

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Bringing the Light

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Industry experts express concern over proposed EPA Power Plant Rules.



Kelly Brandlee
Editor

Concern over a new proposed rule by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has industry experts concerned, and for good reason.

The EPA's draft Power Plant rule aims to eliminate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 2035. The proposed rules contain timelines that are unrealistic and unachievable. Starting in 2030, the proposal would require significant CO2 emissions controls at fossil fuel-fired power plants that plan to operate past 2031. The proposal would phase in increasingly stringent CO2 requirements over time. The compliance deadlines endanger new and existing natural gas plants and all but ensure coal units will opt to shut down by 2035. This proposal by the EPA would require most of the power generation to come from renewables.

Renewables certainly have their place. However, technology is not far enough along to rely solely on renewable resources. Northern Electric supports an "All of the Above" generation mix, which includes coal and renewables such as wind, solar, and hydro energy. A balance of all energy sources is needed to maintain an affordable and reliable energy grid.

Currently, just over 40% of our electrical generation is provided by coal, another 30% is from renewables, 19% from natural gas, and the remainder comes from other resources. When the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine, it is crucial to have coal as an affordable and consistent energy source.

Many industry leaders have expressed concerns about the draft Power Plant rules. Some of these concerns include a dramatic decrease in electric reliability, increased costs for con-

sumers, insufficient time for infrastructure to be put in place to meet electricity demands adequately, reliance on underdeveloped technology, and violation of the Clean Air Act.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and our power providers, East River Electric and Basin Electric, have filed comments opposing the EPA's proposed rule to regulate power plant emissions further. Nearly 47,000 comments have been submitted to the EPA opposing the agency's proposed power plant rule.

"Currently, just over 40% of our electrical generation is provided by coal, another 30% is from renewables, 19% from natural gas, and the remainder comes from other resources. When the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine, it is crucial to have coal as an affordable and consistent energy source."

Public comments are now closed on the proposal. A ruling is expected to be issued next spring. For more information about the proposed rules please visit www.electric.coop

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)



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 October 19, 2023, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present or via teleconference. As the first order of business, the board approved the September 21, 2023, minutes, and September expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

East River Director Kirk Schaunaman reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the October 5, 2023 meeting. The next East River Board Meeting will be November 2, 2023 in Madison. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported on the SDREA Board Meeting held September 28-29, 2023 in Pierre.

MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Report on the South Dakota Rural Electric Managers Association Meeting held in Pierre on September 26-27, 2023.
- Report on the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Board Meeting held on October 4, 2023.
- Report on the East River MAC Meeting held on October 4, 2023.
- Informed the board of the Northeast Rural Electric Legislative Issues Forum

to be held on November 15, 2023 in Aberdeen.

- Informed the board of the East River Member System Director and Employee Orientation on November 16, 2023 in Madison.
- Reminded the board of upcoming NRECA Director training courses in Pierre on November 28-29, 2023 in Pierre.

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 Monday, November 20th, 2023.
- Approved Work Order Inventories #23-09 \$266,525.22 and #23-09MC \$49,368.97 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
- Approved the 2024 Capital Budget.
- Approved Policy P-4D.
- Selected a delegate and alternate for the 66th Annual Meeting of the Mid-West Electric Consumer Association, December 12-14, 2023, Denver, CO.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

	September-23	September-22
kWh Sales	17,929,356 kWh	18,390,168 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$1,922,282	\$1,984,952
Total Cost of Service	\$2,177,832	\$2,045,692
Operating Margins.....	-\$255,549	-\$60,740
Year to Date Margins	\$272,531	\$755,616

RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE MONTHLY USAGE AND BILL

SEPTEMBER-2023.....	1,068 kWh.....	\$158.29	0.1482 per kWh
SEPTEMBER 2022.....	1,137 kWh.....	\$163.96	0.1442 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for 79.9% of NEC's total cost of service.

Be Prepared for Winter Driving

Prepare Your Car for Winter

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze

Remember to keep your car's emergency preparedness kit fully stocked, too.

Before You Start Out

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side mirrors
- Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features, like automatic emergency braking, to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

How to Avoid a Crash

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill

If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve.

Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

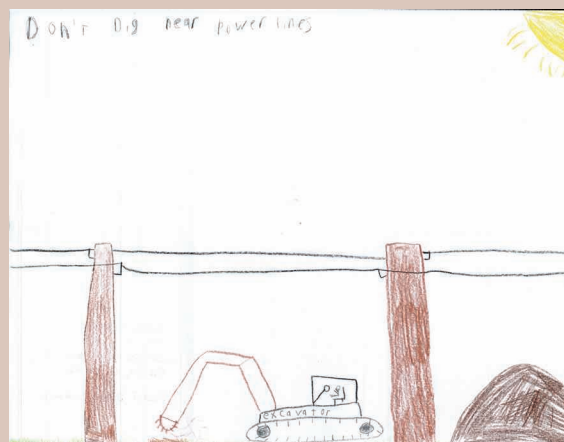
Know Your Car's Capabilities

My Car Does What? is a national campaign to help educate drivers about the safety features built into vehicles. Search for your car and find out what safety features are already built in.

Traction control is now standard on most new vehicles. This function helps your vehicle gain traction on snowy, icy or wet surfaces, particularly when accelerating from a stopped or slowed position, or when trying to make it up a slippery hill.

Anti-lock braking system (ABS) helps you steer in emergencies by restoring traction to your tires and is standard on most new vehicles. ABS may vibrate or pulse when engaged. This is normal. Continue to press and hold pressure to the brake pedal.

Remember, you are your car's best safety feature. Take precautions to ensure you arrive safely at your destination. If you become stranded in an unfamiliar area, do not leave your car. Light flares in front and behind the car and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, mud or objects.



Don't Dig Near Power Lines

Hayes Schomp, Age 10

Hayes Schomp cautions people to be careful where they dig. Hayes is the son of Thad and Devan Schomp from Eklton, S.D., 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.

HOLIDAY FAVORITES

OYSTER STEW

Ingredients:

1 qt. medium/large oysters
1 medium onion (diced)
2 qts. half and half
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 lb. real butter (no cheating here)
3 tbsps. Worcestershire Sauce

Method

Before you know it, Christmas Eve will be here so get ready the traditional Oyster Stew. In a saucepan, saute onions and oysters with the butter. Simmer untill the oysters crinkle. In a crock pot, add half and half, cream of mushroom soup, and Worcestershire Sauce. Then, add the oysters, onion and butter. Season to taste with fresh ground black pepper and salt. Simmer for six hours on low heat (high heat will curdle the milk). Serve with oyster crackers.

Kari Larson- Reder
Warner, S.D.

BETTER THAN CANDY PIE

Ingredients:

1 nine in. chocolate ready crust
1 cup sliced bananas
1/4 cup chopped, dry roasted peanuts
1 small pkg. instant butterscotch pudding
2/3 cup dry milk
1 1/4 cups water
2 tbsps. peanut butter
3/4 cup whipped topping
2 chocolate graham crackers, chopped

Method

Mix together dry milk, pudding, and water with wire whisk. Add peanut butter. Cover bottom of pie crust with bananas. Spread pudding mixture over bananas. Spread whipped topping next. Sprinkle with chopped peanuts and chopped graham crackers.

Janet Ochsner
Box Elder, S.D.

CHRISTMAS CRACK BARK

Ingredients:

1 sleeve saltine crackers, (about 35 crackers)
1 cup unsalted butter
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1/8 tsp. sea salt
1 1/2 tpsps. pure vanilla extract
1 pkg. (10 - 12 oz.) chocolate chips, semi-sweet, milk or dark chocolate

Method

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or foil. Spray lightly with no-stick cooking spray. Arrange crackers on baking sheet in single layer so that the edges almost touch. Heat butter and brown sugar in two-quart saucepan on medium heat. Bring mixture to a boil, stirring frequently. Simmer two to three minutes. Remove from heat; stir in salt and vanilla. Pour caramel sauce over crackers and spread to evenly coat crackers. Bake six minutes. Remove pan from oven. Sprinkle chocolate chips over caramel layer. Let stand five minutes. Spread chocolate chips into an even layer on top of caramel. Refrigerate 2 hours or freeze 30 to 45 minutes or until firm. Break or cut into pieces to serve. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator up to one week.

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



Safety A Top Priority for Linemen

Northern Electric Linemen rely on many training and safety protocols to ensure safety in the field.

Kelly Brandlee

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Working with high-voltage power is dangerous. When outside factors such as heights and mother nature are added to the mix, it's no wonder line work is considered one of the most hazardous jobs behind loggers and agricultural manual laborers.

According to national lineman

surveys and utility company data, around 2,400 for every 100,000 linemen suffer non-fatal severe injuries each year. The most common of these serious injuries are electrical burns and broken bones from falls.

Proper training and continued education are important in ensuring linemen safety while out on the job. Northern Electric linemen participate in approximately 80-100 hours of training annually. In addition to

the hours of on-the-job safety training, Northern Electric has a group of dedicated employees on a safety committee. The safety committee meets regularly to discuss safety concerns, new safety programs, and ways to improve safety in the field.

“Continually evaluating safety is a huge priority for us,” stated Northern Electric Line Foreman, Ben Peterson. “We want everyone to feel safe while at work. The most important thing at the end of the day is everyone returns home to their family the same way they came to work.”

Northern Electric Linemen recently completed their annual pole

top rescue training. Joe Dennison, Loss Control Specialist with South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA), conducted this safety training.

Pole-top rescue is an important safety skill for linemen to know. When a lineman has become unconscious or unresponsive and cannot climb down the pole alone, a pole-top rescue will be necessary.

Not only are linemen regularly trained and evaluated on safety, but so is the equipment. In addition to pole top rescue, a testing of bucket trucks was also conducted. The dielectric test is conducted on trucks twice a year. This test measures the insulated value of each fiberglass boom by putting them in the line and measuring any electrical current that may be conducted. Regular testing of equipment quality is an essential aspect of safety on the job.

Everything linemen use is continually evaluated, from the bucket trucks down to the rubber gloves worn while working on the line. Insulated rubber gloves add another safety barrier between the line worker and the lines they are servicing. Before going out on the job, gloves are air-tested to ensure they have no holes. Electricity looks for the quickest way to find the ground. The smallest pinhole in a glove could be that route to the ground, resulting in electric shock for the person wearing it. In addition, every 30 days, gloves are switched out and sent in to undergo a professional test to ensure they are still safe to wear. Once the gloves pass the test, they are put back into the rotation of gloves the linemen wear.



Northern Electric Cooperative Linemen talked about safety and the best practices during a recent pole-top rescue training at the headquarters near Bath.





BRINGING THE LIGHT

Electric Cooperatives Spread Holiday Cheer

Frank Turner

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While Santa's elves are hard at work at the North Pole, South Dakota's electric cooperatives are working to bring their own magic to their local neighborhoods, illuminating local parades with festive lights. Black Hills Electric Cooperative is just one of many examples of how a co-op can not only bring light but also creativity to their community.

Every December, Black Hills Electric crafts an exceptional float for the annual Custer Parade of Lights. For Bill Brisk, the manager of operations at Black Hills Electric, the parade isn't merely an event – it's a cherished tradition for their co-op.

As the parade approaches, the Black Hills Electric workshop bustles with

activity, mirroring Santa's very own workshop. Guided by a design from Brisk, linemen and staff assemble their unique Christmas float – crafting, welding and fabricating many of their designs from scratch.

"Just a few nights before the parade, we host a family night where we bring out the families of our employees,"



said Brisk. “The co-op provides food and drinks and we all work together to finish the float.”

In just two weeks, the co-op repurposes discarded equipment and scrap parts into creative masterpieces. One year, the co-op created an oversized shopping cart from old pipe laying around the shop. The next, they used retired meter loop pipes, guy wires, and meter covers to create palm trees and coconuts for a beachside Santa scene. Even Willie Wirehand, the co-op’s safety mascot, has been outfitted for a festive float. Despite being fabricated from old parts, the end result is always something worthy of a debut at the North Pole.

“Most everything we do is built in our shop,” said Brisk. “We do all

of the fabrications ourselves, and we haven’t had a flop yet.”

Luckily, the co-op’s efforts haven’t gone unnoticed. Since 2015, they’ve clinched an award every year at the Custer Parade with the only exceptions being 2020 and 2021 when the pandemic halted festivities. Their trophy collection holds a wide range of awards, boasting awards like the Rudolph’s Choice Award, Best Light, Best Music and most recently, the Custer Fruit Cake Award.

Dawn Murray, the executive director of the Custer Chamber of Commerce, expressed her admiration. “They really go all out. Beyond the parade, they even participate in our scarecrow decorating contest. I remember one year they had a scarecrow up in a

bucket truck, which was really cool.”

Yet, for Black Hills Electric, Custer is just the beginning. The co-op has grand visions for a broader festive footprint. With a service area that stretches from just south of Terry Peak to Nebraska, Brisk sees even more opportunities to shower communities with holiday cheer.

“It’s a festive time of year and something that we want to extend out to different towns in our service territory,” said Brisk. “Seeing the kids’ eyes brighten when we light up our float for the first time really makes the whole thing worth it, and if we can spread that to more of our members, all the better.”





Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week, Olivia Morlock. She received a \$250 award from Northern Electric Cooperative as recognition for her achievements.

SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

Frederick High School Senior Olivia Morlock named Scholar of the Week on October 22.

Frederick High School Senior Olivia Morlock is a competitive person. A friendly sibling rivalry with her two older brothers has helped feed her drive to do well in academics and sports. “They were pretty good in school, too. So, they just pushed me. I wanted to be better than them because I don’t like losing to them in things. When I was younger, they always beat me in everything and just rubbed it into my face that they

would beat me at things. So, they just pushed me to be better,” said Olivia.

Olivia carries a 4.02 GPA and is active in school activities and her community. Olivia participates in volleyball, basketball, track, and band. She has received honors in these activities, including superior and excellent ratings in band contests and being a starter on the

girls’ basketball team that made it to the SoDak 16 last year. What sets Olivia apart is her willingness to volunteer in the community. She helps with her church’s children’s programs by assisting them with crafts or just playing with them. She serves as the narrator for the children’s Christmas program. Olivia also volunteers at the local preschool, assisting the teacher and students with various activities. “I just really like working with little kids; they look up to the older kids. I want to be a good role model for them and help them be comfortable in school,” said Olivia.

“She’s the kind that you want in your classroom. She works really hard. Olivia gets top-notch great grades, she’s just fantastic,” said Principal Jessica Ringgenberg. “She is driven and passionate, and she’s just dedicated to everything she does. She always puts her best foot forward, and she’s got a smile that will go for miles,” continued Ringgenberg.

Olivia enjoys helping other people. That desire to help others will take her to Northern State University (NSU) next year to study nursing.

The Frederick High School senior was featured on Dakota News Now on October 22 for being named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week. She also received \$250 from Northern Electric Cooperative for her accomplishments.

2023-2024 HEATING SEASON LIEAP INCOME LIMITS	
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM 3-MONTH INCOME
1 Person	\$7,290
2 Person	\$9,827
3 Person	\$12,140
4 Person	\$14,452
5 Person	\$16,764
6 Person	\$19,077
7 Person	\$19,510
8 Person	\$19,944
9 Person	\$20,877
10 Person	\$22,815

Source: South Dakota Department of Social Services

Heating assistance is available through the South Dakota Department of Social Services

South Dakotans who need help paying their heating bills this winter can request energy assistance from the Department of Social Services (DSS). Energy assistance can help low-income families pay for heating costs; however, the assistance does not cover all costs associated with heating. Funds for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) are distributed on a first-come basis for meter readings from October 1 – May 15.

To be eligible for the South Dakota DSS Low Income Energy Assistance Program households must:

- Complete the DSS Low Income Energy Assistance Application
- The total gross income of the household must not exceed maximum income guidelines.
- The applicant must be responsible for paying the

home heating costs.

DSS also has an Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) that is available from October 1 – March 31. This program offers income-eligible households emergency assistance if they have a disconnection notice for their heat source or an eviction notice if the heat bill is included with rent.

For more information – or to obtain an application for LIEAP – contact DSS:

- **Website:** dss.sd.gov/economicassistance/energyassistance/lowincome.aspx

• **Phone:** 1-800-233-8503
Please contact the Northern Electric Cooperative office with questions 605-225-0310.



You'll rave about all the benefits you get by switching to electric appliances, power tools and even vehicles.

Electric appliances, especially stoves, are generally safer than their gas counterparts as they eliminate both open flames and the potential for a gas leak. They're less expensive throughout total ownership, easier on your pocketbook and better for the planet. Electricity powers all types of energy usages, while gas is limited in its scope of power.

Have questions about going electric? Contact your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative or visit yourcoopower.com today.



**RE-ENERGIZING
COST SAVINGS**



Garretson Childcare helpers are getting ready to help grow their daycare.

REED FUND

Powering Your Community

Shannon Marvel

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The community development financial institution powered by rural electric cooperatives in South Dakota is about to reach a major milestone.

The (Rural Electric Economic Development) Fund's total dollar amount in projects impacted is anticipated to reach \$1 billion by the end of 2023, according to Eric Fosheim, Economic Development Manager for REED.

REED also exceeded 10,000 in jobs impacted (created or retained) since its creation in 1996.

"Currently, we sit at just over \$998 million in total projects impacted," Fosheim said in October.

The REED Fund is a 501(c)3

corporation and operates as a revolving loan fund that provides financing for economic development projects in rural areas.

Those projects that receive REED Fund dollars must promote growth and be a catalyst in creating more business, wealth and job opportunities within the rural community. The projects are also expected to improve infrastructure and economic base in rural areas.

The REED Fund provides financing from the federal government and other lender, in addition to revolving interest payments collected over the years. The REED Fund does not use money generated by electric rate charges.

Fosheim said that as of September 30, REED has issued 401 loans for a total of \$125.26 million.

"This includes \$104,174,418 in loans made using REED dollars and \$21,082,793 from the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program," Fosheim said.



Central Electric General Manager Ken Schlimgen, left, delivers REED funding to Mitchell Technical College.

Fosheim said it isn't entirely surprising that the \$1 billion was hit this year.

"REED has seen steady growth over the years, but typically sees higher than normal application volume in times of rising interest rates. In addition, costs are rising as well, so total project costs for each individual project have been higher as well.

Dakota Energy General Manager Chad Felderman has been on the REED Fund board since 2018.

He said the impact the REED Fund has on local communities is unique, noting that the businesses the fund helps aren't necessarily ones that Dakota Energy provides electricity to, but are ones that help our communities, "which in turn helps our members where they live," he said.

"It is gratifying to help our hospitals, fire departments, and schools purchase equipment so our small communities can provide those essential services," Felderman said.

One of those projects funded by REED is the Huron Regional Medical Center dialysis building.

"We are proud to support HRMC in sustaining and expanding local access to critical medical services right here in our community," Felderman said.

Douglas Electric Cooperative General Manager Jay Spaans echoed Felderman's sentiment, noting that the REED Fund is special because co-ops get to loan money to businesses that they don't always serve.

"For us, it is just about making

improvements in the community. Sure, we would like to serve the load, but even if the new load doesn't reside in our territory, we still will fund the loan," Spaans said.

"It is all about the greater good for our communities."

West River Electric CEO Dick Johnson also serves on the REED Fund board. He's one of the first board members to represent a co-op in the western part of the state. The REED Fund was originally set up by co-ops in eastern South Dakota. After two decades of successful growth and development, the REED Fund decided to allow co-ops in western South Dakota to join in 2017. Johnson said West River Electric was one of the first western co-ops to be accepted into the REED Fund.

"It was one of the best things we could ask for. We were struggling with our own revolving loan fund but we had primarily loaned to government entities, no businesses," Johnson said.

"When we became members of REED that gave us another tool in our toolbox to offer our members who were interested in our area or needed to expand their businesses or infrastructure."

West River Electric hasn't had many loans, but Johnson is still encouraged by what he's seen as a board member.

"Sitting on the Board and seeing the applications and the impact we are having on the economy of small towns all over South Dakota is phenomenal," Johnson said.

Johnson had high praise for the folks at the REED Fund office in Madison, calling

them a "class act" who really understand the region's rural areas.

"They work hard to say yes and somehow make it work. The fact that the local co-op board can help make the decision to move a project forward is unheard of – real boots on the ground who are in the communities we serve and understand what is needed to thrive," Johnson said. "It is a unique model just like the cooperative business model."

Did You Know

From 2018 to 2022, electric cooperatives in South Dakota spent \$5.7 Billion on capital investment, operations, and maintenance activities and retired \$102.8 Million in capital credits paid to consumer-members.

Through these expenditures, co-ops drive economic benefits in their local communities and throughout the state.

Over the five-year period, electric co-ops in South Dakota are responsible for:

STATEWIDE IMPACT

- \$4.2 Billion to South Dakota's Gross State Product (GSP)
- An average of 5,848 jobs in South Dakota each year
- \$2 Billion in labor income in South Dakota
- \$194.1 Million in federal taxes
- \$423 Million in state taxes
- \$418.4 Million in local taxes

All of these impacts occur in counties where electric cooperatives operate, showcasing the substantial local economic benefits that co-ops provide in the communities they serve.



Participants celebrate the groundbreaking for the National Music Museum in Vermillion.



Cameras give producers the opportunity to monitor one of the ranch's most valuable assets: cows!

BOVINE BABY MONITORS

Local Producers Blend Tradition with Innovation

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

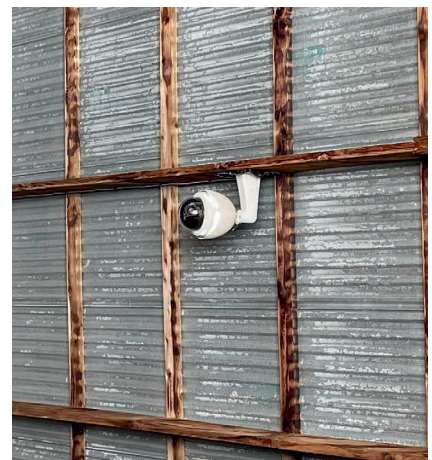
Just as parents rely on baby monitors to keep an eye on their sleeping infants, ranchers across South Dakota are embracing advanced camera systems to protect their prized newborn calves. These bovine baby monitors offer a crucial safeguard, ensuring the safety of one of the ranch's most valuable assets.

Producers Logan and Layton Hendrickson, hailing from Meadow, S.D., represent the sixth generation of their family's operation in farming and ranching in South Dakota. The

surveillance technology utilized by Logan and his family, however, is a far cry from the farming practices of Logan's great-great-great-grandfather, Franz Seidel, who at the unlikely age of 56, established their farmstead in 1907 after fleeing from unsettled times in Russia. Despite a legacy spanning over a century, the Hendrickson and Seidel family operation proves that even a long-standing operation can embrace new technologies and modern solutions.

"Our farm has been passed down through the generations, and we have been building on it ever since, like Lego bricks," said Logan.

Recent winters marked by challenging weather and significant snowfall have emphasized the role of cameras during the calving season. After all, it doesn't matter whether the sun is shining or a blizzard is rolling in, nature persists. Beyond staying warm, these cameras offer producers a less invasive method of observing their cattle, reducing the amount of stress put on cow and calf pairing. Installed in their barn, the Hendrickson's camera system streams live video of the cows straight to



The Hendrickson family uses a camera to keep an eye on their cattle during the calving season.



The Hendrickson-Seidel ranch is a sixth-generation operation in northwest South Dakota.

a cellphone, often without the cows ever knowing.

“We aren’t in their space, disrupting their natural habits,” he said. “All we have to do is pull out our phones and we know what is going on.”

In addition to convenience, cameras can also help producers catch complications that arise following the calving process. For instance, accessible oversight can allow a producer to prevent an unruly cow from unintentionally harming their newborn calf. The result is a better operational efficiency, fostering a more relaxed environment during an otherwise stressful time and creating better outcomes for both the calf and mother.

“It doesn’t take long for these systems to pay for themselves,” said Logan. “And at the end of the day, it creates a more comfortable experience for the cow and calf during a very stressful time.”

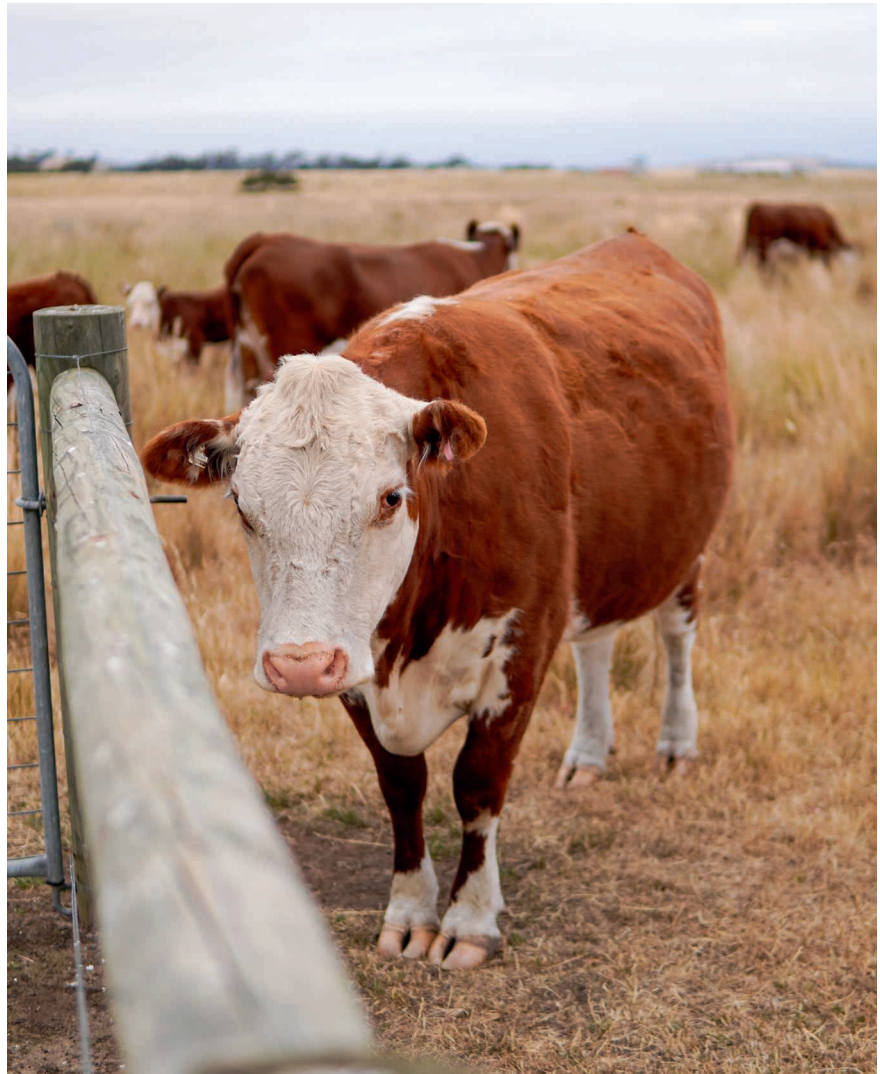
The development of technology on the Hendrickson-Seidel ranch isn’t just limited to cameras. Their family operation like other operations across the state has seen development in nearly every aspect of their operation through the generations.

“It’s not technology in the sense of having the latest electronics but technology in the sense of development,” said Logan. “My great grandfather went from using a 20-horsepower tractor with steel tracks at the beginning of his career

to using a 400-horsepower tractor with auto-steer and air conditioning.”

Whether it’s record-keeping on your cellphone or using advanced technologies like GPS guidance, Logan said his family has utilized new technologies in a way that has kept their operation competitive and relevant for over a hundred years, proving the old myth, “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks,” simply isn’t true.

“One of the first people to adopt a new technology on the farm is my grandfather,” said Logan. “He is the person pushing to new innovations because he sees the economic benefit long before any of us do.”





Dec. 14-17
Christmas at the Cathedral
 521 N Duluth Avenue,
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-988-3765

DEC. 2
Tabor Parade of Lights
 5:30 p.m.
 Tabor, SD

DEC. 2
Julefest Scandinavian Christmas Festival and Bazaar
 8 a.m.
 Our Saviors Lutheran Church
 Spearfish, SD

DEC. 3
Hartford's Hometown Christmas
 7:30 a.m.
 Hartford, SD

DEC. 8-9
Alexandria's Winter Festival
 5 p.m.
 Alexandria, SD

DEC. 9
Santa Claus Day
 9 a.m.
 Professional Management
 Services
 Groton, SD

DEC. 9
Parade of Lights
 5:30 p.m.
 Wessington, SD

DEC. 10
Hill City Senior Saturday Breakfast
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 17
Christmas Cantata
 3 p.m.
 Hermosa United Church of Christ
 Hermosa, SD

NOV. 23
Community Thanksgiving
 11:30 a.m.
 Community Center
 Groton, SD

NOV. 24
Parade of Lights
 7 p.m.
 Dakota Avenue
 Huron, SD

NOV. 25
Mid-Winter Fair
 Gregory Auditorium
 Gregory, SD
 605-830-9778

NOV. 30
Christmas on the Prairie
 5 p.m.
 Miller, SD

NOV. 30-DEC. 3
Hatchery Holidays
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery
 Spearfish, SD

DEC. 1-2
Christmas in the Hills
 Hot Springs, SD

DEC. 1-30
Trees and Trains Exhibit
 SD State Railroad Museum
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 1-30
Holiday Express and Holiday Express Spiked
 1880 Train
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 2
Rapid City Garden Club's 62nd Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale
 8 a.m.
 Central States Fairgrounds
 Rapid City, SD

DEC. 2
6th Annual Holiday Party, Tour of Homes, Silent Auction
 4 p.m.
 Olive Grove Golf Course
 Groton, SD

DEC. 2
Parade of Lights
 6 p.m.
 Redfield, SD

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

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