



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**RENVILLE-SIBLEY**  
SEPTEMBER 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 5

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



This year's sunflower crop is expected to be bountiful as market forces have driven up demand and prices

## Sensational Sunflowers

**Sunflower market blooms**

Pages 8-9

**Everyone's welcome in the Chislic Circle**

Pages 12-13

## Grateful for support of community enhancement programs

Working to promote and improve the health and well-being of a community is a partnership between those who provide health care and the people who call the community home.

It's also a partnership among the local individuals, businesses and organizations that support our community and make it thrive. Olivia Hospital & Clinic Foundation is enormously grateful for the generosity and support that continues to make Renville County and the surrounding communities such great places to work and live.

Olivia Hospital & Clinic Foundation supports many successful initiatives, like our PowerUp program, which distributes fresh fruit and veggie vouchers that can be used at local farmers markets and area grocery stores. Our Good Samaritan Fund also helps patients with short-term needs, such as clothing and transportation.

We've also launched Revolution Wellness, a new partnership with the Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA and BOLD Schools. The YMCA is

committed to nurturing the potential of every child and teen, improving the community's health and well-being, and giving back and providing support to our communities. Look for new programming opportunities for all ages no matter where you live. It's about giving you the chance to create relationships, find new interests, and achieve your goals. Learn more about this new partnership at [www.revolutionwellnessymca.org](http://www.revolutionwellnessymca.org).

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity of the people in our community. Your support goes a long way toward improving the lives of everyone in the Renville County area. 581801

Here are some upcoming events and opportunities to get involved:

- Annual Hospice Butterfly Release, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022, 6 p.m., Olivia Hospital & Clinic. Open to everyone, no registration necessary.
- Meals for Good (Supporting Cancer Care Services), Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022, 4-7 p.m., Olivia Hospital & Clinic. Pre-orders only, more information coming soon!

Learn more at [www.oliviahospital.com/foundation](http://www.oliviahospital.com/foundation).



**Jackie Edwards**  
Dir. of Foundation  
and Community  
Relations

## Energy Star rebates available to members

Renville-Sibley offers rebates to members who purchase the following Energy Star certified appliances for their home: refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher, clothes washer, clothes dryer, dehumidifier, central air-conditioner and room air-conditioner.

To qualify for the rebate, the unit must be currently Energy Star certified. Occasionally, Energy Star changes their qualification of what is certified. Therefore, what was Energy Star certified last year or even last month, may or may not be currently Energy Star certified due to a change in the requirements. Renville-Sibley would like to remind members to verify that the appliance they are purchasing is currently Energy Star certified by visiting the Energy Star website [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Once in the website, click on Find Products tab at the top of the page and then click on the appliance you are interested in purchasing. Next, click on the "Explore Models" and search by the brand of the appliance you are purchasing. Renville-Sibley also uses this web site to verify that the appliance is currently Energy Star certified before issuing the rebate. This web site has a host of other information to assist members in becoming energy efficient.

Rebate forms can be found on Renville-Sibley's website <http://renville-sibley.coop/content/energy-star-rebates>. Rebates must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please contact the office if you have any questions on rebates or on Energy Star products.



## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

#### Board of Directors

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**Web site:** [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Keep safety in mind when using a standby generator



Standby generators must be installed by a professional electrician to reduce the risk of injury to linemen helping to restore power after an outage.

While owning an emergency generator can come in handy during an extended power outage, you must consider the following precautions to operate them safely.

To reduce the risk of injury from standby generators, operate them only in well-ventilated areas outdoors so that potentially harmful emissions can't enter your home.

In addition, always turn off a generator when refueling it, and store gasoline, diesel fuel, or propane outside of living areas.

Plug your home appliances directly into a generator or use an extension cord. Do not try to power a home's wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet.

A permanently installed standby generator for a home or business

requires a transfer switch to isolate it from the power grid.

Note that the main breaker on an electric panel does not qualify as a transfer switch under the National Electrical Code.

Transfer switches are critical for two reasons:

- They prevent the backflow of current across distribution lines that could electrocute lineworkers trying to restore power during an outage.
- They protect the generator from damage when electric service has been restored.

Installation of a standby generator should be done by a licensed electrician and must comply with the National Electrical Code as well as state and local codes.

# Take safety precautions during harvest season

Harvest season brings long, grueling hours in the field, which can make workers weary and prone to neglect safety precautions that can prevent serious or fatal electrical injuries. Every year, an average of 62 farmworkers are electrocuted in the U.S., and many more are injured by shocks.

Farm operators, their family members and farm employees are urged to beware of overhead power lines, to keep farm equipment safely away and to know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines.

The increasing size of farm equipment, particularly grain tanks on combines that have become higher with extensions, allows operators to come perilously close to overhead power lines over entrances to fields. It is vital to keep equipment safely away from these lines. Maintain a minimum 10-foot radius around electric lines.

Portable augers are the No. 1 cause of electrocution on the farm. Augers being maneuvered by hand around bin sites have caused the deaths of many farmworkers who became the path to ground for electricity when the top of the auger touched overhead power lines. Always retract or lower augers when moving or transporting.

Other equipment commonly involved in power line accidents includes oversized wagons, large combines and other tall equipment.

Harvest is the most likely period for farm-related injury accidents and fatalities. Combines and other equipment loaded onto trailers can contact power lines and cause electrocutions, as can raising the bed of a truck to unload. That's exactly how a 53-year-old Michigan truck driver was tragically killed when he raised the bed of his semitrailer truck while parked beneath a power line at the edge of a field. He was attempting to clean out the bed, and when he touched the truck bed, he became the path to ground for the electricity.

Follow these safety measures:

- Use a spotter when moving tall loads near power lines.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- Make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. These accidents are survivable if the right actions are taken.

## STUDENTS LEARN HOW POWER IS PRODUCED

A group of high school students recently gathered together to take a trip and learn how electricity is produced and how it is used to power their homes, farms, appliances and local businesses.

The students traveled to Bismarck, N.D., to tour the power generation facilities of Basin Electric, which supplies electricity across nine states and is one of the largest power producers in the country.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Don't Mess With a  
Transformer Box



## Beware of the green box

**Cambrie Koistinen**

Cambrie, age 11, advises electric cooperative members to use caution around pad-mounted transformers, also known as green boxes, because they contain high-voltage power equipment. Cambrie is the child of Lance and Holly Koistinen of Hayti.

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.



# FRESH FROM THE GARDEN

## ZUCCHINI SPINACH CASSEROLE

### Ingredients:

2 lbs. zucchini  
1 lbs. frozen spinach  
1 chopped onion  
4 cloves of garlic  
5 beaten eggs  
1/2 cup salad oil  
1-1/2 cup cracker crumbs (save  
1/2 cup for top)  
1-1/2 cup cheddar cheese (save  
1/2 for top)

### METHOD

Cook and drain first four ingredients. Add eggs, salad oil, cracker crumbs and cheddar cheese. Add salt, pepper and parsley to taste. Spread the remaining crumbs and cheese on top. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes.  
**Glenda Morton, Sioux Falls**

## CREAMY CUCUMBER SALAD

### Ingredients:

1 1/2 long English cucumbers cut  
in half moons  
1 1/2 lb tomatoes on the vine  
sliced in segments  
1/4 cup red onion thinly sliced  
(optional)  
3 tbsp dill finely chopped  
2 small garlic cloves grated  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1/2 tsp salt  
Ground black pepper to taste

### METHOD

In a large bowl, add cucumbers, tomatoes, red onion, dill, garlic, sour cream, salt and pepper. Stir gently from the bottom in the center of the bowl until well combined. Serve salad within next six hours or so.  
**ifoodreal.com**

## CUCUMBER SANDWICHES

### Ingredients:

1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese,  
softened  
1 pkg. Good Seasons Italian  
Dressing Mix (dry)  
1 mini loaf of cocktail rye bread  
1 cucumber, sliced  
fresh dill weed, chopped

### METHOD

The night before serving the cucumber sandwiches, mix together the cream cheese and the Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix. Refrigerate overnight. Shortly before serving, spread some of the cream cheese mixture on a slice of the cocktail rye bread. Top with a slice of cucumber and sprinkle with dill weed.

**Elaine Rieck, Harrisburg**

## CHERI'S SALAD

### Ingredients:

1-1 lb. pkg. veggie spiral noodles  
2 1/2 c. diced ham  
1 c. shredded cheddar cheese  
1 c. chopped celery  
1 bag frozen peas, thawed

### Dressing:

1/2 c. mayonnaise  
1/2 c. sour cream  
1 tbsp. mustard  
1 tbsp. sweet pickle juice  
3/4 tsp. onion powder  
1/3 c. sugar

### METHOD

Cook noodles according to package directions, drain and rinse. Mix ingredients together in a bowl and set aside. Mix until blended and pour over salad. Stir until well blended.

**Jan Antonen, Arlington**

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 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

## 2021 margin allocated to Renville-Sibley members

As a member of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, you own a portion of the cooperative. One of the many ownership benefits is receiving an allocation of the cooperative's margin. Generally, cooperatives operate at cost. That means the goal of a cooperative is to collect enough revenue to run and expand the business, without over charging the membership.

Any excess revenue is allocated back to the membership in the form of capital credits. This allocation is based on the amount of electricity each member consumed during the year. The 2021 allocation information will be located on the August statement. Past members who received electricity from Renville-Sibley in 2021 and no longer have an active service with us will receive their allocation notice in the mail.

Please remember, this allocation is not payable now and does not represent cash, but rather your equity in the cooperative. You cannot apply this amount to your electric bill. Renville-Sibley uses the allocated, but unretired capital

credits to improve and expand our electric system and meet our other capital needs. This reduces our need to borrow money and helps us provide reliable electric service to the membership.

When the co-op financial condition permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits to members in cash. Allocating and retiring margins to members helps distinguish the difference between cooperatives and other utilities. Renville-Sibley is proud to support our communities by putting money back into the local economy—and into the pockets of those we serve. The best way to ensure you receive this allocation when it is retired is to keep your mailing address up-to-date with the cooperative.

A common question regarding the allocation and retirement of capital credits is if this amount should be reported to the IRS. Renville-Sibley recommends members visit with their tax advisor on this matter.

Listed below are Renville-Sibley members who were mailed a capital credit check in December of 2014 and have either not cashed the check or

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**Renville-Sibley Co-op Power**  
103 Oak Street  
PO Box 68  
Danube MN 56230-0068  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Phone: (320) 826-2593 Toll Free (800) 826-2593  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
www.renville-sibley.coop

**1483 1 AB 0.412**  
**ANY MEMBER**  
**12345 ELECTRIC ROAD**  
**ANYWHERE MN 56565**

**Statement Date** 08/15/2021  
**Account Number** 123400  
**Payment Due** 09/03/2021

**Service Summary**

Previous Balance	\$222.00
Payment Received 08/03/2021	Thank You! -\$222.00
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Current Charges	\$121.00
<b>Total Amount Due</b>	<b>\$121.00</b>

**Message from your Co-op**

August member events include Farmfest and Family-a-Fair night. Remember to bring the coupon from the newsletter with you to Farmfest so you can be registered for a prize drawing. More information on both of these events can be found in the Cooperative Connections newsletter.

**Map Location:** 9876543 **Service Location:** 12345 ELECTRIC ROAD **Substation:** Emmet

Meter No.	From	To	Days	Readings	Meter	kWh	Rate	Description
				Previous	Present	Usage		
81758445	07/01/2021	07/31/2021	31	314	318	160	67	GENERAL SERVICE
17084410	07/01/2021	07/31/2021	31	93423	93499	1	67	RESISTANCE HEAT

**kWh Usage History**

**Current Service Detail**

Balance Forward	\$0.00
GENERAL SERVICE	
Customer Charge	\$42.00
Energy Charge	640 kWh @ 0.1202
Water Heater Credit	\$6.50
RESISTANCE HEAT	
Sub Meter Charge	\$2.50
<b>Total Electric Charges</b>	<b>\$114.93</b>
Minnesota Sales Tax	\$5.93
Operation Round Up	\$0.14
Other Services & Credits	\$6.07
<b>Total Electric, Other Services &amp; Credits</b>	<b>\$121.00</b>
<b>Total Amount Due 09/03/2021</b>	<b>\$121.00</b>
<b>Total Amount Due After 09/03/2021</b>	<b>\$122.82</b>

**Capital Credit Statement**

Category	Unretired Balance	2020 Allocation	TOTAL
RSCPA	\$2,578.89	\$203.32	\$2,782.21
East River	\$567.50	\$78.79	\$646.29
Burn	\$1,061.86	\$201.56	\$1,263.42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,208.25</b>	<b>\$405.67</b>	<b>\$4,613.92</b>

**KEEP**  
**SEND** Please do not staple or paperclip.

**ANY MEMBER**  
**12345 ELECTRIC ROAD**  
**ANYWHERE MN 56565**

☐ Please check here and complete the appropriate section on the reverse side to update your Mailing Address, Phone Numbers, or Email.

**RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER**  
PO BOX 68  
DANUBE MN 56230-0068

250720000413000000032100000012262071320197

the check was returned to our office due to an old address. If you know of the correct address or telephone number for these members, please contact Renville-Sibley Co-op Power at

800-826-2593. If no contact is made with these members, the money is paid out to students through our scholarship program.

ALARCON JOSE  
BARAJAS RAMON  
BEAGER TODD  
BELLIG RANDY  
BITKER JANET  
CARLSON DUSTHAN  
CHAPMAN BRENT  
COLUMBUS CLYDE  
DAVIS ROBERT  
DECLERCQ JAMES  
DEVRIES LARRY  
ECKLAND STEVE  
EDWARDS JOHN  
EVANS LEAMON JR  
FISCHER GERALD

GOEPFERICH GREG  
HAASE LINDA  
HALE TIM  
HANSON ERLAND  
HANSON MARK  
HEIMERMAN JAMES  
HELMUTH WILLIAM SR  
HILL CATHERINE S  
HILLMANN TODD  
HOLSTAD JAMES  
JENSEN DERYL  
JENSEN DORIS M  
JOHNSTON MICHAEL L  
JONES LARRY  
KNUTSON ERVIN

KOHLER DARWIN  
KORDOVSKY DAN  
LOTHERT DENNIS S  
MALLON MIKE  
MARK TWAIN CABLEVISION  
MARTIN JERRY  
MARXEN BILL  
MILROY SALLY  
MORARIE MARK  
NESBURG DAVID  
POMEROY RANDY  
RADDATZ MARJORIE  
REID MARY  
RENVILLE RENEE  
ROCHA JORGE

ROEBKE ALAN  
RUTER ED  
SALINAS ERASTO JR  
SANDERS JAMES  
SCHICKERT DIANE  
SCHMIDT CHARLES  
SCHULTZ LEE  
SCHWEISS FARM INC  
SMITH KORY  
SWENSON BRYAN  
THORNE JAMES  
TIMGREN RONALD  
TREVINO OSCAR  
WHITELEY JAMES J



## Driving behind farm equipment: Do your part

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

Equipment operators:

1. Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
2. Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
3. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
4. Take care at railroad crossings.
5. Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
6. Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.
7. Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
8. Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
9. Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

Auto drivers:

1. Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
2. Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
3. When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
4. Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
5. Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
6. Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
7. Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
8. Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
9. Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all. For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://SafeElectricity.org).



**SHARE THE ROAD**

*with Farmers*

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment, which can be wide and slow. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only way to get from point A to point B.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, take a deep breath and **do the following to keep everyone safe:**

- 1** Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2** Do not pass in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.
- 3** Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.
- 4** Do not tailgate. Following too closely means you could be in the operator's blind spot.
- 5** Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.

Source: Texas Table Top (Texas Farm Bureau)

**SafeElectricity.org®**



# Sunflower commodity prices are making farmers smile

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

It's hard to keep from smiling when you're driving past a field of golden sunflowers in full bloom during the late summer months.

Wall Drug billboards, old red barns and shiny grain bins are no match for the attention of motorists along I-90 when the sunflowers are bursting forth in all their spectacular yellow splendor stretching far into the horizon.

The subject of many aerial and terrestrial photographers across the region, sunflowers have a special appeal as they grow tall in the field and seem to greet the day leaning forward with a positive energy that exudes joy and optimism.

The current sunflower commodity market certainly has given farmers a reason to smile. South Dakota farmers raised nearly 600,000 acres and more than 1 billion pounds of sunflowers

last year, ranking second only to North Dakota for sunflower production. In fact, for the past decade the Dakotas and Minnesota have alternated the top three spots in their friendly competition depending largely on the vagaries of weather patterns. At least 75 percent of the U.S. commercial sunflower production has taken place in those three states.

About 1,000 of those South Dakota acres were grown by Brad Schecher, a fourth generation farmer who also rotates wheat, corn, flax and soybean crops on his 3,500-acre spread located near Bison in the northwestern part of the state, one of the hot-bed regions for sunflowers.

Schecher took over the family farm from his father nearly 10 years ago and said the military conflict in Ukraine and other economic factors have converged to form a "perfect storm" that has constricted international supplies and created a favorable environment for the

current global sunflower oil market. Commodity prices have broken all-time records by soaring 60 percent compared to a year ago.

"It's as good as any of the 10 years I've been involved in it," Schecher said. "Ukraine was the largest producer of sunflowers and the largest exporter of sunflower oil on the world market with about 50 percent of the overall market, but a lot of their crop has been destroyed or confiscated by the Russian military. That's one of the things that have driven prices up, and it's been good for the farmers."

High prices and high returns are keeping Schecher interested in raising sunflowers, but sometimes he has his doubts. Especially when he gets tired of fighting the fires, a battle that all sunflower farmers are bound to face at some point.

Schecher said that for all the eye appeal sunflowers hold, it's not always easy to bring in the crop. He explained that reaping the high-yield, high-oleic variety that he grows for the sunoil market can cause fires to break out during the combining process in the





Brad Schecher farms roughly 1,000 acres of sunflowers near Bison. *Photo by Brooke Schecher*

fall. The elevated oil content of the plant - ranging anywhere from 38 to 44 percent - along with the dust that's created during combining can result in a combustible mixture that is sometimes ignited by the presence of static electricity.

To make sure he's prepared, Schecher keeps a battery-operated leaf blower aboard the combine at all times.

"I have to keep blowing the combine off when I get to the end of the field to keep a fire from breaking out," he said. "You can see the accumulated piles of dust start glowing red-hot, and you can usually smell it and get it put out before it gets out of control. It's a hazard that you just have to contend with. Sometimes it can happen two or three times a day, especially when it's dry conditions."

Other farmers, such as Lance Hourigan of Lemmon, S.D., have addressed this common problem by investing in after-market solutions. Hourigan reached northward across the state border and recruited Stelter Repair out of New Leipzig, N.D., to manufacture an air tower to help

Estimated number  
of sunflower acres

**600,000**

planted in South  
Dakota in 2021

reduce the risk of fire during harvest time. Resembling a chimney, the device draws in air from above the combine where there is much less dust and debris billowing from the threshing process, and blows the air over the engine to help it stay cool and clean.

While Schecher focuses on the high-oil variety that represents about 80 percent of the market, there are other varieties grown for silage, birdfeed and other uses. Confection sunflowers, grown mostly in the eastern part of the state, are those found bagged up on convenience store shelves, the kind loaded with an assortment of flavors and

seasonings and meant for chewing.

While sunflowers are native to the continent, their history in North America can be traced to American Indian tribes in present-day Arizona and New Mexico. Archaeologists have found that these tribes domesticated the crop as early as 3000 B.C. The seed was ground or pounded into flour for cakes, mush or bread. Some tribes mixed the meal with vegetables such as beans and squash. The seed was cracked and eaten for snacking, while the oil was squeezed from the seed and used in making bread.

Non-food uses included purple dye for textiles, body painting and other decorations. Parts of the plant were used to treat snakebites. The oil was used on the skin and hair, and the dried stalk was used as a building material.

Today, agricultural scientists are exploring new uses for the plant while also figuring out how to provide protection from wireworms and other threats. Meanwhile, bullish farmers are keeping their eye on the global markets while exuding the same sense of sunny optimism associated with the sunflowers they work so hard to raise.

## Member Reminder

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2022 to please contact our 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 project down payments and material are received.

## Renville-Sibley Outage Report

### Date: 06-09-22

Time off: 11:22 a.m.  
Time on: 11:35 a.m.  
Substation: Kingman  
Cause: scheduled outage

### Date: 06-16-22

Time off: 8:00 a.m.  
Time on: 11:33 a.m.  
Substation: Emmet  
Cause: scheduled outage

Here is a summary of the power outages on Saturday, July 23. There were four individual power outages caused by lightning.

Other outages that day were caused by a tree going through the power line which broke a pole, three broken poles due

to the high winds and lightning which led to blowing a fuse.

A total of 179 members were affected by these outages.

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

## Comparative Report

	Current YTD through June 30, 2022	One Year Ago YTD through June 30, 2021	10 Years Ago YTD through June 30, 2012
average # of Consumers	1,888	1,882	1,924
kWhs purchased	95,870,318	97,438,868	64,079,809
Cost of purchased power	\$5,408,622.04	\$6,346,347.89	\$3,166,176.26

## 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

## WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month, Blair Anderson did not find his member number in the newsletter. The credit will continue to grow with a value of \$75. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of September, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

## THANK YOU

The City of Morton wishes to express our gratitude for your contribution to the annual 4th of July celebration and fireworks display.

### 4th of July Committee

Thank you for putting on the guest speaker event with the meal and scholarship drawing. The guest speaker, Matt, had some really engaging and valuable stories to share. I will be attending North Iowa Area Community College to study health science and play baseball. My plan is to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy. The \$1,000 scholarship will be a big help in paying college expenses.

**Tyler Froland**

## WANTED

Lightweight wheelchair that can fold to put in a vehicle.

Lisa Bryan, Renville, MN,  
320-894-0621.



## July board meeting highlights

The July board meeting was held on Monday, July 25 at 8 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Cindy Mertens, Gene Alex, Lenae Wordes and Amy Ervin

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the June 27 board meeting
  - Operating and disbursement reports for the month of June
  - Capital Credits to estates
  - Safety report for July
  - Policy 202 – Capital Credit Retirement
  - NRECA Voting Delegate and Alternate Delegate
  - CoBank Director Election
  - CoBank CoLink Permissions Form
  - University of Minnesota Foundation donation
- The board reviewed:
- Capital credits transferred

- Total new members
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
  - High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through June (unaudited)
  - Organization activities
  - Facilities update
  - East River update
  - Basin Electric update
  - NRECA update
  - MREA update
  - Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
  - Accounts receivable
  - Farmfest
  - Family-a-Fair night
  - New facility update

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

## NOTICE:

The August board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 8 a.m.  
The September board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 8 a.m.

## New facility update

Activity has begun to bring the dreams of a new facility for Renville-Sibley Co-op Power to life.

The cooperative held a simple groundbreaking ceremony on June 27 to honor the event.

Scott Tedrick from the Renville County Register was at the ceremony and shared his newspaper article with the members in the August issue of the Cooperative Connections newsletter.

Each month going forward, new information will be shared with our members in this newsletter outlining the progress of the new facility.

On July 5, equipment was delivered to the site and the earthwork began for the new facility. Brouwer Construction is performing the site grading and Duinick is overseeing installation of the site utilities.

The electrical power for the new facility will be provided by our own cooperative. With the help of Midwest Underground, the electric service was brought to the site and a temporary service was installed.

The next newsletter will include information on the new facility activity in August.

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## OPERATION ROUND UP

The Operation Round Up Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, July 26. The following donations were approved by the Board:

- Imagination Library Redwood Falls FPC - \$1,500. Books for children from birth to age 5 through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

- SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education - \$1,000. Activities and programs for students, families and over 70 schools in the 18 counties of southwest and west central MN.

The next Operation Round Up Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 3 p.m. The deadline for applications is Oct. 1. Applications for donations can be found at <https://www.renville-sibley.coop/content/operation-round>.

# CHISLIC FESTIVAL

Roger and Lori Pietz claimed the New Age Nosh Award at last year's Chislic Festival in Freeman. Photos by SD Chislic Festival

## Step inside the Chislic Circle for unique food and lots of family fun

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

In a world already rife with scads of dander-raising hot-button issues, add chislic to the list. It seems that anytime more than a few cocksure chislic chefs gather around a grill, controversy can't be too far away.

The bickering typically begins with picking the proper protein. Opt for the traditional scrumptious cubes of mutton or lamb, or take a risk and go hog-wild with pork or maybe buffalo? How about swinging farther to the edge with venison, goat, beef or chicken? Dare we add emu to the list?

At least one restaurant is sending the chislic cosmos into spasms by serving up plates of (gasp) "fish-lic."

The plethora of opinions surrounding the preparation of chislic starts with the choice of meat and springboards from there into seasonings, cooking methods and even serving techniques. Grilled,

deep fried or air fried? Fork, toothpick or skewer? Don't get a chislic enthusiast started on the sauce selection.

Many people and various cultures have a strong attachment to their particular favorite types of food, but South Dakota's desire for chislic is unusually intense – especially for those who dwell within the Chislic Circle.

If the name Chislic Circle evokes images of a secret society that conducts mysterious midnight rituals around a raging bonfire deep in the forest, well, it's not quite that. It's more of a clever marketing concept, and an effective one for community leaders who take pride in their chislic lore. In fact, everyone is invited to come inside this circle.

At the center of the Chislic Circle lies Freeman, S.D., with the chislic realm falling inside a 100-mile radius and including communities such as Kaylor, Menno, Hurley, Marion, Bridgewater, Emery and others. The Circle was spun into creation in 2018 when a small

but passionate contingent of chislic connoisseurs decided to celebrate and demonstrate their pride in their unique culinary heritage.

Andrea Baer was part of that early chislic cadre. She said the catalyst came when chislic was officially declared the "state nosh" by the Legislature four years ago.

"Before then, when you mentioned chislic outside of the area, there was hardly anyone who knew what you were talking about," said Baer, who is a native of Turkey Ridge still living on the farm her forebears from Denmark settled several generations ago. "It's something that's very unique to the area and we





like to celebrate it.”

That celebration has taken the form of an annual event that’s been recognized by tourism officials as one of the state’s fastest-growing festivals with an estimated 10,000 attendees last year after a pandemic pause in 2020. Organizers were expecting up to a couple thousand for the inaugural event in 2018, but four times that many showed up. The following year, the party was moved from the Freeman softball field to the more spacious 40-acre Prairie Arboretum.

This year’s festival was held on July 30 with the usual food vendors touting their unique savory recipes, libations, live music, a family-friendly kid zone, bingo, dancing, a cornhole competition, 5K run/walk, helicopter rides and other forms of family-oriented fun.

Festival board member and chislic expert Ian Tuttle also presented, “From Russia with Love: The History of Chislic” at the nearby Heritage Hall Museum and Archives.

Tuttle enjoys telling the story of how chislic arrived in the late 1800s with a particular group of immigrants described as “Germans from Russia.” A group of German Mennonites and Hutterites originally fled religious persecution in the 16th century and migrated eastward through the Russian Empire where they raised crops and sheep.

They chopped the meat into small pieces, cooked it over a fire and called it “shashlik,” a word for “skewer” rooted in the Turkic languages of Central Asia. The word is a close cousin to the more widely known “shish kebab.”

Eventually, those migrants found their way to present-day southeastern South Dakota and made sure to bring their shashlik with them. Those residing



inside the Chislic Circle generally recognize Johann Hoellwarth as the individual who introduced chislic to the Dakota Territory. Born in 1849 to a German Lutheran family in the Crimea, Hoellwarth settled just outside of where Freeman is today and was laid to eternal rest in the town.

Each year a panel of seven fearless judges takes on the task of naming the festival’s “best chislic.” For the past two years the top Traditional Division Award has gone to Kyle Sturzenbecker and his squad of Sheep Flockers.

Sturzenbecker said he and his fellow chef Josh Goehring don’t characterize themselves as competitive, but he also isn’t about to give away any trade secrets.

“You don’t have to do a whole lot. I just let the flavor of the meat speak for itself,” he said. “Honestly, I never

thought I’d win. I just like to cook good food that people enjoy eating.”

In 2021, the non-traditional New Age Nosh Award was claimed by Roger Pietz, owner of the Pietz Kuchen Kitchen. The establishment is mostly known for its rich custard dessert, but for the festival Pietz decided to go in a different direction and put together a tangy chislic pizza.

Ultimately, the Chislic Festival is about celebrating family, honoring the past and preserving the rural lifestyle.

“The tradition of chislic comes not from cities, the wealthy, or the privileged,” Baer said, “but from the rural, hardworking farm tradition of the people who settled this area. We thrive on the rural, while building the region through vibrant community.”



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## Anglers get hooked on fly fishing for fun and sport

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

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Tall tales, small tales, long tales, short tales...Buddy Seiner is interested in hearing any fishing tale you'd like to tell.

While he's partial to fly fishing, Seiner is passionate about fishing in all of its forms. And he offers an open invitation to anglers of every ilk to share their stories of fishing adventures enjoyed with friends, family members or in the presence of one's own company.

Seiner started [www.fishstories.org](http://www.fishstories.org) after his grandfather passed away and he realized there were no audio or video recordings of the many outings they took together casting flies and chatting about whatever popped into their minds in the moment.

Several years ago, Seiner stood on the main stage during a TED X speech in Rapid City and explained his purpose in creating the website. Soon after, he began hauling in a mess of fish stories submitted by avid anglers from far and wide. Today, the archive holds more than 400 sagas of lunkers that were landed, the big ones that got away and precious time spent with loved ones in the great outdoors.

"I believe all fish stories need to be told," said Seiner, who works as a communications consultant based in Pierre. "I used to fish a lot with my grandpa and I realized I'd never hear his voice again after he passed away. He was full of wisdom and had a great sense of humor. I had some regrets about not recording him, so I started this project as a way for people to preserve those cherished voices and to preserve the memories."

Seiner observes that many people are in some way connected with fishing, whether they pursue it themselves or know someone who likes the feel of a rod and reel. He has found that the stories submitted to the site feature not only intriguing narratives of reaching the day's limits under clear cerulean skies but they also reveal relationships that run deeper than the deepest river channel. Some describe disastrous events.

One of those is the story of an outdoors escape that quickly turned tragic. A young woman tells how she lost her husband to an accident while the two were ice fishing on a frozen lake in Minnesota.

While there are stories of heartache and loss, Seiner said most tales tend to trend toward the positive. He has his own fond memories of how his uncle introduced him to fly fishing

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Part art and part skill, fly fishing is an increasingly popular pastime across the region. *Photo by Travel South Dakota*

26 years ago and how he started tying his own flies as a college student.

“My Uncle Dwaine gave me a rod and I went in the back yard and started practicing. He always told me I’d enjoy it and he was right,” Seiner said.

It was at Bear Butte Creek near Sturgis that Seiner landed his first trout. He was casting for a brown trout beneath a willow tree. The fish went for the dry fly – a blue wing olive – and both the fish and Seiner were hooked. The fish was landed and released but Seiner’s love of the sport has never waned.

Fly fishing is growing in popularity across the region as more anglers discover the adventure and what many describe as the therapeutic benefits of casting flies out across the water. Though fly fishing is often associated with the clear, cold, fast-running streams found in the Black Hills area, Seiner said there is a wide range of options available depending on an angler’s tastes and preferences.

“We have a lot of water that’s prime for fly fishing,” he said. “It’s a sport Buddy Seiner started [fishstories.org](http://fishstories.org) to preserve fishing tales and memories like those he has of his late fishing pal, Lucy.

that’s new to a lot of people and it’s gaining momentum. You can catch anything on a fly rod. You can go for trout and fish the stock dams out west, you can sight-fish for walleye or channel catfish in the clear waters of the Missouri River, you can fish the glacial lakes in the northeast or fish for carp out near Yankton.”

Whether they go for carp or brown trout, many fly fishers take an interest in maintaining and preserving the habitat for future generations to enjoy.

Seiner serves on the board of a group called Black Hills Fishers and works

with folks like Hans Stephenson of Dakota Angler and Outfitter in Rapid City to promote the sport of fly fishing, support conservation and educate the public on how to preserve the environment.

“Fly fishing is so much fun,” he said, “but if we don’t do what we can to protect our woods and waters, it will be a tragedy. We need to stay committed to preservation and conservation, and I’ve found that most people who enjoy the outdoors are very conscientious. We want people to have fishing stories to share for generations to come.”





## REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**SEPTEMBER 1-5**  
**South Dakota State Fair**  
*Photo Credit: SD State Fair*

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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

**AUGUST 24-28**  
**Corn Palace Festival**  
604 N Main St., Mitchell, SD,  
605-995-8430

**AUGUST 24-28**  
**Kool Deadwood Nites**  
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,  
605-578-1876

**AUGUST 25-28**  
**Steam Threshing Jamboree**  
Prairie Village, Madison, SD,  
605-256-3644

**AUGUST 26-27**  
**Hill City Wine, Brew and BBQ**  
Elm St., Hill City, SD, hillcitywine  
brewandbbq.com

**AUGUST 26-27**  
**Sizzlin' Summer Nights**  
Main St., Aberdeen, SD,  
605-226-3441

**AUGUST 26-28**  
**Hot Air Balloon Festival**  
Various Locations, Hot Springs, SD, fallriverballoonfest.com

**AUG. 30-SEPT. 4**  
**Sturgis Mustang Rally**  
Thunderdome, Sturgis, SD,  
sturgismustangrally.com

**SEPTEMBER 1-5**  
**South Dakota State Fair**  
890 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD,  
sdstatefair.com

**SEPTEMBER 4**  
**Dakota Five-O**  
City Park, Spearfish, SD,  
dakotafiveo.com

**SEPTEMBER 8-11**  
**S.D. State Senior Games**  
Watertown, SD, 605-491-0635  
or 605-753-3668

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
**605 Black Hills Classic**  
Lions Park, Spearfish, SD,  
605-274-1999

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
**Germanfest**  
Fawick Park, Sioux Falls, SD,  
siouxfallssistercities.com/event

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
**Insect Festival**  
McCrory Gardens, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6707

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
**Sidewalk Arts Festival**  
Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD,  
605-367-6000

**SEPTEMBER 16-18**  
**South Dakota Film Festival**  
Capitol Theatre, Aberdeen, SD,  
southdakotafilmfest.org

**SEPTEMBER 17-18**  
**Northeast South Dakota Celtic Faire and Games**  
37925 Youth Camp Rd.,  
Aberdeen, SD, 605-622-0144

**SEPTEMBER 23-24**  
**Hops and Hogs Festival**  
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,  
605-578-1876

**SEPTEMBER 23-25**  
**HNIRC Championship of Champions**  
Stanley County Fairgrounds,  
Fort Pierre, SD, horsenations  
indianrelay.com

**SEPTEMBER 24**  
**Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival**  
Main Street Square, Rapid City,  
SD, 605-716-7979

**SEPTEMBER 24-25**  
**Menno Pioneer Power Show**  
Pioneer Acres, Menno, SD,  
mennopowershow@yahoo.com

**SEPT. 29-OCT. 1**  
**Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival**  
Custer, SD, gfp.sd.gov/buffalo-roundup

**SEPT. 30-OCT. 1**  
**Oktoberfest**  
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,  
605-578-1876

**SEPT. 30-OCT. 2**  
**SiouxperCon**  
1201 N West Ave., Sioux Falls, SD, siouxpercon.com

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