NORTHERN ELECTRIC

AUGUST 2024 VOL. 25 NO. 4



Do Not Overlook Overhead **Power Lines**



Kelly Brandlee Communications Director

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead power lines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a power line, you could be seriously injured or killed.

Northern Electric Cooperative along with Safe Electricity wants to remind members to be mindful of overhead power lines when completing the following tasks:

Home Maintenance

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower long tools and equipment before moving or transporting them.

Other safety tips include:

- Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof.
- Never go on a roof in windy or bad weather.

Yard Work

When trimming trees, do not allow yourself or trimmers to come within 10 feet of overhead power lines, including service lines to your home or outbuilding.

In addition:

- Do not trim trees near power lines; instead, leave this to certified line clearance tree trimmers
- Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.

Farming

Before getting into large farm equipment take a few minutes for safety:

- Locate all overhead power lines around buildings and along well-traveled roads and routes. Just because you have always cleared the power lines in the past with old equipment doesn't mean the new bigger piece of equipment will make it underneath the lines.
- Always stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. If you have to climb up a ladder to maintain a building or equipment make sure you stay a safe distance from overhead lines.
- Lower equipment apparatus and any extensions before driving underneath overhead lines. Making contact with overhead lines can cause major damage and could even be deadly.

At Work

Follow all OSHA distance requirements when operating dump trucks, cranes, concrete pump truck extensions and when working on a roof or in a bucket.

Other reminders include:

- Do not come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged power line. Warn others to stay away. Call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when weight is added to the branch.

Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Contact can happen in an instant. For additional electrical safety tips, visit www.safeelectricity.org.

COOPERATIVE

CONNECTIONS

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(USPS 396-040)

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Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held June 21, 2024, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present or via teleconference. As the first order of business, the board approved the May 23, 2024, minutes, and May expenditures.

East River Director Kirk Schaunaman reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the June 6, 2024, meeting. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association Board Meeting in Pierre will take place June 27-28, 2024. Director William (B.J.) Hansen and Communications Director Kelly Brandlee reported on the 2024 Basin VIP Tour held June 17-18 in Bismarck/Beulah, ND.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Char Hager's report included the following items:

- Update on Rural Economic Development (REED) Board Meeting held on June 4, 2024.
- Report on the East River MAC Meeting held on June 4, 2024.
- Report on the employee meeting held on May 29, 2024.
- Informed the board of meeting with the city of Hecla held on June 5, 2024.
- Report on the Basin FERC filings.

BOARD REPORT

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

- Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, July 18, 2024.
- Approved Work Order Inventories #24-05 for \$426,060.48 and #24-05MC, \$155,774.59 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
- Approved 27 estate requests for out of order capital credit retirements totaling \$53,518.15.
- Authorized director Todd Hettich to execute the ballot for the 2024 RESCO Director-Manager Election.
- Reviewed and approved changes to **Tariff Rules and Regulations Sections** 1-9 and 14-24.
- Held Executive Session.

Talk to your director or co-op manager if you have questions on these matters.



to learn more about power line safety visit YourCoopPower.com



	May-24	May-23
kWh Sales	19,904,137 kWh	18,155,894 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,124,121	\$1,981,411
Total Cost of Service	\$2,132,159	\$1,832,935
Operating Margins	\$8,039	\$148,476
Year to Date Margins	\$38,842	 \$433,588

MAY 2023......1,293 kWh......\$171.48......0.1326 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for 83.3% of NEC's total cost of service.

Extreme Heat Preparation

Learn How to Stay Hydrated

You need to drink enough water to prevent heat illness. An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of water daily. Everyone's needs may vary.

- You can check that you are getting enough water by noting your urine color. Dark yellow may indicate you are not drinking enough.
- Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- If you are sweating a lot, combine water with snacks or a sports drink to replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prepare if you have a medical condition or are taking medicines.

Make a Plan to Stay Cool

Do not rely only on electric fans during extreme heat. When temperatures are in the high 90s, fans may not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

- Spending a few hours each day in air conditioning can help prevent heat illness.
 - If you have air conditioning, be sure that it is in working order.
 - If you do not have air conditioning or if there is a power outage, find locations where you can stay cool. For example, a public library, shopping mall or a public cooling center. Plan how you will get there.
 - Additional resources may be available from local government or community groups.
- Make sure you have plenty of lightweight, loose clothing to wear.
- Create a support team of people you may assist and who can assist you. Check in with them often to make sure that everyone is safe.

Learn Emergency Skills

- Learn how to recognize and respond to heat illness.
- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power. Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power

Gather Emergency Supplies

Gather food, water and medicine. Stores might be closed.
 Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home

Kit. In the event of a power outage, you may lose access to clean drinking water. Set aside at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Consider adding drinks with electrolytes. Include sunscreen and widebrimmed hats.

- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies.
- Have a one-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.
- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up)
- Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

Source: American Red Cross



Power Line Safety "Call 911 and Don't Get Out"

Hobie Klein, Age 12

Hobie Klein warns farmers to call 911 and don't get out of the tractor if contact is made with a power line. Hobie's parents are Dean and Karey Klein, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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



Dressing

Combine in a saucepan 1/2 cup oil

1 diced medium onion

1 1/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup white vinegar

1/3 cup cider vinegar

2 Tbsp water

Combine in a saucepan and boil until clear

Method

Pour dressing over vegetables and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Keeps for a week.

Debra Clow Harrisburg, S.D. 1/3 cup crumbled Feta

cheese or Parmesan cheese

1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar or Italian salad dressing

Method

Mix 2 tablespoons of oil, lime iuice and salt in a small bowl. Cook corn in a skillet with remaining 1 tbsp. oil. Pour corn into bowl, cool slightly. Add tomatoes, cucumber and basil. Refrigerate. Before serving, drizzle with dressing, cheese and balsamic vinegar or Italian dressing.

Barb Selland Mitchell. S.D.

Method

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.

McCormick.com

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

Thank you for attending the 77th Annual Meeting!

Prizes were drawn from the list of the 252 members who registered for the meeting. The winners are listed below. Congratulations!

\$100 Gift Card - Donald Wagner \$100 Gift Card - Charles Madsen \$50 Gift Card - Jerrol Erlenbusch \$50 Gift Card - John Enger East River Bag - Arvilla Ernst

Kids Drawing 0-5 Age Group - J.J. Imre 6-10 Age Group - Rylence Miller 11-15 Age Group - Haddie Miller



Congratulations to two members, each selected for \$100 bill credits for attending the business meeting.





Farm Safety at the Brown County Fair

Cooperatives partner to host Farm Safety Party for kids on **Thursday, August 15.**

Kelly Brandlee

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Three local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, Northern Electric Cooperative, FEM Electric Association, and Lake Region Electric Association, have partnered with Agtegra Cooperative to bring another Farm Safety Party to the Brown County Fair this year. The event brings an important electrical safety component to the Fair.

While visiting the Farm Safety Party, families can expect to experience several interactive activities, including the "Power Town" display. Power Town depicts a rural farm scene to demonstrate the dangers of contacting power lines. Power Town does an excellent job showing visitors the importance of keeping a safe distance from overhead lines.

The Farm Safety Party will be held in the 'Kid's Zone' at the Brown County Fair grounds on the southwest side of the Holum Expo Building.

Visitors to the Farm Safety Party will find safety themed giveaways available in addition to the activities.

The party starts at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 15, and will continue until 2 p.m. The event is free and is open to anyone attending the Brown County Fair.







Thursday, August 15 from 10am - 2pm at the **Brown County Fair - Kids Zone**

Presented by:











Mammoth Discovery

Shannon Marvel

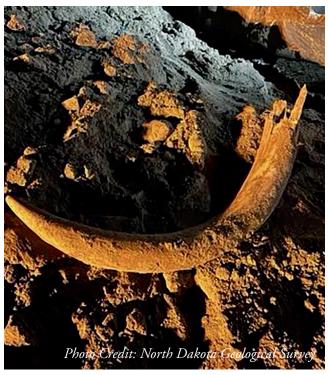
shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Over Memorial Day of 2023, a coal miner made a historic discovery at the Freedom Mine in North Dakota.

"The shovel operator just happened to take a scoop that had a complete mammoth tusk," said Jeff Person, a paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey.

"The tusk was about seven-foot-long. That shovel must've picked it up just perfectly to not damage or break it. The driver reported the find to his superiors at the Freedom Mine, who then contacted us," Person said.

The tusk was found in an old streambed. Other fossils



were found in the streambed, including "more than twenty bones from the skeleton, including ribs, a shoulder blade a tooth and parts of the hips," according to a news release.

"Most of the mammoth fossils known from North Dakota are isolated bones and teeth," stated Clint Boyd, Senior Paleontologist for the North Dakota Geological Survey, in the news release. "This specimen is one of the most complete mammoth skeletons discovered in North Dakota, making it an exciting and scientifically important discovery."

The bones were sent off to the Paleontology Lab at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck to undergo extensive cleaning before being prepped to be dried out, which requires that the bones be wrapped in plastic.

It could take up to another year for the bones to be dried out enough to be taken out of the plastic wrap, Person said.

At that point, the bones will be the focus of scientific research, he said.

According to the news release, "mammoths lived in North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, commonly called the Ice Age, and went extinct in this area around 10,000 years ago. Several species of mammoth lived in North America, including the Woolly Mammoth and the Columbian Mammoth. They lived alongside other iconic animals like saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Once the bones are fully cleaned, paleontologists will be able to identify which species was collected from the mine."





Northern Electric Members travel to the source of their electricity, Basin Electric.

Kelly Brandlee

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This year, Northern Electric teamed up with Lake Region, a neighboring cooperative, to bring 30 members to the source of their electricity. The Basin VIP Tour is an exciting opportunity for members to see the entire power generation process and be informed about

their cooperative and the resources needed to deliver reliable electricity.

The tour began at Basin Electric Power Cooperative headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota. Basin Electric is the generation and transmission cooperative owned by 140 electric cooperatives across nine states. Northern Electric is one of the member co-ops of Basin Electric. Basin Electric operates the power plants and wind turbines

that generate electricity for member systems throughout the central United States. VIP Tour participants toured the marketing area of Basin Electric, where they learned about the electricity markets and how the supply and demand of power is balanced 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Cooperative members also toured Basin Electric's dispatch center, which answers after-hours calls for Northern Electric and dispatches crews during outages.

The next stop was the Wilton Wind Farm. Wind is an integral piece of Basin Electric's all-of-theabove energy portfolio. The Wilton Wind Energy Center, owned by

NextEra Energy Resources, is one of several farms providing wind energy to Basin Electric.

Next, the group traveled to the Dakota Gasification Synfuels Plant. The Synfuels Plant is the only commercial-scale coal gasification plant in the United States that manufactures natural gas. In addition, the plant produces fertilizers, solvents, phenol, carbon dioxide, and other chemical products for sale.

Basin Electric's Antelope Valley Station was the next stop on the agenda. Cooperative members toured the coal-fired plant, which can generate enough power for 450,000 homes. Antelope Valley is part of an energy complex that includes the Great Plains Synfuels Plant and the Freedom Mine. Most of the Antelope Valley Station's fuel supply is provided by the Great Plains Synfuels Plant in the form of lignite fines - particles of coal too small for gasification.

The last stop on the tour was the Freedom Mine. The Freedom Mine delivers approximately 16 million tons of coal per year, making it the largest lignite mine in the United States in terms of deliveries. Here, the group learned how coal is responsibly mined from the North Dakota soil and how the land is reclaimed following all mining activities.

Delivering electricity is more involved than just flipping the light switch. The Basin VIP Tour allows Northern Electric members the opportunity to see the many steps involved in delivering reliable energy to homes across the country. We hope more members make plans to join us on the tour in June 2025. It's an educational experience providing coffee shop conversation for weeks!



Members who attended the Basin VIP Tour stopped at the Wilton Wind Farm to get up close with turbines. The Wilton Wind Farm supplies power for over 65,000 homes!



Antelope Valley staff use a model to explain the process of turning coal into energy at the Beulah, North Dakota plant.



The Buzz **Behind Adee Honey Farms**

Frank Turner

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Three generations ago, the Adee family learned that a tumultuous time can lead to significant opportunity. During the 1930s, the Great Depression wreaked havoc on small rural communities and the agricultural industry. The value of crops and livestock plummeted, and the land became arid.

These hard times impacted many in the Midwest, including Vernon Adee, a rural teacher and rancher in Nebraska. Vernon needed a new way to provide for his family, and a letter from his brother held the answer: "I can't sell chickens or hogs, but I'm doing well with honey. Be advised: Get a beehive."

Following his brother's advice, Vernon attended a foreclosure auction and purchased his first beehive. The decision to begin

beekeeping would inspire several more generations of the Adee family to continue in the trade.

Wanting to start their own operation, Vernon's sons, Richard and Stanley, purchased a retiring beekeeper's business through a trade magazine advertisement in 1957. Located in Bruce, South Dakota, the business included 1,500 hives and a breeding yard in Woodville, Mississippi. The acquisition marked the beginning of Adee Honey Farms, and what began as a small family farm quickly grew into the largest beekeeping operation in the country. Today, Adee Honey Farms supports more than 80,000 colonies and nearly 70 full-time employees.

"It started with survival and eventually became a family business," said Bret Adee, Vernon's grandson and the owneroperator of Adee Honey Farms. "I can remember being four or five years old and being in the field with my dad, holding the smoker and helping where I could. By the time I was in elementary school, I was loading trucks and moving boxes in the warehouse. Like anyone who grew up on a farm, I was involved in the family business by the time I could walk."

From a young age, Bret has held a deep love and appreciation for the honey bee. The insect's ability to cooperate and produce golden treasure while benefiting plants, crops, and the ecosystem at large makes them a unique livestock, unlike any other.

"To watch a hive grow and forage, and by the end of the summer make up to 150 pounds of honey – it's just so exciting," said Bret. "It's the dynamics of the biology that keeps it interesting."

Right now, Adee Honey Farms is engaged in honey production in the Midwest, with their bees spread across South Dakota and the west edge of Minnesota and the south edge of North Dakota. Around the first week of August, Bret's business will start the honey harvest, an event that can last until the first frost or even longer. For now, Bret said this year is shaping up to be a good season for honey production.

"It's early, but I'm optimistic. The years when there is a lot of clover are the years that beekeepers do well," said Bret. "We had a wet enough fall that enough clover germinated. We can always lose that to a hot dry wind... but we are optimistic right now."

But bees aren't just used to make honey; they also have hand in pollinating crops across the country. More than a neat fact, it's also the second half of the beekeeping industry. The mere presence of honey bees can increase yields for crops such as alfalfa and sunflowers by up to 20 to 30 percent, depending on the variety of crop. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollination is responsible for more than \$18 billion in added revenue to crop production in the country.

Once the honey harvest is over, the bees will be loaded onto a truck to tour the country, traveling from the Dakotas to California and later to Texas in search of favorable weather and crops to pollinate. In fact, crop yields from California almond trees and apple trees are almost totally dependent on pollination from bees, enticing farmers from across the country to welcome bees onto their land. Everyone benefits - even bees.

"It's a win for the consumer who gets to eat the honey. It's a win for the landowner who has the bees on his land, and if everything goes right, it's good for the beekeeper's family too," said Bret.



Bret Adee, owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms, is a third-generation beekeeper in the Adee family. Photos courtesy of Adee Honey Farms.





Photos Courtesy of Karli Hinds

Food Trucks

How Karli Hinds Jumped Into the Business

Shannon Marvel

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Karli Hinds was working a typical corporate 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job when she realized she wanted a life where she had the flexibility to travel with her husband.

"So I had actually quit my job and stayed home for six months or so," Hinds said. "Then I wanted something I could do but still have the flexibility to travel."

Hinds had a couple ideas, one that had to do with the fact that she's a "foodie."

"I started cooking really young. I would say I was making meals by myself when I was in middle school," she said.

The idea for opening a food truck was at the forefront of her mind, given that she was not interested in having a storefront.

"I didn't want the hassle and responsibility of it. I wanted a business I could rely on myself and not have to rely on several employees," Hinds said.



"On my second day in the food truck, I was serving Tex Mex, and I had a crazy line. It was just insane. I wanted to quit right then, but I also was thinking, 'this is going to work.' It was a good turnout, and it was only my second day."

- Karli Hinds

Financially, there are pros and cons to starting up a food truck business.

Hinds said there's limited finance options for food trucks while at the same time, there's more cash that you must have on hand to get started.

Finding a food truck or trailer was the next challenge and proved to be fairly difficult for Hinds at first.

"We wanted one that was brand new," Hinds said. "Most of the manufacturers are out of Mexico, and they don't always have the best reputations. We really struggled

with finding a reputable company to build a trailer with me. Somehow, we found a random post on Facebook from a guy that was selling brand new food trailers somewhere in the middle of nowhere in Iowa."

Hinds and her husband walked through the trailers and picked out what they liked and didn't like before finally deciding on the one to get.

Hinds uses the food truck to cook up an array of menu items every week.

"I'm actually a really picky eater, believe it or not," Hinds said. "I didn't want to specialize in one thing. People in small towns know we get kind of burnt out from eating the same thing over and over."

Hinds rotates between eight or so different food themes.

"Once in a while I come

up with something new to add within that theme," Hinds said. "My best seller is always my smash burgers."

She'll find her recipes on the popular social media app,

On her second day of business, Hinds knew her food truck business would be sustainable.

"On my second day in the food truck, I was serving Tex Mex, and I had a crazy line," Hinds said. It was just insane. I wanted to quit right then, but I also was thinking, 'this is going to work.' It was a good turnout, and it was only my second day."

Hinds said the job isn't always fun and is physically demanding.

"The hours are a lot more chaotic," she said. "The problem-solving aspect is better as I don't have a chain of command that I need to go through to make things right with the customer."

During the winter months, Hinds delivers lunches a couple days out of the week.

"It's just one item and I deliver them in town within Vermillion," Hinds said. "That's just something that I do that's a little bit different than other food trucks."



REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number:______ Your E-mail Address:_____



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.

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

5-8 p.m. Groton, SD

AUG. 22-24 Delta Kappa Gama Used Book Sale

Wylie Park Pavillion Aberdeen, SD 605-225-6713

AUG. 8 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30 p.m.

5:30-7:30 p.n Groton, SD

AUG. 6-8 IDEAg's Farmfest

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Redwood County, MN 651-316-4369

AUG. 7 Ag Appreciation Day

W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 10 Perseid Meteor Shower

Palisades State Park Garretson, SD

AUG. 10

Camaro Fun Days 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Pioneer Park Brookings, SD

AUG. 10-11 Fur Trader Days

Geddes, SD 605-680-2160

AUG. 12-18 Brown County Fair

Brown County Fairgrounds Aberdeen, SD 605-626-7116

AUG. 17 6th Annual Black Hills Super 6 Mountain Bike Race

3 hour race, 10 a.m. 6 hour race, 8 a.m. Northern Hills Area CASA Spearfish, SD

AUG. 18

Arlington Car Show Arlington, SD 605-203-0728

AUG. 20-22 Dakotafest

Mitchell, SD

AUG. 22 61st Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree

Prairie Village Madison, SD

AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2 South Dakota State Fair

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

SEPT. 8

Homesteader Day

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

SEPT. 14-15

2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival

Delmont, SD

SEPT. 17 EV Expo

W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Sioux Falls, SD

OCT. 17

Co-op Month Celebration

Cherry Rock Farms Brandon, SD

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