

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Preserving Our Past

**Historical Society Unveils
New Cultural Heritage Center**
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Co-op Summer Outreach
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Looking Back and Planning Ahead



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

Annual Meeting Recap

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to attend our 87th Annual Meeting. Member participation is an important part of our cooperative and we appreciate the opportunity to visit with our member-owners and their families. We had 143 members sign in for the meeting and the Lincoln County Pork Producers grilled 300 pork chops to serve our members and their families.

Speaking of families, it was nice to see all of the kids running around the shop and enjoying the bounce house throughout the evening. The final group I want to recognize is our scholarship winners and their families. Seeing so many young people at the meeting is a reminder that the decisions we make today help ensure a strong cooperative for future generations. Additional highlights from the meeting can be found elsewhere in this month's newsletter.

Director Elections

Director Elections are an important part of the cooperative business model, ensuring that members continue to have a voice in the direction of their cooperative. Elections were held during the meeting, and the following individuals were elected:

- District 1 – Scott Johnson
- District 2 – John Wiese
- District 3 – Dale Fier

Board President Dale Fier welcomed our new director to the board and thanked outgoing director Galen for his 33 years of dedicated service to the members of the cooperative. Galen's thoughtfulness, insights, and humor will be missed at the monthly board meeting, and we wish him the best as he spends more time with his family and on the farm. John will have his first board meeting at the end of June and we look forward to him joining us and providing his perspective to the board meetings.

Planning for 2027

Now that we are through the Annual Meeting and are starting the second half of the year, our focus will turn to the 2027 Budget and to the completion of our next 4-year construction work plan.

Staff will be working on getting numbers put together for the budget over the next several months with a plan to present the draft budget to the board at the beginning of December. We expect another increase in wholesale power costs in 2027 as Basin Electric implements the second year of its two-year rate adjustment plan. Wholesale power costs account for nearly 60% of all cooperative expenses, making them the single largest factor in our annual budget. We will hear about what that increase will be in the next couple of months and will be discussing the impact of the increase during our board meetings as we prepare the 2027 Budget. Please continue to read this newsletter for more information.

Every four years, we put together a work plan with our consulting engineer on the construction projects for the next four years. We are in the last year of our previous plan, and we will be spending the next few months identifying projects for the next four years. We will look at the entire system and look for places with voltage issues, aged lines, and areas that continue to experience outage issues. We will continue to look at replacing older underground lines with new underground lines in this plan as well. We have around 45 miles of older underground lines and we would like to get these lines replaced as soon as possible. We are limited by time and by our budget. As we work through the construction work plan process, we will also start on our next Rural Utilities Service loan which will help us finance the projects listed in the work plan.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to serve you. If you have upcoming projects that may require electric service, please contact us early so we can help with planning. We look forward to keeping you informed as we develop the 2027 budget and our next four-year construction work plan.

Enjoy your summer and continue to read our newsletter for updates on your electric cooperative!



**Lyon-Lincoln Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

FARMFEST 2026

AUGUST 4-6
28366 COUNTY HWY 13
MORGAN, MN (GILFILLAN)



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



MEMEBER INFO:

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

(ISSN 1540-6989)

Board of Directors

Dale Fier, Taunton – President
Scott Johnson, Tyler – Vice President
Kathleen Schreurs, Tyler – Sec./Treas.
Joel Buyck, Garvin
Jared Dritz, Porter
John Wiese, Russell
Mary Gunnink, Lake Benton
Mike Longtin, Taunton
James Rokeh, Minneota

Staff and Personnel

Tim O'Leary – General Manager
Lyle Lamote – Line Superintendent
Kristi Jensen – Finance Manager
Brian Jeremiason – Manager of
Marketing & External Relations
Rochelle Borresen – Accountant
Lisa Hauswedell – Billing Clerk
Jessica Gums – Executive Assistant
Wade Thooft – Operations Staff
Assistant
Alan Fischer – Work Order Clerk/Warehouse Coordinator
Ross Birath – Journeyman Linemen
Dan Tutt – Journeyman Linemen
Tyler Blomme – Journeyman Linemen
Tyler Sand – Journeyman Linemen
Nathan Pavek – Journeyman Linemen
Trent Skjefte – Journeyman Linemen
Sam Rohde – Journeyman Linemen

www.llec.coop

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247-5508.

Jessica Gums, Editor

OPERATION ROUNDUP

Turning Coins into CHANGE

HOW OPERATION ROUNDUP WORKS

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.

JUNE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Trust, Inc. was held June 1, 2026. The board reviewed the Trust Funding Policy and Guidelines and applications received. After discussion, grant requests were approved. Then, thank you notes and final reports from grant recipients were reviewed. A certificate was then presented to Directors, Katy Vos and Kayla Werkman, for their years of service on the ORU board, as their last terms have come to an end. The next meeting will be held August 31, 2026.

Do you know a nonprofit organization in our service territory that would benefit from a grant from Operation RoundUp? Community organizations and nonprofit groups may apply by completing and returning an application form. Applications for grants can be found at www.llec.coop under the "Your Cooperative" tab.



Pictured: ORU Director, Katy Vos, during her last meeting.

**The next round of applications will be
due: August 20th, 2026.**



JUNE 2026 GRANTEES

**Lincoln County Ag.
Society**
2026 Lincoln Co. Fair
\$1,000

Yellow Medicine Co. Fair
Grandstand Ticket Booth
\$1,000

RTR FFA Chapter
National FFA Convention
\$200

**WoMen's Rural Advocacy
Program**
Safe House Support
\$2,850

**United Community
Action Partnership**
Lincoln/Lyon Co.
Youth Development
Summer Field Trip
\$1,200

**Balaton Area Historical
Society**
New Blinds/window film
\$300



As unmanned aerial systems (UAS) increasingly populate recreational and professional skies, safety remains paramount – especially near critical infrastructure such as overhead power lines. Today we reaffirm that drones should be flown in open spaces away from electrical lines and substations to prevent power outages and dangerous debris that can threaten public safety.

A drone colliding with a power line can cause outages and, if lines are downed, create serious electrical hazards for anyone nearby. Touching downed lines or debris that has fallen on fences, trees or other objects can result in severe injury or death. If you encounter downed power lines, immediately call 911 and notify emergency personnel and the utility company.

To ensure safe and compliant drone operations, follow federal registration and business-approval requirements, and stay informed about local, state and community regulations. FAA safety guidelines remain essential: Inspect your drone for damage before each flight and repair any issues prior to use. Fly at or below 400 feet unless FAA authorization or an allowed exception applies. Maintain visual line of sight; do not fly beyond it. Avoid airports, manned aircraft, stadiums and crowds of people. Do not fly for unapproved commercial purposes without FAA authorization. Refrain from flying in bad weather, including low visibility or high winds. Never fly recklessly or endanger others; violations can result in fines and penalties.

It is encouraged that drone operators plan routes

that maximize safety and minimize proximity to power infrastructure. Responsible pilots, adherence to FAA guidelines and awareness of local rules can prevent outages, injuries and potentially tragic consequences. For more information on legal requirements and best practices, consult FAA resources and your local utility providers.

Together, we can enjoy the benefits of drone technology while safeguarding our communities and critical electrical infrastructure.

As drone use expands, operators should build safety into every mission from the outset. Calibration, pre-flight checklists, and robust maintenance programs help catch issues before takeoff. Operators are encouraged to use situational awareness tools, such as real-time weather updates and wind assessments, to adjust flight plans accordingly. Community education events and outreach can foster a responsible culture among hobbyists and professionals alike, reinforcing the shared responsibility to protect power networks and nearby residents. By prioritizing safety, we preserve access to this transformative technology for all.



"Call 811 before you dig – always."

Laina Nelson, age 10

Laina reminds members to always call 811 before digging. Thank you for sharing your picture, Laina! Laina's parents are Nathan and Kristen Nelson – members of H-D Electric.

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.

Family FAVORITES

PARTY IN A PAN

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lbs. hamburger, browned
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 box Stove Top Stuffing Mix
1 can corn, drained
3 cups mozzarella cheese,
shredded

Method

Combine the hamburger, celery soup and chicken soup in a bowl and set aside. Prepare the Stove Top Stuffing as directed on the box. Layer half the hamburger mixture, half the corn, half the stuffing and half the cheese; repeat layers again. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350°F or until cheese is melted. Makes 9x13 inch pan.

Kathy Zomer
Douglas Electric

WALLEYE WITH HORSERADISH SAUCE

Ingredients:

2 lbs. walleye fillets
1 cup Lawry's Herb & Garlic
marinade
1 tsp. Lawry's Season Salt
1 tsp. lemon pepper
1/4 cup butter
2 tbsp. horseradish
2 tsp. dill

Method

Marinate fish in herb & garlic marinade for 30 minutes. Drain. Sprinkle with season salt and lemon pepper. Bake fish until it flakes. Melt butter in saucepan. Remove from heat and add horseradish. Spoon onto fillet after cooked. Sprinkle on dill and serve.

Valerie Marso
Oahe Electric

BBQ MEATBALLS

Ingredients:

Meatballs

3# ground beef
1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
1 cup oatmeal
1 cup cracker crumbs
2 eggs
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 tsp. chili powder

Sauce

2 cups ketchup
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp. liquid smoke, or to taste
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 cup finely chopped onion

Method

Mix all meatball ingredients together and shape into meatballs. Place meatballs in a baking dish.

Mix all sauce ingredients together and pour over meatballs. Cover and bake at 350°F for one hour. The meatballs can be made ahead of time and frozen for several weeks. This makes a large batch, so it can be divided into smaller batches and frozen.

Karen Soulek
Charles Mix Electric

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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

May 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. The following directors were present: Scott Johnson, Jared Dritz, Kathy Schreurs, Mary Gunnink, Joel Buyck, Galen Grant, Mike Longtin, Dale Fier, and James Rokeh. Also present at said Board 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. President, Dale Fier, then called the meeting to order and conducted routine business including approval of the April 2026 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, reviewed the Financial and Operating Report for March, 2026. The Board reviewed information that had been received from East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. concerning the 2026 Capital Credit Retirements and reviewed a letter from Kristi Jensen, Finance Manager, concerning questions and answers that had to be provided for the Return of Organization Exempt From Tax (Form 990).

The board viewed the April 2026 Outage Report prepared by Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent.

The Board was advised that there was no Safety Meeting held for the month of April. Mr. Lamote indicated that the linemen were working on the following projects: working on underground inspections, started work on an underground project near Amiret, and Utility Testing Poles will begin testing 2200 poles in Ash Lake, Hope, and Marshville Townships. Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, advised the Board that he had submitted a letter of retirement to General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, and it was his intent to retire from the Cooperative on November 6, 2026.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, reviewed his report with the Board and discussion was as follows: indicated that mailings had been completed to 628 members concerning the LCR Replacement Project, of those 628 members the Cooperative has been able to assign 386 controllers for replacement. While interest in solar energy remains steady, the Cooperative has not received new applications since federal IRA tax credits ended. The Cooperative is also preparing to transition to a new web-based Call to Order (CTO) system. The upgraded platform will provide improved security, greater flexibility, access from any internet-connected device, enhanced document viewing capabilities and new AI-assisted features for staff. Pam Schwarz - 825606.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, gave his General Manager's Report and was as follows: reviewed the April 2026 power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to budgeted amounts, looked at line loss for the system, presented information comparing past due amounts between April 2025 and 2026, reported on the East River MAC Meeting, discussed with the Board a Wildfire Mitigation plan which concerns the testing of poles and a vegetation plan to limit damage from wildfires, reviewed upcoming meetings and notices, and reviewed the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Cyber Report for April 2026 which was prepared by East River Cyber Security Department.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, then discussed with the Board the remodeling or replacement of the headquarters building and indicated that he continues to obtain more information on the possible headquarters project.

There was discussion concerning the NISC/Meridian Merger.

The Board was reminded that the Annual Meeting would be held on June 3, 2026.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.



Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment and an increase in slow-moving machinery on our local roads. **Slow down and stay alert!**

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON: APRIL 2026

	April - 2025	April - 2026
Total Revenue	\$4,108,485	\$4,587,193
Cost of Power	\$2,325,383	\$2,690,421
Operating Expenses	\$1,850,187	\$1,859,601
Operating Margins	\$(67,085)	\$37,171
KWH's Purchased	37,440,042	36,063,493
KWH's Sold	35,571,774	34,356,039
Members	3,951	3,955
Miles of Line	1,670	1,668
Members per Mile	2.37	2.37

MAY 2026: OUTAGE REPORT

10 OR MORE CONSUMERS

5/2/26- 159 consumers were off 2 hours and 50 minutes in Alta Vista, Fortier, Marble, and Norman Townships. The cause was an underground fault.

5/14/26- 20 consumers were off 1 hour and 30 minutes in Lake Shaokatan Township. The cause was a tree branch on the line.

WIN MONEY

FIND YOUR NAME & MEMBER #

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Co-op 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 Co-op Connections, Shaun Madden & Mitchell Groen were listed, and will receive an energy credit if they spotted their names and called the office. Once again, there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue.

Good Luck!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

Source: energy.gov



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A PAST FIT FOR THE FUTURE

A new lobby welcomes visitors to the Cultural Heritage Center.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

Cultural Center & State Museum Reopens After Extensive Renovation

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

After more than two years spent closed for renovation, South Dakota's state museum and cultural center is back up and running to share the story of South Dakota and its people with visitors from across the state and beyond.

The iconic museum built into the Pierre hillside held its grand reopening July 1 in time for the nation's 250th birthday, showing off new exhibits, a gift shop and an expansion that includes a larger meeting room and more space for its archives.

For Museum Director David Grabitske, the reopening marks a new chapter for the South Dakota State Historical Society, which oversees both the museum and state archives housed there. But it also honors the first laws set forth by the Dakota Territory's first territorial legislature, outlining specific steps and functions for historical preservation for untold future generations of its citizens.

According to Grabitske, many of the

first Dakotan settlers were determined to preserve the history they were making day by day as settlers on the vast American frontier.

"The first three acts [by the territorial legislature] were all about transferring property at the end of life – it's all about inheritance," Grabitske explained. "The fourth act of the territory created the historical society. In my mind, the fourth act goes along with those first three acts; it's about how we give things to the future."

Establishing a historical society demonstrated confidence that there would be a future for the Dakota Territory – complete with a permanent population that would live, grow and prosper there.

"We have a mantra around here," Grabitske said. "We collect today for tomorrow's history."

What that sentiment has amounted to is a sprawling collection of more than 17,000 cubic feet of paper, 50 terabytes of data on its servers, and more than 35,000 individual objects.

"The very first collections that arrived were in 1863, and we still have those in our library," Grabitske said. "They were

library books – 514 of them in 11 boxes."

In the process of collecting and disseminating information, historical societies at the time would collect and make copies of books to trade with other historical societies to expand their collections and diffuse knowledge across a wider area and reduce the risk of losing records to fire.

You'll find those 160 years' worth of books, deeds, contracts and reports



On the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn, Curator of Collections Katy L. Schmidt holds a can found on the battlefield.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

throughout the high-ceilinged, climate-controlled archive wing of the building – but you'll also find objects that aren't necessarily old or inherently valuable.

"The reason we add something into our collection is because it's historic, and what we mean by historic is it has significance and integrity," Grabitske explained. "Something being 'old' just fixes it in time. What makes something historic is that it is significant – it tells the story of people in South Dakota, and it has integrity, which means a certain completeness to tell that story."

To illustrate the point, Grabitske described a recent addition to the museum's collection – a painted tire with the words "no hunting."

"You see these things going down the road [in South Dakota], and we realized we were missing [one for the museum]," he explained. "We found one near Timber Lake which had a story. The lady who gave it to us (family of Dorothy Dopp, courtesy of the Timber Lake & Area Museum) had put it up in 1967 and she had faithfully painted it over the years and knew the dates she had painted it. We don't need 400 of these tires – we need one to represent the whole state."

Visitors to the museum this summer can experience the first three rooms of the updated exhibits. These sections house a welcome area, 'What is History?' exhibit and a gallery. The remaining sections are slated for completion in December 2026 and will feature exhibits on South Dakota's environment, people, politics, conflicts and more.

For more information on the Cultural Heritage Center and the South Dakota State Historical Society, visit history.sd.gov.



An exhibit showcasing the famous people of South Dakota.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



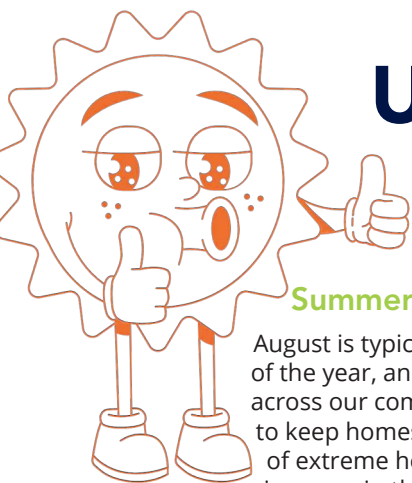
This plaster doll (left) was gifted to South Dakota by Japan in 1927 to commemorate the United States' 150th birthday. Fifty years later, for the nation's 200th birthday, Japan gifted South Dakota another doll (right).
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Museum Director and South Dakota State Historical Society Assistant Director David Grabitske walks through the extensive art archive, revealing a painting of an electrical lineman working through a winter storm.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Grabitske demonstrates the new movable shelves installed over tracks within the floor. This upgrade will maximize the available archival space.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Understanding What Powers Your Electric Bill

Summer Heat Drives Energy Use

August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bill and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At Lyon-Lincoln Electric, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, our cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

The Cost of Producing Electricity

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, Lyon-Lincoln Electric purchases power from East River Electric Cooperative. The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Delivering Power Across the Grid

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home, it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand continues to grow.

Maintaining Local Reliability

Closer to home, Lyon-Lincoln Electric maintains the local electric distribution system: utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining

this equipment is covered through the monthly access charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Understanding Peak Demand

Summer temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

Smart Energy Habits for Summer

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand. Ben Sahlstrom - 1539700.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill or co-op programs designed to help you save, please reach out. We're here to help you make informed decisions that work for your household.

Beat the Summer Heat

5 Ways to Lower Summer Energy Costs



Raise your thermostat a few degrees when away



Change HVAC filters regularly



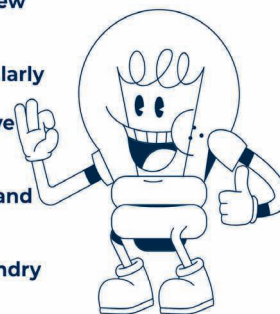
Use ceiling fans to improve comfort



Seal drafts around doors and windows



Run dishwashers and laundry during cooler hours



KEEP FOOD SAFE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A STORM

Storm season can bring power outages, putting your food at risk of spoiling. Staying prepared can help you avoid illness, waste and added stress during a storm.

AT A GLANCE: BENEFITS OF ENERGY STORAGE

Keep appliance thermometers in your fridge and freezer.



Limit the opening of appliance doors.



Use coolers/ice for outages longer than 4 hours.



Never taste food to check safety. When in doubt, throw it out.



BEFORE THE STORM:

TAKE A FEW PRECAUTIONS

- **Use appliance thermometers** in your fridge and freezer. Safe temps: 40 F (fridge), 0 F (freezer).
- **Freeze water containers** to help maintain cold temperatures.
- **Keep coolers, ice packs or ice** ready in case of long outages.
- **Consider filling plastic containers with water**, leaving an inch of space inside each one, to help keep food cold if the power goes out.

STOCK UP ON READY-TO-EAT FOODS THAT DON'T NEED REFRIGERATION INCLUDING:

- Bottled water
- Canned goods such as veggies, fruits, beans and tuna.
- Don't forget a manual can opener
- Instant mashed potatoes or oatmeal for carbs and energy
- Crackers and nuts
- Dry cereal and powdered milk

DURING AN OUTAGE

In the event of a disaster, it is important to follow a specific sequence for using your available food supply. Start with perishable foods and items from the refrigerator. Following that, turn your attention to the freezer, then begin using nonperishable foods and essential staples.

Losing a fridge full of food is costly, inconvenient and can be dangerous if you're running low on rations. While you may not be able to save everything, here are ways to preserve food as long as possible:

- Keep doors closed. A fridge keeps food safe for up to 4 hours; a full freezer, up to 48 hours.
- Use a cooler if the power is out for more than 4 hours. Layer frozen items with fridge foods and ice for a more consistent temperature.
- If you don't have a cooler, you can use your freezer. Put ice in bowls and place them around the food to prevent melting ice from flooding your freezer. Use blankets to insulate the freezer, but ensure that air vents are unobstructed.
- Monitor temperatures with a thermometer. Food must stay below 40 F to stay safe.
- Never taste food to test safety. If it smells, looks or feels off — throw it out.
- Don't use food that touched floodwater unless it is in waterproof packaging.

After the power returns

- Frozen food is safe if it still contains ice crystals or has stayed under 40°F.
- Don't refreeze or cook food that got too warm.
- Throw out anything questionable.
- Use the U.S. Department of Agriculture's guide to learn more about foods you can keep or should throw out after a power outage: www.foodsafety.gov/food-safety-charts/food-safety-during-power-outage.

CO-OP SUMMER OUTREACH

Join Us at S.D. State Fair, Dakotafest, Minn. Farmfest

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Attention all co-op members! If you're heading to the South Dakota State Fair, Dakotafest or Farmfest this summer, stop by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booths for some great family fun and a chance to win a prize!

Make sure you fill out your coupon on the back of this magazine and bring it with you to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair or Dakotafest for your chance to win one of two electric grills sponsored by Karl's TV & Appliance.

South Dakota State Fair – Sept. 3, 2026

South Dakota's electric cooperatives will host the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026.

This one-day event will feature a slew of energy-themed activities, from bucket truck rides lifting you more than 50 feet above the state fairgrounds to an interactive pole climbing demonstration complete with real spiked boots and climbing gear that linemen use every day on the job. We've also partnered up with South Dakota One Call to remind you to always call 811 before you start digging – but your kids are welcome to use our mini excavator in our sandbox to uncover buried treasure!

While you're here, check out our on-site displays for select highly efficient, all-electric heat pumps and mini-splits, water heaters, yard tools and more!

Find our booth near the Horticulture Building.

Dakotafest – Aug. 18-20, 2026

You'll want to stop by the South Dakota Touchstone Energy Cooperatives building at Dakotafest in Mitchell, Aug. 18-20!

Join us for fresh-off-the-grill brats, oven-baked cookies and freezie pops as you learn about the latest in home energy savings and efficiency. We'll have other cool stuff for you to check out, including an automatic lawn mower, a solar panel display and an EGO Power+ Portable Power Station.

Minnesota Farmfest – Aug. 4-6, 2026

Minnesota members, come visit your electric cooperative at Minnesota Farmfest near Redwood Falls, Aug. 4-6, 2026. Members may enter a raffle drawing for one of five battery-operated yard tools. We'll even have the high-voltage trailer on site for a live demonstration to remind visitors to be safe around overhead and buried power lines.



Kids perfected their utility pole climbing skills at the South Dakota State Fair.

Photo by Jacob Boyko



Touchstone Energy Cooperatives host a booth at Dakotafest in 2025.

Submitted Photo



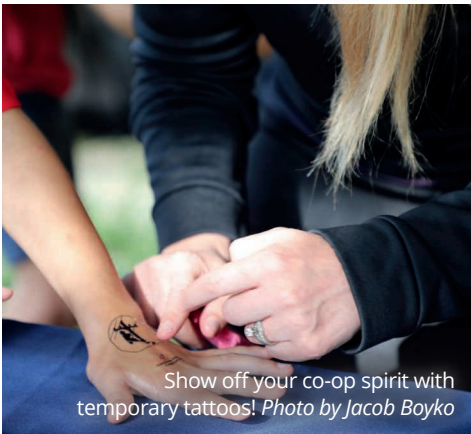
Charles Mix Electric Lineman Joe Michael shows off the bucket truck at the State Fair.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Fairgoers get a lineman's view of the State Fair! *Photo by Jacob Boyko*



A future lineman readies for his climb.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Show off your co-op spirit with temporary tattoos! *Photo by Jacob Boyko*



A line forms for bucket truck rides.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Booth visitors can win prizes by playing Plinko.
Submitted Photo

MORE THAN A MEETING:

Members Power Another Successful Year

Nearly 150 members, their families, and guests gathered at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative's headquarters on June 3rd for the Cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting. The evening celebrated another successful year of serving our member-owners while highlighting the democratic principles that make electric cooperatives unique.

Before the business meeting began, attendees enjoyed a pork chop dinner prepared by the Lincoln County Pork Producers with delicious side dishes from The Country House in Lake Benton. Children had plenty of opportunities for fun as they tackled the inflatable obstacle course while members visited with neighbors and Cooperative employees.

Members Make the Difference

Unlike investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives are governed by the members they serve. The Annual Meeting provides member-owners with the opportunity to help shape the future of the Cooperative by electing directors who represent their communities.

This year, six candidates sought election to fill three seats on the Board of Directors.

In Districts 1 and 3, incumbent Directors Scott Johnson and Dale Fier were re-elected to represent the Co-Op, while John Wiese was elected to represent District 2 following the retirement of longtime director Galen Grant.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all candidates who placed their names on the ballot. Thank you to Neil Thooft, Glen Grant, and Darin Brink for their willingness to serve and for their commitment to our Cooperative and local communities.

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Members also received updates on the Cooperative's financial performance, operational accomplishments and future initiatives designed to continue providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

The evening also recognized recipients of the Basin Electric Scholarship and Operation RoundUp® scholarships, celebrating students whose hard work and dedication represent the future of our communities.

A Tradition Everyone Enjoys

No Annual Meeting would be complete without the popular prize drawings. Members of all ages eagerly awaited the chance to take home a variety of prizes including summer fun baskets, energy credits, electric yard tools, a tabletop electric grill, JBL Bluetooth speaker, and cash gift cards.

Thank You for Being Part of Your Cooperative

Thank you to everyone who attended our 87th Annual Meeting. Your participation reflects one of the Cooperative Principles, Democratic Member Control, and helps ensure Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative remains member-driven and community-focused.

For 87 years, our Cooperative has been powered not only by electricity, but by the members who choose to be involved. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to serving our communities for many years to come.



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: _____ Dakotafest – Find us in the Touchstone Energy Building!
Your Email Address: _____ S.D. State Fair – Find us in the Horticulture Park!

WIDER OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE
WAYS AND COOL OFF IN OUR
LEARNING ABOUT ELECTRICITY



AUG. 18-20
Dakotafest
2300 E. Spruce St.
Mitchell, SD

JULY 24-26
Bruce Honey Days
Bruce, SD
605-627-5671

JULY 31-AUG. 2
Sioux River Folk Festival
Newton Hills State Park
Sioux Falls, SD
SiouxRiverFolkFest.com

AUG. 1-2
51st Annual Pioneer Power Threshing Show
MN Machinery Museum
Hanley Falls, MN
507-828-5437

AUG. 1-2
Family Camping Weekend
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 4-6
Farmfest 2026
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Morgan, MN
Ideagroup.com/Farmfest

AUG. 5
Ag Appreciation Day
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sioux Empire Fair
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 8-9
South Dakota Senior Games
Events for People Ages 50+
Huron, SD
Register by July 26
SouthDakotaSeniorGames.org
605-295-2039
sdsrgames@gmail.com

AUG. 9
Czech Heritage Festival
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bechyn, MN
320-522-1218

AUG. 12
BFest Concert Series & Farmers Market
Jim McKinney & Friends
Performing
Museum Park
Bruce, SD
605-627-5671

AUG. 15
Melon Festival
Car Show, Live Music,
Bean Bag Tournament
Forestburg, SD
605-770-2132

AUG. 22
Hartford Area Fire & Rescue's 8th Annual Public Safety Day
10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
305 W. South St.
Hartford, SD

AUG. 22
McCrosan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Challenge
3:30 p.m.
McCrosan Boys Ranch
Sioux Falls, SD
605-339-1203

AUG. 27-30
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

SEPT. 1-6
20th Annual Sturgis Mustang Rally
Sturgis, SD
SturgisMustangRally.com

SEPT. 3
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives at the South Dakota State Fair
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
State Fairgrounds –
Horticulture Park
Huron, SD
605-224-8823

SEPT. 9
BFest Concert Series & Farmers Market
Matt Gauger Performing
Museum Park
Bruce, SD
605-627-5671

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: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.