

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Pristine Prairie

**Tellus & Lori Waddell Grow,
Harvest Native Plants**

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Drive Out to a Drive-In!

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Tim O'Leary
General Manager

WORKING TOGETHER TO RECOGNIZE HAZARDS

One of the things I appreciate most about working for an electric cooperative is the shared commitment our employees and members have to keeping our communities safe. Every day, our lineworkers and operations staff are trained

to recognize potential hazards before they become emergencies. Whether they are inspecting power lines, responding to outages, or performing routine maintenance, one of the most important skills they use is hazard recognition.

Last month, our monthly employee safety meeting focused on recognizing hazards on and around our electric distribution system. Safety is one of our core values at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, and these ongoing discussions help ensure our employees return home safely at the end of each workday while

continuing to provide the reliable service our members expect.

Our employees patrol thousands of miles of electric line throughout the year, looking for loose connections, missing guy wire markers, low-hanging lines, trees growing into power lines, and many other conditions that could affect public safety or system reliability. While our employees spend a great deal of time in the field, they cannot be everywhere every day. That is why our members are such an important part of helping us identify potential hazards before they become larger problems.

Our mission is to provide reliable electricity and services that enhance the quality of life in our rural communities. Recognizing and correcting hazards is one of the ways we fulfill that mission. In many cases, a simple phone call from a member allows us to correct a problem before it results in an outage, equipment damage, or a dangerous situation.

There are several ways you can help us keep the electric system safe and reliable:

Downed Power Lines

If you encounter a downed power line, never attempt to drive over it or move it. There is no way to know whether the line is energized, so always assume that it is. Stay a safe distance away, warn others to do the same, and call 9-1-1 immediately to report its location.

Trees and Vegetation

Trees growing near overhead power lines are one of the leading causes of service interruptions. If you notice trees that are growing into or touching power lines, please contact our office. Our crews can inspect the area and schedule any necessary trimming to help maintain safe clearances and reliable service.

Low-Hanging Lines

If you notice a power line that appears lower than normal or is no longer properly attached to a pole, please let us know. We will inspect the line and restore it to the proper clearance to help ensure public safety.

Guy Wires and Pole Attachments

Guy wires provide critical support for many utility poles. If you notice a broken guy wire or one that is missing its yellow safety marker, please report it. Likewise, if you see items such as signs, satellite dishes, deer stands, or other objects attached to utility poles, let us know. These attachments create hazards for our lineworkers when maintenance or repairs are required.

Building Clearances and Underground Equipment

If you are planning a new building, grain bin, or other structure near overhead power lines, please contact us before construction begins. We can help determine the proper clearances and identify any concerns before work starts. In addition, if you notice a leaning underground transformer or evidence of damage or leaking around one of our green transformer boxes, please report it so we can inspect it promptly.

The examples above are only a few of the hazards we routinely monitor throughout our service territory. By working together, we can often identify and correct potential problems before they become safety hazards or cause service interruptions.

Safety has always been one of the cooperative's highest priorities. We appreciate your willingness to be our eyes and ears throughout the communities we serve. If you see something that doesn't look right, please give us a call. Your phone call may help prevent an outage, protect someone's safety, and keep our electric system operating reliably for everyone.

For additional electrical safety information, I encourage you to visit our website and click on the SafeElectricity.org link.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

(ISSN 1540-6989)

Board of Directors

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Joel Buyck, Garvin
Jared Dritz, Porter
John Wiese, Russell
Mary Gunnink, Lake Benton
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Tyler Sand – Journeyman Linemen
Nathan Pavek – Journeyman Linemen
Trent Skjefte – Journeyman Linemen
Sam Rohde – Journeyman Linemen

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247-5508.

Jessica Gums, Editor

DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other
equipment makes contact with a
power line, guy wire or electrical
box, **DO NOT** get out of your cab.
Stray power could energize your
equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- Call 9-1-1 and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- Wait to exit your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit
your cab due to smoke or fire.

If you must get out:

- **Make a solid jump out** without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle.
- **Hop away as far as you can**, keeping both feet together as you hop away.

For more information visit
SafeElectricity.org

**Safe
Electricity.org**

STAYING PREPARED IN RURAL S.D.

As most South Dakotans know, weather on the Great Plains can be frightfully unpredictable. In fact, South Dakota holds the record for the fastest temperature rise ever recorded. On Jan. 22, 1943, the temperature in Spearfish climbed from 4 degrees below zero to 45 degrees above zero in only two minutes.

Winter storms also offer reminders of how quickly severe weather can reshape daily life. The Blizzard of 1966 brought wind gusts of 70 mph and snowdrifts reaching more than 30 feet. Roads remained blocked for days, and massive livestock losses made it one of the most severe blizzards in state history.

Winter Storm Atlas, another devastating blizzard in October 2013, dropped several feet of snow over the Black Hills. Heavy snow and strong winds toppled trees and power lines, and devastated livestock operations, leaving some residents without electricity for a week or longer.

Although not every storm will make the record books, severe weather can still disrupt a household. A little preparation on an ordinary day can make a difficult day much easier.

Make A Plan

Emergency preparedness begins with a plan. FEMA recommends that households develop a plan for alerts, appropriate shelter, evacuation and communication if family members become separated.

Start by identifying the types of emergencies most likely to affect your area. For rural South Dakotans, that may include anything from blizzards and tornadoes to severe thunderstorms and wildfires. A good safety plan starts by choosing a safe place inside the home for high winds and tornadoes, generally a basement or small interior room, away from windows.

Next, consider who in your household may need extra help during an emergency, including infants, older adults and pets. Make sure everyone knows where to go and what to do, then walk through the plan together.

Build A Practical Supply Kit

Once the plan is in place, start collecting and organizing supplies your household could rely on if the power goes out or travel becomes difficult. FEMA recommends keeping enough food and water for at least several days, with one gallon of water per person for each day. For example, a

family of four preparing for three days would need at least 12 gallons of water.

Choose nonperishable foods your household already eats and that can be prepared without electricity. Then add the basics needed to get through an outage, including flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit and a way to recharge cellphones. A NOAA Weather Radio can also provide important updates even when cellphone service is unavailable.

Next, tailor the kit to your household. Set aside medications and other essentials.

There is no need to build the entire supply kit at once. Start with what is already in the house, then add supplies during regular shopping trips. Check the kit a few times each year to replace expired food, medications or batteries.

Preparedness cannot stop a storm, reopen a highway or restore electricity, but it can provide time and options when conditions begin to change.

For more information, visit Ready.gov for additional tips on making an emergency plan, building a supply kit and staying prepared.



"Don't plant trees near power lines."

Owen Williams, age 7

Owen reminds members to not plant trees near power lines. That is great advice, Owen! Thank you!

Owen's parents are Bruce and Jing Williams from Wakonda S.D.

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.

FALL DESSERTS

GOLDEN GRAHAM/ SMORES BARS

Ingredients:

7 cups Golden Graham cereal
16 oz. mini marshmallows
1/2 cup butter
6 full size Hershey bars

Method

Unwrap Hershey bars and break apart on lines and then each piece again in half. Set aside. Melt the butter and 6 cups of the marshmallows. Stir in the Golden Grahams cereal. Cool for one minute. Stir in remaining marshmallows and Hershey pieces. Press lightly into a greased 9x13 pan with slightly wet hands. Cool and serve.

Valerie Marso
Oahe Electric

THE BEST APPLE CRISP

Ingredients:

6 cups sliced apples
1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
6 tbsp. flour

Topping

(makes enough for two pans)

2 cups flour
2 cups soft butter
1 tsp. baking powder

Method

Mix ingredients in a bowl and place in a 9x12 glass baking dish. Mix topping ingredients together until crumbly and sprinkle over apple mixture. Don't pack. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour or until apples are done.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

VERY GOOD PEACH DESSERT

Ingredients:

First layer:

1 cup flour
1/2 cup nuts
1 stick margarine
Mix together and press in 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 F for 10 minutes.

Second layer:

1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
Cream together and add 1 cup Cool Whip. Spread on top of cooled crust.

Third layer:

1 cup sugar
2 tbsp. white corn syrup
3 tbsp. cornstarch
1 cup water
Combine ingredients, cook until thickened, then remove from heat. Add 3 tbsp. of peach-flavored gelatin and 1/4 tsp. almond flavoring. Cool. Peel and slice fresh peaches, then combine with the cooled mixture. Spread on top of cheese filling. Top with a layer of whipped topping and chill.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

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.

June 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2026. The following directors were present: Scott Johnson, Jared Dritz, Kathy Schreurs, Mary Gunnink, Joel Buyck, John Wiese, Mike Longtin, Dale Fier, and James Rokeh. Also present at said Board Meeting were General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, 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.

The following Directors were elected at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Members for the following Districts:

District One for a 3-year term- Scott Johnson;
District Two for a 3-year term- John Wiese;
District Three for a 3-year term- Dale Fier
President, Dale Fier, 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 Mrs. Gunnink, seconded by Mr. Rokeh, 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 – Dale Fier;
Vice-President – Mike Longtin;
Secretary/Treasurer – Kathy Schreurs

President, Dale Fier, indicated to the Board that it was necessary to make appointments for the Operation RoundUp Board and after discussion a motion was made by Mr. Longtin, seconded by Mr. Dritz, and carried to appoint Jim Johansen, for District One; Deb Belean, for District Three, to serve on the Operation

RoundUp Board. It should be noted that a person still needs to be appointed to the the Operation RoundUp Board for District Two. President, Dale Fier, then continued routine business: including approval of the May, 2026 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, reviewed the Financial and Operating Report for April, 2026. The Board reviewed information that had been received from Rural Electric Supply Company (RESCO) concerning the 2025 Patronage Allocation & Previous Years Capital Credit Retirement and reviewed the draft of the form 990- Return of Organization Exempt From Tax.

The board viewed the May 2026 Outage Report prepared by Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent. The Board was advised that there was a Safety Meeting held on May 14, 2026 and involved the topic of Pole Top/Bucket Rescue and May Day Procedure. The Safety Meeting was conducted by Terry Ebright, Safety Ambassador from MREA. Mr. Lamote advised the Board of various projects and other matters that the linemen had been working on in the month of May and June. He also gave the Board an update concerning the removal of vegetation and the utility pole inspection program.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, advised the Board that the Cooperative was contacted about a large scale solar which would be within the Cooperative's service territory. Mr. Jeremiason met with Marshall Radio earlier in the month of June to discuss new ads, updating the tags at the end of the existing ads and the potential opportunities to expand the Cooperative's reach.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, gave his General Manager's Report and was as follows: reviewed the May 2026 power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to

budgeted amounts, looked at line loss for the system, reported on the East River MAC Meeting, reviewed upcoming meetings and notices, and reviewed the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Cyber Report for May 2026 which was prepared by East River Cyber Security Department.

The Board met with Larry Pilippi, representing the Contegritty Group Construction Management Company concerning assisting the Board in either remodeling the headquarters building or constructing a new headquarters building for the Cooperative.

The Board discussed the Annual Meeting that had been conducted for Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. and comments that had been made by members concerning the Annual Meeting and how to proceed in the future concerning the same.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm.

JUNE 2026 OUTAGE REPORT 10 OR MORE CONSUMERS

6/8/26 - 23 consumers were off 2 hours and 40 minutes in Fortier and Flordia Townships. The cause was a squirrel on the line.

6/10/26 - 40 consumers were off 2 hours and 10 minutes in Amiret, Monroe and Sodus Townships. This was a scheduled outage to cut over to a new URD.

6/12/26 - 117 consumers were off 2 hours and 10 minutes in Ash Lake, Lake Stay and Limestone Townships. The cause was an underground fault.

6/22/26 - 117 consumers were off 1 hour and 20 minutes Ash Lake, Lake Stay and Limestone Townships. The cause was a raccoon on the pole.

PREPAREDNESS STARTS AT HOME:

5 Things to Do Before the Lights Go Out



Stay Connected

- Charge all electronic devices and have backup power sources
- Keep a list of emergency contacts
- Report outages to Lyon-Lincoln Electric and follow us on social media for outage updates and restoration information.



Build an Emergency Kit

Prepare an emergency kit with:

- Non-perishable food and water for at least 3 days
- First aid supplies and medications
- Flashlights, batteries, and a battery-powered radio



Make a Family Emergency Plan

- Know where to meet, who to call, and how you'll receive emergency information if cell service is limited.
- Ensure all family members know the plan and practice it regularly



Prepare for Power Outages

- Unplug sensitive electronics.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- Never use a generator indoors.



Stay Informed

- Monitor weather forecasts and updates from trusted sources
- Sign up for local emergency alerts
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio for real-time updates

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON: MAY 2026

	May - 2025	May - 2026
Total Revenue	\$4,964,713	\$5,549,278
Cost of Power	\$2,816,317	\$3,257,655
Operating Expenses	\$2,252,495	\$2,229,569
Operating Margins	\$(104,099)	\$62,054
KWH's Purchased	43,952,415	42,722,986
KWH's Sold	41,669,997	40,656,347
Members	3,952	3,959
Miles of Line	1,670	1,668
Members per Mile	2.37	2.37

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, Pam Schwarz & Ben Sahlstrom 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

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating/cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Dept. of Energy

A photograph of a man and a woman, Tellus and Lori Waddell, sitting in the back of a tractor. They are both smiling at the camera. The background is a lush green field with some purple wildflowers. The tractor's frame and controls are visible in the foreground.

WONDROUS WILDFLOWERS & PRAIRIE PRESERVATION

Tellus and Lori Waddell.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

Waddell Native Seeds Turns Rural Acreage into Prairie Paradise

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Journeying east on U.S. Hwy. 12 toward Milbank, as you make a steep descent into Whetstone Valley, you'll pass the usual South Dakota crops – corn, soybeans, some wheat here and there.

But for Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative members Tellus and Lori Waddell of Marvin, the most fascinating – and lucrative – harvest is one most of us would overlook, growing tall in roadside ditches and uncut fields.

For more than 30 years, the Waddells have allowed their Grant County acreage to run wild as they grow, harvest and sell the seeds of dozens of native wildflowers and grasses.

"We started noticing wildflowers up in the pasture, and at that time [the internet was] coming out so we could do some research on what they were," Lori recalled. "Tellus started calling nurseries asking them if they wanted this or that ... and that's how we built into this – and there are not a lot of people that do this."

When Lori says "this," she's referring to more than just collecting seeds. She means getting up early before the weather

is too hot, rolling up her sleeves and driving around the property in a side-by-side scanning the ground for patches of whichever wildflower type is ready to be harvested – by hand – for seeds.

"It's very, very labor-intensive," Tellus added. "It's not like picking flowers – because we don't pick a flower. You have to let [the seeds] develop. Right now, we're picking things that blossomed about six weeks ago."

With dozens of plants and just as many harvest schedules, the Waddells have a steady amount of work to do from mid-spring all the way into fall.

Traversing the lightly traveled trails over their expansive, glacially carved property, (this reporter was joined by two labs in the back seat of the side-by-side) Tellus and Lori are quick to point out distant patches of coneflowers, blazing star, wild turnips, vervain and their personal favorite flora they cultivate, milkweed.

"It's for the butterflies," Tellus explained as he pulled the vehicle up to the family's newest experiment: milkweed planted as a row crop.

"It's the first time we've ever done that," Tellus said, proudly explaining his youngest son, Levi Waddell, is heading up the initiative.

Tellus added, "As every generation takes over, you'll get different things."

Most outbuildings on the Waddells' land double as drying rooms for at least one harvest during the season.

That includes their three-stall garage – a more accurate description may be the seed processing facility – where the Waddells dry the seeds, separate them from the chaff and package them for shipment to area greenhouses and other customers.

Demand has grown to the point where the Waddells have hired about a dozen part-time summer workers to help harvest seeds.

Their harvesting efforts don't stop at the

The Waddells are row cropping milkweed for the first time. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed, making it an important resource for conservation efforts.

Photo by Jacob Boyko





Lori Waddell enjoys photographing native flowers on the acreage.
 Top row: prairie lily, pasque flower (S.D. state flower), wild turnip.
 Bottom row: blazing star, scarlet gaura, coneflower.
Photos by Lori Waddell

fence line – Tellus is known to park his car, knock on the doors and ask to collect seeds if a patch of prairie catches his eye.

"We have picking rights [agreements with property owners] from here to Pierre down to Grand Island, Nebraska," Tellus said, recounting an especially vibrant purple field of vervain near Forestburg.

This led Tellus to a more solemn conversation. Piece by piece, he and Lori have bought surrounding acreage in an effort to isolate their native plants from the effects of drifting pesticides. Tellus said that when mixed into a slight breeze, the chemicals are potent enough to wipe out their native broadleaf plants for years at a time – even if the spraying takes place miles away.

Tellus and Lori's observation is that biodiversity is shrinking throughout the region for this same reason – diverse fields of native flowers and grasses are becoming more difficult to find, and the wildlife that relies on native plants for food are becoming increasingly scarce.

"You talk to people in their 80s, and they'll talk about walking through a field of lilies," Tellus said. "And then they just sit there for a bit and try to think of the last time they've seen that. Sometimes 40 or 50 years ago."

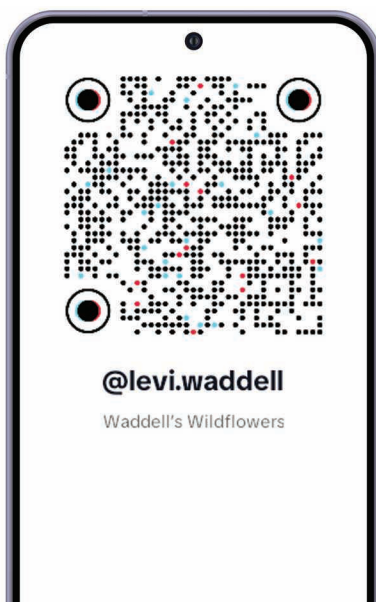
He continued, "that's when people realize the prairie is pretty much gone."

Levi Waddell uses social media to spread awareness about native plants, conservation and his family's operation.

His TikTok page, Waddell's Wildflowers, has more than 1,000 followers and 19,000 likes and chronologizes the day-by-day life of a native plant harvester.

The Waddells hope to share their story to educate others on the importance of conservation and inspire them to preserve the native prairie for generations to come.

"God gave us this beautiful earth and we're ruining it," Lori said. "If we can at least preserve and protect our little corner, I feel like we've done our job."



PROCESSING NATIVE SEEDS



The harvested seeds are spread indoors to dry for several weeks.



The dried seed heads are broken apart to loosen the seeds from the surrounding plant material.



The seeds are fed into a hammer mill to break apart remaining plant material from the seeds.



The cleaned seeds are sifted one final time to remove any extra material. The separated chaff is spread where the seeds were harvested so any unseparated seeds can germinate.

SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY

Starts Before the Storm

Living in southwest Minnesota means we experience all kinds of weather, from powerful thunderstorms and tornadoes to high winds, flooding, extreme heat and bitter winter storms. While it's easy to become accustomed to changing conditions, severe weather claims hundreds of lives each year and can cause widespread damage and power outages.

At Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, the safety of our members, employees and communities is always our top priority. Taking a few simple steps before severe weather strikes can help protect your family and make recovery easier when storms pass.

Watch vs. Warning: Know the Difference

Understanding weather alerts can help you react quickly when every minute counts.

Watch: Conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop. Stay alert, monitor weather updates, review your emergency plan, and consider unplugging sensitive electronics.

Warning: Severe weather is happening, is expected soon or has been detected by radar. Take shelter immediately in the safest part of your home, such as a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor away from windows.

Be Prepared Before the Storm

A little planning goes a long way.

- Install a trusted weather app and enable emergency alerts.
- Remember: a warning means it's time to act.
- Create a family emergency communication plan and designate a meeting place.
- Keep an emergency kit stocked with flashlights, batteries, a first-aid kit, portable phone chargers, bottled water, nonperishable food and supplies to last at least three days.
- If you live in an area prone to flooding, have an evacuation plan in place.

Help Keep Lineworkers Safe

When severe weather damages the electric system, Lyon-Lincoln Electric crews work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. You can help keep our lineworkers safe by following a few important precautions:

- Slow down and move over when approaching utility work zones.
- Give crews plenty of room to work and avoid distracting them while repairs are underway.
- Follow Lyon-Lincoln Electric's outage updates through our website, social media or outage notifications.
- Never connect a portable generator directly to a wall outlet. This dangerous practice, known as backfeeding, can send electricity onto power lines and seriously injure utility crews.

Stay Safe After the Storm

Even after severe weather has passed, hazards may remain

- Stay indoors if power is out unless you must leave for your safety.
- Watch for downed power lines that may be hidden by standing water, fallen trees or storm debris.
- Always assume a downed power line is energized. Stay far away, call 911 and Lyon-Lincoln Electric immediately, and keep others away from the area.

Severe weather is unpredictable, but preparation makes all the difference. By staying informed and practicing electrical safety, we can all help keep our families, neighbors and communities safe.

Severe Weather Safety Checklist

- ⚡ Turn on weather alerts.
- ⚡ Know the difference between a Watch and a Warning.
- ⚡ Keep an emergency kit ready.
- ⚡ Stay away from downed power lines.
- ⚡ Slow down and move over for utility crews.



DRIVE OUT TO A DRIVE-IN

Outdoor Movie Theaters Offer Old-Time Fun

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

It's one of the defining cultural behemoths of the 20th century. Load the family into the station wagon – or someone you fancy in a borrowed hot rod – and head over to the drive-in theater. You pick up popcorn and soda pop, tune your car stereo to the transmitter, and settle in for an unforgettable experience.

It all started in 1933, when Richard Hollingshead of Camden, New Jersey, began developing an accessible and comfortable way to bypass the confining indoor theater seats and allow moviegoers a way to enjoy a show from the comfort of their own vehicle.

The Smithsonian Magazine reports a peak of more than 4,000 American drive-in theaters in 1958. But with cities continuously expanding and the price of property increasing, most of them have closed in the time since. Today, it's estimated that fewer than 300 drive-in theaters remain.

But don't fret! If you're reading this magazine, there are still some nearby drive-in movie theater options for you and your family (or your date) to enjoy!

Midway Drive In – Miller, S.D.

In Miller, mid-May through Labor Day weekend is drive-in movie season. Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights are illuminated by the distant glow of the local drive-in movie theater.

Sarah Resel is one of the owners of the Midway Drive-In. Growing up in Miller, the drive-in was her weekend hangout and the site of so many cherished memories. Years later, that's still the case – just under slightly different circumstances.

A show is about to start at the Midway Drive In near Miller.
Photo submitted by Midway Drive In

"We pretty much don't have weekends during the summer," Resel said. "We're committed to being here with the theater. We all have full-time jobs; we always call this our community service."

Despite the hefty commitment, Resel says seeing people turnout from all over the country for an authentic drive-in experience makes it worthwhile.

"I think with us in our Miller community, we take it for granted that it's just here," Resel said. "It's crazy the support we get from other towns coming to our community."

Pheasant Drive-In – Mobridge, S.D.

Cam Wal Electric Cooperative members Jon and Jill Olson of Mobridge have experience with both indoor and outdoor theaters.

"The day-to-day prep is a little bit different," Jill said, explaining



The Pheasant Drive-In sits on the Missouri River hills near Mobridge.
Photo submitted by Pheasant Drive-In

the maintenance needed for the property and screen, along with weather surprises.

"I think weather is probably the number one issue," she continued. "We had a windstorm that came through Sunday [July 19] and caused some damage for us."

Even with the unexpected challenges, Jill said owning the drive-in theater is a positive experience, and on summer nights as people from near and far gather for a showing, she's reminded why she does it.

"It's a completely different vibe than sitting inside a dark theater," Jill said. "Parents do such a good job making it a fun experience, like bringing a pickup, backing it in and letting the kids sit in the back end. The other weekend, we had a family bring a bunch of blow-up air mattresses. The kids can talk and run back and forth – it just isn't your typical thing."

Hilltop Drive Inn Theater – Gregory, S.D.

"It's awesome," Rosebud Electric Cooperative member Dawn Boyer said when asked about running a drive-in movie theater.

"It's like owning a piece of the past while being in the present – and hopefully the future."

When Dawn was a kid, her mom worked at the ticket counter, sometimes taking Dawn along too. When she learned in 2018 the theater was looking for a new owner, it just seemed right.

"Two weeks later, I was running a theater I knew nothing about," Dawn laughed.

The drive-in is an 80-year-old landmark in Gregory County, and the oldest operating drive-in theater in the state. The age is catching up with it, Boyer said, explaining the heavy maintenance schedules necessary to keep the theater running.

Though the theater is becoming harder to operate, Boyer says the smiles on visitors' faces make it all worth it.

"The people who come through that have never seen a drive-in before – that's who we do it for," Boyer continued. "The expression on somebody's face when that big screen lights up at night is awesome."

Pheasant City Drive-In Theatre – Redfield, S.D.

Redfield's drive-in theater has been open continuously since 1953, and thanks to Dave and Stacey Marlow, it will continue for many years.

"We bought it at the time the industry was changing over to digital projectors," Stacey said, recalling the 2014 sale. "And [the previous owner] wasn't going to do it, so we went to him and asked if he'd like to sell it."

Since taking over, they've upgraded the display system again, installing a brighter, higher-contrast laser projector that allows shows to begin earlier and helps future-proof the theater.

While modern, the theater retains its original elements: the speaker poles are functional (Dave spends hours wiring each spring) and the propane popcorn maker satisfies hungry moviegoers.

"People tell us all the time, 'We are so glad you took this and have kept it going,'" Stacey said. "This is a part of our town we didn't want to lose, so we decided we were the ones to step up and save it."

Winner Drive In Theater – Winner, S.D.

In 2022, Rosebud Electric Cooperative members Austin and Jill Moser were looking for more space for their family. They finally found the perfect house on a nice chunk of land – with a catch.

"The movie theater was included," Jill said. "We thought, 'Why not?'"

The Mosers say running the drive-in theater with their three kids has been a good experience for the family and has given the kids an opportunity to work concessions.

During the Mosers' second season in operation, a windstorm damaged the screen, necessitating a lengthy rebuild. Luckily, the theater was able to reopen for the 2025 season.

"It's really great to see how many people still support drive-in movie theaters," Jill said. "There's not that many left in the country. We meet people from all over – we've had people from France come to the theater."

Verne Drive In – Luverne, Minn.

Half an hour east of Sioux Falls, the Verne Drive In welcomes hundreds of I-90 travelers Wednesday through Sunday each summer.

Owner and operator Doug Rozeboom said his goal is to provide an experience that is affordable, fun and unique for both locals and travelers.

"I don't want to say drive-in theaters are a thing of the past, but they're becoming it," Rozeboom said. "It's a unique experience because you can't just go anywhere to watch a movie outdoors on a big screen."

He continued, "Kids are able to run around and throw a football, so they can blow off some steam."

Rozeboom described the enthusiasm of moviegoers, recounting creative truck-bed setups, typically with lawn chairs, sofas or mattresses.

"For the Toy Story 5 premiere, someone had a tree-trimming truck, so they had the boom arm out," he laughed. "I was like, 'Huh, that's interesting.'"

Making the perfect setup is part of the drive-in movie theater experience!
Photo submitted by Verne Drive In



Winner's drive-in features a curved screen.
Photo by Kim Boyko





DID YOU KNOW?

It only takes a few seconds. Scammers can create a realistic AI version of someone's voice using only 3–10 seconds of audio from a social media video, voicemail greeting or online recording.

That's why it's important to verify every emergency phone call, even if the voice sounds familiar.



STOP • VERIFY • PROTECT

If you receive a panicked phone call asking for money:

- Hang up.
- Call your loved one using a number you already know.
- Ask for your family's safe word.
- Never send money or gift cards because of an urgent phone call.
- When in doubt, slow down. Scammers want you to panic! Your best defense is taking a moment to verify the story.



REMINDER:

Lyon-Lincoln Electric will never call demanding immediate payment through gift cards, cryptocurrency, or money transfer apps. If you ever question whether a call claiming to be from the cooperative is legitimate, hang up and contact us directly using the number listed on your electric bill or our website.



AI SCAMS

COULD YOU SPOT A FAKE VOICE?

AI-powered scams are becoming more convincing than ever. Here's how to protect yourself and your family.

It starts with a phone call

Your phone rings, and the voice on the other end sounds exactly like your son, granddaughter or close friend. They're scared. They say they've been in an accident, arrested, or stranded somewhere and need money immediately. Your first instinct is to help.

But what if it isn't really them?

Unfortunately, artificial intelligence (AI) has made it possible for scammers to create convincing copies of a person's voice using only a few seconds of audio found online. Those cloned voices can sound remarkably real, making these scams more difficult to recognize than ever before. The good news? A few simple precautions can make all the difference.

Protect Yourself from Voice Cloning Scams

Choose a family "safe word"

Create a word or phrase that only your immediate family knows. If someone calls claiming to be a loved one in an emergency, ask them for the safe word. If they don't know it, hang up and contact your family member directly.

Verify before you act

Never send money or share personal information because of a single phone call. End the call and reach out using a phone number you already have saved or contact another family member to confirm the situation.

Think before you post

Videos and voice recordings shared on social media can provide scammers with the audio they need to imitate someone's voice. Consider limiting public posts and reviewing your privacy settings.

Don't feel pressured to answer

If you don't recognize the number, let it go to voicemail. Legitimate callers will usually leave a message, giving you time to verify who contacted you.

Slow down and Trust Your Gut

Scammers rely on fear and urgency to cloud your judgment. If a caller insists you must act immediately, that's a major warning sign. Take a moment, verify the story and trust your instincts. Caleb Christensen - 1558300.

While AI has given scammers a powerful new tool, a little awareness and a few simple habits can go a long way in protecting you and your loved ones. Take a few minutes to talk with your family about these scams and agree on a plan before an emergency ever happens. If you believe you've been targeted, report the incident to your local law enforcement and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

REMEMBER THIS: real emergencies can be verified, but scammers want you to panic. Slow down, ask questions and don't let anyone pressure you into making a quick decision.

ELECTRICITY BRINGS EVERYDAY VALUE

Electricity is something most of us rely on every day without giving it much thought. We flip on a light switch, brew our morning coffee, charge our phones or adjust the thermostat, expecting the power to be there whenever we need it.

As the cost of groceries, fuel, insurance and other household expenses continues to rise, every dollar matters. Marlys & Wade Skaar - 1524000. That's why it's worth taking a moment to consider the value electricity provides.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about \$150 per month, roughly \$5 a day. For about the cost of a specialty coffee, electricity powers nearly every part of daily life. It keeps food fresh, heats and cools our homes, lights our rooms after dark and powers the appliances and technology we depend on to work, learn and stay connected with family and friends.

When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it remains one of the best values in the average household budget.

At Lyon-Lincoln Electric, we're committed to providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We also know that saving energy is important, which is why we're here to help. Whether you're looking for practical energy-saving tips, information about available rebates and efficiency programs or simply have questions about your electric bill, our team is happy to assist.

As your locally owned electric cooperative, every decision we make is focused on serving our members and strengthening the communities we call home. Thank you for trusting Lyon-Lincoln Electric to power your home, your business and your everyday life. We're proud to deliver the reliable service and everyday value you depend on.

A Little Cost. A Lot of Life.

For about \$150 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly—from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- **720** hours of refrigeration
- **20+** loads of clean clothes
- **15+** home-cooked meals
- **90+** hours of lighting
- **Numerous** devices charged
- **Hundreds** of hours of cooling/heating
- **Countless** connections to work, school and entertainment

30 days of comfort

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!



SEPT. 3 (ONE DAY EVENT)
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
at the South Dakota State Fair
Horticulture Park, State Fairgrounds
Huron, SD

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

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

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

SEPT. 6
Studebaker Car Show
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
South 6th St.
Custer, SD

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

SEPT. 12-13
Harvest & Kuchen Festival
Delmont, SD
605-505-0535

SEPT. 12-20
Rustic Designs & More Fall Country Show
9 a.m.-6 p.m.
41450 264th St.
Ethan, SD
605-770-2411

SEPT. 13
Antique Car & Tractor Parade
Registration 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Parade 1 p.m.
Farmer, SD
605-641-5498

SEPT. 18-19
34th Annual Granite Threshermen's Swap Meet & Antique Classic Car Show
Free Admission
Granite, IA
Contact: Darrel Hansen
605-261-9720

SEPT. 19
Veterans Stand Down
8:30-11:30 a.m.
1600 W. Russell St.
Sioux Falls, SD

SEPT. 25-OCT. 4
Masquerade (LightsUp)
Orpheum Theatre
Sioux Falls, SD
Box Office: 605-367-6000
MasqueradeMusical.com

SEPT. 26
Harvest Pumpkin Fest
3-7 p.m.
Eureka City Park North Shelter
Eureka, SD
605-230-1777

SEPT. 26
Harvest Festival Supper
West Nidaros Lutheran Church
25403 471st Ave.
Crooks, SD
605-212-5730

OCT. 3
9th Annual 437th Flea Market
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Salem, SD
605-421-4190

OCT. 3-4
The Black Market
Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,
Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Bldg.
Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-6004

OCT. 3
Pumpkin Train/ SoDak Vendor Showcase
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

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.