



Cooperative Connections

**Energizing
Careers:
Energy Sector
Seeks Talented
Workers**

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**Celebrating
Cooperatives**

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Cooperatives See the Future



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October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives, like Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, are unique. Renville-Sibley was organized 80 years ago to bring power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Supporting the needs of the membership is just as important today as it was 80 years ago.

Local Control

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their

consumer-members. Renville-Sibley is governed by a board of nine directors, three directors in each of the three districts in our service territory. Each member gets one vote each year to elect a director to represent their district. These directors are your neighbors and make decisions which are in the best interest of the cooperative and the members.

Community Involvement

Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve. Board members and employees are involved in their communities by serving on church boards and fire departments, participating in youth programs and organizing community activities. Renville-Sibley also supports our

community by offering programs for our youth through area schools such as the Scholar of the Month program or educating our students about safety around electricity in our Co-ops in the Classroom visits. These are just a few ways Renville-Sibley is involved in the communities we serve.


Economic Opportunity

Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their local community. Through the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund, Renville-Sibley has been involved in programs that promote growth and contribute to the community. Programs receiving assistance include but are not limited to projects like broadband, daycare centers and municipal infrastructure rebuilds in our local communities.

As you can see, the co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have the members' best interest at heart. Renville-Sibley Co-op is determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities we serve – now and in the future.

1 OF 900

We are one of more than
900 ELECTRIC CO-OPS in the U.S.
Together, we collaborate
to solve complex
challenges to meet the
energy needs of our
local communities.

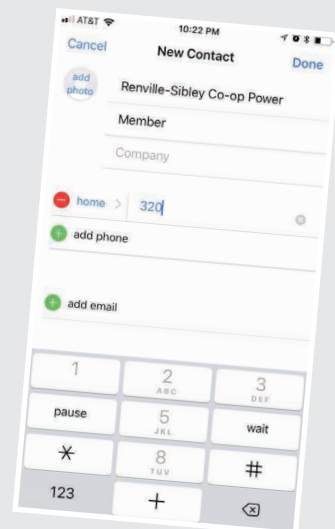


OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Update your contact information

In the utility business, we know rough weather will occur and sometimes power outages simply can't be avoided. There are steps you can take to ensure your electricity is restored as quickly and safely as possible. One step is by keeping your contact information up-to-date. Not only does this help us when notifying you of planned outages for repairs and maintenance, it also assists in a quicker response when calling in a power outage after hours. After hour calls go to Cooperative Response Center (CRC). Your account information automatically shows if the phone number you are calling from is tied to your account in our software system. If we don't have the correct phone number linked to your account, it can make your call to CRC a little more time consuming as they search for your account. Another step to a speedy response when calling in your power outage is to have your account number available.

Your contact information and account number is located on your electric statement. Please review your contact information and let us know if this information needs to be updated. You can update the information on your return stub or by calling our office at 800-826-2593.



Renville-Sibley

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

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Web site: www.renville-sibley.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Co-ops Together at Farmfest

Renville-Sibley joined together at Farmfest with other electric cooperatives in southern Minnesota to share information about electricity. On display this year was an all electric Chevy Bolt. Visitors had the opportunity to sit in the car and learn about the electric motor and expected mileage from the vehicle.

Members from Renville-Sibley (and other participating cooperatives) who brought in the Farmfest coupon from the newsletter were entered into a drawing for one of six pellet grills to be given away. Unfortunately, Renville-Sibley did not have a name drawn. Our thanks to everyone who stopped at the Farmfest booth.



Farmfest visitors had a chance to look at the electric motor of a Chevy Bolt.

Family-a-Fair Night

It was a beautiful night to be at the annual Family-a-Fair event. More than 370 people entered the Renville County Fair compliments of Renville-Sibley on Thursday, Aug. 9. The Family-a-Fair night is a great opportunity for Renville-Sibley to visit with our members and enjoy the excitement of the fair. Congratulations to Curt Groen for winning the \$50 energy credit and to Cara Walker for winning the children's gift. 309500



Members wait in line for their FREE ticket into the Renville County Fair for the annual Family-a-Fair night.

Thank you to the Dairy Association and Pork Producers for allowing Renville-Sibley the opportunity to give our members a \$1 off coupon to enjoy a malt or pork sandwich. Our thanks also goes out to the Renville County Fair board for working with us to offer this wonderful event for our members. See you next year!

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



S.D. Fire Marshal: Know That Fires Can Start Anywhere

This year's Fire Prevention Week encourages people to be mindful that fires can start anywhere. Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7-13 and will be observed by fire departments throughout South Dakota. This year's theme is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware – fire can happen anywhere."

"It is easy to take fire safety for granted, especially if we are staying in a new hotel or working in a new building," says State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman. "But it is important to be aware of your surroundings and know where the exits are if a fire starts."

Merriman says the three "L's" in this year's theme signify essential ways people can reduce their risk to fire:

- Look for places fire can start
- Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm
- Learn two ways out of each room

At the same time, Merriman says individuals and families should make sure they have two ways out of their home in case of fire. He says people need to remember that fires can start anywhere in the home due to an electrical problem or another issue.

"Families should hold fire drills in their homes at least twice a year; once during the day and another time at night," Merriman says. "It is important that everyone, especially children, know how to get out of a burning structure using more than one exit."

Another emphasis during the week will be the use of smoke alarms. Merriman says the importance of smoke alarms can't be stressed enough.

"We have seen too many house fires where there were no smoke alarms present or the alarms in the homes were not properly working," he says. "Smoke alarms can help save lives. But they do no good when not properly maintained."

Smoke alarm messages for this week include:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the Fire Department from outside the home.

To learn more, go to www.firepreventionweek.org.

The state Fire Marshal's Office is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

Farm Bill Conference: Electric Co-op Priorities



Strengthen RUS electric loan program



Support House broadband provisions



Promote innovative rural development programs

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't plant trees below power lines."

Erin Kangas, 10 years old

Erin is the daughter of Andrew and Gail Kangas, Lake Norden, S.D. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake, 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.

Perfect Pasta

Pasta Rings and Deviled Ham Salad

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1 (7oz.) pkg. macaroni rings, cooked and drained | 1/3 cup dill pickle relish |
| 2 cups ground cooked ham | 1-1/4 cups mayonnaise |
| 3 hard-boiled eggs, chopped | 1 tsp. mustard |
| 1 cup finely chopped celery | 1/4 tsp. pepper |

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Chill thoroughly before serving.

Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD

Hamburger-Macaroni Casserole

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef, do not brown | 1 can tomato soup |
| 1 T. instant onion | 1 can cheese soup |
| 1/2 cup diced celery | 1 tsp. sugar |
| 1/2 cup diced green pepper | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 cup uncooked macaroni | 1/4 T. basil, optional |

Combine all ingredients in casserole; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour. Serves 6.

Shirley Thedorff, Centerville, SD

Easy Chicken Noodle Dish

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/3 cup chopped onion | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 T. butter | 1 cup sour cream |
| 3 cups noodles, uncooked | 2 cups cooked chicken |
| 2-3/4 cups chicken broth | 1/4 cup silvered almonds |
| 1/4 tsp. lemon extract | 3 T. snipped parsley |

Sauté onion in butter. Add noodles, chicken broth, extract and salt. Bring to a boil. Cover and cook on low heat for 25 minutes or until noodles are tender. Stir in sour cream, chicken, almonds and parsley. Serve hot in bowls. Serves 4.

Verna Knapp, Waubay, SD

Creamy Parmesa and Sun-dried Tomato Chicken Penne

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 cups penne pasta | 1 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Italian Seasoning |
| 2 T. butter | 1/2 tsp. McCormick® California Style Onion Powder |
| 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped | 1/2 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Sicilian Sea Salt |
| 1 lb. chicken tenders | 1/4 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Black Pepper, Coarse Ground |
| 1 cup half-and-half | 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese |
| 2 T. cornstarch | |
| 1 (14.5 oz.) can petite diced tomatoes, undrained | |
| 1/4 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes | |

Cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, melt butter in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add garlic; cook and stir 30 seconds. Add chicken; cook and stir 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Mix half-and-half and cornstarch in small bowl until smooth. Add to skillet along with tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes, seasonings and Parmesan cheese. Bring to boil, stirring constantly with wire whisk until well blended. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Stir in pasta; toss gently to coat. Serve with additional Parmesan cheese, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

Shrimp variation: Use 1 lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined, in place of the chicken. Cook and stir shrimp in melted butter 2 minutes. Continue as directed.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 292, Total Fat 12g, Saturated Fat 7g, Cholesterol 66mg, Sodium 486mg, Protein 22g, Carbohydrates 24g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Please send your favorite slow cooker, holiday favorite or soup 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Utility Payment Arrangements For Military Service Personnel.

Section 1. (325E.028)

Subdivision 1. Restriction on disconnection; payment schedules.

- a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must not disconnect the utility service of residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, deployment, or change in duty station if such a residential customer:
- 1) has a household income below the state median household income or is receiving energy assistance and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility under which the residential customer pays ten percent of the customer's gross monthly income toward the customer's bill and the residential customer remains reasonably current with those payments; or
 - 2) has a household income above the state median household income and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payment under the payment schedule.
- b) For purposes of this subdivision, "household income" means household income measure after the date of the orders specified in paragraph (a).

Subdivision 2. Annual notice to all customers; inability to pay forms.

- a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility must notify all residential customers annually of the provisions of this section.
- b) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association,

or public utility must provide a form to a residential customer to request the protections of this section upon the residential customer's request.

Subdivision 4. Income verification. Verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or the municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnects as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility in subdivision 1, clause (1).

Subdivision 5. Appeal process.

- a) the municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility shall provide the residential customer with a commission-approved written notice of the right to appeal to the commission or other appropriated governing body when the utility and residential customer are unable to agree on the establishment, reasonableness, or modification of a payment schedule, or on the reasonable timeliness of the payments under a payment schedule, provided for by this section. Any appeal must be made within seven working days after the residential customer's receipt of personally served notice, or within ten working days after the utility has deposited first class mail notice in the United States mail.
- b) The utility shall not disconnect service while a payment schedule is pending appeal, or until any appeal involving payment schedules has been determined by the commission.

Subdivision 6. Endorsement. This section may be enforced pursuant to chapter 216B.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



Comparative Report

	Current (through June 30)	One Year Ago (through June 30)	10 Years Ago (through June 30)
Average Number of Consumers	1,882	1,887	1,967
kWhs Purchased	96,075,994	79,646,506	81,690,945
Cost of Purchased Power	\$5,733,505.28	\$4,936,772.97	\$2,648,655.50

216B.097 Cold Weather Rule; Cooperative.

Subdivision 1. Application; notice to residential customer.

a) A cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.
 - 2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
 - 3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.
- b) A cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and Oct. 15 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subdivision 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15, a cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

- 1) a notice of proposed disconnection;
- 2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
- 3) a list of local energy assistance providers;
- 4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
- 5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to

secure continued utility service.

Subdivision 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary.

a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between Oct. 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

- 1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a cooperative electric association;
- 2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;
- 3) when utility offices are closed; or
- 4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in Subd. 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

- b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.
- c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Subdivision 4. Application to service limiters.

For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Thank you...

Linemen Anthony, Brian, Connor and Shawn would like to thank **Les Reiderer** for the water and pop. It was greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Renville County Walk in the Park. We appreciate your support.

Sara Maher

I want to sincerely thank you for your organization, patience and skill at arranging the three-day power tour to North Dakota. The tour is definitely well worth taking. The low cost to each of us was also very appreciated.

Louise Kiecker

Thank you so much for the team sponsorship at the golf tournament. Appreciate your support!

TOMF Golf Committee

Our hearts are filled with GRATITUDE. Thank you for your contribution in making Summerfest 2018 a great celebration! We couldn't do it without the local support of our fantastic businesses, individuals and organizations. You make us proud to call Sacred Heart our home! See you in 2019... July 17-22.

The Summerfest Committee

Outage Report

affecting 10+ members

Date: 7-18-18

Time off: 8:49 am

Time on: 10:32 am

Substation: Henryville

Cause: Emergency outage to repair failed equipment

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



Line workers account for a portion of energy-related careers.

ENERGIZED JOBS

Careers in Energy Fields Hold Potential

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

America's energy sector looks to put a spotlight on careers within the field during Careers in Energy Week Oct. 15-19.

According to information from the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD), key jobs in the energy workforce – line workers, technicians, plant/field operators and engineers – represent 44 percent of the energy workforce. And, demand for these jobs has remained steady.

Industry leaders work to ensure there is a balance in the supply of qualified workers with specific demands. The goal is to have the right number of workers with the right skills at the right time and in the right place.

A 2015 CEWD report noted that while the workforce is getting younger in these key jobs, gaps still exist for engineers and technicians and, in some areas, especially small, more rural areas, utilities, in particular can struggle with attracting

Jobs in the energy sector hold potential for many seeking careers.



Photo by iStock/Getty Images/Theerapong28

talent and replacing expertise lost by retiring workers.

According to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, more than 116,000 people work as electrical power line installers and repairers. In South Dakota 850 people have such jobs, representing about 2.04 jobs per 100,000 jobs in the state, ranking it among the highest location quotients in the nation. (The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.)

Another visible energy job in the area deals with wind energy. According to United States Department of Labor statistics, there are 4,390 wind turbine service technicians nationwide, with 510 calling the Dakotas and Minnesota home.

The *U.S. Energy and Employment Report* released in May 2018 by the National Association of State Energy Officials and the Energy Futures Initiative noted that

the traditional energy and energy efficiency sectors employed approximately 6.5 million Americans out of a total workforce of approximately 145 million. The report noted this was a 2 percent increase from the previous year, adding 133,000 net new jobs.

The report noted that within the traditional energy sector, electric power genera-

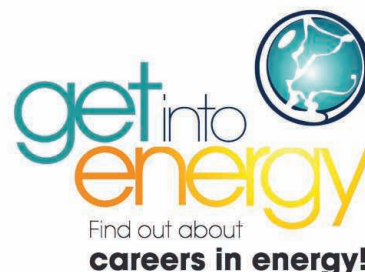
Electric power generation and fuels directly employed more than 1.9 million workers in 2017.

tion and fuels directly employed more than 1.9 million workers in 2017, an increase of 15,000 jobs from 2016. In 2017, 55 percent – or 1.1 million – of these employees worked in traditional coal, oil and gas electric power generation and fuels, while almost 800,000 workers were employed in other generation technologies including renewables, nuclear and natural gas.

Firms covered by the survey anticipate about a 6 percent growth in jobs in 2018.

But while these sectors are anticipating growth, more than 70 percent of employers reported difficulty in hiring qualified workers in the past 12 months.

Two South Dakota technical schools – Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, S.D., and Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D., offer energy-sector career training and have received national recognition for the educational programs and Minnesota's technical schools have strong energy-related programs.



OCTOBER 15-19, 2018

Among energy sector workers are the nation's 4,300 wind service technicians, 510 of which are in the Dakotas and Minnesota.



Photo by iStock/Getty Images/ aydinmutlu

August Board Meeting Highlights

The August board meeting was held on Monday, Aug. 27, at 8 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Newville, Gene Alex and Lenae Wordes.

The following items were reviewed and approved by the board:

- Minutes of the July board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of July
- Capital credits to estates
- Safety report for July
- CFC voting delegate/alternate
- CFC Nominating Committee and at-large director
- RESCO annual meeting voting delegate/alternate
- Basin Electric annual meeting voting delegate/alternate

The board reviewed:

- List of new members and 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 – July 2018 (unaudited)
 - Organization activities
 - East River update
 - NRECA update
 - MREA update
 - Line crew work in progress and pending work
 - Accounts receivable
 - Farmfest
 - Family-a-Fair night
- Upcoming meetings were discussed.

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

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 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

Where's the Number?

Last month, Tom Jacobs did not find his member number in the newsletter.



The credit will increase to a value of \$70. A new number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by Oct. 4, you will receive this credit on your electric statement.

Good luck in your search!

Notice:
The September board meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, at 8 a.m. The October board meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 29, 2018, at 8 a.m.

Mission Statement:

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



For Sale:

Sheep/goat feeders and bunks.

Dave Feldman, Renville, MN
320-329-3807

350 International Tractor with blade and bucket.

Claudia Kokesch, Franklin, MN
507-430-2852

Davenport set, recliner chair, seven-drawer desk, TV, sewing machine, kitchen table with four chairs, two good sets of dishes and microwave.

Elsie Heutinck, Olivia, MN
320-523-1705 (M-F 6-10 pm)



Be sure to look up, out and around for electric hazards this harvest.

MAKE TIME FOR SAFETY THIS HARVEST SEASON

SafeElectricity.org

lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

Harvest season often means putting in long hours, which can make it difficult to stay alert and on the lookout for potential hazards. Safe Electricity provides safety tips to help farmers make this harvest season a safe one.

- Be prepared for potential emergencies before the rush of harvest season begins. Be sure that you can see well in work areas. Consider adding extra lighting around grain bins and augers.
- Take the time to look up and look out for electrical lines. Always be aware of where they are in relation to your equipment. Keep a minimum of 10 feet away from all electrical equipment and lower extensions before moving equipment. If you see a power line that is sagging or low, contact your utility. Also keep an eye out for guy wires. While these wires are not energized, they can bring down live lines.
- In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. Yet, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings. Recognize when you need to take breaks so that you can be active and engaged in the farm work.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
 - If the machinery you are operating does make contact with a power line, stay on the equipment. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.
 - Only on the rare occasion that the machinery catches fire should you leave the vehicle after contact is made. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Never touch anything that is in contact with a power line.

Additional electrical safety tips include:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Celebrating Cooperatives

Co-ops Play Important Role in Economy

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdra.coop

**Cooperatives
generate jobs in
their communities,
keep profits local
and pay local taxes
to help support
community services.**

CO-OP CARLA'S AMAZING DAY

HOW COOPERATIVE IS YOUR DAY?

Cooperative Carla knows that joining and supporting cooperatives helps to make her community stronger and build a better world. She also knows that the owners of cooperatives are the ones closest to the business and she's proud to benefit from membership in cooperatives and happy to support cooperatives around her.

Carla's typical day is pretty amazing.



COOPERATIVES FOR A
**BETTER
WORLD**



From the moment one wakes up to the minute one falls asleep – and throughout the night – cooperatives play a role in the daily lives of most South Dakotans and many Minnesotans.

Power from electric cooperatives charges phones, illuminates lights, heats homes and provides the electricity integral to many farms and businesses in the area. Telecommuni-

cation cooperatives across the region connect families and businesses with internet, phone and cable services, keeping them informed and connected to the world around them.

Gasoline, ethanol and propane are often bought from regional cooperatives that are among the largest cooperatives in the nation.

Grains and other products are bought and sold through farmer cooperatives big and small.

Hundreds of financial transactions occur daily at the areas credit unions.

In fact, there are more than 40,000 cooperative businesses in the United States with 350 million members (many people belong to more than one co-op). These cooperatives generate \$514 billion in revenue and more than \$25 billion in wages, according to a study conducted by the Univer-



Carla is also planning on making some updates to her living room. She stops by her local hardware store for some paint samples and takes a look at her options at the local flooring and lighting stores - all cooperatives!

Did you know, purchasing cooperatives like **Ace Hardware, Carpet One Floor & Home** and **Lighting One** help independent, local businesses compete with big box stores?

sity of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, with support from USDA Rural Development (<http://reic.uwcc.wisc.edu/default.htm>).

- Cooperatives represent a strong business model and greatly contribute to both the national and local economies.
- Studies show that consumers want to do business with companies that share their values, making today's environment ideal for cooperatives and their commitment to the communities in which their members live and work.
- Co-ops don't have to answer to outside shareholders; they care about meeting their members' needs.
- Co-ops represent democracy in action, with control exercised by a board of directors elected from the ranks of members; the board hires and directs management and is ultimately responsible to the members;
- Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience.

Co-op Month Fun Facts

- Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Co-op Month proclamation in 1948.
- Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former Minnesota governor, proclaimed October Co-op Month.
- The first national theme in 1964 was "Cooperatives: USDA Helps Build a Better America."
- The U.S. Government sponsored Co-op Month from 1964-70.
- Since 1971, cooperatives, statewide associations and the National Cooperative Business Association have fueled their own events and promotions.



RISE & SHINE

As Carla turns off the alarm clock and turns on the lights she thinks about her membership in her local electric co-op.

Carla is one of
42 Million Americans
whose homes are powered by local **Electric Co-ops!**



Carla always starts off the day with coffee and breakfast from the local food co-op where she always finds fresh, healthy options for her family. Food co-ops spend more revenues locally - by buying more products locally and contributing more to the local economy than conventional grocery stores.



For every **\$1,000** spent at a **food co-op**,

\$1,604

goes back into the local economy.

Food co-ops buy more organic produce and recycle more plastic than conventional grocers too!

Over **2 million farmers** own the companies that cooperatively market their dairy products. **Organic Valley, Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Land O' Lakes** sound familiar? They're all Co-ops!



Even the milk in her cereal is from a farmer-owned dairy cooperative.



OFF TO WORK

Carla works at a worker-owned cooperative that produces paper products. She takes pride in her work knowing that she is able to weigh in on big decisions and owns a share of the business.

Carla is one of
100 Million People
who work for **Co-ops** around the world!



Four Reasons Co-op Careers Are Unique

Paul Wesslund

NRECA

This is an exciting time to be a part of the energy industry.

The search for a purposeful career can begin and end at your local electric cooperative.

Those aren't just words or wishes. Working toward a greater purpose is at the heart of the co-op business model.

Electric co-ops are community-focused organizations that deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to the consumer-members they serve. This is an exciting time to be a part of the energy industry. Technology is continuously advancing and consumers want more say in the way they manage their energy use. That means electric co-ops need a variety of skillsets to develop new technologies and infrastructure, keep the electric grid secure and power the lives and economy of our local communities.

Here are four reasons why electric cooperative careers offer a unique opportunity to make a difference:

1. Member-Led

Because consumer-members lead and own the organization, co-op employees can take comfort knowing that the loyalty of their employer is with those served by the cooperative.

"If you work for an investor-owned business, you might be helping people in your community, but more likely you're helping stockholders who could live anywhere in the world," says Adam Schwartz, founder of the consulting firm,



Why choose a career with an electric co-op?

- **LOCAL**, community-focused organization
- **DYNAMIC** and exciting industry
- **COMPETITIVE WAGES** and excellent benefits
- **VARIETY** of job opportunities



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

The Cooperative Way. "Co-ops, with the services they provide, can have a great impact on the quality of life in the local community."

2. Locally Owned

The best thing about an electric utility owned by its consumer-members is that all it will ever care about is its local community. And that makes a difference to an employee, says Michelle Rinn, senior vice president of human resources at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"People want to feel like they're doing work that matters, like they're contrib-

uting to the world at large," she says. "For co-ops, that comes from a connection to the community and the fact that the folks you're taking care of really are your neighbors, the people you go to church with or you see at the grocery store every day."

Rinn says that when it comes to a job that provides electricity, "That's work that matters. Especially when there's a storm and the lights go out."

Both Rinn and Schwartz agree that electric co-ops also achieve a larger employment goal by providing jobs in smaller communities where they're typically located. As

long as people will need electricity, electric co-ops will help the local economy with a strong, stable business.

3. Variety of Jobs

The more than 900 electric co-ops in 47 states require a lot of different skillsets to keep the lights on. That means potential employment seekers could find work in construction, electrical equipment operation, engineering, customer service, communications and public relations, employee benefits coordination, software analysis and vehicle maintenance, to name a few.

Schwartz says another high-tech co-op career is emerging as local economic development efforts begin to ask electric co-ops for help in providing high-speed broadband service for their communities.

Rinn sees different advantages for employees depending on the size of their co-op. In larger cooperatives, a variety of professions are available. At smaller cooperatives, employees have the opportunity to flex multiple professional muscles in a single role.

“At a really small co-op, people have to wear multiple hats,” she says. “You don’t come in and you’re just the accountant, or you’re just the receptionist, or you’re just the executive assistant. There’s the opportunity to work on a lot of different things and build a broad range of skills.”

4. Guided by Co-op Principles

The first modern co-op was formed in 1844 and developed a set of principles that guides co-ops today. Those include voluntary, open membership; democratic control by the membership; members’ economic participation; autonomy and independence; education and training; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

America’s electric cooperatives are looking for individuals to lead the charge in meeting our nation’s energy needs. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

To learn more about electric co-op career opportunities, visit:

- **South Dakota:** <https://www.sdrea.coop/content/employment>
- **Minnesota:** <https://www.mrea.coop/networking/>
- **Nationally:** <https://www.touchstoneenergy.com/co-op-business-resources/careers/find-co-op-jobs/>

Spark Your New Career

With more than 63,000 employees nationwide, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives network offers numerous career opportunities. Our member cooperatives are seeking the best workers to supplement their teams and better serve their own members. Some of the best, brightest, most creative and dedicated people have chosen to serve their communities and develop their careers with us.

Work Environment

Recognized as a leader in the field of innovation and customer satisfaction, the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives network also offers its employees competitive salaries, excellent benefit packages and the satisfaction of knowing the work performed directly benefits their communities. Our co-ops are dedicated to helping further their employees’ careers, offering a full range of opportunities for distance learning, accreditation or professional development programs.

Nationwide Employment

The electric cooperative network stretches across 47 states, from the smallest rural communities to large, bustling cities. Employees can trust that the same healthy, creative work environment and commitment to service is found across all areas, including benefit packages and career opportunities that transfer from co-op to co-op.

Co-op Job Benefits

Electric cooperatives developed their own co-op-tailored benefits more than 60 years ago through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). These benefits, which most co-ops subscribe to, are the standard for all electric co-op benefits, no matter the size of the co-op and are transferable between co-ops that participate in their plans.

Committed to Job Training and Education

Cooperatives are committed to giving our employees opportunities to learn, grow and advance in their careers. Whether you’re looking to increase your skillset, advance in your job or change jobs, you can take advantage of a full range of distance learning and professional accreditation and certification programs, as well as professional development programs. Most electric co-ops even offer tuition reimbursement to obtain a certification or degree.

Diversity Powers Every Co-op

Working in cooperation to create a better community is a key principle of America’s electric cooperatives. That includes the belief in treating all people with respect and dignity and commitment to the goals of equal opportunity. Electric co-ops strive to create a work environment that fosters and supports fairness, equity and respect for social and cultural diversity, free from unlawful discrimination and harassment.

At Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we recognize our talented and diverse workforce as a key competitive advantage. Our business success is a reflection of the quality and skill of our people. More than that, we value our diversity because it contributes to the richness and strength of our entire network. By including the ideas, opinions, perspectives and talents of all who comprise our workforce, we enrich our entire co-op network and the member-owners we serve.

We’re committed to employing the best people to do the best job possible.

September 20-23

South Dakota Film Festival,
Aberdeen, SD, 605-725-2697

September 20-23

South Dakota Festival of
Books, Brookings, SD,
605-688-6113

September 21-23

South Dakota Quilt Guild,
Crossroads Event Center,
Huron, SD, 605-352-9953

September 21-23

Annual Sturgis Off Road Rally,
Ballpark Road, Sturgis, SD,
605-720-0800

September 22

Harvest Fest, Spearfish, SD,
605-717-9294

September 22, October 6

Lawn Mower Races, Pukwana,
SD, 605-680-1718

September 25-29

Black Hills Plein Air Paint-Out,
Hill City, SD, 605-645-7196

September 27-29

Custer State Park Buffalo
Roundup & Arts Festival,
Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

September 28-29

PREMIER Rodeo, Sioux Falls,
SD, 605-367-7288

September 28-30

SiouxperCon, Sioux Falls, SD,
admin@siouxpercon.com

September 29

Wheelin' to Wall, Main Street,
Wall, SD, 605-685-3882

September 29

Living History Fall Festival,
Groton, SD, 605-715-7117

September 29-30

Northern Plains Indian Art
Market, Sioux Falls, SD,
605-856-8193

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Cooperative presents the first*

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 15, 2018
SDSU CAMPUS, BROOKINGS, S.D.
yourcoopower.com/LivestockSummit




September 30

Fall Volksmarch, Crazy Horse
Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD,
605-673-4681

October 5-7

Black Hills Powwow, Rapid
City, SD, 605-341-0925

October 6

Agritourism Tours, Free,
Brandon, SD; 605-681-6793 or
SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

October 6

Pumpkin Train, Prairie Village,
Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

October 11-12

South Dakota Women in
Ag 2018 Conference,
The Lodge, Deadwood, SD,
605-390-4241,
amy.pravecsek@zoetis.com,
southdakotawomeninag.com

October 11-13

Wild West Songwriters
Festival, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

October 11-14

Great Scarecrow Festival,
Huron, SD, 605-352-9781

October 12

Pumpkin Fest and Parade of
Lights, Webster, SD,
605-345-4668

October 20-21

South Dakota State and
National Cornhusking
Contest, State is on the 20th
and National on the 21st,
9 a.m., Flandreau, SD

October 20-January 6

Pheasant Hunting Season,
Statewide, Pierre, SD,
605-223-7660

October 26-28

Autumn Festival, An Arts and
Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD,
402-331-2889

November 1-3

South Dakota Local Foods
Conference, Brookings, SD,
Contact 605-681-6793 or
SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

November 8-10

Ringneck Festival and Bird
Dog Challenge, Huron, SD,
605-352-0000

November 9

Hairball, Deadwood Mountain
Grand, Deadwood, SD,
605-559-1188

November 10

Sisseton Area Merchants &
Crafters 21st Annual Holiday
Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD,
605-698-7425

November 16-17

Holiday Arts Christmas Craft
Show, Masonic Temple,
Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

**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.**