as far away as you can. If you are unable to make solid hops, shuffle with your feet close together.

When you exit, do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. You could become electricity's path to ground from touch potential (touching something energized and the ground at the same time).

Hopping helps avoid step potential (placing each foot at a different voltage). When electricity escapes into the ground, it is likened to ripples in a pond, with each ripple representing a different voltage.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Don't Become Electricity's

PATH TO GROUND



When electric utility equipment becomes damaged, **the ground and objects can become energized.**

If you are in a situation where there could be downed power lines or a damaged pole, guy wire or padmount transformer (green box), **know what to do to save your life and the lives of others:**

CAR ACCIDENT



Stay inside your vehicle or cab since the ground or objects could be energized.

Call 9-1-1 and report that there are downed or damaged power lines or a dislodged green box.

Wait for the utility crew to arrive to deenergize the power.

Do not exit until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.

ONLY EXIT IF THE VEHICLE IS ON FIRE

Cross your arms over your chest and **make a clean jump out.**

Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

Make solid hops with your **feet together** as far away as you can.

Do not return to the vehicle.



IF YOU ARE A BYSTANDER

Do not approach the scene to try and help.

Stay at least 50 feet away and do not lean on or touch anything, including fences or guardrails.



Learn more at:

SafeElectricity.org[®]



Sunflower commodity prices are making farmers smile

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

It's hard to keep from smiling when you're driving past a field of golden sunflowers in full bloom during the late summer months.

Wall Drug billboards, old red barns and shiny grain bins are no match for the attention of motorists along I-90 when the sunflowers are bursting forth in all their spectacular yellow splendor stretching far into the horizon.

The subject of many aerial and terrestrial photographers across the region, sunflowers have a special appeal as they grow tall in the field and seem to greet the day leaning forward with a positive energy that exudes joy and optimism.

The current sunflower commodity market certainly has given farmers a reason to smile. South Dakota farmers raised nearly 600,000 acres and more than 1 billion pounds of sunflowers

last year, ranking second only to North Dakota for sunflower production. In fact, for the past decade the Dakotas and Minnesota have alternated the top three spots in their friendly competition depending largely on the vagaries of weather patterns. At least 75 percent of the U.S. commercial sunflower production has taken place in those three states.

About 1,000 of those South Dakota acres were grown by Brad Schecher, a fourth generation farmer who also rotates wheat, corn, flax and soybean crops on his 3,500-acre spread located near Bison in the northwestern part of the state, one of the hot-bed regions for sunflowers.

Schecher took over the family farm from his father nearly 10 years ago and said the military conflict in Ukraine and other economic factors have converged to form a "perfect storm" that has constricted international supplies and created a favorable environment for the

current global sunflower oil market. Commodity prices have broken all-time records by soaring 60 percent compared to a year ago.

"It's as good as any of the 10 years I've been involved in it," Schecher said. "Ukraine was the largest producer of sunflowers and the largest exporter of sunflower oil on the world market with about 50 percent of the overall market, but a lot of their crop has been destroyed or confiscated by the Russian military. That's one of the things that have driven prices up, and it's been good for the farmers."

High prices and high returns are keeping Schecher interested in raising sunflowers, but sometimes he has his doubts. Especially when he gets tired of fighting the fires, a battle that all sunflower farmers are bound to face at some point.

Schecher said that for all the eye appeal sunflowers hold, it's not always easy to bring in the crop. He explained that reaping the high-yield, high-oleic variety that he grows for the sunoil market can cause fires to break out during the combining process in the



Brad Schecher farms roughly 1,000 acres of sunflowers near Bison. *Photo by Brooke Schecher*

fall. The elevated oil content of the plant - ranging anywhere from 38 to 44 percent - along with the dust that's created during combining can result in a combustible mixture that is sometimes ignited by the presence of static electricity.

To make sure he's prepared, Schecher keeps a battery-operated leaf blower aboard the combine at all times.

"I have to keep blowing the combine off when I get to the end of the field to keep a fire from breaking out," he said. "You can see the accumulated piles of dust start glowing red-hot, and you can usually smell it and get it put out before it gets out of control. It's a hazard that you just have to contend with. Sometimes it can happen two or three times a day, especially when it's dry conditions."

Other farmers, such as Lance Hourigan of Lemmon, S.D., have addressed this common problem by investing in after-market solutions. Hourigan reached northward across the state border and recruited Stelter Repair out of New Leipzig, N.D., to manufacture an air tower to help

Estimated number
of sunflower acres

600,000

planted in South
Dakota in 2021

reduce the risk of fire during harvest time. Resembling a chimney, the device draws in air from above the combine where there is much less dust and debris billowing from the threshing process, and blows the air over the engine to help it stay cool and clean.

While Schecher focuses on the high-oleic variety that represents about 80 percent of the market, there are other varieties grown for silage, birdfeed and other uses. Confection sunflowers, grown mostly in the eastern part of the state, are those found bagged up on convenience store shelves, the kind loaded with an assortment of flavors and

seasonings and meant for chewing.

While sunflowers are native to the continent, their history in North America can be traced to American Indian tribes in present-day Arizona and New Mexico. Archaeologists have found that these tribes domesticated the crop as early as 3000 B.C. The seed was ground or pounded into flour for cakes, mush or bread. Some tribes mixed the meal with vegetables such as beans and squash. The seed was cracked and eaten for snacking, while the oil was squeezed from the seed and used in making bread.

Non-food uses included purple dye for textiles, body painting and other decorations. Parts of the plant were used to treat snakebites. The oil was used on the skin and hair, and the dried stalk was used as a building material.

Today, agricultural scientists are exploring new uses for the plant while also figuring out how to provide protection from wireworms and other threats. Meanwhile, bullish farmers are keeping their eye on the global markets while exuding the same sense of sunny optimism associated with the sunflowers they work so hard to raise.

Notes of Appreciation

Throughout the year, Lyon-Lincoln electric receives many thank you notes of appreciation from our Operation RoundUp® grant recipients. We are sharing a few of those below.

Over 1,100 K-12 students in the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative service area participated in a conference, competition, or other event through SWWC's 2021-22 Student Enrichment Program. Many students experienced something for the very first time, including: Winning first place in a cake decorating contest, making a clay pot on a pottery wheel, using a telescope for daytime star gazing, talking with an employer about a part time job, and learning a traditional Hmong dance. Without SWWC's student enrichment opportunities, these "firsts" may never happen. And some of these "firsts" may influence a student's future learning and career choices. Your funding makes an impact -THANK YOU!
-Shelly Maes, SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education

Your gift helped Junior Achievement teach young people critical finance skills in K-12 schools in Lyon County. Your donation will make a positive impact in their future and the future of Southwest Minnesota. Thank you again for your support! -Matt Stuewe, Board President, JA of Lyon County

First and foremost, thank you! When students succeed, so does society. Your gift to Junior Achievement in Lincoln County helps provide students in our communities with a hands-on learning experience that will change their lives and ours. -Jessica Foley, Lincoln Co. JA Coordinator

Through 4-H, youth learn to communicate effectively, work as a team. Boost their confidence and make positive choices- building skills they need throughout their life. Thank you for investing in Minnesota youth through 4-H. -Beverly R. Durgen, Dean, UMN Extension

Thank you for supporting life-changing FUN experiences that enhance independence and self-esteem for people with disabilities. -With much gratitude, John Le Blanc, President & CEO, True Friends

Our Lincoln Co. Horticulture club is grateful & pleased to be awarded a grant for the horseshoe flower gardens at the Tyler Fairgrounds. We are adding pollinators, native plants, and much more. Thank you very much. -Darlene Willert, Secretary, Lincoln Co. Horticulture Society

An RTR After Prom Party was held for all RTR Juniors, Seniors, and their guests. Our goal was to provide a fun, safe, and supervised evening for the kids. Hosted at The Rock in Tyler, the night started with a magic show performed by Travis Nye, all were in awe with his performance. Afterwards, the after-prom goers played beanbags, yard, and carnival type games to win "RTR Bucks" to be used at the auction later that night for all guests to participate in. Auctioneer JT Weber kept the kids busy bidding on auction items. Area businesses, including Lyon-Lincoln Electric's Operation RoundUp, donated cash and gift certificates for the evening's events & prizes. A special thank you goes out to everyone who donated! We would not have been able to have such a great night for the kids if it weren't for our community's support. -RTR After-Prom Committee.

On behalf of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and the Administrators from the Lincoln County Schools, we would like to give a sincere offer of gratitude and thank you for donating to our internet & social media presentation; 10 Seconds to View a Lifetime on the Web. Two sessions were held for all 5-12th graders in Lincoln County. The student body reception was very positive and students said they learned a lot and will be more aware of the decisions they are making and the consequences that could come from making a bad decision. Again thank you for the Operation Roundup dollars to be able to provide such learning experience for our Youth. -Deputy Jacob Jensen, Lincoln Co. Sheriff



Lyon-Lincoln Electric will be closed September 5th, 2022 in observance of Labor Day.

Happy

LABOR DAY



June 2022 Outage Report

(10 or more consumers)

6/4 - 26 consumers were off 2 hrs. & 5 mins. in the City of Lynd. The cause was a bad OCR in the Lynd Substation.

6/5 - 21 consumers were off 1 hr. & 35 mins. in Ash Lake, Limestone, & Royal Townships. The cause was a broken insulator.

6/20 - 12 consumers were off 4 hrs. & 25 mins. in Diamond Lake Township. The cause was a tree that went through the line & broke a pole off from the wind

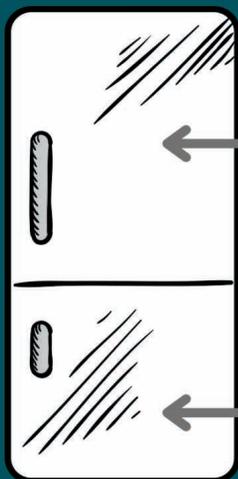
6/20 - 40 consumers were off 1 hr. & 50 mins. in the City of Arco. The cause was a tree limb on the line from the wind storm.

6/20 - 232 consumers were off 1 hr. & 10 mins. in the Lake Benton Sub Area. The cause was East River lost transmission poles from the wind storm.

6/24 - 72 consumers were off 1 hr. & 15 mins. in Coon Creek & Island Lake Townships. The cause was a consumer that hit a URD cable on a pole.

Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



4

Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

24 OR 48

Food in a **half-full** freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a **full** freezer will last 48 hours.

Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!



CHISLIC FESTIVAL



Roger and Lori Pietz claimed the New Age Nosh Award at last year's Chislic Festival in Freeman. Photos by SD Chislic Festival

Step inside the Chislic Circle for unique food and lots of family fun

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

In a world already rife with scads of dander-raising hot-button issues, add chislic to the list. It seems that anytime more than a few cocksure chislic chefs gather around a grill, controversy can't be too far away.

The bickering typically begins with picking the proper protein. Opt for the traditional scrumptious cubes of mutton or lamb, or take a risk and go hog-wild with pork or maybe buffalo? How about swinging farther to the edge with venison, goat, beef or chicken? Dare we add emu to the list?

At least one restaurant is sending the chislic cosmos into spasms by serving up plates of (gasp) "fish-lic."

The plethora of opinions surrounding the preparation of chislic starts with the choice of meat and springboards from there into seasonings, cooking methods and even serving techniques. Grilled,

deep fried or air fried? Fork, toothpick or skewer? Don't get a chislic enthusiast started on the sauce selection.

Many people and various cultures have a strong attachment to their particular favorite types of food, but South Dakota's desire for chislic is unusually intense – especially for those who dwell within the Chislic Circle.

If the name Chislic Circle evokes images of a secret society that conducts mysterious midnight rituals around a raging bonfire deep in the forest, well, it's not quite that. It's more of a clever marketing concept, and an effective one for community leaders who take pride in their chislic lore. In fact, everyone is invited to come inside this circle.

At the center of the Chislic Circle lies Freeman, S.D., with the chislic realm falling inside a 100-mile radius and including communities such as Kaylor, Menno, Hurley, Marion, Bridgewater, Emery and others. The Circle was spun into creation in 2018 when a small

but passionate contingent of chislic connoisseurs decided to celebrate and demonstrate their pride in their unique culinary heritage.

Andrea Baer was part of that early chislic cadre. She said the catalyst came when chislic was officially declared the "state nosh" by the Legislature four years ago.

"Before then, when you mentioned chislic outside of the area, there was hardly anyone who knew what you were talking about," said Baer, who is a native of Turkey Ridge still living on the farm her forebears from Denmark settled several generations ago. "It's something that's very unique to the area and we



like to celebrate it.”

That celebration has taken the form of an annual event that’s been recognized by tourism officials as one of the state’s fastest-growing festivals with an estimated 10,000 attendees last year after a pandemic pause in 2020. Organizers were expecting up to a couple thousand for the inaugural event in 2018, but four times that many showed up. The following year, the party was moved from the Freeman softball field to the more spacious 40-acre Prairie Arboretum.

This year’s festival was held on July 30 with the usual food vendors touting their unique savory recipes, libations, live music, a family-friendly kid zone, bingo, dancing, a cornhole competition, 5K run/walk, helicopter rides and other forms of family-oriented fun.

Festival board member and chislic expert Ian Tuttle also presented, “From Russia with Love: The History of Chislic” at the nearby Heritage Hall Museum and Archives.

Tuttle enjoys telling the story of how chislic arrived in the late 1800s with a particular group of immigrants described as “Germans from Russia.” A group of German Mennonites and Hutterites originally fled religious persecution in the 16th century and migrated eastward through the Russian Empire where they raised crops and sheep.

They chopped the meat into small pieces, cooked it over a fire and called it “shashlik,” a word for “skewer” rooted in the Turkic languages of Central Asia. The word is a close cousin to the more widely known “shish kebab.”

Eventually, those migrants found their way to present-day southeastern South Dakota and made sure to bring their shashlik with them. Those residing



inside the Chislic Circle generally recognize Johann Hoellwarth as the individual who introduced chislic to the Dakota Territory. Born in 1849 to a German Lutheran family in the Crimea, Hoellwarth settled just outside of where Freeman is today and was laid to eternal rest in the town.

Each year a panel of seven fearless judges takes on the task of naming the festival’s “best chislic.” For the past two years the top Traditional Division Award has gone to Kyle Sturzenbecker and his squad of Sheep Flockers.

Sturzenbecker said he and his fellow chef Josh Goehring don’t characterize themselves as competitive, but he also isn’t about to give away any trade secrets.

“You don’t have to do a whole lot. I just let the flavor of the meat speak for itself,” he said. “Honestly, I never

thought I’d win. I just like to cook good food that people enjoy eating.”

In 2021, the non-traditional New Age Nosh Award was claimed by Roger Pietz, owner of the Pietz Kuchen Kitchen. The establishment is mostly known for its rich custard dessert, but for the festival Pietz decided to go in a different direction and put together a tangy chislic pizza.

Ultimately, the Chislic Festival is about celebrating family, honoring the past and preserving the rural lifestyle.

“The tradition of chislic comes not from cities, the wealthy, or the privileged,” Baer said, “but from the rural, hardworking farm tradition of the people who settled this area. We thrive on the rural, while building the region through vibrant community.”



Placing a priority on farm safety

Farmers and farm family members face dangers every day. Although tragedies such as tractor rollovers and grain bin suffocation receive the most attention, electrocution and electrical burn accidents are frequent on farms. Electrical safety is one of the priorities during National Farm Safety and Health Week, September 18-24, 2022.

The simple movement of a portable grain auger from one bin to another could have tragic results if the individuals involved are not extremely careful. The use of tractors with large cabs and antennas and oversized grain wagons can also result in preventable electrocution incidents.

Electrical equipment around fields, such as power lines in the end rows, may get overlooked during such a hectic time of year as harvest. However, failure to notice overhead power lines can be a deadly oversight.

Most farmsteads could use a very careful overhead visual inspection of electric lines. The service may no longer meet the proper height codes because of age and/or damage to poles and pole guy wires. The sag may have increased over the years, while the height of the machinery being used today may be much higher.

However, today's farm equipment has a long reach when extended; John & Jennifer Tramm - 1548600 and even when collapsed for roadway transport, many pieces of equipment may exceed the height of power lines. A daily check should be made of where equipment will be moving to ensure that it will clear power lines.

A daily check should be made of where equipment will be moving to ensure that it will clear power lines.

Don't take matters into your own hands. They may not be as high as they look. Always use a spotter, someone with a broad vantage point, when working in the vicinity of power lines.

Maintain a 10-foot separation from a power line completely around it, whether you are driving underneath or passing a grain auger near it. Where possible, install electrical safety warning signage to prevent equipment and human contact with power lines. This will also be beneficial to your suppliers who may be making deliveries to your farm.

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON

	May- 2021	May- 2022
Total Revenue	\$4,336,342	\$4,671,180
Cost of Power	\$2,469,360	\$2,387,677
Operating Expenses	\$1,944,833	\$1,990,235
Operating Margins	\$(77,851)	\$293,268
KWH's Purchased	41,233,139	45,372,516
Services in Place	4,130	4,133
Miles of Line	1,670	1,670
Revenue per Mile	\$2,597	\$2,797

Electrifying Ag

Farms have historically run on fossil fuels, from diesel tractors and irrigation pumps to propane space and water heating for barns. But farmers are beginning to see the cost, convenience and environmental benefits of going electric. Around 80 percent of U.S. farms are in counties served by electric cooperatives, and co-ops across the country are working to help them switch to efficient electric devices. Here are some of the key systems co-ops are promoting.

Space Heating

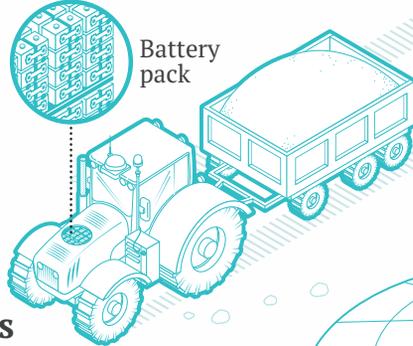
Electric technologies including heating, storage, waste heat recovery and heat pumps can help cut farms' space-conditioning costs.

Water Heating

Large-capacity water heaters, used mainly in dairy operations, are significantly more efficient when run on electricity.

Tractors

Electric tractors are an emerging technology but show promise for higher efficiency and less maintenance. They could also pave the way for autonomous equipment and "precision ag."



Battery pack

Radio wave
dryer

Radio
frequency
generator

Electric
pivot motor

Grain Drying

Drying grain is extremely energy-intensive. Emerging electric systems, including new ones that use radio waves, show promise for being more efficient and effective.

Electric
air blower

Irrigation

Replacing inefficient diesel irrigation motors with high efficiency electric ones can result in substantial energy cost savings for farms.

Electric
water pump

Source: NRECA Business & Technology Strategies; Design: Kevin Kepple

REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
Photo Credit: SD State Fair

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.

AUGUST 19-20
Harvest Festival
Various Locations, Elkton, SD,
605-542-2681

AUGUST 24-28
Kool Deadwood Nites
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

AUGUST 25-28
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village, Madison, SD,
605-256-3644

AUGUST 26-27
Hill City Wine, Brew and BBQ
Elm St., Hill City, SD, hillcitywine
brewandbbq.com

AUGUST 26-27
Sizzlin' Summer Nights
Main St., Aberdeen, SD,
605-226-3441

AUGUST 26-28
Hot Air Balloon Festival
Various Locations, Hot Springs, SD,
fallriverballoonfest.com

AUG. 30-SEPT. 4
Sturgis Mustang Rally
Thunderdome, Sturgis, SD,
sturgismustangrally.com

SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
890 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD,
sdstatefair.com

SEPTEMBER 4
Dakota Five-O
City Park, Spearfish, SD,
dakotafiveo.com

SEPTEMBER 8-11
S.D. State Senior Games
Watertown, SD, 605-491-0635
or 605-753-3668

SEPTEMBER 10
605 Black Hills Classic
Lions Park, Spearfish, SD,
605-274-1999

SEPTEMBER 10
Germanfest
Fawick Park, Sioux Falls, SD,
siouxfallssistercities.com/event

SEPTEMBER 10
Insect Festival
McCrary Gardens, Brookings, SD,
605-688-6707

SEPTEMBER 10
Sidewalk Arts Festival
Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD,
605-367-6000

SEPTEMBER 16-18
South Dakota Film Festival
Capitol Theatre, Aberdeen, SD,
southdakotafilmfest.org

SEPTEMBER 17-18
Northeast South Dakota Celtic Faire and Games
37925 Youth Camp Rd.,
Aberdeen, SD, 605-622-0144

SEPTEMBER 23-24
Hops and Hogs Festival
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

SEPTEMBER 23-25
HNIRC Championship of Champions
Stanley County Fairgrounds,
Fort Pierre, SD, horsenations
indianrelay.com

SEPTEMBER 24
Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival
Main Street Square, Rapid City,
SD, 605-716-7979

SEPTEMBER 24-25
Menno Pioneer Power Show
Pioneer Acres, Menno, SD,
mennopowershow@yahoo.com

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1
Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival
Custer, SD, gfp.sd.gov/buffalo-roundup

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1
Oktoberfest
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

SEPT. 30-OCT. 2
SiouxperCon
1201 N West Ave., Sioux Falls, SD,
siouxpercon.com

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