

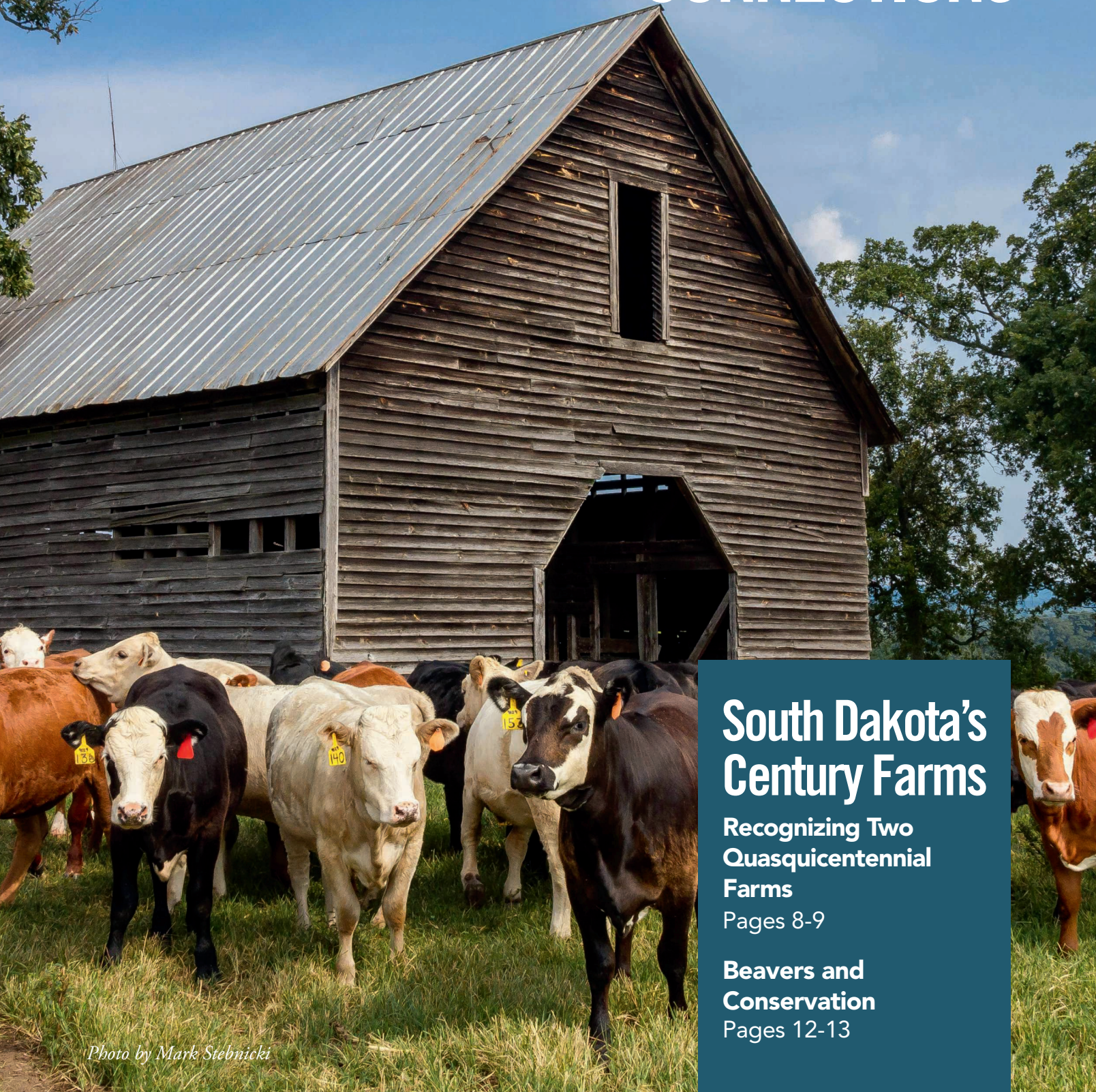


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



RENVILLE-SIBLEY
JUNE 2024 VOL. 25 NO. 2

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



South Dakota's Century Farms

Recognizing Two
Quasiquicentennial
Farms

Pages 8-9

Beavers and
Conservation

Pages 12-13

Photo by Mark Stebnicki

Rescheduled Annual Meeting Notice

The 86th Annual Meeting of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association will be held on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Headquarters, 515 US Hwy 212 West, in Danube. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is being called in accordance with the bylaws of the association to transact the following business:

1. Report of officers, directors and committees.
2. Announce Election results of three (3) Directors, one (1) from District 1, one (1) from District 2, one (1) from District 3,
3. Any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

Voting ballots for director election, including candidate information, were mailed to all members the week of March 12th. Due to

the inclement weather, we had to cancel our annual meeting originally scheduled for March 26, 2024. We asked members to mail in their ballots or drop them off at our office by April 15, 2024. We had tellers count the ballots for each district on April 16th and the election results were as follows:

Directors elected to serve a 3-year term were as follows:

District 1 – Alan Neyers

District 2 – Helen Ruebel

District 3 – Gary Peterson

A \$15 energy credit attendance prize will be given to members (one credit per member) who attend the annual meeting. All members are encouraged to attend the 86th annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

Wayland Zaske, Secretary-Treasurer

Annual Meeting Scholarships Awarded

Renville-Sibley's Annual Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather on March 26, 2024. Renville-Sibley's Scholarship Committee is made up of current board members and an employee of the cooperative. Each year, they select the recipients of the \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship and the \$1,000 Renville-Sibley Scholarship. These scholarships are awarded based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores (if completed) and overall grade point average, work experiences, participation in school and community activities, the personal statement of career goals, and the written recommendation of a third party.

Selected by the Scholarship Committee for the \$1,000 scholarship through Basin Electric was Lauren Dolezal, daughter of Nick and Angela Dolezal. Lauren is a senior at Redwood Valley High School. Selected by the Scholarship

Committee as the winner of the Renville-Sibley scholarship, which is funded from the general fund, is Briana Roche. Briana is the daughter of Keith Roche and Pamela Brown. Briana is a senior at GFW High School.

At the April Board Meeting, a random drawing was held for the remaining scholarship applicants each for a \$1,000 scholarship. These scholarships are funded from unclaimed capital credit checks over 7 years old. The winners were Sawyer Erickson and Andrew Revier, seniors at BOLD High School. Sawyer is the daughter of Ty and Michelle Erickson and Andrew is the son of Josh and Amanda Revier. Lydia Nachreiner and Katelyn Beranek are seniors at GFW High School. Lydia is the daughter of Curtis and Lisa Nachreiner and Katelyn is the daughter of Christopher and Amanda Beranek.

Notice:

The May board meeting will be held on
Thursday, May 30 at 8 a.m.

The June board meeting will be held on
Tuesday, June 23 at 8 a.m.

SUBMIT A LOCATE REQUEST

Twin Cities Metro: (651)454-0002 Greater MN Area: (800)252-1166

...or go online at www.gopherstateonecall.org

Get the Dirt

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW ABOUT EXCAVATION SAFETY

Welcome to the Excavator Safety Guide, Minnesota edition! 2016 brings a number of changes to Gopher State One Call (GSOC) that will provide excavators with new and easy to use technology for excavation ticket processing. These changes are intended to keep the basic goal of damage prevention in clear focus. See the custom pages in this guide for important information about both the new electronic ticket system and basic facts that will help you dig safely in Minnesota, this time and every time.

Inside You'll Find...

- An Overview of GSOC's Technology Suite
- Who Should Call 811? Don't Forget, Farmers!
- The Process for Safe Excavation
- What Doesn't Get Marked: Private Lines
- Get the Scoop on the GSOC Team

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Gopher State One Call is the nonprofit corporation formed in 1987 by the enacting of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 2160. GSOC ensures the safety of all Minnesotans by receiving notices of intent to excavate from any person engaged in excavation activity and notifying underground facility operators who have requested notification in the areas of excavation.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

Board of Directors

Roger Manthei – Chair
Whitey Hinderman – Vice Chair
Wayland Zaske – Secretary/Treasurer
Jeff Boersma
Gary Eekhoff
Vicky Firl
Alan Neyers
Gary Peterson
Helen Ruebel

Renville-Sibley Employees

Gene Alex – Line Superintendent
Brian Athmann – Journeyman Lineman
Shawn Beckler – Crew Chief
Mike Benson – Journeyman Lineman
Brad Braulick – Crew Chief
Nick Bruns – Technology Manager
Anthony Carruth – Journeyman Lineman
Amy Ervin – Member and Board Services Representative
Brayden Fischer – Journeyman Lineman
DeeAnne Norris – CEO
Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman
Kathy Ridl – Accounting Clerk
Marc Snyder – Business Finance & Accounting
Jill Woods – Member Services Professional

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Web site: www.rscpa.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

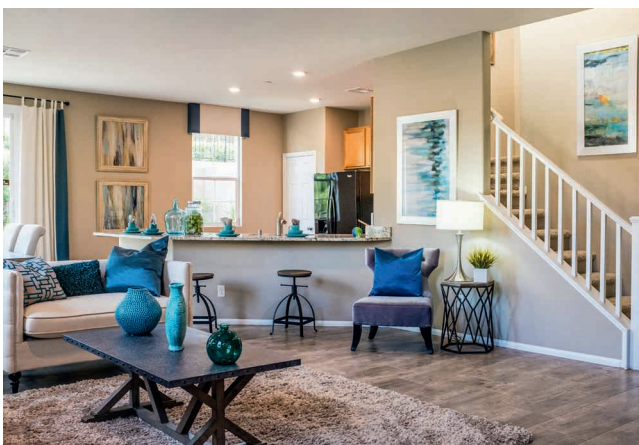
Prepare Your Family for Fire Emergencies

In only a matter of minutes, a small house fire can rage out of control, reaching temperatures of up to 1,500°F. In most cases, you have one to two minutes to get out safely.

We practice fire emergency drills at work and school, but don't forget to create and practice a home escape plan, as well. It is beneficial to keep your plan visible, like on the refrigerator, to help family and visitors remember what to do. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) stresses that even children as young as three years old can understand an escape plan.

Helpful Planning Tips:

- Plan for two ways to escape from each room.
- Pick a meeting location away from your home.
- Plan for everyone in your home, including babies and others who may need help to escape.
- Teach children not to hide during a fire; they must get out and stay out.



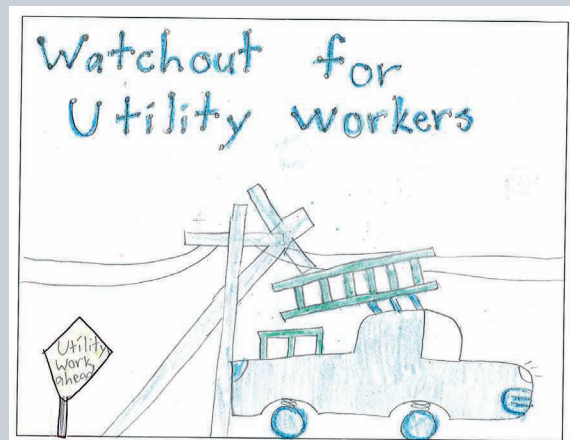
- Practice your escape drill with everyone in your family at least twice a year.

Ways to Stay Safe:

- Clear toys, furniture and other clutter from exits.
- Check that windows open easily – fix any that stick.
- Test the batteries in your smoke alarms monthly.
- Be sure that security bars on doors and windows have a quick-release latch, and everyone knows how to open them.

Special Considerations for Apartment Buildings:

- If you live in a multi-story apartment building, map out as many escape routes as possible to get to the stairways on your floor.
- If you live in a high-rise, plan to use the stairs – never the elevator – to escape a fire.
- A secondary route might be a window onto an adjacent roof or a collapsible ladder for escape from upper-story windows – purchase only collapsible ladders evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).



Stay Away from Power Lines

Reese Rindels, Age 9

Reese Rindels cautions readers to watch out for utility workers. Reese's parents are Rochelle and Kyle Rindels, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.

DELICIOUS *Dairy*

CHOCOLATE FUDGE FROSTING

Ingredients:

2 1/4 cups confectioners' sugar
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 tsp. cinnamon
6 oz. (3/4 package) cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened
8 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, melted and cooled slightly
1 tbsp. pure vanilla extract

Method

Mix sugar, cocoa powder and cinnamon in medium bowl until well blended. Set aside. Beat cream cheese and butter in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Gradually beat in cocoa mixture on low speed until well blended. Gradually beat in melted chocolate then vanilla until well blended.

McCormick.com

RED VELVET HOT CHOCOLATE

Ingredients:

4 cups whole milk
1/4 cup sugar
10 oz. semi-sweet baking chocolate, coarsely chopped
2 tsps. red food color
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
Vanilla Whipped Cream
1/2 cup heavy cream
2 tbsps. confectioners' sugar
1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract

Method

Place milk and granulated sugar in medium saucepan. While stirring, bring to simmer on medium heat. Remove from heat. Stir in chocolate with wire whisk until melted. Stir in food color and vanilla. Serve with marshmallows. For the vanilla whipped cream, beat heavy cream, confectioners' sugar and vanilla in medium bowl with electric mixer on high speed until stiff peaks form.

McCormick.com

LEMON PUDDING DESSERT

Ingredients:

1 cup COLD butter
1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1 8 oz. tub cool whip, divided
2 pkgs. (small) instant lemon pudding
2 cups flour
1 cup powdered sugar
3 cups COLD milk

Method

In bowl, cut butter into flour until crumbly. Press into an ungreased 9 x 13 inch glass pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 18 to 22 minutes or until set. Cool on wire rack. In mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Fold in one cup cool whip. Spread over cooled crust. In bowl, beat milk and pudding mixes on low speed for 2 minutes. Carefully spread over cream cheese layer. Top with remaining cool whip. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour or more. Yields 12 to 16 servings.

Mary Jessen
Holabird, 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.

NATIONAL GRILLING MONTH WORD SEARCH

July is National Grilling Month! Can you find all the words associated with grilling in the puzzle below? Use the word bank as a guide.



B H C D F T N U Z R B J R Q G
O A U F O N H R K Q S H E F V
M A R N X U J O R W Z N M B L
W M G B F B X L F P O K M V Z
X S J A E Z K M O R F S U B T
E S R P N Q I V P H P R S H V
X C D L L F U A L A C B K P J
V K J N A E B E T M E V K V X
J X O Y E K D U T B C H N I J
W N P T B I L C P U T Y T Y F
N C C N J A R O C R C G C D A
Y T W V C Z A F W G M E W B M
O D G R I L L A R E O U X W I
U L T K U S Q N V R S Q U B L
L E T K S O Q R G O D T O H Y

WORD BANK

Hamburger
Spatula
Hot Dog
Friends
Summer
Apron
Grill
Barbeque
Family
Tongs



Cooking outdoors is a fun way to spend time with friends and family! By cooking outside, you can save energy indoors and keep your home cooler.

Kill-a-Watt Device

Have you ever wondered how to identify how much energy an appliance in your home is using? Renville-Sibley Cooperative has a tool called the Kill-A-Watt electricity usage monitor that lets members see how energy efficient their appliances actually are.

These units are small, lightweight and easy to use. Just plug the unit into any outlet and then plug the appliance into the Kill-A-Watt monitor to view how much power is being consumed, whether the appliance is on or off. The monitors are especially handy for members who have older appliances because the unit will help them decide if it might make economic sense to buy more efficient models that can save on annual energy costs.

The cooperative has these units available for members to borrow on a first-come, first-serve basis. To check one out, call our office at 800-826-2593. We will let you know availability and when you can

pick the unit up. There is a \$30 deposit required to check the units out, which will be returned when the unit is. 939700

In Case of a Power Outage

Here are the steps to follow if you are out of power:

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your home, including those on the meter pole, to see if they have blown or tripped. Make sure your entire farm site is without power and not just one building. Members may be billed a service call if the trouble is caused by the member's own fuses or equipment.
2. Call your neighbor. If their power is also off, then it is probably a line outage.
3. Report your power outage. Have your member number available to assist with a prompt response.
4. Call the Renville-Sibley Office



number: 320-826-2593 or 800-826-2593. If you call at a time other than the regular business hours, the phone will be answered by the Cooperative Response Center (CRC). CRC will dispatch a crew to your location.

TIPS FOR INTEGRATING SMART HOME TECH

If you're new to smart home technologies, keep the following tips in mind as you explore home automation options.

1. **Define goals.** Determine the areas in your home you want to make smart, like lighting, security and entertainment systems.
2. **Choose compatible devices.** A smart hub can make integration easier with a central device to control multiple smart technologies.
3. **Check Wi-Fi strength.** Smart home technologies require a stable internet connection to function properly, so consider factors like router placement and signal strength.
4. **Prioritize security.** Set strong, unique passwords for your Wi-Fi network, set devices to update automatically and limit personal data collection.



South Dakota's Century Farms

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Soukup Homestead: Raising families and farmers for over 125 years

Nestled in the heart of southcentral South Dakota lies a cherished piece of land with a name that's been long-established in Charles Mix County – the Soukup Homestead.

Almost anyone with Wagner ties knows a Soukup.

There are even a few members of the Soukup family who are also part of South Dakota's rural electric cooperative family, including Charles Mix Electric District 1 Director Denise Soukup.

But it all had to start somewhere, and good things take time.

That was the case for the Soukup's Century Farm and the Gronseth/Fiegel/Nelson/Evans homestead, a farm located near Britton that's served by Lake Region Electric.

Really, it's a common theme for Century Farm families to be located within rural electric cooperative service areas.

The South Dakota Farm Bureau and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources began the Century Farm Program in 1984 to recognize farm and ranch families who have kept the farm in the family for 100 years or more.

Farms reaching the milestone of 125 years, known as

Quasquicentennial Farms, and the venerable Sesquicentennial Farms, marking an impressive 150 years, are also given their due recognition.

With over 3,000 families honored to date, the program continues to shine a light on the enduring legacy of South Dakota's agricultural heritage. To qualify for these prestigious honors, farms must encompass at least 80 acres and provide documented proof of their original purchase date. That means a family member must have always had ownership of the land over the last 100 years, including during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl.

The annual award presentation is a cherished tradition held at the South Dakota State Fair.

After migrating with family from what is now known today as the Czech Republic in the late 1800s, Joseph and Mary Soukup



Tom Soukup stands beside his Farmall Red International Harvester 460 tractor. *Photo courtesy of Linda Soukup*

came to the Dakota Territory at a time when most of the land open for settlement had already been settled.

While living in Tabor with family, Joseph Soukup applied for a homestead on reservation land that was now open for settlement at the U.S. Land Office in town of Mitchell on Jan. 30, 1896.

"In the following five years he built a frame house 13 feet by 18 feet in order to establish a residence, then a grainery, a corn crib, and he also fenced in 80 acres," said Linda Soukup, the wife of Tom Soukup. Her husband is Joseph and Mary's grandson.

Joseph and Mary raised ten children on the very homestead that Tom and Linda raised their kids.

"There's a lot of pride in the heritage and the legacy of, you know, having it passed down," Linda said. A new house was built on the site of Joseph and Mary's original home's structure in 1952.

That's where Tom and Linda lived and became the third generation to live on the homestead.

"When we lived here and Tom's parents and their brothers and sisters used to all come here," Linda said, as she started walking towards one of the farm buildings on the property referred to as "the shed."

"And they would butcher hogs and cattle and we would process them down there. We had a meat cooler in the basement. And then one of the families owned the meat saw and one owned the sausage stuffer," she recalled. "That was always kind of what we did until, well, families got bigger, and you couldn't. You just couldn't keep up, you know? We could have had a critter in there all the time," she said.

Tom and Linda raised their children – Becky, David, Kathy and Mary – in the house as well.

Their son David works as a project engineer for Phillips Petroleum in Texas. Two of their daughters live in different towns but remain relatively close to the homestead.

Kathy Jaeger lives in Tyndall and Mary Ringling lives in Platte. In 1996, their daughter Becky and her husband, Mike

Brunsing were living in Montana when Tom and Linda decided to move into town, so in 1998 the Brunsings moved back to South Dakota and began helping Tom on the farm while living in the house.

Becky raised three children of her own in the house she grew up in herself.

Becky and Mike still live on the homestead but in a more recently built home.

Now her son Dylan, 28, is raising his own family in the 1952 farmhouse.

In doing so, he became the fifth generation on the homestead.

Dylan and his wife, Keely, have two sons – a 20-month-old and an infant born in late March.

After 126 years, Torger Gronseth's homestead continues to bring family together.

It's hard for Carol Evans to put into words how she feels when she reflects on the 126 years of history of her family's farm in Marshall County.

"It's so important to us," Evans said. Then she takes pause.

"I'm sorry, it's emotional for me," she says, before telling her family's – and the farm's – origin story.

In 1872, her great grandfather, Torger Gronseth, immigrated to America from Norway at only 14 years old.

He made the trip to join his eldest brother in Minnesota. He officially "staked his claim" and homesteaded in the Pleasant Valley Township of Marshall County in 1901.

Over the next two decades, Torger and his wife, Berthe Lea, amassed over 960 acres of undeveloped land in the Coteau de Prairie of northeastern South Dakota.

To each of their six children, Torger bequeathed a quarter of land.

The pioneering couple sold a quarter to their daughter, Louise, upon her marriage to George Fiegel for \$1.

While they were building the house that Carol and Frank Evans now call home, the Fiegels welcomed their first child.

"All of them were born in that house built in 1920. The first born was born on

the actual homestead. The house was being built when my first aunt was born," Evans said.

Louise and George owned the house and quarter of land until 1972, at which point ownership was passed onto their daughter Joyce and her husband Orvin Nelson.

"We bought the house in 2011. Last year after my mom passed, we were able to buy the entire quarter," she recalled.

Carol and Frank then got to work refurbishing the 800-square-foot house.

The Evans live in Arizona in the fall, winter, and spring months, but spent years renovating the farmhouse over the course of several summers.

"We go back in May every year, and we've renovated the house from the chimney to the basement," Evans said.

Their summer stay at the farm begins with the help of Lake Region Electric Association.

"The first thing we do when we get there is turn the power on. Then we turn the water on and then we mow," she said.

The week over the Fourth of July holiday is especially meaningful to Carol. That's when her grandchildren make their pilgrimage back to the Gronseth/Fiegel/Nelson/Evans homestead.

"They're always here around Fort Sisseton Days," Evans said.

The traditional agenda for the kiddos also includes picnics at Roy Lake, routine farm work, and touching up the paint on an American Flag pallet display located at the base of Torger Gronseth's tombstone.

"Every one of the kids has learned how to drive when they're back in South Dakota – because it's safe," Evans said.

Evans ensures the next generation knows their family history.

"They know their great grandpa was only 14 years old when he left Norway. The strength of the person to do that – the longevity of our genetic background, the struggle, and the fact that we're so fortunate – are something they'll understand," Evans said.

"And that it's home. It's never going to the farm. It's going home."

Grilling: A Delicious and Energy-Friendly Option For Cooking

Grilling and America go together like hot dogs, baseball and apple pie. There's nothing like a sizzling grill on a summer day. But guess what? Grilling not only satisfies our cravings for great food but also helps preserve the environment. So, let's fire up the grill and save energy!

The Cost of Staying Cool

As refreshing as it is to feel the cool breeze of an air conditioner (AC) on a hot summer day, its energy consumption can be hefty. Depending on the model, it can consume as much energy as a marathon runner (and run almost non-stop), using anywhere from 0.48 to 5.14 kWh per hour. That is enough to make anyone break a sweat.

Did you know that millions of people add to their AC's energy consumption without realizing it? How? By opening the oven door while cooking. According to the book "Bakewise" by Shirley O. Corriher, an oven can lose up to 150 degrees within 30 seconds. Where does all that heat go? You guessed it — right into your home. Plus, even with the door closed, your oven still radiates heat into your home since it has nowhere else to go.

The Solution: Grilling

If you are looking to maintain a cool vibe and lower your AC's energy consumption, head outside to the grill.

Rather than generating heat indoors, the heat is dispersed outside, reducing strain on the AC, which ultimately lowers utility bills. Additionally, you will be chowing down in no time like a

true grill master, as grills reach a toasty 375 degrees in just 5 minutes. Compare that to the oven's sluggish 20-minute warm-up, and you'll be laughing all the way to the butcher shop.

Tips for Safe Grilling

Make sure your next BBQ extravaganza is a sizzling success without any burns or mishaps. Here are some safety tips to follow:

- Take it outside. Only use grills in the great outdoors.
- Keep your grill at least 10 feet from any buildings or structures.
- Make sure your grill is on a flat, steady surface.
- Stay close. Never leave your grill unattended while preheating, cooking, or cooling down.
- Dress for success. Avoid loose or long clothing that can catch fire.
- Keep a water spray bottle beside your grill to tackle any little flames that flare up quickly.
- Keep your cool with a fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

Keeping Your Grill Clean

Grills should undergo deep cleaning once or twice per year. Follow these steps to keep your gas grill in prime condition:

- Burn away buildup: Turn on the grill, close the lid and set the heat to maximum for at least 30 minutes. This process will eliminate any remaining grease or food debris.
- Scrub it clean: In a bowl, mix warm water with soap and dip a wire brush into the mixture. Scrub the grates to remove any carbon buildup.
- Let it cool: Allow the grill to cool down completely before storing it. Now your grill is ready for your next barbecue feast.
- Regular maintenance: In between uses, preheat your grill, and then scrape it off with a wire-bristled brush before adding food.

Happy Grill, Happy Life

In addition to keeping it clean, it is also important to regularly check the propane tank and replace it if necessary. Inspect the hoses and connections for any leaks or damage. Make sure the burners are free of debris and functioning properly. Finally, covering your grill when not in use can help protect it from the elements and prolong its lifespan.

Menu options are truly endless when it comes to grilling. Grab your apron, fire up the grill and get ready to impress your friends and family with your grilling skills while saving energy.

HEAT UP THE GRILL

TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER

Nothing screams summer more than firing up the grill.

The good news is that using your grill in the great outdoors helps lower your energy bill. If you cook outside, less energy is needed to cool your kitchen.

- Nearly 70% of Americans own a grill.
- The Fourth of July is the most popular holiday for outdoor cooking.
- The hamburger is the favorite item to grill.
- The all-American hot dog gets the most votes from kids.
- More men grill than women.
- Grilling and barbecuing are not the same thing.
- Grilling means cooking over a fire, hot and fast.
- Barbecuing means cooking slowly over indirect heat.



Source: Breo Box

Safe
Electricity.org

FOR SALE:

Grass fed, grass finished beef.
Burger-Individual Cuts-Quarters-
Halves when available. Call for
pricing.

Dave Pastoors
Olivia, MN 56277
320-522-4851

Farmall "C" Runs good. New rear
tires.

Daryl Wendt
Gibbon, MN 55335
507-327-8101

Used 8 Goodyear Dyna Touque
Radial tires. Size 20.8.42. Call for
price.

Bill Radermacher
Franklin, MN 55333
507-430-0105

John Deere 1240 4RN corn planter
in good shape. \$1,000 or OBO.

Bob Gummert
Renville, MN 56284
320-212-4725

OUTAGE REPORT:

Affecting 10 members or more

Date: 3-26-24

Time off: 7:29 AM

Time on: 9:15 AM

Substation: Crooks

Cause: Wind Not Trees

Please contact Renville-Sibley's
office for more details about these
power outages.



REBUILDING HABITATS

Beavers provide many environmental benefits including drought resilience, flood control and wildlife habitat. *Photo Credit: Richard Hamilton Smith.*

BEAVER-INSPIRED STREAM RESTORATION

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Centuries ago, the arrival of European traders in North America marked the beginning of a multi-century hunt for furs. The pelt of the North American beaver was at the forefront of this fur trade, prized for its use in crafting felt hats. These stylish hats fueled an ever-increasing demand for beaver furs that persisted for centuries, leading to a severe decline in beaver populations. By the early 1900s, beavers had become critically endangered, nearly vanishing from the expansive wetlands across the continent.

As the beavers dwindled, so did their dams. Lazy streams and rivers, once

tamed by beaver dams, began to flow more rapidly. The disappearance of the dams caused waterways to narrow and floodplains essential to willow trees and cottonwoods to vanish. The loss of these beaver-engineered habitats set the stage for the significant erosion of precious prairie lands.

In 2020, The Nature Conservancy set out to combat these issues by launching a project in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, South Dakota State University and local conservation agencies to restore stream health in western South Dakota.

“Our West River streams make up a small percentage of the total landscape – just under two percent of our total acreage is stream and valley

bottom,” said Lori Brown, riparian health program manager with The Nature Conservancy. “Yet, nearly everything in the prairie depends on these streams, including us in our rural communities.”

Prior to launching the project, The Nature Conservancy engaged local landowners in discussions to best understand their challenges and needs. During the discussions, several landowners faced similar issues: streams were eroding the land, fence lines were being washed away, and the water table was too low. Despite having effective tools for managing grasslands, landowners lacked the means to best maintain healthy streams.

“We needed to explore options

that any landowner could implement – strategies that didn't require a hydrologist to implement or an engineer to design," Brown said. "Our ranchers and landowners are some of the best stewards of the land. A lot of them are hungry for information and tools that can help them help the land."

The solution was simple, inspired by the ingenious works of an aquatic rodent: an artificial beaver dam. After all, if a beaver can engineer a dam, why can't a landowner?

Known as beaver analog devices, these simple speedbump-like structures quickly became integral to a broader strategy known as process-based restoration, a method that uses nature to help nature. Composed of locally sourced sticks, rocks and mud, beaver analog devices replicate a key natural process once performed naturally by beavers centuries ago. When established correctly, they filter water,

slow fast-flowing streams, and even recreate floodplains.

After settling on a solution, The Nature Conservancy set out to implement the idea in the real world, working with 10 landowners to help build and record the effects of the simulated beaver dams.

"Every day that I go out to one of these sites and I see that the beaver dams that we have built aren't totally washed out, it absolutely amazes me," Brown said. "I've read the manuals and I know how it's supposed to work, but I'm always in awe at what we are able to accomplish with the right building blocks in place."

After four years of the project, Brown said there is a lot to be excited about as the benefits of the project are evident. Signs of stream restoration are well underway. Sediment is accumulating rather than eroding, and revitalized floodplains are sprouting new willow trees.

"Without any planting on our part, woody species are now returning to these stream channels," Brown said. "The next step will be to lean into the success of this project. We want to act as a support for our conservation partners and other interested landowners that want to see their stream condition improve on their properties."

Others have been inspired by demonstrations led by The Nature Conservancy and other conservation organizations in the state to take action to slow down and hold water.

"We are just starting to see some of the effects from our outreach and education side of this project," said Brown. "The most rewarding part of this effort has been hearing the stories from local ranchers and landowners and hearing them get excited about the project."



A rock structure installed to help prevent headcuts from eroding upstream reaches. Photo Credit: Joe Dickie, Generation Photography, Inc.

Scholar of the Month

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Avery Duininck being selected as the April Scholar of the Month. Avery, a senior at Central Minnesota Christian School was nominated because of the way she challenges herself to take difficult classes, knowing they will prepare her for the next step of college and beyond. Avery is encouraging, positive, and empathetic of others and has a way of lifting them up. She is involved in student activities in school by serving on the student council all four years of school and leading student body activities. She is a team player in volleyball, basketball, and in choir. Her active presence in her church does not go unnoticed. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Avery Duininck as the April Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Avery Duininck as the April Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.

WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month RSCPA member did not find their member number in the newsletter. The value of the energy credit will be increased to \$105. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 3rd of June, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2024 or 2025 to please contact the office as soon as possible. In order to complete these projects on time, material may need to be ordered well in advance as often there is extended lead time to get the appropriate material. In addition, crew time will be scheduled in the order projects and materials are received.

Comparative Report			
	Current YTD	One Year Ago YTD	10 Years Ago YTD
Average # of Consumers	1,880	1,879	1,914
kWhs purchased	17,098,322	17,221,084	18,692,261
Cost of purchased power	\$1,093,134.70	\$1,050,625.98	\$1,012,881.78

FREE Want Ad Service

Members can submit ads for the following categories: Giveaway, For Sale, For Rent, and Wanted. Ads should be or are limited to no more than 15 words and must be received by the first of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Renville-Sibley reserves the right to edit content or exclude ads due to space restrictions. Ads will be run one time only unless resubmitted. Please complete the following information and mail it to the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power, PO Box 68, Danube, MN 56230.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Ad to be placed (limit of 15 words per ad)

Type of ad: ☐ Giveaway ☐ For Sale ☐ For Rent ☐ Wanted

Operation Round Up

At the April Operation Round Up board meeting, the Board of Trustees awarded five (5) donations to local non-profit organizations. A \$1,000 donation was given to West Central Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities to teach students about entrepreneurship by directly working with area businesses. A \$500 donation was given to both RCW Post Prom and MACCRAY After Prom to support post-prom activities. A \$500 donation was given to Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota – Caregiver Support to provide in-home respite care to elderly family members and assist with education on Caregiver classes, Caregiver training techniques and support groups. Lastly, a \$1,250 donation was given

to Ecumen RSVP, who hosts the Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) evidence-based exercise classes. Funds will help offset class costs, training manuals, and equipment for classes.

If your non-profit organization has a project or event that would benefit the community, Operation Round Up funds may be available to help your group reach its goal. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on July 16, 2024. The deadline for applications is July 1.

Applications for donations can be found at rscpa.coop/operation-round. Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

April Board Meeting Highlights

The April board meeting was held on Tuesday, April 23 at 7 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Gene Alex, and Amy Ervin.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the March 21 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of March
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Safety Report for April
- 2025 CWP Material Order Approval
- CFC and CRC Annual Meeting Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate
- Rescheduling of 2024 Annual Meeting

The board reviewed:

- Total new members
- Capital Credits Transferred
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department.

Items in the reports include:

- High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through March (unaudited)
- Organization activities
- East River update
- Basin Electric update
- NRECA update
- MREA update
- Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
- Accounts Receivable
- Annual Meeting Options

Please contact the Renville-Sibley office if you would like more information regarding the board meeting.

Mission Statement

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will provide efficient, reliable electric energy and services to enhance the quality of rural living.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

JUNE 12-JULY 20, 2024
Prairie Repertory Theatre
Summer Season
 Oscar Larson Performing
 Arts Center
 Brookings, SD
 605-688-6045



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.

JUNE 1
Annual Casey Tibbs Match of Champions
 Stanley County Fairgrounds
 Fort Pierre, SD
 605-494-1094

JUNE 1-2
South Dakota Veg Fest
 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
 The Good Earth Farm
 Lennox, SD
 605-929-7394

JUNE 1-2
Deadwood Michelson Trail Marathon
 Trailhead at Engine House
 Deadwood, SD

JUNE 6-9
Wheel Jam
 South Dakota State Fairgrounds
 Huron, SD
 605-353-7340

JUNE 7-9
Family Fun Weekend
 Wylie Park
 Aberdeen, SD
 605-626-7015

JUNE 8
Grace's Gas-Guzzlers Car Show, Carnival & Silent Auction
 Grace Lutheran Church
 Watertown, SD

JUNE 9
Brookings Car Show
 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Pioneer Park
 Brookings, SD

JUNE 12-13
Rangeland & Soil Days Contest
 Codington County Extension Building
 Watertown, SD

JUNE 20
Prairie Partners Master Gardeners Garden Walk
 Aberdeen, SD

JUNE 22-23
"Our Place: 15 Years of Onaka" Photography Exhibit
 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat.
 12-4p.m. Sunday
 Onaka Community Hall
 Onaka, SD

JULY 13
9th Annual Auto Value Car Show
 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Hav-A-Rest Campground
 Redfield, SD

JULY 14
Lion's Club Summer Fest/ Car Show
 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Groton City Park
 Groton, SD

JULY 25
Groton Summer Downtown Sip & Shop
 5-8 p.m.
 Groton, SD

JULY 26-28
Clear Lake Days
 ClearLakeDays.com
 Clear Lake, SD

AUG. 6-8
Minnesota Farmfest
 Gilfillan Estate
 Morgan, MN

AUG. 7-9
Renville County Fair
 Renville County Fairgrounds
 Bird Island, MN

AUG. 8
Renville County Family-a-Fair Night (Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Members
 Renville County Fairgrounds
 Bird Island, MN

AUG. 11
Czech Heritage Festival
 Bechyn, MN

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