

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



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Impacts of the EPA's Power Plant Rule: How it Threatens Electric Reliability



Tim O'Leary

General Manager

I would like to continue the discussion on the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations that were recently introduced, but before that, *I would like to remind our members to reach out to our office if they are approached to install small solar/wind at their residence or business.*

Recently, we received a call from a member after solar panels were installed at their location by a specific solar panel vendor. This vendor has a history, and not a good one, of not contacting the local utility that the vendor is installing solar panels on the utility's distribution system. This can cause a very dangerous situation for our lineman and goes against the State of Minnesota's interconnection rules. If you are considering installing any type of small generation or even a generator for back up power, please reach out to us and let us know. Mark & Shannon Pedersen - 1260000. We can make sure that all the regulations are being followed and make sure that the project is installed safely.

In my article last month, I touched on EPA's proposed regulations and how they will impact the reliability and affordability of the electricity you purchase as the country transitions away from baseload fossil fuel generation to carbon dioxide free renewable energy and batteries. It is important for us to share this information with our member-owner consumers, not because we want to scare you, but because we have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges that these regulations will have on grid reliability and the cost it will add to your monthly electric bill. The EPA regulations and Minnesota's Carbon Free by 2040 bill passed by the majority party last year will play a role in how electric cooperatives access reliable electricity for our local rural communities and communities across the country.

EPA's proposed regulations constrain existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS)— a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required.

No power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA. When power plants aren't able to comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations, or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7.

Renewable sources, such as solar and wind, are important components of our overall generation mix. But given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on them because the wind doesn't always blow, and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power generating resources is still essential.

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand – driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the American economy and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members.

As I mentioned earlier in this article, I don't say all of this to worry you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead. Just as we've always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

"At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that."

If you're interested in learning more about policy impacts on power reliability, or to make your voice heard on this matter, visit:

www.voicesforcooperativepower.com

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

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Jessica Gums, Editor



IMPACTS OF THE EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) power plant rule threatens access to reliable electricity for millions of Americans. The EPA's power plant rule will:



- 1 Force the premature closure of many power plants that currently provide electricity 24/7.
- 2 Mandate the deployment of unproven carbon capture and storage technology.
- 3 Jeopardize the reliability of the grid at a time when America is already facing a surge in electricity demand.
- 4 Heighten the risk of rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the electric grid.
- 5 Increase costs for consumers as utilities are forced to pay for new power generation to comply with the EPA rule.

WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS

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

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

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

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

AVOID THE LIGHTNING THREAT

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

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

Source: National Weather Service



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

Lillee Pannell, Age 11

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

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you’ll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Summertime SWEETS

SUMMER FRUIT TART

Ingredients:

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

Method

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

McCormick

RHUBARB PIE

Crust

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

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

Pie

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

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

Lisa Soukup (Kummer)
Tea, S.D.

PEACH DELIGHT

Ingredients:

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

Method

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

Shirley Fletcher
Rapid City, S.D.

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

June 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, June 24, 2024. Directors present James Rokeh, Kathy Schreurs, Scott Johnson, Dale Fier, Mike Longtin, Jared Dritz, Joel Buyck, Galen Grant, and Mary Gunnink. Also present: General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, and Attorney, Michael W. Cable. President, Dale Fier, called the meeting to order.

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 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- Dale Fier, Vice-President- Mike Longtin, Secretary/Treasurer- Kathy Schreurs

Appointments were then made for the Operation RoundUp Board. After discussion a motion was made by Mr. Rokeh, seconded by Mr. Longtin, and carried to appoint Member, Greg Kohler, for District One; Member, Michelle Williams, for District Two;

and Member, Ann Longtin, for District Three, to all serve a second term on the Operation RoundUp Board.

Routine business was conducted including approval of the May 20, 2024 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, gave the Financial and Statistical Report for the period ending April 30, 2024. The Board also reviewed the Summary Report concerning sales, expenses, interest, and other capital credits & patronage.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, gave the Outage Report for the month of May, 2024. He also reviewed with the Board the monthly Safety Meeting which had been held on May 7, 2024 by Erick Boder, MREA's Safety Instructor, concerning the topic of Annual Pole Top/Bucket Rescue and Emergency Action. Mr. Lamote indicated that the linemen were doing the following work some of which had been completed and some was still in the process: continuing line maintenance activities and replacing 3-phase lines in parts of Lyon-Lincoln's service territory.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, gave his report as follows: the Cooperative has processed its first EV rebate, completed all open solar applications, provided an overview of Minnesota's Home Energy Rebates Program, and advised the Board that he worked with the Marshall Radio Station to update the

ad rotation which includes new farm safety, solar awareness and Electric Vehicle information pieces that will run in rotation with existing ads.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, 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, looked at line loss for the system, reported on the East River MAC Meeting, and provided a review of upcoming meetings and notices.

The Board reviewed the May 2024 Cyber Security Program Report presented by East River Cyber Security Department date, then viewed the East River monthly video report which included the Basin Summary.

Vice-President, Mike Longtin, gave a report concerning the East River monthly board meeting.

There was general discussion concerning the Annual Meeting with the membership that had been held on June 5, 2024.

The Board and General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, reviewed the Strategic Planning Session information that had been completed as a result of the Board's meeting on May 20th and May 21st, 2024 at the Heritage Event Center in Taunton, Minnesota.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.

From Apprentice to Journeyman



Our linemen are vital because they keep the power flowing. They are a specialized team trained to install and maintain high-voltage lines that transport electricity to your home and businesses across our service territory. A physically demanding and potentially dangerous career, line working requires technical know-how and years of training.

One of our own linemen, Trent Skjefte, recently earned the title of Journeyman Lineman. Trent ran the 4-year apprentice lineman gauntlet that included studying books on everything from electrical theory, algebra to OH Transmission systems, tests, and over 7500 hours of on-the-job training to achieve his journeyman's status.

Congratulations to Trent on his ongoing commitment to advancing his career!

LLEC Director Obtains National Recognition Certificate

Galen Grant, Director, from Lyon-Lincoln Electric recently received his Director Gold Credentials from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills, and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. Lyon-Lincoln Electric has a commitment to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

The Director Gold Credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificate and who desire a tangible credential that demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.

Thank you to Galen for his dedication to the Cooperative and its members.



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, Loran R. Haas and Heath Houselog 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

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

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

Source: energystar.gov



CRISP BREEZES AND CORN MAZES

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

Celebrating Autumn on the Family Farm

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

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

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

and Kylie, represent the sixth generation on the farm.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Other local businesses are also joining

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

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

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

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



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

When the power goes out We work hard to restore it

We hate it when the power goes out just as much as you do. When there is an outage, we swing into action to resume service as quickly and safely as possible. There are 2 common questions often asked when there is an outage: Why? & How long?

Why is there an outage?

Many times, the reasons for outages are beyond our control. Here are some main reasons the power goes out:

- **STORMS** — Conditions brought on by storms such as high winds, ice and lightning can interrupt service. Lightning itself does not impact outages as much as people think, but it can strike trees and cause branches or even whole trees to fall on distribution lines. Lightning can cause a problem, however, if it strikes substation equipment, such as a large transformer. Strong high winds and ice that accumulates on lines can also impact distribution.
- **TREES AND VEGETATION** — Branches, limbs or trunks can fall on lines and vegetation (such as vines) can grow around poles, lines or other equipment. Ice and wind can make matters worse. This is why we work so hard to keep power lines and equipment clear.
- **ANIMALS** — It is estimated that 11 percent of all outages are caused by our furry friend the squirrel. They love to chew on the weatherproof coating around lines. Other critters like turkeys, snakes and seagulls can interfere with service too. A bird on a wire is harmless and safe for the bird as long as it touches the line and nothing else.
- **ACCIDENTS** — Cars, trucks, and farm equipment that have a run-in with a utility pole can cause an outage.
- **PUBLIC DAMAGE** — Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism or theft can all cause interruptions in the energy chain.
- **OVERLOAD** — This happens where demand spikes, such as when too many air conditioners run on a hot summer day, causing blackouts or brownouts.
- **EQUIPMENT** issues — We maintain and inspect all of our lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment malfunctions. We strive to address any problem as soon as it happens.

How long will the outage last?

The outage lasts depends on several factors: the extent of the damage, the number of outages, and how long it takes for our work crews to safely access damaged areas. We are careful to follow standard restoration procedures to ensure safety and to get the job done right by:

- Assessing damage to utility equipment.
- Addressing immediate safety risks, including downed power lines.
- Ensuring that essential public health and safety facilities are operational.
- Prioritizing repairs that will restore power to the greatest number of people first.
- Evaluating power plants for damage and restore them to working order.
- Repairing transmission lines that carry power to large areas.
- Assessing and repairing (in this order) substations, distribution lines, and service lines to properties.

Thank you for your patience during power outages. Know that in the event of an outage, we are working hard to restore it as safely and efficiently as possible, day and night.

Please contact Lyon-Lincoln Electric at 800-927-6276 OR 507-247-5505 with questions about outages or to learn more about the steps we take to provide reliable service.

Getting Through Until Power Gets Restored to You

Severe storms are devastating to homes, properties, and lives. These storms can also take down power lines—creating a dangerous situation for all of us, including the linemen and working hard to get your power turned back on.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric wants you to know how to stay safe and get through until power can be restored to you. We recommend taking the following safety precautions:

Just because power lines are damaged does not mean they are dead. Every downed power line is potentially energized and dangerous until utility crews arrive on the scene to ensure power has been cut off. Downed power lines, stray wires, and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines.

- Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets are submerged. The water could be energized.
- Do not turn the power off if you must stand in water to do so. Call your electric utility and have them turn off power at the meter.
- Before entering storm-damaged buildings, make sure electricity and gas are turned off.
- Do not use water-damaged electronics before properly restoring them. Electric motors in appliances should be cleaned and reconditioned before use. It may be necessary to replace some of your appliances and electronics. Have your water-damaged items inspected and approved by a professional before using them.
- If you clean up outdoors after a storm, do not use electronic equipment in wet conditions.
- If you are driving and come along a downed power line, stay away and keep others away.
- Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.

If you do come in contact with a downed power line, do not leave the car. Wait for utility and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

During an outage, Safe Electricity recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major electronics, including computers and televisions. Power sometimes comes back in surges, which can damage electronics. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your electronics are still plugged in and on. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances and equipment—one at a time.

If you use a standby generator, it is critical that proper safety precautions be taken. There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances. Allan B. Winter - 723300. Operate generators in well-ventilated, outdoor, dry areas. Never attach a temporary generator to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet. Permanent generators should be wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch in order to prevent feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen.

To help you get through, have a storm kit prepared. Keep the kit in a cool, dry place, and make sure all members of the family know where it is.

For information on when to save and when to throw out refrigerated food after a power outage, go to: FoodSafety.gov.

MORE THAN A FEW CANS OF SOUP...

Which Foods Are In Your Emergency Kit?



THE FOOD IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT SHOULD:

- Have a long storage life.
- Require little or no cooking, water or refrigeration.
- Include nourishment for infants and toddlers if applicable.
- Meet special dietary needs.
- Include the needs of pets if you have them.

WATER AND PREP ITEMS

Include in your supplies:

- One gallon of water per person per day to last at least three days.
- A manual can opener and cooking supplies.
- Indoor warming methods, such as chafing dishes and fondue pots.

EMERGENCY STASH

Plan for several days' worth of food for each person in your household. Edible items could include:

- Canned meats, fruits and vegetables.
- Grains, such as crackers and multigrain cereals.
- Protein or fruit bars.
- Dried fruit.
- Peanut butter.
- Canned soups, meats and beans.
- Powdered milk.
- Dried meat/jerky.
- Oatmeal or breakfast bars.

BE PREPARED TO KEEP THOSE YOU LOVE SAFE, NOURISHED AND HYDRATED DURING AN EMERGENCY.

Safe Electricity.org[®]

Learn more at:

Sources: FEMA and CDC

RODEO CHAMPIONS

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

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

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

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

more than a fashion statement.

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

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

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

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

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

Association.

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



Photo credit: Charles Minor



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

of the state finals competition in their respective events.

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

the college rodeo team in barrel racing and pole bending.

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

Decknikker placed 7th in barrel

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

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

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

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

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



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

A large combine harvester is harvesting a field of golden grain. A red grain truck is parked next to it, and a long auger is transferring grain from the combine into the truck's hopper. The scene is set in a rural field under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

On the Farm:

Electrical Safety Reminders

We don't have to remind those who work the land and raise livestock that they have a potentially dangerous occupation. However, due to the nature of the job, and because of long days and tiring work, here are some reminders about electrical dangers on the farm or ranch.

If you make contact with a power line, don't get out

If you make contact with a power line, guy wire, power pole, electrical box or any other electrical equipment, do not get out of your cab or truck. Stay put and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the local utility to de-energize the power. If you must get out due to smoke or fire, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop. Another option (after you make a clean exit) is to shuffle or waddle away while keeping your feet together and on the ground.

Once you are out, never try to re-enter the cab or truck.

Remember: If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line or other utility equipment, do not get out of the cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground. Call 9-1-1 and wait for us to arrive and cut the power so that you can safely exit your tractor or vehicle.

Determine proper clearance

Contact us to measure power line heights; do NOT do this yourself. Once you know the heights, you can determine appropriate equipment, implement and extension clearances. Always maintain at least 10 feet between the power line and the tallest height of the equipment that will be transported. Keep in mind that

due to wear, age and even weather conditions, power lines can change height. Please contact us with any concerns. It's good to know power line clearance, but always have a spotter.

Call us before moving or adding a grain bin

The National Electrical Safety Code addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. The requirements are in place to help keep farmers safe: to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with power lines. If you are planning on building a new grain bin or remodeling around an area that already has one, contact Lyon-Lincoln Electric. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line.

Always dig safely

Whether you are installing new fence posts or using large tillage tools, call 811 before you dig to have underground utilities marked. Even if you think you know where buried gas, power and other lines are, don't rely on your memory. Get all utilities marked so that you know for sure. Utility locators dispatched by 811 do not mark private lines.

Use standby generators with care

If you have a standby generator to provide essential power during an outage, be sure to correctly use the transfer switch. Once you properly engage the switch, it stops your farm's generated power from entering utility lines, aka backfeeding, which can electrocute lineworkers who are working to restore power.

For more information about electrical safety, visit safeelectricity.org

REMEMBER

Electrical Safety

As you take steps to keep everyone safe on the farm & ranch, don't forget about potential electrical hazards.

Keep these general safety tips in mind:



Check and maintain equipment, especially electric cables and hydraulic hoses that have cracks or show other signs of wear.



Always have someone nearby when entering grain bins or other high-risk areas.



Check all buildings and grounds for fire hazards and hazardous materials.



Assess how any chemicals are stored and make sure children and animals can't access them.



Make a list of chemicals for firefighters in case a fire breaks out on your farm or ranch.



Establish a safety boundary around gas and fuel tanks.



Don't skimp on safety: wear eye and ear protection, gloves, and face masks and respirators when appropriate.



Shield all PTO-powered machinery and keep others away.



Outfit tractors and trucks with fire extinguishers.



Never exit a tractor or truck without placing it in park or engaging the emergency brakes.



Discuss safety concerns with children and explain safe operating procedures. You can never start too young, and they watch what you do.

Source: Safe Electricity

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON MAY 2024

	May- 2023	May- 2024
Total Revenue	\$4,661,828	\$4,418,138
Cost of Power	\$2,446,493	\$2,540,527
Operating Expenses	\$1,882,298	\$2,011,115
Operating Margins	\$333,037	\$(133,504)
KWH's Purchased	45,203,197	40,852,266
Services in Place	4,120	4,125
Miles of Line	1,670	1,671
Revenue per Mile	\$2,792	\$2,644

JUNE OUTAGE REPORT 10 OR MORE CONSUMERS

6/8/24- 445 consumers were off for 2 hours in the City of Lynd. The cause was a bad overhead transformer that opened an OCR in the Lynd Substation.

6/22/24- 593 consumers were off for 11 minutes out of the Tyler Substation. The cause was East River Electric's loss of transmission poles from a windstorm.

6/22/24- 223 consumers were off for 1 hour and 40 minutes out of the Lake Benton Substation. The cause was East River Electric's loss of transmission poles from a windstorm.

6/22/24- 171 consumers were off for 2 hours and 20 minutes in Marshfield and Diamond Lake Townships. The cause was broken 3 phase poles from a windstorm.

6/22/24- 445 consumers were off for 2 hours and 50 minutes in the City of Lynd. The cause was a tree that went through the line from a windstorm.

REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



Photo Credit: SDStateFair

SEPT. 20-22

South Dakota Festival of Books

Various Locations
Brookings, SD
605-688-6113

SEPT. 27-29

Coal Springs Threshing Bee and Antique Show

Meadow, SD
605-788-2299

OCT. 5-6

Marshall Gun Show

Sponsored by Lyon County
Pheasants Forever
Red Baron Arena
Marshall, MN
507-401-6227

AUG. 28-SEPT. 2

South Dakota State Fair

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

AUG. 28-SEPT. 2

South Dakota State Fair

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

SEPT. 12-15

South Dakota Film Festival

Downtown Capitol Theatre
Aberdeen, SD
605-226-5494

SEPT. 1

Studebaker Car Show

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

SEPT. 13-14

Black Hills Polkapalooza

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

SEPT. 2

Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show

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

SEPT. 13-14

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show

Davison County Fairgrounds
Mitchell, SD
605-359-2049

SEPT. 6-7

Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll

Vermillion, SD
www.sdbbq.us

SEPT. 14-15

2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival

Delmont, SD
605-928-3792

SEPT. 8

Homesteader Day

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

SEPT. 17

EV Expo

W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

OCT. 5-6

Magic Needlers Quilt Show

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

OCT. 5-6

The Black Market

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

OCT. 6

Giant Pumpkin Festival

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

OCT. 10-11

Rural Women Conference

The Lodge of Deadwood
Deadwood, SD
SouthDakotaWomeninAg.com

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

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