

Cooperative Connections

SDSU Extension
Master Gardener
Program

**Growing Master
Gardeners in SD**

Pages 8-9

**Rodeo School is
in Session**

Pages 12-13



BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, Edmunds County, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on April 20, 2021, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Secretary Larry Bowar kept minutes of the meeting.

The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Tom Thorpe, Paula Petersen, Larry Bowar, Eric Odenbach (teleconference), General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Line Superintendent Rob Vetch and Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer. President Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Carol Schaffner.

Motion by Larry Bowar, seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve administrative business.

Changes to the agenda: none

Changes/additions to minutes from March 16, 2021 meeting: none

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Monday, May 17, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Derrick Larson from Eide Bailly reviewed annual audit with FEM Electric board of directors and staff.

Motion by Paula Petersen, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve 2020 Annual Audit performed by Eide Bailly.

Motion by Larry Bowar, seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to acknowledge manager, staff and electrical department reports, including the following Work Order Inventories.

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| WOI 564 - | \$154,838.64 |
| WOI 565 - | \$ 55,840.48 |
| WOI 566 - | \$ 50,057.80 |
| WOI 567 - | (\$ 1,398.92) |
| Total | \$259,338.00 |

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Larry Bowar and carried to send two letters to East River board and management agreeing to transmission and substation agreements. Letter one is for Onaka substation and letter two is for Hillsvew and Newtown substations.

The March East River Cyber Security Reports were acknowledged.

Resolutions, Nominations, and Contracts: Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Larry Bowar and carried to approve review of policies 501-Wiring Hazards, 502-Annual Membership Meeting, 503-Allowable Voltage Flicker, 504 Value Added Patronage Loan and revised 505-Services other than electricity.

Board acknowledged notice of RESCO director candidates.

Membership Business: The board acknowledged the following



membership business as presented:

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts –

Disconnects: Raymond & Judith Lundberg, Detroit Lakes, MN, Residential; Carey & Stella Lapp, Pollock, Active Farm; Jerry & Dawn Graham, Ipswich, Active Farm;

Connects: Jennifer Brown, Dillard, OR, Residential; Molly & Greg Heyne, Eureka, Active Farm; Kami & Douglas Yost, Ipswich, Active Farm;

Contracts: MaKayla & Nate Collins, Ipswich, Active Farm;

Retired: none

Estates – April 2021: none

73 & Older – April 2021: none

Motion by Paula Petersen, seconded by Larry Bowar and carried to approve 2020 Capital Credit Margin Allocation of \$664,495.85.

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information:

Check register for the month of March 2021 contained information on checks #31402 through #31488, and all automatic payments/withdrawals for March 2021 totaling \$300,613.56.

Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer reviewed quarterly budget projections and financial ratios.

Motion by Larry Bowar, seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

Legal Update: Attorney Beck discussed nominating committee and three candidates were selected, one candidate later declined due to time restraints.

Meeting Report: East River board update was given by Gary Bachman. SDREA Board update was given by Tom Thorpe.

The board acknowledged the receipt of the Safety Meeting, Safety Committee, and Employee Meeting minutes, along with near misses, accident reports and investigations.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.



A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Larry Bowar, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Eric Odenbach, Asst. Sec./Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Rob Vetch, Line Superintendent
Rhonda Tuscherer, Director of
Finance and Benefits

Editor's e-mail:

schaffner@femelectric.coop

In case of a power outage, line trouble or general information, please contact us at:

FEM Electric
PO Box 468 Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone: 1-800-587-5880 or
605-426-6891
e-mail: info@femelectric.coop
Website: www.femelectric.coop
Office Hours are Monday - Friday
8 am to 4:30 pm

FEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451. FEM Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, FEM members devote \$1.00 from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$15 annually. (USPS 189-720) Periodical Postage Paid at Ipswich, SD 57451 and at additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FEM Electric Cooperative Connections, Box 468, Ipswich, SD 57451-0468.

Design assistance by SDREA

**FEM Electric is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.**



Scott Moore

General Manager

Mark your calendar for June 29, 2021 for FEM Electric's/your, annual meeting. There will be an election this year as Larry Bowar plans to retire from the board after 28 years of service. We have two nominated candidates: Kelly Melius, Faulkton and Ryan Nelson, Seneca; one will be elected to fill FEM Electric's District 5 board seat for a three-year term.

We will once again utilize local food trucks to prepare the evening meal and if assistance is needed to get food and drinks to the table, FEM employees will be there to help. We will also have golf carts offering rides to and from your vehicle, along with valet parking if requested. Inflatables will be part of the supervised kids' program and the board will once again offer "\$500 Young Adults Light the Way Scholarship" to a junior or senior in high school. Student

and parent who is a FEM member must be present to win. We try to keep the business meeting and reports to about one hour.

We hope that you, your kids, and grandkids will attend. If you have a neighbor or friend that does not like to drive, please offer them a ride, we like to see a full house.

The words drought and dry conditions have been part of the conversation this spring. We received notice that Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) has implemented operating changes with outages on the transmission system during RED FLAG alerts to help prevent fires. If we experience outages on Onaka, Bowdle, Hillsvie, Newtown, or Leola substations, we could see longer than normal outages before re-energizing the transmission line. All lines will need to be visually looked at and a lineman needs to be present when line is re-energized. Fires have been costly to electric companies throughout the United States and can become deadly.

It has been reported that there is less than normal snowpack in the mountains creating less run off in the Missouri River. This should not affect hydroelectric generation in 2021, but it is something to keep track of. The hydro dam systems are complicated, but well managed as agencies try to keep multiple industries satisfied and viable.

By the time this article gets to your kitchen table, school will be out or about out for the year. I must say thank you to all the schools, kids, and parents for working through an uncertain year. Job well done; it takes teamwork. Corn planting will be in full swing or getting close to completion, but once again, it looks like we should see a good planting season, along with nice commodity prices.

Please be safe this summer, remember to look and know your surroundings and hazards.

If you are planning any additional electric load, please contact Rob Vetch or Ryan Holien at (605) 426-6891.

FEM Electric has electricians that can install or repair your electrical wiring on farms and homes.

Statement Mailing Dates

June 25th for June's energy.

July 28th for July's energy.

Regardless of the statement mail out date payments are due in the office by the 9th of the following month.

Eight Tips to Help You Grow Your Garden Safely

Gardening may seem like a safe hobby - and for the most part it is. But it can potentially lead to injury. Emergency rooms treat more than 400,000 injuries each year related to outdoor garden tools, reports the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Trimming trees and tall bushes can take a deadly turn when electricity is involved. Never trim a tree that has grown into a power line. Metal and wood ladders can transmit electricity into your body if you come into contact with a live wire. Instead, ask your electric cooperative to send a professional to trim the tree.

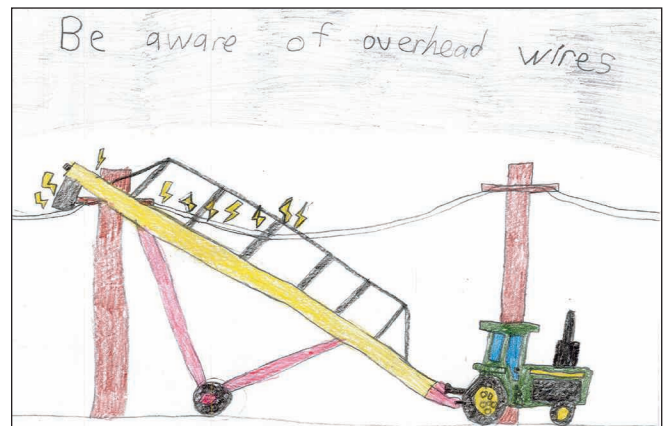
- At least three days before you begin a landscaping project that entails digging, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked.
- Never garden, trim trees or cut the lawn in bad weather. Wet and windy conditions can cause slipping and other hazards. Go inside immediately if you see lightning.
- Outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters should be used for electric tools and trimmers. Never use tools outdoors when it's wet.
- Whenever possible, work in pairs so you're not using electrical equipment when nobody else is around - in case of an accident. And hire a professional if you doubt your ability to complete the job safely.
- Always wear the proper clothing and safety equipment for the task at hand. Gloves, eye and hearing protection, and dust masks can help prevent injuries and illnesses.
- Use the right tools for the job and use them safely. If you are using electric tools, watch where the cord is and unplug tools when not in use.
- Keep garden tools and equipment in proper working order. Equipment that is not maintained properly leaves the door open for potential accidents.
- Stay hydrated, use insect repellent and sunscreen (don't forget your face, neck and ears), and take breaks as needed to rest those hard-working muscles.

Did You Know?

- All thunderstorms produce lightning.
- Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and can strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.

#StormSafety

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



Be Aware of Overhead Wires

Carter Intveld, 11 years old

Carter is the child of Glenn and Darci Intveld of Sioux Falls. They are 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.



Dig in to These Dairy Recipes

Tuna Cheesettes

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ½ c. American cheese | 2 tbsp. chopped dill pickles |
| 2-3 hard boiled eggs, chopped | ½ c. salad dressing |
| 1 can (7 oz.) tuna | ½ tsp. salt |
| 2 tbsp. chopped onion | ¼ tsp. pepper |

Preheat oven to 350. Mix ingredients and pile on ½ of a hamburger bun to make an open-faced sandwich. Bake for 30 min. Serve warm.

Ruth Schilberg, Viborg

Crustless Cheddar Mini Quiches

| | |
|--|--|
| Non-stick cooking spray | 1 egg |
| 1/2 teaspoon olive oil | 1/3 cup sun-dried tomatoes, plus additional tomatoes for garnish |
| 1 leek, cleaned and finely chopped (about 1 cup) | 1/2 teaspoon fresh or dried thyme |
| 1 cup reduced-fat shredded Cheddar cheese, divided | |
| 1 cup fat-free milk | |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly spray a 12-cup muffin pan* with non-stick cooking spray. Heat oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Cook leeks until softened, stirring frequently, about 5 minutes. Divide leeks among muffin cups and top with 2/3 cup of Cheddar cheese. Blend milk, egg, sun-dried tomatoes and thyme in a blender or food processor for about 20 seconds or until tomato is minced. Pour milk mixture over cheese in muffin cups and top each with remaining cheese. Bake 30 minutes or until tops and edges are browned. Cool in pan for 3 minutes; serve warm or cold. Top with additional pieces of sun-dried tomato, if desired.

*May substitute with aluminum muffin cups or individual custard cups, if desired.

usdairy.com

Scalloped Eggs and Bacon

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1/4 cup chopped onion | 6 hard boiled eggs, sliced |
| 2 tablespoons butter | 1/4 teaspoon pepper |
| 2 tablespoons flour | 1/4 teaspoon salt |
| 1 1/2 cups milk | 1 1/2 cups crushed potato chips |
| 1 cup shredded American cheese | 12 bacon strips |
| 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard | |

Cut bacon strips into 1 inch pieces and fry until crisp. Sauté onion in butter until tender. Stir in flour, gradually add milk and cook, stirring until thickened. Add cheese and mustard stirring until cheese melts. Place half of the egg slices in a greased 10 X 6 baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover with half of the cheese sauce, potato chips and bacon. Repeat layering. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Tips: Prepare eggs and bacon the night before and put together the next morning to save time. May also use ham cubes instead of bacon. Double the recipe and use a 9 X 13 baking dish.

Mary Jo Semmier, Chancellor

Very Berry Ice Cream

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 2 lbs frozen berries (raspberries, blueberries, strawberries or blackberries) | 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk |
| 1 tablespoon honey | 1/2 teaspoon salt |

In blender, pulse berries, condensed milk, honey and salt until smooth, scraping down sides. Pour mixture into 5-by-9-inch loaf pan. Freeze uncovered 4 hours, or until set.

Culinary.net

Please send your favorite dairy 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 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

FEM Electric Association, Inc. Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Notice is hereby given that the 73rd Annual Meeting of the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., will be held at the Ipswich High School in the City of Ipswich, State of South Dakota, at **six-thirty p.m. on Tuesday, June 29, 2021**, for the purpose of:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of a director for three-year term.

With the election of a director at this meeting, the following members have been nominated for director by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the bylaws of the Cooperative:

District 5 – Kelly Melius

District 5– Ryan Nelson

Please take further notice that any fifteen or more members of the cooperative may make additional nominations by listing their nominee and the appropriate Directorate District and signing such Petition of Nomination. The petition must be submitted to the board of directors at least 25 days prior to the annual meeting. Any such petition so submitted will be posted, along with the list of nominations made by the Nominating Committee.

3. Transacting any such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Larry Bowar, Secretary, FEM Electric Association, Inc.



Heikes Family Farm Rides Wave of New Interest in Community Supported Agriculture

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

After enduring the rigors of running an organically-grown farm for several years, Heidi Heikes was ready to let the place go to seed.

But then the pandemic that pummeled so many industries last year proved to be a boon for the Heikes Family Farm operation. The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project was overwhelmed by consumers who suddenly became interested in locally grown produce.

“I was about ready to just pack it in. It takes a lot of work to run a small organically-grown farm,” Heikes recalled. “But then my phone just blew up. I was getting 10 to 15 new shares a day.”

The Heikes Family Farm CSA works on a shareholder arrangement where individuals buy into the farming operation and receive a share of the resulting crop. They also share the risk if the crop doesn't bring the anticipated yield.



Sam Heikes said he believes Community Supported Agriculture is a trend that's here to stay.

Following closely behind the new wave of shareholders came a “corporate share” commitment from a local hospital to supply fresh food for both the hospital and the affiliated nursing home. Then the farm was really riding high, feeding 500-600 people through nearly 100 shareholders.

Heidi's father, Sam, said he believes the trend of community supported agriculture was bound to make its way to South Dakota in a matter of time.

“South Dakota is just catching up with the buy fresh, buy local, farm-to-table movement,” he said. “There's been a dramatic increase in demand. I think the pandemic made people realize they want to go back to the past. They don't want GMOs, pesticides and chemicals in the food that they feed their families.”

Sam Heikes spent his career as a production agronomist building up central South Dakota as the nation's foremost sunflower producer. He returned to the family farm in Vermillion 10 years ago and decided to try establishing a CSA operation. He was in agreement with his daughter that maybe the demand

for organic produce wasn't as robust as they both wanted to believe.

“I lost money for many years and we were ready to give it up,” he said. “Now we have more shareholders than we could have dreamed of. I think it's a trend that's here to stay. It's great food at a great value. Once people get a taste of what organically-grown produce tastes like, they don't want to go back to food that's grown in another region and trucked in from hundreds of miles away.”

Mondays and Fridays are frenetic at the farm. Food distribution typically begins in May and consumers arrive to pick up their produce on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For her part, Heidi is happy to have more activity on the farm. She describes herself as a “people person” and noted that the place was getting a bit isolated and lonely. She welcomes the new relationships that have developed since more consumers have discovered the farm. Many volunteers are medical students and athletes from the local university campus who want to make sure they consume healthy diets.

“I love meeting people and eating healthy food,” she said.

Heidi invites more curious consumers to visit www.heikesfamilyfarms.com.



Heidi Heikes was ready to give up efforts to provide organically-grown produce when the pandemic generated new interest in the CSA model.



SDSU Extension Master Gardener Ruth Smith prepares for a local spring plant sale. Photos by Billy Gibson.

MASTER GARDENERS

Extension Program Seeks to Spread the Love of Gardening

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdua.coop

Sorry, Walt Disney. The happiest place on earth for Ruth Smith isn't located in Florida or California. It's found in the serene confines of her garden in Pierre, S.D.

A retired educator, Smith experiences relaxation and contentment while growing herbs, vegetables and florals in her terraced backyard garden. After spending a career in public education and dedicating herself to the development and guidance of local students, Smith now finds her bliss by focusing her efforts on cultivating fresh produce and plants.

She even confesses a proud affinity for something that most people absolutely abhor – weeding.

“I actually like weeding. I like tending to the plants and bringing them up with some tender loving care,” Smith said. “I always tell people this is my happy place. Some people like to take a boat out on the river or go hunting. This is what we like to do.”

The “we” Smith refers to includes her husband, Mark. Both enjoy gardening and both have been through the Master Gardener program administered by South Dakota State University Extension.

As current president of the Prairie Potters Master Gardeners Club based in Pierre, Smith is an enthusiastic proponent of serving as an ambassador for horticulture education both locally and throughout the state. She and Mark completed the training

and course work required to become Master Gardeners about 10 years ago, although Mark is currently on “inactive” status.

The goal of the program is to turn gardening enthusiasts into expert volunteers who share their research-based knowledge with community members across the state. Since the program's inception in 1985, more than 400 Master Gardeners have logged nearly 80,000 hours of volunteer service answering questions from the public and hosting community programs.

It's that public interaction that interests Smith. She enjoys attending local farmer markets, plant sales, workshops, school programs and other community events.

“The fun part is getting out among people and helping them solve



Mark Smith repairs a retaining wall in front of his home in Pierre.

Master Gardener Clubs in SD

| Club Name | Area |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Brookings Area Master Gardeners | Brookings |
| Coteau Prairie Master Gardeners | Watertown |
| Custer County Master Gardeners | Custer |
| Dakota Prairie Master Gardeners | Miller |
| Fall River Master Gardeners | Hot Springs |
| Garden Gate Master Gardeners | Winner |
| Harding County Master Gardeners | Buffalo |
| Huron Area Master Gardeners | Huron |
| Minnehaha Co. | Sioux Falls |
| Missouri Valley Master Gardeners | Yankton |
| Northern Hills Master Gardeners | Spearfish |
| Pennington County Master Gardeners | Rapid City |
| Perkins County Master Gardeners | Bison |
| Prairie Partners Master Gardeners | Aberdeen |
| Prairie Potters Master Gardeners | Pierre |
| South Central Master Gardeners | White River |

any problems they're encountering and giving them suggestions on how they can get better results for their efforts," she said. "We love to have conversations with people and we're not afraid to say we don't know something. We can always find out the answers and get back with them."

So, what's the question she gets asked the most? "Hmmm. It's probably, 'Something is wrong with my tomato plants. What should I do?'"

Rhoda Burrows is a horticulture specialist with SDSU Extension and works frequently with Master Gardeners. She said interest in the program has grown since the pandemic struck in March of 2020. While participants weren't allowed to attend in-person events as representatives of the program through most of last year, online teleconferences were held with many new prospects joining in.

"It's just such a fun group to work with," she said. "They're so enthusiastic and they have a deep hunger for knowledge and a heart for helping out each other in their communities. After the pandemic when people were restricting their movements, they discovered that gardening can be a good, wholesome family activity. Gardening is a source of fresh produce and more people are appreciating the benefits of healthy eating."

More information about the Master Gardeners program can be found by visiting www.extension.sdstate.edu. Those interested in becoming part of the program can contact SDSU's Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Aimee House Ladonski at 605-782-3290.

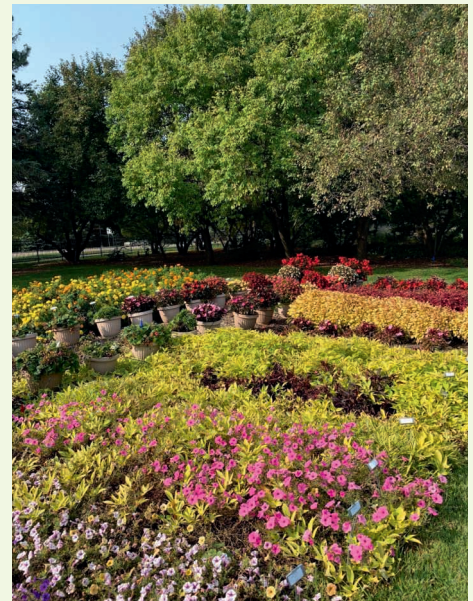
McCrary Gardens is an Inspiration for Horticulture Hobbyists

Gardeners are typically passionate self-starters and don't require much outside motivation. But McCrary Gardens is an ideal place to go for those gardeners looking for an ounce of inspiration over the summer months.

Created in 2012 on the Brookings campus of South Dakota State University, McCrary Gardens features a 25-acre garden and 45-acre arboretum along with a 9,300-square-foot Education and Visitor Center.

While visitation was down in 2020, McCrary Gardens is expecting a busy summer and welcomes gardening enthusiasts to see the ever-changing display of flowers, vegetables, herbs and more.

New to the facility this summer is a Native American medicinal garden area, a "three-sisters" garden with beans, corn and squash, as well as a pollinator garden designed to attract bees and butterflies. Professors and instructors from the Native American studies department collaborated as consultants on the project.



McCrary Gardens is open to visitors on Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"There is always something new that's growing and blooming, and we have numerous annual beds that are planted each year," said Director Lisa Marotz.

What is expected to be a spectacular summer will culminate in the annual Garden Party held each year on the first Friday in August. While plans are still being finalized, past events have included food vendors, live music, games and free admission for the day.

"Pretty much everything we have is in bloom at that time. We want to invite everyone to come out and see what we have to offer," Marotz said.

McCrary Gardens is a privately-funded \$4.2-million facility that was the vision of founder and SDSU professor S.A. McCrary.

Last August, McCrary Gardens was named as a benefactor of an endowment from the estate of Frank and Mildred Denholm. A gift of more than \$422,000 went to the gardens while an additional gift of the same amount went to The South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, which is hosting an exhibit entitled, "Electrifying Rural South Dakota," through Sept. 1.

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT #5



Ryan Nelson

Ryan Nelson, a 1990 graduate from Faulkton High School, started farming and ranching that same year with his grandfather, Carl Hagenlock. They formed H-N Farms located north of Seneca.

His wife Jennifer and he have two children and five grandchildren. Ryan currently serves on the Faulkton Area School Board, the Faulkton Area Economic Development Corporation and is a member of the Seneca Fire Department.



Kelly Melius

Kelly Melius is a lifelong resident of Faulk County. He grew up on a family farm near Faulkton, and then attended Mitchell Vo-Tech where he received an electrical degree.

Following graduation, he worked as an electrician in Minnesota for 2 years before returning to the family farm, where he and his family still live. While farming, he owned and operated an electrical contracting business called Kelly's Electric for several years. He is the founder and owner of Common Sense Manufacturing and currently sits on the Faulk County Economic Development Board, the State Dakota Resources Board, and has been involved in the Dakota Rising program as both a participant and mentor.

Kelly and his wife Dawn, who is the local Farmers Union Insurance agent, have enjoyed raising 5 children and have hosted foreign exchange students. Kelly welcomes the opportunity to serve on the FEM Board because he feels that FEM has always been operated very well and would like to give input from the residents of Faulk County as to the future of our electrical cooperative.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

If you or a family member has a medical or critical need that requires constant electrical power, it is ***very important*** that we know. Please contact FEM Electric at 605-426-6891 or 1-800-587-5880.



**FEM Electric will be closed on
July 5th, in honor of the
4th of July holiday**

2021 FEM ANNUAL MEETING

Be sure to attend!



FEM Electric Association's 73rd Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 29, 2021
Ipswich High School
Ipswich, SD

5:00 pm Meal - Registration following
6:30 pm Business Meeting
Inflatables for children before
and during meeting

\$40 FEM energy credit available to each registered membership attending the meeting. Registration tickets will be collected to verify attendance following the meeting at the auditorium exits.

You should receive a credit on your active billing account in June for the 2021 Capital Credits. Inactive members will receive a check.

Cash drawings for the Adults

\$500 Scholarship drawing for a Junior or Senior

FEM Annual Meeting Sample Meal Ticket

June 29, 2021

One meal per person/ticket

Choose one Foodtruck:

Gypsy Nosh

- Crispy Chicken Sandwich meal

Auntie Mimi's

- Black Angus Bacon Burger with fries



A student at the Korkow Rodeo School learns the “lift, charge and stay back” method of saddle bronc riding under the watchful eye of former champion Chad Ferley. Photos by Billy Gibson

Class is in Session

Rodeo School Teaches Youngsters the Basics of the Sport

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Jeff Reis saw that his son was in big trouble, so he quickly hurled himself over the heavy metal railing and sprinted across the rodeo arena toward the bucking chute.

That’s where Casey, a high school senior bull rider and student at the Korkow Rodeo School, was getting set for his final run of the day. But things weren’t proceeding as planned. While Casey was going through his preparations, the agitated bull began climbing up the railing and turning toward the unwelcomed antagonist straddling his back.

Casey was able to get a grip on the top rail of the chute and the spotters eventually pulled him free, but not before his father had gotten halfway across the arena floor.

“Bulls have done this before, but I haven’t seen one get that high or be able to turn the way this one did,” Jeff recalled. “When it spun and belly rolled and started pulling Casey away from the spotters, I panicked because I thought something truly catastrophic was about to happen.”

Thanks to the spotters and handlers and his own quick reflexes as a multi-sport

athlete, Casey escaped the few seconds of terror injury-free. The recalcitrant animal got everyone’s attention and made a big scene, but it did nothing to diminish Casey’s grit and determination. Even his father was a bit surprised at what happened next.

Casey made it clear he wasn’t nearly finished with that bull.

“I couldn’t believe his mentality after that,” Jeff said. “He was shook up, but he went out and got a new spur strap that had broken off, fixed all of his equipment, got his rope back on and rode that same bull.”

Lots of lessons were learned during that dust-up, but then that’s the purpose of the Korkow Rodeo School. Having completed its 36th year in April, the school is one of the oldest and most established of several similar schools operating across the state that offer instruction to hundreds of eager young riders and future champions.

Jim Korkow, owner of the Anchor K Ranch east of Pierre, said the school tends to separate those who are genuinely interested in rodeo from those who “might want to go looking for a set of golf clubs.”



Jeff Willert preps a saddle bronc student for the youngster’s first ride.

Though last year’s school was canceled, dozens of students of various ages and skill levels returned to the Anchor K this time around to learn the basics of saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding, and also ways to stay safe.

Korkow’s son T.J. runs the annual three-day school, which is led by a team of skilled riders and instructors as well as a physical trainer and other highly-experienced support staff. Each year the school attracts dozens of riders from several different states.

Instructor Chad Ferley is a two-time PRCA World Champion saddle bronc rider and five-time NFR qualifier from Oelrichs who has participated in the event

**SD HS Rodeo Assn.
Regional Qualifying
Rodeos:**

June 4-6 - Huron,
Highmore, Buffalo, Wall
June 11-13 - Watertown,
Winner, Dupree, Sturgis

State HS Finals Rodeo:

June 15-19 - Ft. Pierre, SD

National HS Finals Rodeo:

July 18-24 - Lincoln, NE

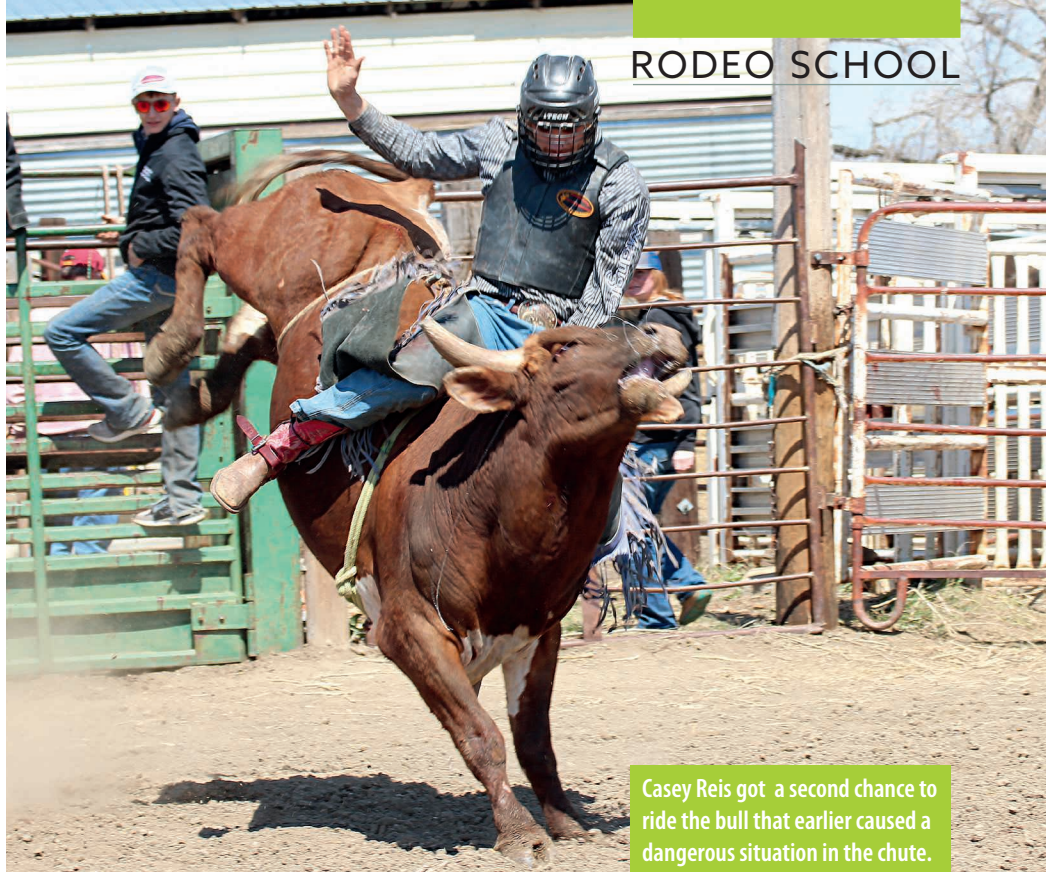
for the past 12 years. Ferley, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, said students don't leave the school ready for the pro circuit but are there to learn the basics... at least after the initial shock wears off from that maiden voyage that takes the young rider from zero to 90 in a split second.

"After their first ride, they always say it was a whole lot faster than they thought it was going to be," Ferley said. "At first, most of them just black out. We're here to give them the basics, talk to them after each ride and tell them what they did wrong and what they did right, and give them the information they can apply and practice on down the line as they ride more horses."

Fellow instructor Jeff Willert is a PRCA World Champion saddle bronc competitor, five-time NFR qualifier and member of West Central Electric Cooperative. He said he enjoys passing on to youngsters all the tips and tricks that he learned throughout his successful rodeo career.

"With bronc riding, we tell them to lift, charge and stay back," he said. "But things happen so fast, and it's hard for them to pay attention because as soon as that chute opens, they lose their train of thought. You just try to drill things into their head and they eventually get it. It's trial and error. The more you ride, the more you learn."

Ken Korkow said throughout more than three decades of operating the school, one particular student stands out among all the others. An uninitiated 42-year-old gentleman from Alaska came to the ranch



Casey Reis got a second chance to ride the bull that earlier caused a dangerous situation in the chute.

with the intention of checking off an item from his bucket list of things he'd never done before, Korkow recalled. Organizers always make a point to match the stock with the rider's level of experience, so the instructor set up the non-traditional student with a black angus pasture bull.

"He managed to stay on it for longer than I thought he would," Korkow said. "The instructor blew the horn at six seconds when he saw the guy was about to come off, but he blew it early just so he'd think he made it the whole eight seconds. But all the kids who were around got excited for him and went out there and cheered for

him and gave him high-fives. It was quite a moment I'll always remember."

While some express concern about the future of rodeo in the age of youngsters getting more involved in technology, Willert said he doesn't share that concern.

"It can be rewarding from many stand-points," he said. "There are still a lot of kids who don't spend all day playing video games. They see the value of hard work and the farming and ranching lifestyle and they respect the culture. They understand that while some things may be difficult, it's all worth it when you can walk away knowing that you've stood up to the test."



A young rider hangs on just before getting thrown to the ground.

Suds and Savings

10 ways to save energy in the laundry room



Your clothes washer and dryer account for a significant portion of energy consumption from major appliances, and let's face it--laundry is no one's favorite chore. Make the most of your laundry energy use! There are several easy ways you can save energy (and money) in the laundry room. The Department of Energy recommends the following tips for saving on suds:

Wash with cold water. Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half, and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you would normally get from washing in warm water.

Wash full loads when possible. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up if you can.

Use the high-speed or extended spin cycle in the washer. This setting will remove more moisture before drying, reducing your drying time and the extra wear on clothing.

Dry heavier cottons separately. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Make use of the "cool down" cycle. If your dryer has this cycle option, you can save energy because the clothes will

finish drying with the remaining heat in the dryer.

Use lower heat settings to dry clothing. Regardless of drying time, you will still use less energy.

Use dryer balls. Dryer balls, usually wool or rubber, will help keep clothes separated for faster drying, and they can help reduce static, so you can eliminate dryer sheets.

Switch loads while the dryer is warm. This allows you to take advantage of the remaining heat from the previous cycle.

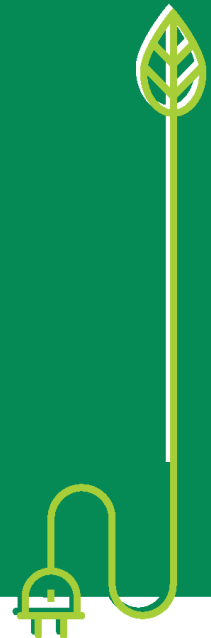
Clean the lint filter after each drying cycle. If you use dryer sheets, remember to scrub the filter once a month with a toothbrush to remove excess buildup.

Purchase ENERGY STAR®-rated washers and dryers. When it's time to purchase a new washer or dryer, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. New washers and dryers that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating use about 20% less energy than conventional models.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: www.energy.gov



ONCE THE POWER IS OUT HOW IS IT SAFELY RESTORED?

When conditions are favorable for a storm, severe weather can take down power lines or disrupt your electric service in several ways.

It can happen when wind causes trees or branches to fall into power lines or when ice buildup on wires causes the lines to sway and "gallop." When lightning strikes, transformers and other electric equipment can be affected.

Slick road conditions can also play a role when vehicles strike a power pole or pad-mounted transformer and cause a disruption in service.

Please know that when the power does go out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are the steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:



STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE

We assess the damage to utility equipment and power lines across the service area

STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS

We address immediate safety risks, including downed power lines



STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We ensure that public health and safety facilities are operational

STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS

We repair (usually in this order): distribution lines, and then service lines to properties



If you see a downed power line, always assume it is live and deadly.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

Line Patrol

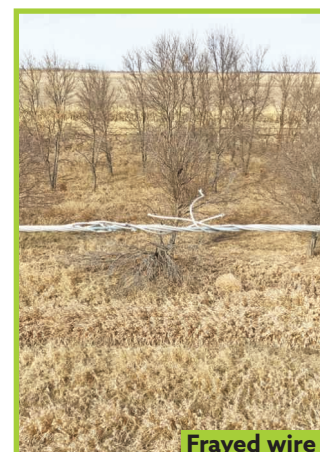
Each one to two years, FEM linemen patrol every mile of FEM's distribution lines. This is done in order to find anything that may be a hazard to the members or public. They finished up this year in April. Some of the things they are looking for are damaged wire and transformers, loose guy wires, low-hanging wire, leaning poles, etc.

Occasionally, they will observe something that is potentially hazardous on the secondary lines (the member-owned side), and they will report it. The member will then receive a letter from FEM notifying them of the observed hazard and requesting that the situation be addressed. This is done strictly for the safety of the member.

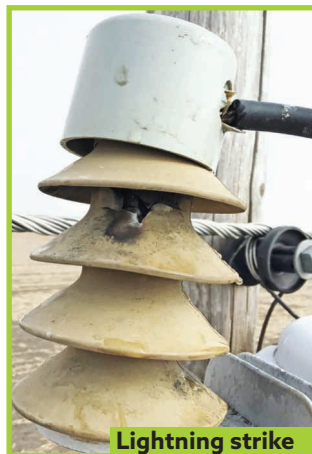
Below are some of the items that they found this year.



Pole hit



Frayed wire



Lightning strike



Dirt in cabinet

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

May 21-23

Annual Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Downtown, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

May 21-23

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, All State Parks and Recreation Areas, SD
605-773-3391

May 22

Frühlingsfest and Spring Market, Main Street, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

May 22

La Framboise Island Bike Race, Steamboat Park, Pierre, SD
605-224-7054

May 31

PPQG 25th Annual Quilt Show, Harding County REC Center, Buffalo, SD
605-641-5591

June 3-5

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show and Sale, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4115

June 3-6

Wheel Jam, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7340

June 4-5

State BBQ Championships, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7354

June 4-6

Black Hills Blues Stomp and Swamp Romp, Rush No More RV Resort and Campground, Sturgis, SD
605-347-2916



Czech Days, June 18-19, 2021 (Photo by Travel South Dakota)

June 4-6

Lake Andes Fish Days, City-wide, Lake Andes, SD
605-487-7694

June 5-6

18th Annual Wessington Springs Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs Rodeo Grounds, Wessington Springs, SD
605-770-5720

June 5-6

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD
866-489-9241

June 12

Yankton Ribfest, Downtown, Yankton, SD
866-260-2134

June 18-19

Czech Days, Lidice Street, Tabor, SD
605-463-2478

June 18-20

Ipswich Trail Days: Rodeo/ Neal McCoy Concert, Trail Days Complex, Ipswich, SD
605-426-6155

June 18, 25

River City Friday Nights, Downtown, Chamberlain, SD
605-234-4416

June 18-19

Wild Bill Days, Main Street, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

June 19

605 Summer Classic Beer and Music Festival, Cherapa Place, Sioux Falls, SD
605-274-1999

June 19

South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation Prime Time Gala, Denny Sanford PREMIER Center, Sioux Falls, SD
605-945-2333

June 19-20

Aberdeen Arts in the Park, Melgaard Park, Aberdeen, SD
605-226-1557

June 25-27

Leola Rhubarb Festival, City-wide, Leola, SD
605-439-3234

June 30-July 4

Annual Black Hills Roundup, 300 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD
605-723-2010

July 2-4

Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo, Various Locations, Mobridge, SD
605-845-2387

July 16-17

Aberdeen Senior Games, Aberdeen Parks and Rec, Aberdeen, SD
605-216-2822

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.