

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Jessie Ruml pursues a labor of love growing an assortment of fresh-cut flowers at Pixie Acres Flower Farm near Castlewood
Photo by Rachel Clelland Photography

In Bloom

Cut flowers spread summer cheer
Pages 8-9

Addressing power supply and demand
Pages 12-13

BOARD REPORT



The FEM Board of Directors meets with FEM staff.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on May 17, 2022, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Secretary Eric Odenbach kept minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Eric Odenbach, Tom Thorpe, General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Line Superintendent Rob Vetch, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer.

Ryan Holien and Jesse Brown were present until the board's meeting reports were given.

Changes to the agenda: revised agenda was distributed before meeting started. WINS Water (Investment in Northern SD) and Executive Session were removed from the revised agenda.

Changes/Additions to Minutes from April 19, 2022, meeting: none

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by

Paula Petersen and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to acknowledge manager, staff, and electrical department reports.

The board acknowledged reviewing the April 2022 Cyber Security Report.

Resolutions, Contracts, and Nominations:

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve revised policy 414.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve NRECA RS and 401k Restatement Resolution.

Board acknowledged receiving notice of CFC Request for Candidates, District 6, Position D (Director-Director) for CFC board candidates.

Membership Business: Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Paula Petersen to acknowledge membership business and approve service contract.

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Margaret Malsam Estate, Watertown, Vacant Farm

Reconnects: A & M Malsam Farm, LLC, Tea, Vacant Farm

Contracts: Rodney Bade, Northville, Camper Hookup

Retired Locations: Minnie Pietz, Long Lake, Shop

Capital Credits:

Estates – April 2022 – three = \$2,866.08

73 & Older – April 2022 – three = \$2,283.87

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: Check register for the month of April 2022 contained information on checks #32456 through #32534 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for April 2022 totaling \$439,326.29.

The April 2022 financials were reviewed along with acknowledgment of receipt of the audited 2021 RUS Statistical and Operating Report.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to retire \$242,811.64 in FEM Electric capital credits, \$123,272.77 from Basin and \$52,644.00 from East River less value added East River loans of \$1,883.58 for a total \$416,844.83.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

Legal Update: none

Meeting Report: East River board update was given by Gary Bachman. SDREA Special board meeting report was discussed by Tom Thorpe.

The board acknowledged the receipt of the Safety Meeting Minutes with current accident and near miss reports from April 12, 2022.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Kelly Melius, 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

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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.

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Design assistance by SDREA

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



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

I don't want to cry wolf, but I do want FEM Electric members to be informed.

On February 16, 2021, FEM Electric had two substations shut down by our power provider due to a lack of available power. This was caused by a cold front that spanned Canada to Texas. There was a series of issues that went wrong causing the disruption. I believe the main factor is government regulations and policies.

For the past several months, electric providers have been having similar conversations about a lack of electric generation and transmission lines to transport power during the summer months. Electric cooperatives believe we need an all the above approach to power generation, renewables, natural, gas, coal, hydro, and nuclear. With summer and hotter temperatures both of our ISO's (Independent System Operators) MISO and SPP are looking for options to alleviate power disruptions in 2022.

This is what happens when we have both environmental and financial government policies that create unstable long-term investments. No company wants to invest or expand in power production without a long-term strategy with a planned payback. We need to work at getting back to a true electric market where baseload generators, coal,

nuclear, and hydro, have preference in the energy market. Base load is just what it sounds like: it is designed to operate 365 days a year 24 hours a day. Because of government policy, we have it backwards. We are forced to use renewables and peaking plants as the first choice of electric generation.

There is no easy inexpensive fix for this problem. America is hungry for more power, and it is our job as electricity providers to make sure we have a secure plan for our members to operate. Affordable, reliable, safe power is a must to maintain a strong economy and a safe America.

As I said earlier, no scare tactics, just good information for our members.

If you are planning on adding any electrical load, please call Rob Vetch or Ryan Holien early.

Be safe over the July 4th weekend and all summer.

Statement Mailing Dates

June 30, 2022 for June's energy

July 27, 2022 for July's energy

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

Reduce your risk of shock in the home

Contact with electricity can result in something as innocuous (but still painful) as a mild shock to severe injuries like nerve damage and burns. In some cases, it can even cause cardiac arrest and death. Here's a list of some of the most common shock risks inside a home.

1. Appliances. Most shocks from household appliances occur during repairs. It's not enough to turn off an appliance before working on it - you need to unplug it to reduce risk. Large appliances are responsible for 18 percent of household electrical accidents; small appliances account for 12 percent.

There's also danger if your appliance comes into contact with water. Many of these hazards can be avoided by using a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI is a protective device installed on electrical outlets, primarily used where water is present. When the device detects an imbalance in the electric current, it turns off the power to minimize the potential for an electric shock.

2. Ladders. Typically, ladders present a falling hazard, but 8 percent of household shocks are also related to ladders. Electrocutation typically happens when the ladder makes contact with electrical wires. Before you use a ladder, make sure you can clearly see all power lines in the area - including those that may be hidden by tree branches. Ensure that the ladder is 10 feet away and won't contact a power line if it falls in any direction.

3. Power tools. Power tools account for 9 percent of consumer product-related shocks. According to OSHA, when you use power tools that are not double-insulated, are damaged or have damaged cords, you increase your chances of being injured. The chance of danger also increases when you use incompatible cords, use power tools incorrectly or use them in wet conditions. This is another situation in which GFCIs can help.

4. Electrical outlets and extension cords. Inserting anything that doesn't belong - screwdrivers, knives, fingers or toy cars, to name a few - into an electrical outlet can result in a dangerous electrical contact.

Use cover plates that fit properly and safety covers on all outlets. By installing tamper-resistant receptacles, outlets will have permanent security against foreign objects being inserted into the slots.

Any broken, loose or worn-out plugs, switches and light fixtures should be replaced immediately.

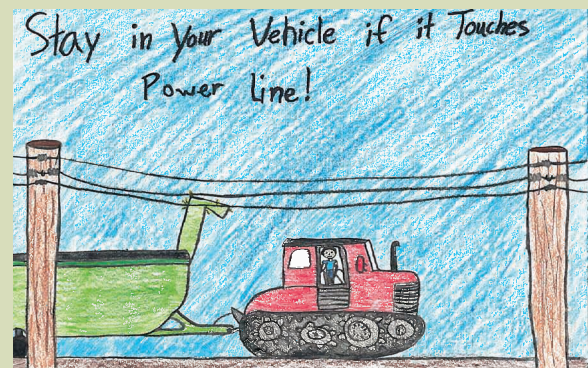
COOPERATIVES RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES



When back-to-back spring snow storms struck Burke Divide Electric Cooperative (Columbus, ND), cooperatives from South Dakota and Minnesota traveled long distances to respond to the call for help.

When a deadly derecho swept through eastern South Dakota in early May, co-op crews worked long hours to restore power to thousands of electric cooperative members. It's what cooperative linemen do.

Find out more about how our line crews respond to emergencies by visiting Cooperative Connections Plus. Simply scan the QR code at right.



Call 811 before you dig

Esmae Beld

Esmae Beld, age 11, offers some sound advice to stay inside your vehicle and call for help if it comes in contact with energized power lines. Esmae is the child of Orlando and Shanna Beld. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative.

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.

DREAMY DESSERTS



LEMON MERINGUE PIE

Ingredients:

Pie

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1-1/2 cups cold water
- 3 egg yolks, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick® Pure Lemon Extract
- 1 baked pie crust (9-inch)

Meringue Topping

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick® Cream Of Tartar
- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick® Pure Lemon Extract

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix sugar and cornstarch in medium saucepan. Gradually stir in water until smooth. Stir in egg yolks. Stirring constantly, bring to boil on medium heat; boil 1 minute. Remove from heat. Stir in lemon juice, butter and extract. Pour hot filling into baked pie crust. For the Meringue Topping, mix sugar and cream of tartar. Beat egg whites in medium bowl with electric mixer on high speed until foamy. Gradually add sugar mixture and extract, beating until stiff peaks form. Spread meringue evenly over hot filling, sealing to edges of crust. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until meringue is golden. Cool completely on wire rack. Store in refrigerator.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

CARAMEL STUFFED KRISPIE BARS

Ingredients:

Caramel filling

- 4 oz. caramel Kraft bits, unwrapped
- 4 oz. sweetened condensed milk
- 8 tbsp. butter

Rice Krispie layer

- 12 tbsp. butter, halved
- 10 cup Rice Krispies, halved
- 8 cup mini marshmallows, split in half
- 2 cup additional mini marshmallows for sprinkling

METHOD

Line pan (9x13) with nonstick foil. Microwave caramel bits, butter and condensed milk until melted and smooth when stirred. Microwave 6 tablespoons butter and 4 cups marshmallows just a minute and stir. Stir in cereal and press into pan. Pour on the caramel. Sprinkle on the additional 2 cups marshmallows and place in freezer for 15 minutes. Use the remaining Krispie ingredients and repeat directions. Press this layer on top of the marshmallows and caramel layer and return to freezer. Switch to the refrigerator and let set for a few hours. Cut into big squares and enjoy.

Eric Neville, Milesville

DUMP BARS

Ingredients:

- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup cocoa
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup chocolate chips

METHOD

“Dump” all ingredients except chocolate chips together in bowl. Mix with spoon. Spread in greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top. Do not stir. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Deanna Poppen, Sioux Falls



WHO OWNS WHAT

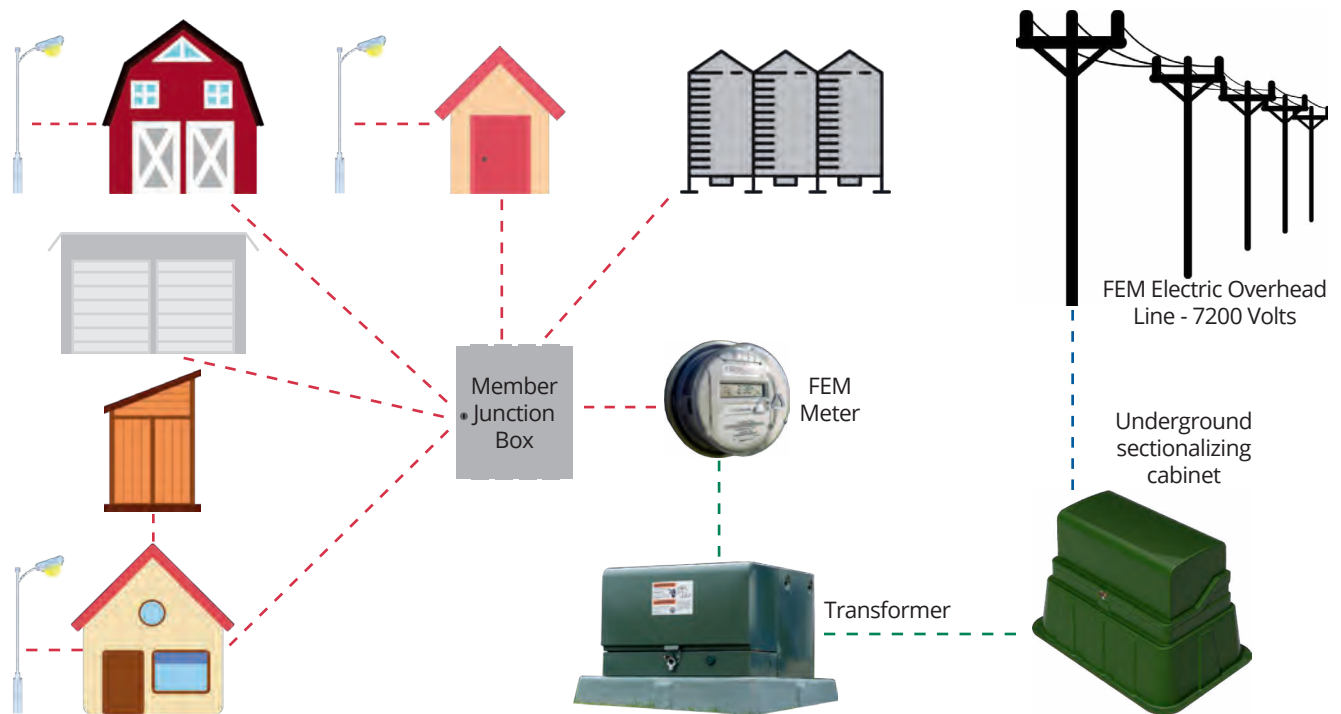
When working on projects this summer, you may wonder why some lines are not marked after you've called 811 and your utility companies have marked their lines. Each utility company has different policies on where their services end, and what is the consumers, or members, responsibility to have located.

The chart below demonstrates who owns what part of the electrical lines leading to member's property and structures. FEM owns the **blue overhead lines** that carry 7200 volts of electricity, and **green underground lines** which also carry 7200 volts. Overhead lines bring electricity to the underground sectionalizing cabinet. From cabinet, lines carry electricity to the transformer and convert it to 120/240 volts, and a secondary wire takes the converted electricity to the top of the meter. The

meter, which measures a members electrical usage, is also owned by FEM. Anything past the meter, or any of the **red lines**, would be the member's responsibility.

For lines that are a members responsibility, please do not go off of memory. Over time, lines tend to shift, and may not be in the original place they were buried. If you hit an unmarked line, you could cause extensive damage, or worse, cause a serious injury or death. You can request member-owned electrical lines to be located by FEM for a fee. If you're having work contracted, your contractor may also have locators they use.

Remember, always use South Dakota One Call or dial 811 for your safety. It could save your life, and save you money.



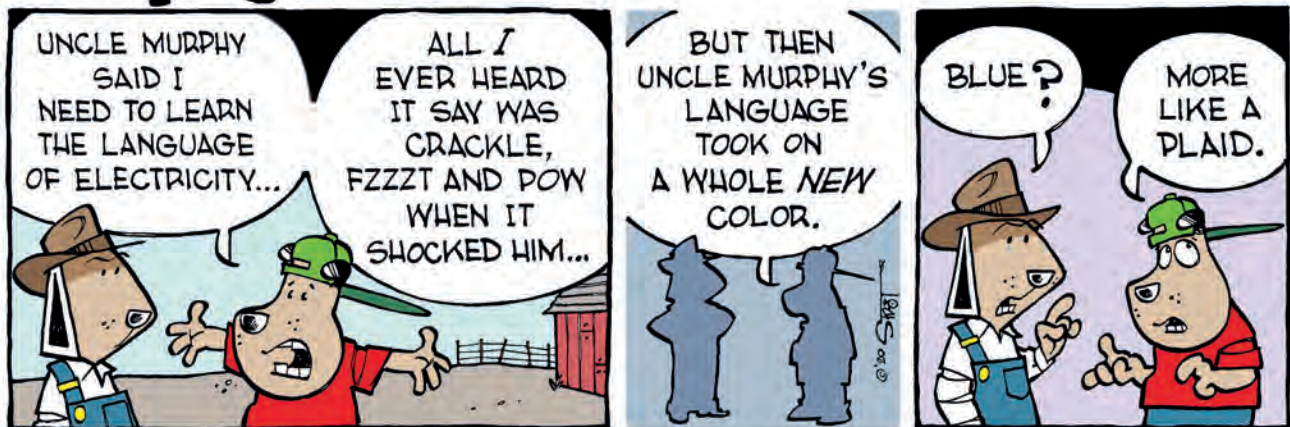
LOOKING FOR A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN? GIVE US A CALL!

FEM Electric offers electrical wiring services in Faulk, Edmunds and McPherson counties. Some services include wiring houses, pasture pumps, shops, and grain bins.

Services are provided for cooperative members as well as non-members, so spread the word!

Call us at 605-426-6891 to discuss your electrical needs or upcoming projects. If you have a large project, please plan ahead and call us early. Like much of the world, we are not immune to supply chain delays, and we would like to be able to service your project in a timely manner.

Murphy



Dear FEM,

Thanks so much for your generous donation towards the Faulkton Music Program. We are thanking you for your generous donation of waters. All the profits we make will go toward our band trip.

Sincerely,
Faulkton Music Program

Drake ashland Brooklyn
Mason K Leah G Courtney
Philip August Raegan
Brooklyn Lisa K Gabby K Momi Kelli Morgan Sean Reese Emma
Chen Aida Jessica Savannah
Nevah Kee Maxwell
 Pete

With sincere gratitude and appreciation.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- @FEMElectric on
- @fem_electric on
- @FEMelectric on

We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.



IN BLOOM

Philip and Jessie Ruml raise an assortment of fresh-cut flower varieties on their micro-farm near Castlewood. *Photo by Rachel Clelland Photography*

Specialty micro-farmers raise fresh-cut flowers for weddings, parties and other red-letter events

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The last time you saw a summer bride carrying a brightly colored floral bouquet down the aisle, it's likely those flowers came from some faraway field in some other part of the planet.

But that's quickly changing as a growing group of intrepid micro-farmers throughout the Upper Midwest are finding their way into the specialty fresh-cut flower business.

Emphasis on the word intrepid: it's not easy raising red roses in a climate more associated with icicles than irises.

Jessie Ruml isn't the least bit intimidated. She's in her fourth year of growing a variety of decorative flowers and reports that the bulbs are blooming and business is booming at Pixie Acres Flower Farm near Castlewood.

After 10 years as a dental hygienist waging a protracted war against plaque, Ruml decided to turn in her stainless steel sickle scaler and look for another occupation that would keep her on the

family farm and close to home with her four spirited daughters.

One afternoon while the children were out playing in the yard, she was swiping through her social media accounts and up popped a picture of a brilliant display of dahlias lying in the bed of an old pickup truck. The scene stopped her dead in her scrolling tracks.

"The colors were so vivid, I immediately felt the hair stand up on the back of my neck. I knew in an instant that's what I needed to do with my life," said Ruml, a self-described farm girl originally from Elk Point and a current member of H-D Electric Cooperative.

It didn't take long for Ruml to realize why South Dakota is not exactly known as the fresh-cut flower capital of the world - at least not yet. She compares growing flowers in eastern South Dakota to 24-hour babysitting. It's a painstaking task to bring flower seeds to full bloom in such a capricious and often harsh climate.

She and her husband Philip, who works full time in the ag industry,

don't even consider taking an extended vacation between the months of March and October when the Rums hold a "fall finale" on the farm to sell off the remainder of their crop or donate it to local charities. Flower plants are high maintenance, sensitive to the elements and require tons of TLC with watering, weeding and fertilizing, she explained: "We can't leave them untended for more than a few hours at a time."

But Jessie keeps a positive perspective when her back and her body start aching from all the hard work.

"You have to get on your hands and knees because there's not a lot of mechanical equipment like in larger scale farming," she said. "But all the effort only makes it that much more special to bring somebody joy, to see the happiness on their faces when you give them a bouquet of fresh flowers. It's hard on your body, but I'm grateful for each day I get to put my hands in the dirt."

She breaks up the monotony and the grind of flower farming by conducting floral design workshops, which she describes as a "girls' night out" where there's lots of laughs and perhaps some light spirits flowing in the

ZONE 4 FLOWER VARIETIES

Here are the top five flower varieties most suitable for USDA Hardiness Zone 4 planting:

1. Petunias
2. Daisies
3. Dahlia
4. Zinnia
5. Tulips



Christy Heckathorn, owner of Fleurish Flower Farm and Design near Elk Point, shows Union County Electric General Manager Matt Klein how she uses soil blocking to grow hardier seedlings and increase production. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

studio. Participants learn how to make arrangements and fill vases and tour the fields to see how the operation works.

She also looks for opportunities to support the community, like donating a portion of her sales to assist families whose homes were destroyed by a tornado that severely damaged much of Castlewood on May 11.

Over the past few years, more growers are taking on the challenge of Zone 4 flower farming and have entered the market in places like Belle Fourche, Vermillion, Lake Preston, Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Wolsey, Artesian and others. Many are members of the South Dakota

Specialty Growers Association based in Yankton. The group held a virtual “member meet-up” on June 14 to collaborate, educate and exchange ideas.

One floral designer who jumped into the fresh-cut flower business two years ago is Christy Heckathorn, owner of Fleurish Flower Farm and Design in Ruml’s native Elk Point. In point of fact, it was Heckathorn - a family friend - who designed the floral arrangement for Ruml’s bridal bouquet 15 years ago.

Heckathorn got involved in the industry when she went to work at Pioneer Drugs, a local pharmacy that also had a flower shop and a soda fountain

inside. She spent five years there serving customers and also working on the side to help brides select arrangements for their big day.

While Heckathorn has gathered an wealth of training and experience over the years, she said she delights in using flowers to elicit smiles and positive reactions in her clients and other people she meets – especially those who could use a laugh when battling through personal challenges.

“A lady once came with her family and I could tell she had a lot on her mind,” she recalled. “I talked with her and found out she was going through cancer treatment and they had come here just to get away for awhile, enjoy the flowers and forget about things. My mother just went through cancer treatment. So I told them to come back any time and they would always be welcomed.

“One of the reasons I love flowers is because they bring joy to other people. If you can grow flowers and put a smile on someone’s face as a result of your labor, that’s a good life recipe.”



Jessie Ruml uses a pair of high tunnel greenhouses on her farm near Castlewood to shelter her flower plants from often unpredictable South Dakota weather patterns. *Photo by Rachel Clelland Photography*



FEM PROVIDES A SAFETY DEMONSTRATION AT PLAINVIEW COLONY

FEM Electric was invited to participate in a safety day camp at Plainview colony along with several other local businesses and agencies.

Seven colony schools attended to watch and learn from the Highway Patrol, Game Fish and Parks, Agtegra, FEM, Leola Fire, Ipswich Ambulance, the National Weather Service and C & B Operations.

FEM brought in the safety demonstration trailer from SDREA and a sample green box to demonstrate to colony students what was inside.

Ryan Holien and Gregg Zwart demonstrated why it is dangerous to play on the big green boxes, and why you should stay away from power lines.

Students were also able to see what happens when tree branches touch live power lines, as well as how dangerous it is to touch live lines by using a potato and a bratwurst, each being burnt to a crisp in seconds.

Gregg also demonstrated the safety gear that linemen wear to protect them when working on live power lines, including their fiberglass poles, rubber sleeves, rubber gloves, hard hat and flame resistant clothing.

FEM saw six groups of kids for 20 minutes sessions with about 20-30 kids in each session. We hope each student was able to learn a little bit more about electrical safety!



FEM SENDS 4 LINEMEN TO ASSIST SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY

In the cooperative world, we work together with other cooperatives when in need. It's part of the cooperative way of life: cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community.

These principles held up after a destructive storm system tore through a portion of East River Electric's and Sioux Valley Energy's service area on May 12th. FEM provided mutual aid in the form of 4 linemen, a digger truck, a bucket truck and a pole trailer to assist Sioux Valley Energy in the Colman, SD area.

Pictures show poles either toppled or dangerously leaning, lines snapped, transformers destroyed, and so much more. Homes and business were without power for days, and damages were extensive.

At the height of the event on May 12th, 56 East River substations as well

as seven municipal customers were out of power. Over 200 transmission structures were damaged, spanning a range from Yankton, SD to Dumont, MN.

The damage was 50 miles wide and 100 miles long, and repairs were impeded by debris from grain bins, trees, sheds, and barns.





SUMMER POWER

Local co-ops are prepared to meet peak demand for electricity this summer

You may have seen articles recently about the potential for rolling power outages across the West and Midwest that could be triggered by a combination of insufficient generation, increased demand for power and warmer than normal temperatures expected this summer across the region. While no one can predict what extreme weather could be coming our way, or unexpected issues with power plants and renewable resources, electric co-ops in South Dakota and western Minnesota are confident that we will have enough generation to meet our electric needs.

The following questions and answers aim to provide background on Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs), the role RTOs play in serving consumers, potential power supply impacts to this region throughout the summer,

and some lessons learned from the February 2021 energy emergency.

WHERE DOES MY ELECTRICITY COME FROM?

Decades ago, when electric cooperatives were created to bring power to rural America, there were few electric generation options available. In our region, electric cooperatives worked together to access hydropower from the dams on the Missouri River and later created East River Electric Power Cooperative, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative to fulfill their power needs.

These generation and transmission cooperatives provide transmission services and construct regional power plants and transmission infrastructure. In the past, when co-ops needed

more electric generation because of economic growth, we built it.

Co-ops still own and build generation units today, but the operation of the grid that serves our region changed significantly about seven years ago. In 2015, East River Electric, Rushmore Electric, Basin Electric and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), which sells hydropower from the dams, all entered the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). SPP is an RTO that operates throughout the central portion of the United States and allows utilities to work together to provide the most efficient and cost-effective generation and transmission services to control costs.

DOES THE SOUTHWEST POWER POOL (SPP) EXPECT TO HAVE ENOUGH GENERATION TO MEET DEMAND THIS SUMMER?

SPP operates like the “air-traffic controller” of the bulk electric grid from Canada to Texas. It oversees the grid and the wholesale power markets serving most of the electric cooperative consumers in South Dakota. According to a May 12 press release from SPP, the organization said it “expects to have enough generating capacity

to meet the regional demand for electricity through the summer season.” SPP anticipates that demand for electricity will peak at 51.1 gigawatts during the summer season, which runs June to September 2022. According to SPP, a diverse fleet of generation units, including cooperative-owned power plants and renewable resources, will be prepared to serve at least 55.5 gigawatts of demand.

WHAT IS THE MIDCONTINENT INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR (MISO) AND WHY DOES IT EXPECT TO HAVE AN ENERGY SHORTFALL THIS SUMMER?

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is similar to SPP – it is an RTO responsible for matching generation resources with power demand from consumers throughout the Midwest in states like Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan and Illinois. Each RTO serves different areas of the country and has a different mix of generation resources. Some consumers in South Dakota are served from the MISO system, but most cooperative consumers are served through SPP. MISO raised alarms in April when the organization said it projects “insufficient firm resources” to supply the summer demand for electricity.

In 2005, MISO’s total generation mix was 76 percent coal, 13 percent nuclear, 7 percent natural gas and the rest came from a mix of other resources. By 2020, the amount of coal-based generation fell to 33 percent while natural gas grew to 34 percent, nuclear reached 17 percent and wind and solar accounted for 13 percent. It has been a drastic change in a short amount of time. With a higher amount of variable generation resources, less

SPP “EXPECTS TO HAVE ENOUGH GENERATING CAPACITY TO MEET THE REGIONAL DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY THROUGH THE SUMMER SEASON.”

firm generation available and the anticipation of increased electric usage because of higher than average temperatures, it sets up the potential for rolling power outages across the MISO footprint this summer.

HOW DO THE ENERGY MARKETS WORK?

Basin Electric owns generation and sells it into the SPP and MISO markets. Basin Electric buys all the power they need from those same markets to serve their membership, including your local electric co-op. It helps control costs throughout our co-ops by allowing us to sell generation into the markets when it is economically advantageous, or to access cheaper generation from the market when we need it. It was a critical strategic step taken by electric cooperatives to save their members money. But it also means that we can be subject to SPP directed rolling outages if demand exceeds generation across the entire SPP footprint like we saw in February 2021. Although electric cooperatives in the Dakotas are required to have enough generation to serve our own consumers, because co-ops are integrated in the grid we must share in any potential outages due to an energy emergency.

DID UTILITIES LEARN ANYTHING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2021 ENERGY EMERGENCY?

In February 2021, record-low temperatures and record-high electricity use across a region stretching from the Canadian border to Texas created what SPP called “the greatest operational challenge in its 80-year history.” Yet, even in

the extreme conditions, SPP had about four hours total of rolling outages across its 14-state region. That included South Dakota and cooperatives served by East River Electric and Rushmore Electric. East River was required to drop about 83 megawatts of demand over a short time on Feb. 16, 2021. Rushmore Electric was required to drop 22 megawatts on Feb. 16, 2021. After the emergency, SPP commissioned a comprehensive report and conducted an in-depth analysis of what happened. The report produced 22 actions, policy changes and assessments related to fuel assurance, resource planning and availability, emergency response and other areas.

Joining SPP was a strategic step that our cooperative network took several years ago to capture the benefits of being in an RTO. We have experienced immense financial and operational benefits over the past several years from our membership in SPP which have helped to keep electric rates stable. Looking ahead to this summer, most electric cooperatives in South Dakota are not within the MISO footprint and are not expecting an impact from any potential MISO rolling power outages. However, a few local co-ops in Minnesota and northern South Dakota may be called upon to take a rolling outage. Those co-ops will communicate with members if this becomes a possibility and will work to minimize the impact of these potential outages.

FEM REPORTS TAXES PAID TO SCHOOLS

As a non-profit corporation, it sometimes gives people the false impression that FEM does not pay taxes. However, under state law, rural electric cooperatives are required to pay a generation tax based on kilowatt hour sales to local school districts in their service area. FEM is also required to pay a 2% gross receipts tax to cities in our territory if a service falls within the city limits.

School districts located within the FEM Electric Cooperative service area will receive \$499,859 in generation tax as a result of electric sales to the members.

Of this total, \$256,675 will be paid by FEM Electric and \$243,184 will be paid by East River Electric Power Cooperative of Madison, SD and Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, ND.

COUNTY	FEM	ER/BASIN	TOTAL
Faulk	\$32,222	\$30,528	\$62,750
Edmunds	\$187,736	\$177,869	\$365,606
McPherson	\$36,407	\$34,493	\$70,900
Potter	\$242	\$230	\$472
Spink	\$67	\$63	\$130
Walworth	<1	<1	1
Totals	\$256,675	\$243,184	\$499,859

In addition to providing electric service to our members, FEM financially contributes directly to our schools through the Cooperative's generation tax – we also contribute to our schools by providing donations of bottled water for fundraising, offer scholarships, provide electrical safety programs, education programs, and provide youth tours to students in our area schools.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	TOTAL
Hoven 53-2	\$1,776
Northwestern Area 56-7	\$7,945
Faulkton Area 24-3	\$52,641
Edmunds Central 22-5	\$27,578
Ipswich Area 22-6	\$320,940
Bowdle 22-1	\$22,392
Warner 6-5	\$73
Eureka 44-1	\$16,338
Leola 44-2	\$50,176
Total	\$499,859

The gross revenue tax is allocated to the different school districts through the County Treasurer's office. The following table shows the gross revenue that will be paid to each school district by the County.

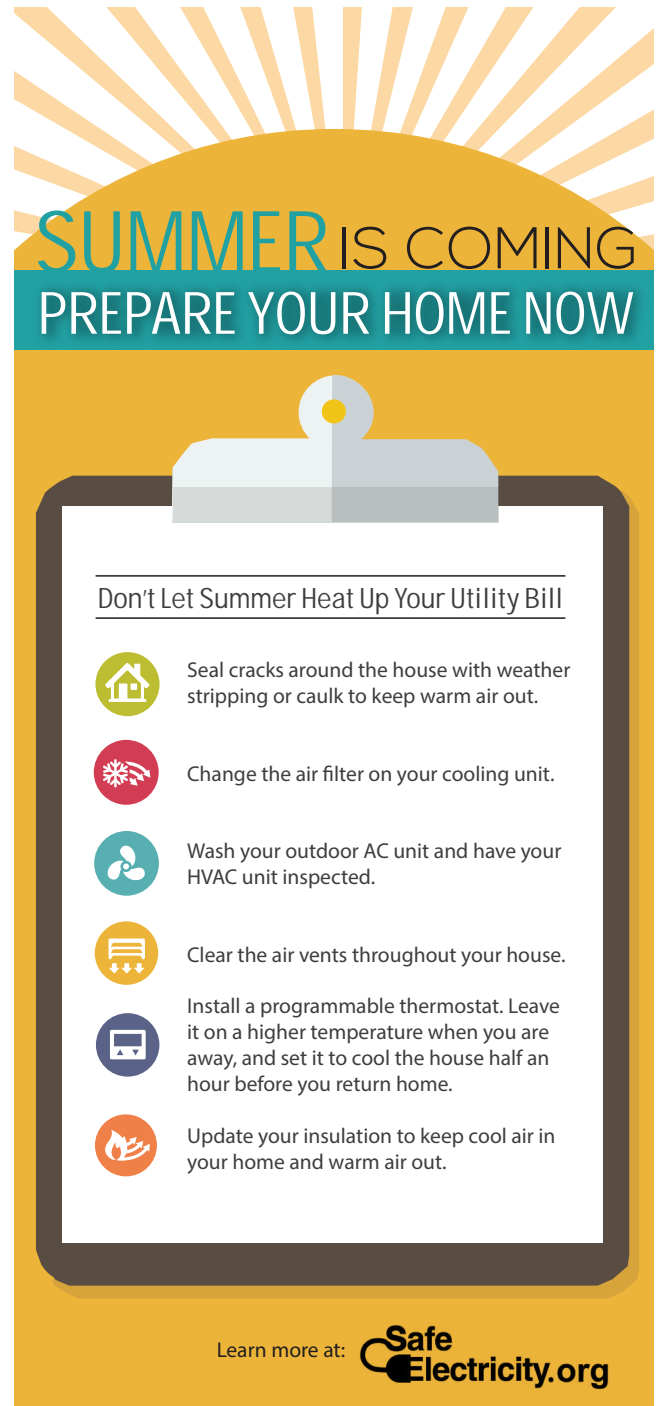


BEAT THE PEAK THIS SUMMER

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer.







- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to energy.gov.
- If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to Energy.gov.
- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.
- Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and those that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10 percent annually on energy bills, according to energystar.gov.
- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
- Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.


Other options include replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher efficiency model, and weather stripping or caulking around doors and windows.



**SUMMER IS COMING
PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW**

Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill

-  Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.
-  Change the air filter on your cooling unit.
-  Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.
-  Clear the air vents throughout your house.
-  Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
-  Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

Learn more at: 



JULY 2-4
Fourth of July Holiday Weekend

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

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



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

JUNE 24-26
Black Hills Bluegrass Festival
Rush No More RV Resort & Campground, Sturgis, SD, blackhillsbluegrass.com

JUNE 24-26
Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival
Centennial Park, Hot Springs, SD, mainstreetartsandcrafts.com

JUNE 24-26
Quarry Days
Citywide, Dell Rapids, SD, 605-428-4167

JUNE 25
Zippity Zoo Day
805 S. Kiwanis Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

JUNE 26
Prairie Village Variety Show
Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

JUNE 30-JULY 4
Annual Black Hills Roundup
300 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD, blackhillsroundup.com

JULY 1-4
Eurekafest
Main Street, Eureka, SD, 605-282-9227

JULY 3-4
Custer's Old Time Country Fourth of July
Various Locations, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

JULY 4
4th of July Parade & Celebration
Kemp Avenue, Watertown, SD, 605-886-5814

JULY 9-10
10th Annual Native POP
Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, nativepop.org

JULY 9-10
Brookings Summer Arts Festival
Pioneer Park, Brookings, SD, bsaf.com

JULY 13-16
Black Hills Corvette Classic
Various Locations, Spearfish, SD, blackhillscorvetteclassic.com

JULY 14-17
Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo
Various Locations, Mitchell, SD, cornpalacestampede.com

JULY 14-17
Danish Days
Various Locations, Viborg, SD, danishdays.org

JULY 15-17
Gold Discovery Days
Various Locations, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

JULY 15-17
Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant
43379 Rose Lane, De Smet, SD, desmetpageant.org

JULY 16-17
Hills Alive
Memorial Park, Rapid City, SD, hillsalive.com

JULY 23
Bierbörse
Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

JULY 23
Yankton Rock-N-Rumble Motorcycle Rally
3rd Street, Yankton, SD, 605-299-9734

JULY 25-30
Days of '76 Rodeo and Parades
18 Seventy Six Drive, Deadwood, SD, daysof76.com

JULY 29-31
Badlands Astronomy Festival
Ben Reifel Visitor Center, Interior, SD, 605-433-5243

JULY 29-31
Bruce Honey Days
Various Locations, Bruce, SD, 605-627-5671

JULY 30
South Dakota Chislic Festival
Prairie Arboretum, Freeman, SD, sdchislicfestival.com

AUGUST 5-13
Sioux Empire Fair
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxempirefair.com

AUGUST 5-14
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Main Street, Sturgis, SD, sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

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