

# Cooperative Connections



**New Solar  
Coming to S.D.**

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**Saving Lives:  
Grain Bin  
Safety**

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# Electricity Brings Everyday Value



**John Lee, CEO**

jlee@butteelectric.com

**Considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets.**

Even though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cell phone to stay connected, and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4 percent (from 2014-2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care was increased 3 percent during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6 percent. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4 percent.

The bottom line: electricity brings everyday value. In fact, Butte Electric members experience an average of 15 outages lasting just 39 minutes each year. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, I'm very proud of our track record.

At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

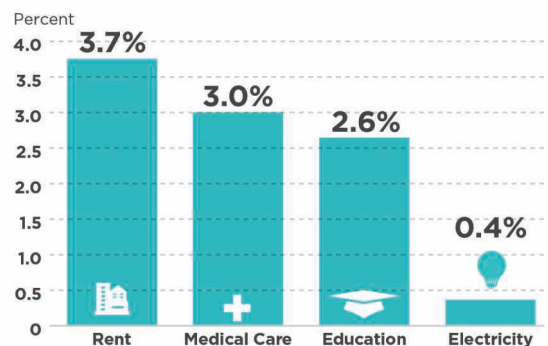
Butte Electric provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. And as your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. Butte Electric is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

**Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019**



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

# Butte Electric

## Cooperative Connections

(ISSN 1531-1031)

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## The Cooperative Difference In Two Minutes (or Less!)

As co-op employees, we know what makes our business model great! But explaining the cooperative difference to someone who's never heard of a co-op can be challenging – especially when you only have a minute or two to do so. Co-ops are special for many reasons, but below are a few reasons why you can be a proud member-owner of your local electric cooperative.

- Electric co-ops are community-focused organizations that deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to their consumer-members.
- Our electric co-op is unique because we belong to the communities we serve. The co-op is led by its members, which gives us a unique understanding of the needs of our local communities. In fact, many of our leaders and employees live right here in the community and are members of the co-op – just like you!
- Because we answer to local members (that's you!) rather than far-away shareholders, we're more nimble and able to respond quickly to the changing needs of our community. We even share any excess revenue with our members because we're not-for-profit.
- Even though we're locally-owned and operated, we cooperate with other electric cooperatives across the country to develop new technologies, invest in equipment and infrastructure that benefits multiple co-ops in a region, and assist with major outages. This type of collaboration allows us to address complex challenges while remaining true to our local roots.
- Our electric co-op was built by the community, belongs to the community and continues to be led by the community – that's the cooperative difference!

# I'm planning to dig. How does 811 work?



1. Call 811 or go to your state 811 center's website a few days before digging to request that buried utilities in your yard be marked.
2. Wait a few days for all utilities to respond to your request.
3. Confirm that all utilities have responded.
4. Respect the utility marks or flags.
5. Dig carefully around buried utilities.

**Call811.com/811-your-state**



# Focus on These Safe Practices Away From the Workplace

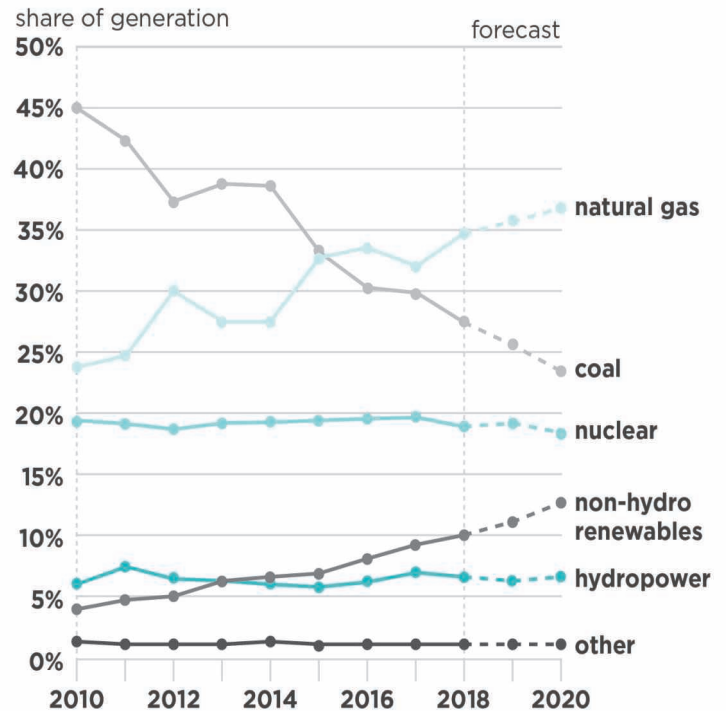
While your local electric cooperative often focuses on electrical safety and provides reminders to keep you free from harm, there are many other dangers lurking out there that don't necessarily pertain to electrical power.

Read on to see the National Safety Council's list of the top causes of preventable injuries and death away from the workplace. Keep these in mind and help protect you and your family from danger.

- **Poisoning.** In 2011, accidental poisonings overtook car crashes for the first time as the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for all ages combined. Poisoning deaths are caused by gases, chemicals and other substances, but prescription drug overdose is by far the leading cause.
- **Vehicle crashes.** Roadway crashes are the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death overall in the U.S. Impaired driving, distracted driving, exceeding the speed limit and inexperience can often cause a life to be cut tragically short in the blink of an eye.
- **Falls.** Falling is the third-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death over all age groups across the country, but it's the No. 1 cause of death for those who are 65 and older who sometimes have health complications and problems with balancing.
- **Choking and suffocation.** Choking on food or other objects is a primary cause. Suffocation and choking rank higher among the elderly and infants.
- **Drowning.** This is the No. 1 cause of death for children ages 1-4, mostly due to children falling into pools or being left alone unattended in bathtubs.
- **Fires and burns.** Fires often start at night, when families are asleep and most vulnerable. A working smoke alarm will cut in half the chances of dying in a fire.
- **Natural and environmental incidents.** Weather-related disasters claim hundreds of lives per year. You should learn all you can about emergency preparedness and always have an emergency kit on hand.

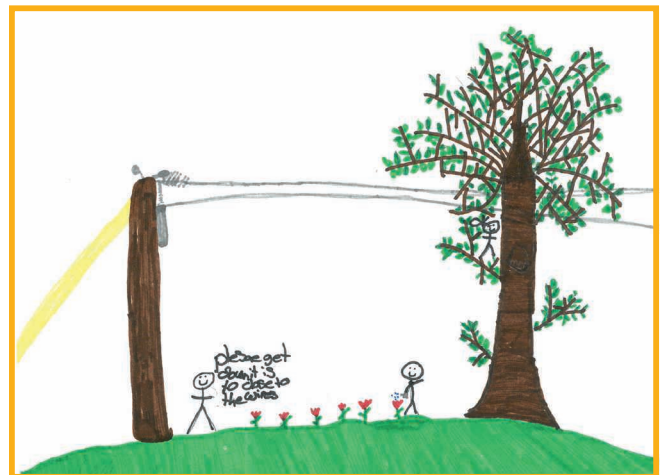
Source: National Safety Council

## U.S. ELECTRICITY GENERATION BY ENERGY SOURCE (2010-2020)



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, January 2019  
 Note: Confidence interval derived from NYMEX options market information

## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Please get down - it is too close to the wires!"**

**Forrest Hawk, 9 years old**

Forrest Hawk is the grandson of Steve and Pru Hawk. They are members of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., Martin, S.D.

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



# Protein-Packed Salads

## Ranch, Bacon, Parmesan Salad

1 16 oz. Farfalle (bowtie) pasta	½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
1 cup prepared ranch dressing	1 carrot, peeled and diced
6 slices bacon	1 stalk celery, diced
	1 red onion, diced

Fill large pot with lightly salted water, bring to rolling boil over high heat. Once water is boiling, stir in bow tie pasta and return to boil. Cook pasta uncovered, stirring occasionally, until pasta has cooked through, but still firm to the bite, about 12 mins. Drain well in a colander set in the sink. Transfer to a bowl, refrigerate until cool, at least 30 mins. Place bacon in a large, deep skillet, cook over med.-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 mins. Drain bacon slices on a paper towel-lined plate, let cool, and chop. In a large salad bowl, stir together the ranch dressing, bacon, Parmesan cheese, carrot, celery, and red onion. Lightly stir in cooled pasta to coat with dressing, and refrigerate 2 hours.

Cortney Reedy, Tea, SD

## Rotini Salad

1 box rotini	sliced turkey, deli style
celery, green pepper, radishes, cucumber, onion, carrots	mushrooms, chopped
	cheddar cheese, shredded

Cook rotini as directed on package. Chop vegetables. Put all ingredients into a large bowl. Add 1 bottle zesty Italian dressing. Let chill, enjoy. Can add almost any fresh vegetable.

Mary Jessen, Holabird, SD

## Broccoli Bacon Salad

Dressing:	2 T. vinegar
1 cup real mayo	Brown 1 pkg. bacon, break into pieces
¼ cup sugar	

Wash two fresh heads of broccoli and cut into bite size pieces. Add ½ cup raisins, ¼ cup purple onion, 1 cup shredded cheese, pepper to taste. Mix well.

Karen Jacobs, Tolstoy, SD

## Ring Tuna Salad

1 pkg. ring macaroni cooked and drained	1 cup green olives sliced
4 green onions chopped	2 6 oz. cans Albacore tuna
1 cup frozen peas cooked and drained	2 T. salad dressing mixed with 1 tsp. olive oil

Cook, drain and cool macaroni. Mix first 5 ingredients then add salad dressing and olive oil, which has been whipped together. Store in refrigerator.

Darlene Price, Prairie City, SD

## Chicken, Onion, Quinoa Salad

Dressing:	1 tsp. canola oil
¼ cup apple cider vinegar	1 white onion, sliced
2 T. olive oil	3 cups baby kale
1 T. lemon juice	1 red skinned apple, chopped
1 tsp. honey	2 cups cooked chicken, chopped
1 tsp. Dijon mustard	½ tsp. salt
1-½ cups red quinoa, rinsed	¼ tsp. pepper
2-½ cups vegetable broth	

To make the dressing: In a large bowl, whisk vinegar, olive oil, lemon juice, honey and Dijon mustard until well combined. Set aside. In a saucepan, bring quinoa and broth to boil. Simmer, covered, for 12-15 minutes, or until all of the broth has been absorbed. Let cool completely. In a medium skillet, heat canola oil over medium-high heat. Saute onion for 3-5 minutes, or until it is softened and translucent. Remove from heat; let cool completely. In a large bowl, toss onion, kale, apple, chicken, salt and pepper with dressing. Stir in cooled quinoa. [www.onions-usa.org](http://www.onions-usa.org).

Please send your favorite vegetarian, garden produce and pasta 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# Sealing Air Leaks Step-by-Step



**Pat Keegan**

Collaborative Efficiency

**Exterior doors and windows that open deserve your attention.**

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency.

For more information on sealing air leaks, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).

**Dear Pat and Brad: I love my older home, but it's drafty and uncomfortable at times. What can I do to reduce drafts that won't cost me an arm and a leg? – Cris**

Dear Cris: This is a common problem, particularly in older homes. In many homes, about half of the conditioned air leaks to the outside every hour. The good news, especially if you don't want to spend a lot of money, or if you're hesitant to invite contractors into your home right now, is that you can seal air leaks on your own with a little time and effort.

Here are three steps to get you started.

## Step 1: Find the Leaks

The first step is a thorough search of the interior and exterior of the home. Look for gaps and holes in exterior walls, flooring and ceiling. These will often occur where different building materials meet, such as the top of cement foundation walls or around windows and doors. Another common source of air leaks is where pipes or wiring penetrate a wall, floor or ceiling. Ductwork located in unheated crawl spaces or attics can also contain air leaks.

Exterior doors and windows that open deserve your attention. Open each door or window and place a dollar bill between the door or window sash and the frame. If you can pull the bill out easily when the door or window is closed again, the seal is not tight enough. Also, a window that rattles when it's closed or when it's windy probably isn't sealed sufficiently.

The best way to find all air leaks is to hire an energy auditor to do a blower door test. The blower door is a large fan mounted in a doorway to depressurize the house. The auditor can then find the leaks and may even be able to recommend ways to seal them.

It's possible to conduct your own pressure test. The Department of Energy provides detailed instructions at [www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/air-sealing-your-home/detecting-air-leaks](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/air-sealing-your-home/detecting-air-leaks).

## Step 2: Gather the Materials You'll Need

Here's a quick list of materials to get you started:

- **Caulk:** You'll need a caulk gun (\$4+) and caulk (\$4-\$10). We recommend indoor/outdoor waterproof silicone or latex caulk that is water-soluble until it cures and is paintable when dry.
- **Expanding spray foam:** One can typically costs \$4 to \$6. This is an effective way to plug leaks, but keep in mind, it's a messy job.
- **Weather stripping:** Prices vary depending on type and length of the materials, but there's a variety of weather stripping options made of vinyl, metal and felt, or open-cell foam.
- **Pre-cut foam socket sealers:** You can typically purchase a pack of 24 sealers for about \$3.
- **Chimney plug balloon:** Prices range from \$50 to \$90. You may need one of these if your chimney flue doesn't seal well. Buy a square or round one to match the shape of your flue.
- **Adhesive plastic window insulation sheets:** Prices range from \$2 to \$14 depending on size. You may use these later in the year for windows that can't be sealed and don't have storm windows.

## Step 3: Do it!

If you are unfamiliar with how to apply any of these materials, we recommend watching online tutorial videos. Sealing air leaks is one of the best ways to boost your home's energy efficiency. Whether you're a DIY pro or novice, with a few simple steps (and low-cost materials), you'll be well on your way to a sealed, more efficient home.



The Woman Suffrage Monument, located in Nashville's Centennial Park, features five women who were in Nashville during the final ratification effort: Anne Dallas Dudley, Frankie Pierce, Sue Shelton White, Abby Crawford Milton and Carrie Chapman Catt. Photo by Robin Conover

# Co-ops Celebrate the 19th Amendment

## Women Played Instrumental Role in Cooperative Movement

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was approved by Congress on June 4, 1919, but it took more than a year for the measure granting women the right to vote to gain ratification by 36 states. On Aug. 18, 2020, the nation marks the centennial of this human rights milestone.

Rural America was built on family-run farms and businesses. While dads and husbands are often celebrated throughout history and heritage, wives and mothers have been full partners in creating thousands of communities. In fact, electric co-ops have served as incubators for the leadership skills that guide our communities today.

“Historically, rural wives were isolated and only had interaction with their husbands and children, but they helped run farms, ranches and their homes,” said Betsy Huber, CEO of the National Grange.

Founded in 1867, the Grange chapters took root as fraternal community organizations committed to promoting sound agricultural concepts.

“Women could hold any office in the Grange,” said Huber.

By the early 1900’s, organizations like the Grange were providing rural women meaningful leadership opportunities and fueling passions for full engagement in public life that included political participation.

With the rise of suffragist sentiments, in the early 20th century, the Grange routinely included women in governance decisions. When electric cooperatives were organized years later, many of the principles honored by rural organizations were among the fundamental tenets included in co-op charters. Family memberships were vested in heads of households, regardless of gender, and women were among the founding members of many co-ops.

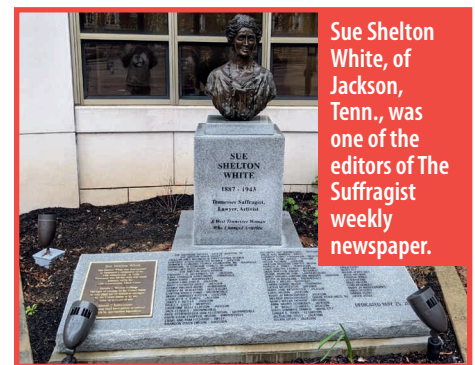
When President Franklin Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration in 1935, farm magazines published stories about the news. Maye Shaw of Quitman, Texas, was a former teacher and regular reader who knew life on the farm would be easier with electric power.

She wrote Rep. Morgan G. Sanders for information and persuaded her husband Virgil Shaw to look into it. By 1937, they both were riding through the surrounding countryside recruiting members and collecting \$5 sign-up fees. Mr. Shaw eventually became the founding general manager of Wood County Electric Cooperative, which now serves nearly 36,000 meters.

Today, America’s electric cooperatives support Co-ops Vote, a grassroots movement designed to encourage voter registration, political engagement and participation in local, state and national affairs for everyone.

“We provide the information to co-op consumer-members to find out how, where and when to vote, and information on the issues that affect rural communities,” said Laura Vogel, an NRECA senior political advisor. “We do not tell people who to vote for, and we don’t endorse candidates.”

Many electric co-ops are supporting National Voter Registration Day,



Sue Shelton White, of Jackson, Tenn., was one of the editors of The Suffragist weekly newspaper.

September 22, to encourage political participation leading up to the November elections.

“With so many uncertainties brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic fueling concerns about how voting will proceed this fall, electric co-ops can play vital roles in reminding members of important dates and explaining rule changes,” said Vogel. “There will be great opportunities to meet community needs.”



Wild Springs Solar Farm will capture the sun's rays to produce electrical power for South Dakota homes, farms and businesses.

# CATCHING RAYS

## Wild Springs Solar Farm to Produce Renewable Power

**Billy Gibson**

Contributing Writer

Business leaders know that diversification is the key to containing costs and surviving sharp economic slumps over the long haul.

That's especially true when it comes to producing the power that keeps South Dakotans supplied with the juice they need to run their homes, farms, irrigation pumps, offices and shops.

Those utilities tasked with keeping the power flowing day and night look for diversification when determining the raw materials they'll use to generate electricity.

The ability to draw from a variety of available resources – coal, natural gas, solar, wind, hydro, biomass, etc. – stabilizes the production process and helps to levelize costs as market rates for any or all of these resources rise and fall over time. This “all-of-the-above” strategy, in turn, makes it easier for producers to engage in long-range forecasting, planning and purchasing for the ultimate benefit of consumers.

That's why it made perfect financial sense for Basin Electric to strike a power purchase agreement with Geronimo Energy, a renewable power generation developer based in Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy is in the early phases of constructing a solar farm called Wild Springs that is expected to generate 128 megawatts (MW) of clean renewable power. When construction is completed in 2022, the \$190 million facility will be the largest grid-scale solar installation in South Dakota.

According to Basin Electric officials, the not-for-profit wholesale power provider jumped at the opportunity to join forces with Geronimo Energy and expand its renewable power portfolio.

“We are excited about adding large-scale solar to our already



Vic Simmons, CEO of Rushmore Electric, delivers a presentation on the Wild Springs Solar Farm.

diverse generation mix,” said Basin CEO and General Manager Paul Sukut. “The board’s decision to add solar to our resource portfolio is to continue with our all-of-the-above strategy, as well as solar generation becoming a more economic energy source.”

Basin Electric transmits electricity to 141 member co-op distribution systems in nine states. It also transmits wholesale power to two South Dakota generation and transmission (G&T) co-ops: Rushmore Electric and East River Electric. Those two G&Ts then transmit the power supply to their respective distribution cooperatives. Rushmore Electric is the power provider for West River Electric, which is the closest distribution co-op in proximity to the solar farm. West River Electric owns more than 2,500 miles of power lines and poles in western South Dakota.

Wild Springs will be built on more than 1,000 acres within West River’s service area near the town of New Underwood in Pennington County and will help stabilize costs for thousands of



ratepayers throughout the region.

West River CEO/General Manager Dick Johnson said he's happy to have a new neighbor and that the project has garnered the support of community leaders as it will create roughly 150 construction jobs. But he said he's even happier for the members who will benefit from the renewable power generated by the solar farm.

The facility is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 85,000 metric tons annually, which is the equivalent of taking 18,000 cars off the road every year.

"We're excited that West River's service area will be home to the Wild Springs Solar Project," said Johnson. "This solar energy project will benefit our cooperative family, as well as our local communities. As not-for-profit co-ops that are owned by our members, everything we do goes back to the people we serve."

Johnson pointed out that the project is expected to produce \$17 million in economic benefits through its first 20 years in terms of tax revenue, job creation and contributions to charitable funds. The list of benefits also includes an education fund that plans to donate \$500,000 to local school districts.

Officials at Rushmore Electric said the power purchase agreement is a perfect fit in line with the cooperative's mission and long-term strategy.

"Our cooperative network is always looking to ensure we have a mix of power resources to meet the needs of our membership and renewable energy is an important part of that strategy," said General Manager Vic Simmons. "This project is an important strategic step as we look to the future in continuing our strong history of providing safe, affordable and reliable power."

Geronimo Energy recently completed the 200 MW Crocker Wind Farm in Clark County and also developed the Pierre Solar Project, a joint effort with the City of Pierre and Missouri River Energy Services in Hughes County.

Geronimo Energy President David Reamer said industry analysts often tend to doubt the viability of solar power in the region, but he said the Wild Springs project shows that consumers in more northern climates can also benefit from the renewable resource.

## 7 Efficient Home Improvement Projects to Help Save Money

The best home upgrades make spaces more livable and energy-efficient and are also cost-effective. Making energy-efficient improvements is a savvy way to save money on utility bills, curb energy consumption and add to the house's value. Consider a variety of home improvement projects, both big and small, that can reduce the financial burden of maintaining your home throughout the year and improve energy efficiency.

**Add Insulation** - A cost-effective way to save on heating and cooling bills is adding a layer of insulation in the attic where heat loss is typically greatest due to hot air rising. While many newer homes are adequately insulated, those that are several decades old (or older) may benefit from an upgrade in not only the attic but other common problem areas where air can escape such as basements, crawl spaces, fireplaces and ductwork.

**Seal Doors and Windows** - Windows and doors are common culprits for energy loss. While a complete replacement of doors and windows can be pricey, adding exterior caulk and weather stripping to fill in gaps where air can escape around these openings can make a noticeable difference for a fraction of the cost and make it cheaper to heat and cool your home.

**Install Skylights** - Skylights are a cost-effective option for transforming any room with natural light while also saving energy. For example, Sun Tunnel Skylights can be installed in 90 minutes and funnel natural light from the roof through the attic and into the room below with an aesthetic that resembles recessed lighting. Customizable with six diffuser film styles to complement interior design, the skylights can make a home more energy-efficient by reducing reliance on artificial lighting.



**Reflective Window Film** - When the sun shines through windows, it can heat up the home's interior quickly and trigger the air conditioner to turn on. Window coverings, such as blackout curtains, can help, but adding low-e reflective window film to your windowpanes, particularly southern-facing ones, can provide an additional shield from the sun and reduce energy costs.

**Install a Programmable Thermostat** - A programmable thermostat is an efficient way to control the climate inside your home. Today's smart thermostats not only let homeowners control temperatures from their smart devices but can also learn daily habits and adjust the temperature accordingly with no other manual adjustments necessary.

**Replace Appliances** - Because appliances like refrigerators and ovens are major energy users, investing in more efficient models provides both cost and energy savings. Additionally, homes more than 15 years old could benefit from updates to the air conditioner or heater as systems 15-20 years old or older may be candidates for replacement.

**Ceiling Fans** - In comparison to running your air conditioner consistently, the cost of running a ceiling fan (or several) is significantly less. Particularly on days that may not require cooling the entire house completely, fans can provide a gentle breeze and circulate air in the spaces you use most often. Simply adjust the switch to the counterclockwise position to ensure it's pushing air downward during warmer months.

For more information and home improvement ideas, visit [whyskylights.com/livelifghter](http://whyskylights.com/livelifghter).

# Help Us Find These People

The following members were unable to receive their capital credit checks. If you know the current address or phone number of anyone listed here, please contact

Butte Electric Cooperative by calling 605-456-2494, 1-800-928-8839 or by emailing [butte@butteelectric.com](mailto:butte@butteelectric.com). Thank you for your help.

**123**

212 Diesel Repair

**A**  
Ackerman Const Co  
Allard, Bruce  
Alvarado, Carol  
Alvin, Lee  
Amiotte, Lowell  
Anderson, Dawn  
Anderson, Edith G  
Arceneaux, Caleb  
At&T Bldg Operations  
Auen, Hugo  
Axt, Larry

**B**  
Bailey, James E  
Baker, Edward D  
Baker, Steve  
Baker, Virginia  
Bancroft, Lisa  
Barker, Kelly  
Barket, Thomas  
Barry, Lindsey  
Bathurst, James  
Baumeister, Caleb  
Baysinger, Randy  
Bears, Sam  
Bedford, John  
Beeching, Cyril  
Berg, Rodney  
Berry, Frank  
Big Crow, James  
Bingaman, John  
Blair, Ruth  
Blare, Bonnie  
Blust, Ralph  
Bohle, Caron  
Bordewyk, Lyle  
Bousquet, Lillian  
Bovington, Kim  
Boyd Hat Company  
Boyd, Rockne  
Braun, James  
Brighton, Steven  
Brink, Warren  
Brogdon, Max  
Brown, Dennis  
Buhler, Dawn  
Burk, Willie  
Burke, Mike  
Burnette, Clifford

**C**  
Calhoon, Tom  
Califf Trucking  
Carl, Art  
Carlson, Ed  
Carlson, Joyce  
Ceretto, Tom  
Chaulk, Dan  
Christensen, Don  
Collins, Joanna  
Coons, Kevin  
Cornell, William D  
Cowan, Cheryl  
Cranford, Steve  
Croff, Paige S  
Cudmore, Julie  
Curtis, Rocky  
Custom Cable Systems

**D**  
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Denne, Gary  
Deyoung, Rex  
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Duncan, Neil

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Erickson, Richard  
Erk, Tim  
Erskine, Thomas Ii

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Fechner, Roxanne  
Felonk, Arthella  
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First Federal Savings  
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Fox, Herbert  
Freeman, Jim  
Friel, Kevin  
Furios, Mike

**G**  
Garrett, Polly

Gehring, Charles  
Gilbert, Bonnie  
Gillaspie, Mike  
Goergen, Arlene  
Goff, Bud  
Goff, Donald C  
Gordon, Howard  
Graves Brothers

**H**  
Hagen, Tina  
Hale, Wallace F  
Halverson, Robert  
Hansen, John  
Harberts, Jack  
Harley, Chad  
Harms Hanger Llp  
Harris, Reed  
Harris, Shirley  
Harrity, Mary  
Hauser, Carol  
Heilman, Jim  
Henriks, Marjorie  
Herr, Jeff  
Hersey, Gary  
Heupel, Colin  
Higbee, Cynthia  
Higgins, Joe  
Highland, Maria  
Hill, Richard  
Hiltz, Charles  
Hinshaw, Lloyd  
Hise, Lori  
Hissett, Todd  
Hitzel, Joe  
Hoffman, Bill  
Homer, Wayne  
Hong Kong Restaurant  
Hoots, Amber  
Houck, David  
House, Merton  
Hubbard, Sam  
Hudson, Harold  
Hudson, Sandy  
Hughes, C. Max  
Humann, Dean  
Hunt, Pat  
Hurd, Dennis  
Hutches, Robert H

**I**  
Ingalls & Hines

Inglefield, Bert  
Inman, Randy  
**J**  
Jensen Spraying  
Jensen, Sarina  
Johnannessen Elizabeth  
Johnson, Karen  
Jones, Charles E  
Joos, Rich  
Jordan, Brad

**K**  
Keil, Solomon  
Kellum, Elmer  
Kellum, Ola  
Kelly, Jim  
Kelly, Lawrence  
Kennedy, James  
Key City Building  
Kinsella, Steve  
Kircher, Kyle  
Kircher, Ray  
Klaudt, Tom  
Kluck, Keith  
Knodel, Brad  
Koerner, Jarrod  
Kokal, Thomas E  
Kopecky, Jim  
Krause, Roger  
Krueger, Jack  
Kuhrt, Bill  
Kusser, Pat  
Kuykendall, C.B.

**L**  
Lafountain, Robert  
Lamb, Tom  
Lamp, Daniel  
Landreth, Jerry  
Lang, Rodney  
Larson, Jeff  
Larson, Kent  
Larson, Rodney  
Lawver, Jerry  
Leanna, William  
Lebeau, Michael  
Lee, Darwin  
Lehto, R.A.  
Lemire, Joe  
Leveque, Faye  
Lewis, Shirley  
Lewis, Tracy

Lockhart, Marlon  
Luckie, Debra

**M**  
Mach, Ron  
Machler, Kurt  
Maddox, S.R.  
Martinez, Al  
Mattis, Jamie  
Mccartney, Fred  
Mcdermott, Emily  
Mcdougall, Glen  
Mcgillivray, Delane  
Mcginnis, Kayla  
Mcgrath, Leann  
Mckenna, Lee  
Meis, Margaret  
Melendez, Pedro  
Meston, Jerry  
Meyers, James  
Miller, Lane  
Minton, Faye  
Montieth, Brian  
Moos, Leroy  
Muniz, Gloria  
Myers, Brandon G  
Myers, Tamara

**N**  
Nelson, Jon  
Ness, David  
Newsome, Richard  
Nh Development Corp  
Nighbert, Michael  
Northern Hills Inc  
Northpark Racquet Club  
Norwest Bank Sd-Na  
Nuttall, Porter  
Nuzum, Elliot

**O**  
Odle, Ronald G  
Oedekoven, Delwin  
Ogston, William D  
Oien, Robert  
Olmanson, Peter  
Olson, A.D.  
Olson, Janet  
Olson, Steven B  
Olson, Terrance  
O'neill, Ray  
Oreskovich, John

Ormseth, Chris  
Otto, Roger

**P**  
Page, Barbara  
Parsons, Marian  
Peck, Ray  
Pedde, Ronald  
Pendo, Norma  
Peterson, Dennis L  
Pfeiffer, Eileen  
Phillips, Charles K  
Phipps, Lydia  
Phipps, Terry  
Pickford, Carol  
Pizza Ranch Sturgis  
Prairie Hills Water  
Proefrock, Daniel  
Raben, Emiel

**R**  
Raisanen, Rod

Rapid Crystal Ice Co  
Reagan, James Dr  
Reif, Brad  
Reindl, Lyle  
Richardson, Harold  
Richards-Suftin Inc  
Roche Brothers  
Roden, Carrie  
Rogge, Edna  
Rooney Operating Co  
Rosin, Daryl

**S**  
Salathe, David  
Samek, Chris J  
Saunders, Keith  
Sayler, Robert  
Scheckel, Francis  
Scheckla, Jim  
Schlepp, Perry  
Schneider, Wayne  
Schrader, Tom

Scoreboard Inc  
Scribner, Anthony  
Seip, James  
Severson, Candy  
Shaff, Wallace  
Shepard, Patrick  
Shepersky, Art  
Sheridan, Frank  
Shimp, Robert  
Shoemake, Alyssa  
Simonds, James H.  
Smart E.C. Dr  
Smith, Jack  
Smith, Tom  
Solberg, Richard  
Spencer, A. Paul  
Spracklen, Jay  
Springer, Albert  
Stalder, Kenton  
Steffen, Todd  
Steinman, Lyle

Stewart, Herb  
Stockwell, Vere  
Stratton, Jerald  
Struble, Greg  
Sulaiman, Rose  
Sweet, Jonathan

**T**  
Thomas, Jim  
Thompson, Zane

**U**  
Uren, William

**V**  
Vancleave, Donald  
Vandenbosch, Thomas  
Vermeulen, Todd  
Vieux, Sharon  
Viles, Elaine

**W**  
Wagner, Duane R  
Wall, Betty

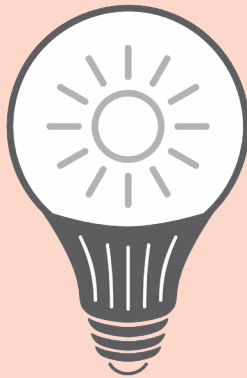
Wallace, Loeta  
Walterman, Ronald  
Waterland, Vic  
Weidensee, Dave  
Weiss, Hope  
Welch, Peggy  
Wells Fargo  
Wierenga, Wade  
Williams, Forrest R  
Wilson, Jerry  
Wilson, Keli  
Wolff, Mike  
Wolsky, Charles  
Wood, Richard  
Worden, Thomas  
Worthington, Dustin  
Young, Louis  
Young, Robert J

**XYZ**  
Zufelt, Brian

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

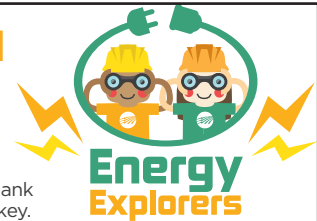
Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: energy.gov



## POWER RESTORATION FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

When the power goes out, line crews work hard to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about the steps of power restoration. Use the word bank if you need help, and check your work in the answer key.



### Word Bank:

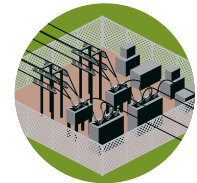
distribution transformer transmission  
pads substations



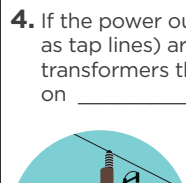
1. High-voltage \_\_\_\_\_ lines are the large towers and cables that supply power to the greatest number of consumer-members. They rarely fail, but if they do, they have to be repaired first.



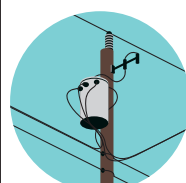
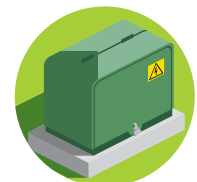
2. Next, crews inspect distribution \_\_\_\_\_ for damage. They determine if the problem stems from the lines feeding into the equipment itself, or if the problem is further down the line.



3. If the problem still can't be pinpointed, \_\_\_\_\_ power lines are inspected. These are the lines you typically see on the side of the road that deliver power to communities.



4. If the power outage persists, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers that are either mounted on poles or placed on \_\_\_\_\_ for underground electric service.



5. If your home remains without power, the service line between the \_\_\_\_\_ and your home may need repairs.

Answer Key: 1) transmission 2) substations 3) distribution 4) pads 5) transformer

## National Safe Digging Day

Aug. 11 is National Safe Digging Day!

Prepping for an outdoor project? Stay safe and remember to call 811 before you start digging.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



Due to recent unusual weather patterns, grain bin safety is more important than ever.

# GRAIN BIN SAFETY

## Unusually wet year makes grain bin safety on the farm more important than ever

Susan Smith

Contributing Writer

Wet conditions during last year's harvest meant grain went into bins under conditions that aren't ideal.

Wet grain can cause crusting or bridging in bins. Producers try to scrape the crust away from the side, causing a landslide of grain sucking the producer in as it falls. Or they could be working in a bin not realizing they are standing on a bridge of grain that when it falls has nothing beneath it but air. This can also cause entrapment.

Many of these accidents happen in winter and early spring, said Beth Locken, director of safety and environmental at Agtegra Cooperative in Aberdeen. She calls that time period the second harvest when farmers are cleaning out bins for the coming year's crops. While South Dakota and North Dakota don't see the number of entrapment accidents as corn-belt states like Iowa and Illinois, grain bin entrapments are not picky, Locken said.

"We've already seen one (death in South Dakota) in 2020 already and that's too many," she said.

During the third week in February 2020, decreed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue as National Grain Bin Safety Week, Christopher Bauman died at his farm near Elkton while emptying corn. Bauman had a wife and three children.

After Bauman died, Locken and Scott Wheelhouse, safety director of the Agfirst Farmers Cooperative in Aurora, began



Training is an important element in responding to grain bin accidents on the farm.

talking about creating a local day-long seminar on grain bin safety. The morning would focus on a refresher course for first responders who already are trained to rescue someone trapped in a grain bin but maybe haven't had hands-on experience recently, Wheelhouse said. In the afternoon, producers from the area would get information on general grain bin safety and use of rescue equipment.

"We really want to emphasize we don't just want your business, we want your friendship," Wheelhouse said. "We want you alive."

AgTegra sold grain bin entry kits at cost to local producers this year, a service Wheelhouse would like to offer his customers as well. The kits sell for \$460 and include resources on how to use them.

"Mostly the benefit we get out of it is hoping we can educate the family and keep them safe," Locken said.

Purdue University releases an annual report on entrapment injuries and fatalities. The number increased by 9.8 percent in 2019. From 2017 to 2018 the number jumped 23 percent. In the last decade, 370 people died in grain bin accidents.

The number of grain bin accidents increased nearly 10 percent in 2019.



About 10 years ago, Agtegra donated to fire departments in its coverage area grain bin rescue tubes that fit around a submerged person. That includes about 70 departments in northeast and northwest North Dakota and areas along Highways 12 and 281 and I-90. Agtegra deployed a technical rescue team for the last 10 years.

## Training paid off during a March grain entrapment.

The team membership and training is widespread for Agtegra employees and first responders.

"Immediate response is of the essence," Locken said. "If something happens on a farmer's bin site, they're not going to call AgTegra, they're going to call the fire department," Locken said.

That widespread training paid off during a March grain entrapment near Pierre.

"We were there providing guidance and additional equipment. We were inside the bin with the fire department just trying to get the victim out of there," she said. "We worked for about five hours and that was a successful response. Not all of them are like that, unfortunately."

The first rule of grain bin safety is not to go into the bin in the first place.

"We always say any time someone needs to go into a bin, stop and talk about it," Locken said. "Have absolutely more than one person there. Make sure the person has a harness and rope attached to the harness and to something attached to the bin that's not going to move."

Locken said turning off equipment like an auger is another good rule of thumb. That way grain isn't being pulled out of the bin as a person works in it.

John Keimig, SDSU Extension Youth Safety Field Specialist, conducts safety programs for 4-H youth. He educates children of producers so they know the rules and can keep an eye on their parents. Most producers know the risks of working around grain bins, he said, but might not consider them during the high pressure of a typical farm day.

"Adults know better," he said. "We get in a hurry. We don't always think and particularly in grain storage that can become very bad very quickly. By working together, we can help each other out if we have to go into a bin and we can save lives."

The risks of working around grain bins may be forgotten during the high pressure of an average work day on the farm.



State officials say the problem of meth addiction disproportionately affects women and Native American populations.

## METH. WE TREAT IT.

### Front Line Treatment Providers Stay Focused on Their Goal

By Billy Gibson

Contributing Writer

To a public growing desensitized to increasingly sensational news accounts, one particular police report stood out.

Probably because of the cattle prod.

Back in June, Sioux Falls police arrested a couple accused of using a cattle prod to discipline their four children, ages 11 to 17. The astonishing accusations also included the couple giving methamphetamine and marijuana to the youngsters in their charge.

It was another in a steady stream of stories serving as an indication of the widespread use of methamphetamine and the deleterious effects of drug abuse in the state.

Meth, especially, is a social and public health menace that has not mysteriously disappeared since the coronavirus outbreak, although it has morphed a bit as the pandemic has spread.

State and federal officials report that the impact of the virus has brought both good news and bad news.

On one hand, the curtailing of international and national travel, the economic downturn and the tightening of borders have all combined to reduce the supply of the powerful drug on city and rural streets.

On the other hand, the street price for the drug is escalating due to increased demand and shortened supply. As those hooked on the drug seek any means of securing it and as general anxiety levels rise, officials fear that a jump in criminal activity is inevitable.

In Los Angeles, for example, meth prices doubled recently as narcotic traffic from Mexican cartels slowed down significantly.



Price increases were also seen in states like Virginia, West Virginia, New Mexico, Kentucky, Tennessee and many others.

While the world turned its attention to the coronavirus earlier this year and now braces for a second wave, others dedicated to battling meth abuse over the long haul have never steered their focus away from their goals.

A statewide campaign to raise awareness of the meth problem was launched last fall as officials began recognizing that the manufacture, distribution and consumption of meth was becoming a plague for far too many South Dakotans. The troubling trend was placing both rural towns and the larger population centers at risk.

The campaign was in response to disturbing figures that painted the picture of a national and international progression that was finally at the point of breaching the state's borders in record numbers.

For instance, officials reported that in 2018 more than 3,600 individuals were arrested in the state for possessing, transporting or



COVID-19 has not slowed the problem of meth addiction

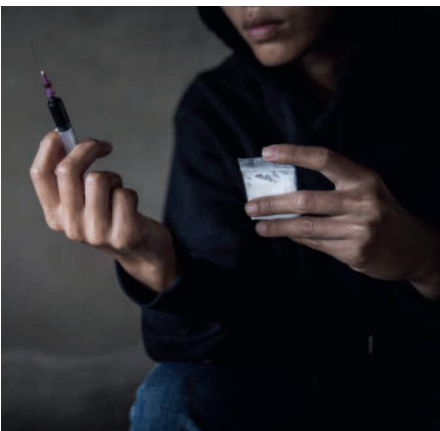
distributing a collective 100 lbs. of methamphetamine. The Centers for Disease Control proclaimed that meth was taking the lives of more South Dakotans than any other illegal drug and that twice as many teens from 12 to 17 years old were using meth compared to the national average.

Additionally, 83 percent of court admissions for controlled substances in 2019 involved meth, as the state saw a 200 percent increase in people seeking treatment with the primary diagnosis of meth addiction between 2014 and 2018.

Meanwhile, law enforcement seized 24 lbs. of meth in the Rapid City area in 2018, over 20 lbs. in Sioux Falls, and almost 1 lb. in Pierre. It takes just .0003 lb. of the drug to cause a fatal overdose. From January to August of 2019, there were 2,243 meth-related arrests across 50 counties. In 2002, that number was just 467.

More recently, figures show that meth is impacting Native American and female populations at a disproportionate level.

For instance, officials report that more than 90 percent of inmates at the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre are substance abusers. Overall, roughly



**“Don't think you can't get help, because there are many options out there.”**

Carol Regier

one-third of those inmates incarcerated in the state prison system are there because of some form of drug addiction.

Recently, the female inmates have campaigned to push for more programs to help addicts within the system.

Inmate Heather Shooter, who belongs to the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, is one of several convicts who have been instrumental in an initiative called Sober is Sacred, in which inspirational speakers, performers and other guests call for additional counseling and treatment programs to help those hooked on meth. The program follows a similar one launched at the Mike Durfee State Prison for men in Springfield called Fathers Against Meth.

Shooter said that when her time is served this fall she plans to enter the Full Circle Substance Abuse Center in Rapid City and spread the message of a drug-free life.

Dave Flute, the state's Secretary of Tribal Affairs and former Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribal chairman, has described the meth plague as having reached epidemic proportions on the state's reservations. He spoke last fall at the second State-Tribal Meth Summit in Mission and assured the audience that the governor's administration is working closely with Native American tribes to combat the problem.

Carol Regier, CEO of the Keystone Treatment Center with facilities in Canton and Sioux Falls, said her program often works with tribal communities in South Dakota and surrounding states. She echoed Flute's comments that the governor's office has been deeply engaged.

“We've had discussions with the governor and the state has been very supportive of our work, going back to the Rounds administration,” she said, noting, “But we did make up our own catch phrase: ‘Meth. We Treat It.’”

She pegged meth abuse as “by far” the most toxic culprit when it comes to addiction and the social maladies that

spring from it.

“Besides alcohol, meth is our number one problem. It's very addictive and caustic and people who get hooked rarely defeat it without qualified help,” she said.

Regier said the in-patient program offered at Keystone typically lasts a month to 45 days and includes components of the 12-step Narcotics Anonymous plan. It also



focuses on spiritual, physical and mental health, she said. After therapy, patients are supported and encouraged to participate in after-care and continued counseling.

Keystone has 126 beds, and Regier said there is a steady stream of patients seeking treatment for their addiction. The pace hasn't slowed with the coronavirus.

“There was a period where it seemed people were afraid to come in, but they've started to come in now,” she said. “We've seen an escalation in alcohol and drug abuse during the pandemic as people are having to deal with loneliness, joblessness, personal relationships and other drastic changes in their lives and in the country.”

From her vantage point standing on the front lines of the drug addiction battle, Regier strikes a positive tone. She encourages those who feel they need treatment to get it. She assures that most treatment plans are covered by medical insurance and that grants and other resources are available to help addicts break free from the grip of addictions.

“Don't think you can't get help, because there are many options out there. We hear heartbreaking stories, but on the good side we see people who have turned their lives around,” she said. “For all of us committed to helping drug addicts get well, we have the same commitment: getting people back to normal so they can live healthier, more fulfilling lives. Treatment works.”

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### September 3-5

South Dakota State Fair:  
Perfect Vision of Fun,  
1060 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD  
800-529-0900  
www.sdstatefair.com

### July 21-25

98th Annual Days of '76 PRCA  
Rodeo, Arena, Deadwood,  
SD, 1-888-838-BULL,  
www.DAYSOF76.com

### July 26

15th Annual Car Show  
Langford, SD, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
605-493-6597

### July 31-August 1

Senior Games, Yankton,  
SD, Contact Kristi Hauer at  
605-665-4685

### July 31-August 1

Plein Air & Arts in the Garden,  
Wessington Springs, SD,  
605-354-3826

### August 1

Rockin' Ribfest BBQ  
Competition, Wessington  
Springs, SD, 605-505-1135

### August 1

Foothills Classic, Wessington  
Springs, SD, 605-350-1687

### August 1, 22

The Murder of Miss Kitty  
Comedy Mystery Dinner  
Theatre, Holiday Inn Express  
& Suites, Deadwood, SD,  
605-580-5799

### August 8-9

Threshing Show, Twin Brooks,  
SD, www.threshingshow.com



**August 8-10:**  
Red Power Round Up  
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD  
605-460-0197

Photo courtesy: South Dakota Department of Agriculture

### August 8-10

Red Power Round Up,  
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,  
605-460-0197

### August 9

Online Only Bechyn Czech  
Festival, Online Concert,  
7 p.m., Bechyn,  
Minn., 320-522-1218  
www.facebook.com/Bechyn-  
MinnesotaWorld

### August 14-16

Astronomy Festival, Badlands  
National Park, Wall, SD,  
605-433-5241

### August 21-22

Harvest Festival, Elkton, SD,  
605-524-2681

### August 22

World of Outlaw Sprint Car  
Races plus Wissota MWM,  
Dakota State Fair Speedway,  
Huron, SD, 605-352-4848

### September 7

Hidewood Valley Steam  
Threshing Show, 1 p.m.,  
47326 183rd Ave., Clear Lake,  
SD, 605-881-8405

### September 12-13

Fall Harvest Festival,  
Delmont, SD, 605-928-3792,  
www.twinriversoldiron.org

### September 13

20th Annual Antique Tractor  
and Car Parade, 1 p.m.,  
Farmer, SD, 605-239-4498

### September 25-27

Coal Springs Threshing  
Bee Featuring Massy Harris  
Tractors, Meadow, SD,  
605-788-2229

### September 26

10th Annual ROCS Fall  
Festival, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,  
Springfield, SD,  
605-464-7379

### September 26

Wheelin' to Wall, Wall  
Community Center, Wall, SD

### October 7-8

Energize! Explore Innovative  
Rural Communities  
Conference, Milbank, SD,  
<https://extension.sdstate.edu>

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.