

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Great Goats

Goats gaining  
in popularity  
Pages 8-9

Irrigators benefit  
from load control  
Pages 12-13

Bennett and Matea Gordon  
of Whitewood are part of a  
rising trend in teens choosing  
to show goats at youth  
exhibits and competitions



# BOARD REPORT



A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on March 15, 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. President Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Angie Sieh.

Ryan Holien and Jesse Brown were present until their reports were given.

**Changes to the agenda:** none

**Changes/Additions to Minutes from February 25, 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, April 19, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Eric Odenbach, seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Paula Petersen, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to acknowledge manager, staff, electrical department reports, East River Load Management Report.

The final Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Scenario with ERP Plan of Action was reviewed and signed off by the manager.

Staff and Board discussed the sale of Dakota Gasification Company (DGC) along with what assets will be sold and retained.

The board of directors acknowledged the February Cyber Security Report and was informed that East River Cyber Security employees were on site March 9, 2022. They walked thru some exercises on cyber security with all employees and staff.

**Resolutions, Contracts, and Nominations:** None

**Membership Business:** The board acknowledged the following membership business as presented:

**New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:**

**Disconnects:** Jerome Fuhrmann, Rapid City, Active Farm; Gage Brausen, Ipswich, Active Farm; Mark Melius, Lincoln NE, Active Farm; Maurice Hoffman, Bowdle – Active Farm, Vacant Farm, Shooting

Sports Loc, Active Farm, Pasture Pump, Grain Bin, Irrigation, Irrigation

**Reconnects:** Todd & Cheryl Ochsner, Aberdeen, Active Farm; Jonathan & Sheena Rohrbach, Roscoe, Active Farm; Daniel Lagerhausen, Faulkton, Active Farm; Jerrad & Danielle Hoffman, Bowdle, Active Farm, Vacant Farm, Shooting Sports Loc, Active Farm Pasture Pump, Grain Bin, Irrigation, Irrigation

**Contracts:** None

**Retired Locations:** None

**Capital Credits:**

**Estates – March 2022 –** None

**73 & Older – March 2022 –** None

**Financial Business:** The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: Check register for the month of February 2022 contained information on checks #32302 through #32368 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for February 2022 totaling \$334,369.97.

The February 2022 financials were reviewed.

Motion by Eric Odenbach, seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

**Legal Update:** none

**Meeting Report:** East River board update was given by Gary Bachman. NRECA Annual meeting and NRECA board leadership course 592.10 report were given by Gary Bachman.

The board acknowledged the receipt of the Safety Meeting Minutes February 24, 2022 with current accident and near miss reports along with Employee meeting report from February 28, 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

#### Editor's e-mail:

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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 waited as long as I could before writing this article to announce something you already know. On March 30 we received some spring moisture. A nice warm rain would have been nice, but some wet heavy snow will help get our spring started for a prosperous year. By the time this article is out I am guessing we may have a hint of green showing in our lawns and grasslands. Farm equipment will be on the move and pastures will begin to fill with baby calves.

At FEM we have a good construction season planned with some major projects being developed. Several items of interest are we plan to slow our electric line replacement and concentrate on making sure our existing system is operating as efficiently as possible. Due to the nature of the business and information available we have been reactive to electrical system issues for decades. With today's technology and availability of current, accurate information we have been, and are planning, to be proactive to our members electrical needs and load growth. To our members and the public: if the lights come on and electrical apparatuses work when needed everything is good. That is the way it should work, but there are many moving pieces behind the scenes that need to be attended to for that continuous 24/7 electric availability. It is

the job of your board, management, and employees to make sure we keep the moving pieces aligned to benefit you, the members.

With over nine hundred electric cooperatives in the United States, we have done a good job over the past eighty years making sure our members lives have improved and businesses have the ability to succeed. Working together as one voice in Pierre and Washington, DC will help keep your power reliable and affordable.

East River Electric has seen some nice but controllable load growth over the past two decades. This isn't the norm for most G & Ts in the Basin family but is a sign of a good economy in South Dakota. One of our issues with company expansions in South Dakota is lack of employees. I would encourage parents and grandparents to discuss options with our youth and invest in our home state. If you have relatives living outside South Dakota, looking for a change, let them know of opportunities within our state lines. Working together, we can continue to maintain a strong rural economy.

FEM Electric annual meeting is June 28, 2022, at Ipswich Public School. We will have three choices for a meal: two food trucks and we have added a roast beef meal at the request of some members. We believe that the annual meeting is an important part of the cooperative

**Continued on pg 6**

## Statement Mailing Dates

Apr. 28, 2022 for Apr.'s energy

May 25, 2022 for May's energy

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

# Budget-friendly efficiency upgrades

There are two ways to measure energy efficiency improvements.

There's the payback period - the amount of time it will take for the improvement to pay for itself. Then there's comfort.

Improvements can often increase the comfort level of a home - not easy to measure but one of the driving forces behind home weatherization efforts. There are several areas of the home that can be improved easily, without breaking your budget.

**LIGHTING** - There has been a steady decline in the price of LED bulbs for residential consumers. Nowadays, 60-watt-replacement LEDs can be purchased for \$5 or less. LEDs should save 60 percent or more on power costs compared to incandescent bulbs and last for many years. New LED fixtures are also an affordable option. They come with LED bulbs built in so you never need to change the bulbs.

**HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING** - The Energy Information Administration estimates that heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems account for 22 percent of a typical home's annual electric bill. While newer systems can be 20-45 percent more efficient than older ones, the upfront cost is often a barrier to adoption.

But there are still ways to save. Simple solutions such as changing air filters at least every three months will increase airflow to rooms, increase the life of the HVAC unit's motor and improve air quality in the home. Sealing and insulating ductwork can be done in a weekend and results in energy savings of up to 20 percent.

To lessen the amount of work that heating and cooling systems need to do, it is important to find and seal air leaks. Look for leaks around exterior doors and windows, electric outlets, and entrance points for TV and phone cables. Also check dryer vents and any place with an opening in the wall. To seal leaks, apply caulk, spray foam or weather-stripping to these areas.

Simple acts such as cooking outdoors on a hot summer day or keeping curtains closed to keep out the summer sun will keep the interior of your home cooler and reduce the amount of time AC units need to operate.

## EV REGISTRATIONS SEE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE



According to the South Dakota Dept. of Revenue, the state experienced a boom in electric vehicle registrations in 2021.

At year-end, there were 1,313 electric vehicles registered in the state. That compares to just 242 from the year before. EV registrations saw a slight jump from 227 in 2015 to 236 in 2019.

Minnehaha County led the state with 406 registered EVs, followed by Pennington County with 228 and Lincoln with 151. Nine counties had no EVs registered.



## Stay away from power lines

### Naomi Goldade

Naomi Goldade likes to have outdoor fun in the spring and summer but reminds co-op members to stay away from power lines. Naomi is the daughter of Alex and Rachael Goldade of Timber Lake. They are members of Moreau-Grand 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.

# SUPER CASSEROLES

## CHICKEN AND CHEESE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:  
 2 cups uncooked elbow macaroni  
 2 5-oz. cans of chicken chunks  
 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese  
 2 cups milk  
 2 cans cream of chicken soup  
 4 oz. sliced mushrooms  
 1/4 cup chopped onion

### METHOD

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, mix all seven ingredients together. Pour into a 9x13 baking pan. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes or until bubbly and golden brown.

**Jeanette Kleinsasser,  
Iroquois**

## ONE DISH CHICKEN AND RICE

Ingredients:  
 1/2 to 1 cup onion, chopped  
 1/4 to 1/2 cup green and/or red bell pepper  
 1 can cream of chicken soup (or cream soup of your choice)  
 1/2 cup milk  
 1/2 tsp. salt  
 1/4 tsp. pepper  
 1/3 cup mayonnaise  
 2 cups chicken, cooked and chopped  
 1 cup peas (frozen)  
 2 cups cooked white rice  
 1 cup shredded cheddar, divided

### METHOD

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9-inch x 13-inch baking dish and set aside. Sauté onion and bell pepper in olive oil or butter. Blend soup, milk, salt, pepper, and mayo in a bowl. Add chicken, peas, sauteed onions and peppers, and rice to the prepared baking dish. Mix gently. Pour soup over chicken mixture. Mix gently. Fold in half of the cheddar. Top with remaining cheese. Bake until top is golden brown, about 25 minutes.

**Becky Walker, Sioux Falls**

## TUNA PASTA CASSEROLE

Ingredients:  
 4 oz. dried whole-wheat rotini pasta (about 1-1/2 cups)  
 Nonstick cooking spray  
 16 oz. frozen mixed vegetables, thawed  
 1 pouch (11 ounces) low-sodium chunk light tuna  
 1 can (10-3/4 oz.) low-fat, low sodium condensed cream of chicken soup  
 1/2 cup chopped roasted red bell peppers  
 1/2 cup fat-free half-and-half  
 1 tsp. all-purpose, salt-free seasoning blend  
 3/4 cup crushed low-sodium, whole-grain crackers  
 1/4 cup shredded or grated Parmesan cheese

### METHOD

Prepare pasta according to package directions, omitting salt. Using colander, drain well. Transfer to large bowl. Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly spray 2-quart glass baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Stir mixed vegetables, tuna, soup, roasted peppers, half-and-half and seasoning blend into pasta until combined. Transfer to baking dish. Top with crackers and Parmesan cheese. Bake, uncovered, 25-30 minutes, or until casserole is warmed through and topping is golden brown.

**familyfeatures.com**

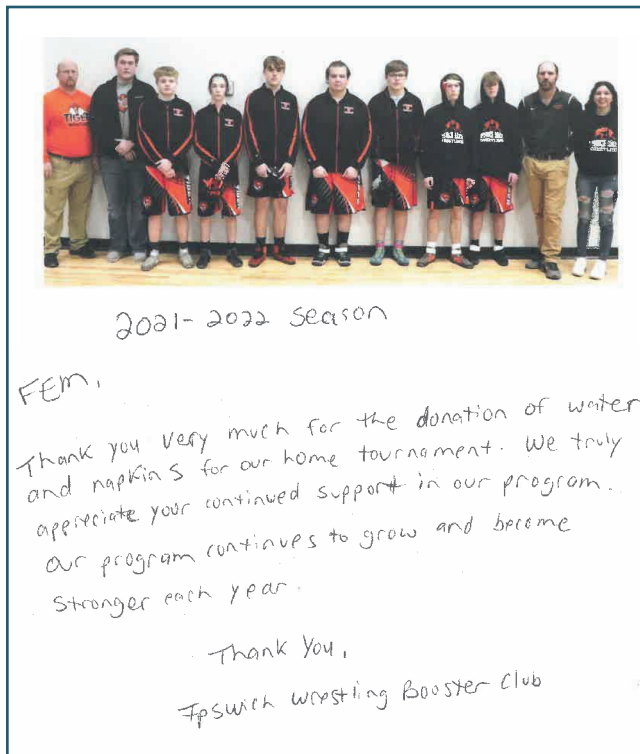
**Please send your favorite dairy recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.**

## Continued from page 3

business model and encourage all members to attend. The theater is air conditioned; you will receive a forty-dollar energy credit, and we try to keep the business meeting forty-five minutes to one hour long.

As we move into spring work, please be safe, look around for hazards and if you have purchased new equipment, please make sure you have proper clearance around the powerlines.

If planning any new electrical load, please call Rob Vetch or Ryan Holien at 605 426 6891 or 1-800-587-5880.



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@FEMElectric on

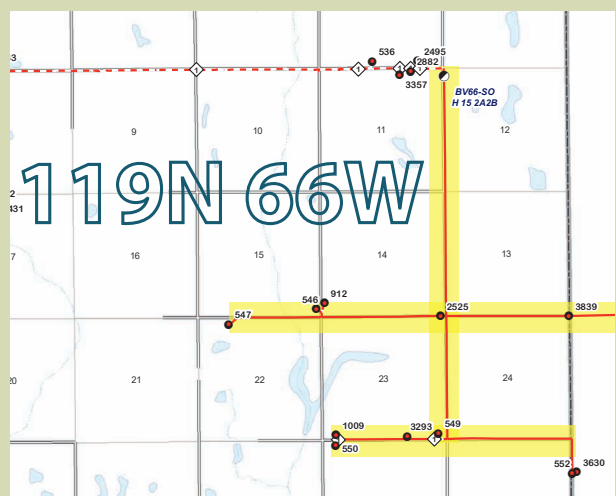
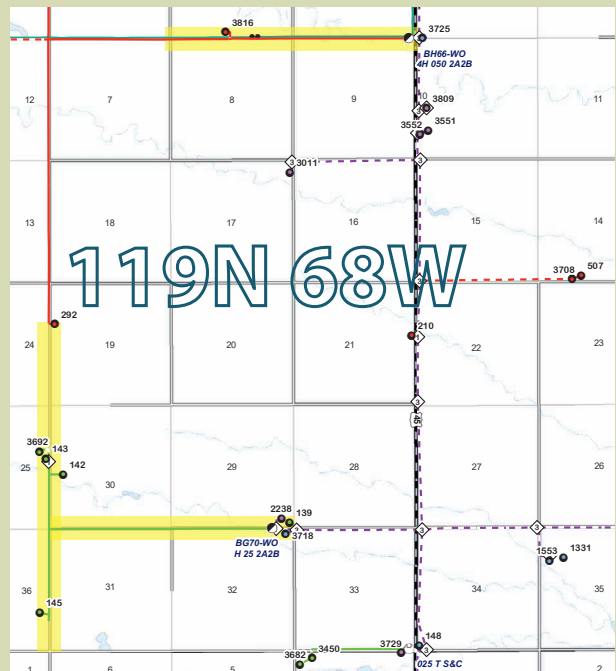
@fem\_electric on

@FEMelectric on

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

# FEM ELECTRIC'S 2022 WORK PLAN AREAS

In 2022, FEM will be plowing approximately 15 miles of single phase underground in 3 areas of Faulk County, as highlighted on the maps below.



# CAPITAL CREDIT NOTICES EXPLAINED

By the end of April, capital credit allocation notices will have been sent out. The way FEM Electric members receive an allocation notice can vary. For example, if you were a FEM member in 2021, but are no longer, you will receive a "Capital Credits Allocation Statement" in the mail. This statement details how many capital credits were allocated to you in 2021. Going forward, you will not receive further notices unless you have an active service again.

000005991



FEM ELECTRIC  
PO BOX 468  
IPSWICH SD 57451-0468

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30  
Phone: 605.426.6891 or 800.587.5880  
Pay by Phone: 833.699.1827  
Website: www.femelectric.coop

**This is your notification of the amount of patronage capital that has been allocated to your capital credits account. If you have any questions please contact the FEM office.**

In order for us to keep our records accurate, it is important that you notify our office of any changes in name, mailing address or in the event of the death of a member.

\*\*\*\*\*

JOHN DOE  
1234 STREET NAME  
CITY, STATE, 12345

## CAPITAL CREDITS ALLOCATION STATEMENT

<b>Member Number:</b>	<b>YEAR: 2021</b>
<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>208.96</b>
<b>FEM Allocation:</b>	<b>51.76</b>
<b>East River Allocation:</b>	<b>30.40</b>
<b>Basin Allocation</b>	<b>30.48</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>321.60</b>

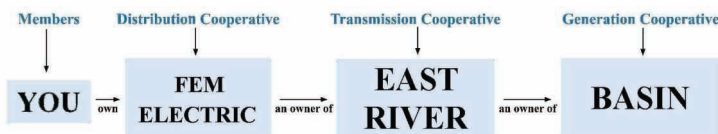
This is not a bill

This Allocation Notice shows the amount earned and credited to your Capital Credit Account for the year stated above.

Your cooperative is a member-owned, nonprofit provider of electric energy and other valuable services. Capital Credit allocations are based on the cooperative principle of business at cost. Any electric earnings (revenues less expenses) left over at the end of the year are allocated to the members of the cooperative as Capital Credits.

Your Capital Credits are an investment in the cooperative and represent your share of ownership. Capital Credits accumulate in your name and are refunded in cash by action of the cooperative's Board of Directors as the financial condition of the cooperative warrants.

The following is a diagram of the ownership of your Cooperative system:



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Anyone who is an active member of FEM Electric will receive their allocation notice on their billing statement in the "Message from FEM" box. The sample below is what you will see on your April statement.

Statement Date	04/28/2022
Account Number	
Payment Due 05/09/2022	

Service Summary	
Previous Balance	223.87
Payments Received 04/08/2022	-223.87
Balance Forward	0.00
Current Charges	226.10
<b>Total Amount Due</b>	<b>226.10</b>

Message from FEM	
<b>YOUR 2021 CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION</b>	
Beginning Balance:	\$2,595.18
FEM Allocation:	\$215.22
East River Allocation:	\$126.40
Basin Allocation:	\$126.75
<b>ENDING BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$3,063.55</b>

Capital credit allocations are different than receiving a capital credit retirement. Allocations take the margins from the previous year (2021) at FEM Electric, East River, and Basin and distributes them to each member's capital credit "account".

Capital credit retirements are made to members each year in June. Retirements are made up of allocations made to members from previous years, including allocations from up to 18 years ago. The FEM Board of Directors decides the dollar amount to retire each year. This amount will show up as a credit on active member's June billing statement, or be mailed in the form of a check to inactive members. You will only receive allocations for the years you are an active member of FEM. Once all of your allocations have been retired, you will no longer receive a check from FEM.

# GOATS STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT



Anna Johnson and Jessemy Sharp groom at the 2021 Brown County Fair. *Photo by Donna Sharp*

## Ag students show a fondness for working with goats at youth exhibitions and competitions

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Matea Gordon's goats always keep her guessing.

The 17-year-old is one of four Gordon siblings from Whitewood who have been highly active - and highly successful - on the 4-H and FFA competition scenes over the past decade.

She prefers to work with market goats because the animals force her to stay on her toes. She never knows what she's going to get.

"They tend to have big personalities. Sometimes they're shy and cute. Other times they can be pretty stubborn. You just never know," she said. "Plus, it's fun to see how much progress you can make with them throughout the year."

Her younger brother, Bennett, enjoys raising and feeding the goats daily.

"I've learned about genetics, animal health and feed nutrition. The goats kind of become your friend as you bring them up and take care of them."

The brother-sister duo are part of a

trend in ag exhibition circles that finds eager competitors opting to work with goats. Their mom, Kindra Gordon, said all four of her children have been fond of tending to goats.

She said the family started with two goats a decade ago, and their involvement grew from there. Today, they travel and compete at nearly a dozen shows throughout the year. Likewise, she has seen youth participation in goat exhibitions double over the past few years.

"When the kids joined 4-H, they wanted to do a project and the goats just seemed to fit our lifestyle," she said.

Regardless of what animals her children choose, she has found there's much to be gained in participating in the competitions and other opportunities that youth ag programs provide.

"The kids have learned about responsibility, life skills and the agriculture industry. They learn about sportsmanship and how to manage stress. We tell them to be happy for their friends when it's their time to win, and

they'll be happy for you when you win. We've met a lot of people and made a lot of friends along the way."

One of those friends is Tessa Erdmann, a freshman at SDSU from Groton who serves as president of the state FFA. She is long-time friends with Matea and her older sister, Danika, both of them winners of Butte Electric Cooperative's college scholarship program.

Tessa said her choice to work with goats mostly came down to a practical matter. She cites her smallish physical stature as one reason for channeling her focus on the species.

"I'm 5 feet tall and I came to the conclusion that I didn't want to hold on to something way bigger than me," she said.

At age 12, Tessa went with her father, Darrin, to an auction and brought home her first three animals: Buttercup, Sassy and Thunderbolt. She describes the event as "love at first sight." In her first year to show at the Brown County Fair, Tessa won ribbons in the breeding and showmanship divisions and has placed many times since then.

A former gymnast and a member of Northern Electric based in Aberdeen,



## Moose sees goat-breeding as a gift



Garret Moose isn't sure if he chose goats or goats chose him. In 2004, Moose received twin Nubian kids – a buck and a doe – as a birthday gift. That gift sparked an interest in goats that has led him to building a top breeding operation in southwest Minnesota.

By 2011, Moose was ready to hit the show circuit with only marginal success in the early stages. It would take a couple of years to make it to the American Dairy Goat Association National Show in St. Paul where Moose-G Foxy was named Reserve Junior National Champion Recorded Grade. He saw it all as a learning process.

“When I started out I didn't win anything but I learned a lot, and not to mention I met so many great people that I now call close friends,” he said. “When Foxy won, that's what really got us excited and dedicated to continue on this path with dairy goats.”

Moose raises and markets Alpines, Lamanchas, Saanens, Toggenburgs and Recorded Grade Seniors and Juniors.

He said he enjoys working with the animals and is especially appreciative of his “goat family.”

“It's a tight community and we're always seeing each other at shows, exchanging information and sharing ideas,” he said. “I couldn't do what I do without my family and friends.”

For more information, Moose can be contacted at 507.530.3175.



Clockwise from top/left: FFA President Tessa Erdmann; Kylee Ellerton of Custer; Taylor, Tate and Tye McGraw of Raymond.



Tessa said she has also experienced a large measure of mutual support within the animal exhibition community.

“Everybody is always so nice and you can count on everyone to help one another,” she said. “We're competitive inside the ring, but outside we're family and we don't hate each other. One year, someone's father was hurt and couldn't make it to the competition. Everyone chipped in to help the family out.”

Becca Tullar is a 4-H advisor in Brown County. She explained what she believes is the reason for the rising interest in goats.

“They're a good starter animal and youngsters get used to them and many of the students stick with them. They kind of grow up together,” she said.

“They're easy to handle. Once you get them halter-broke they'll go wherever you want. They're fun animals to show.

They're almost like pets and they build easy bonds.”

One competitor who has a way with his goats is Tate McGraw, a 17-year-old from Raymond who has Down syndrome. His father, Wade, said Tate has been showing since he was 8.

“It's been a real blessing. He's easy-going and just has a way with the animals. He can get them to do things that other handlers can't,” he said.

His other son Tye, 14, and daughter Taylor, 13, also show goats and other animals and McGraw said they each have their individual strengths.

“The best thing as a father is to see the network of friends they've developed across the state. They all support each other and they've learned to respect one another because they know one day they could be on top and the next day they could be on the bottom.”

# MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, FEM Electric and Safe Electricity provide these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

### STAYING SAFE ON THE ROAD

Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals or an auto accident/collision.

- If you see a downed power line, call 9-1-1 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is deenergized. Wait in your vehicle until an electric utility crew member says it is safe to get out.
- Do not drive over a downed power line. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.
- The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

### STAYING SAFE OUTSIDE

When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.

- Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.
- Make sure that all outside outlets are ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected.
- Before digging, call 8-1-1 or your state's underground locating service. Buried lines such as electric, gas, water, sewer and other lines bring services indoors. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line, fines due to damage are the responsibility of the

homeowner or landowner. Privately owned lines and systems will not be marked by the free service.

- When you see lightning, take shelter inside the house, shop or a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

### STAYING SAFE INSIDE

With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load.

- Have a qualified electrician/licensed contractor check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights, a sizzling or buzzing sound, the smell of warm plastic, a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched, sparks when plugging in or unplugging items or circuits that trip often.
- When working with electrical equipment inside the house or shop, be aware that electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.
- Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.
- During storms, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath, shower or wash dishes when you see lightning strikes. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the storm, including cell phones that are charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# ELECTRICITY 101

To stay safe around electricity, start with these **SEVEN** basic tips:

1.



## DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS OR CIRCUITS

Plugging in too many items or drawing too much power on a circuit can cause overheating, fire, and damage to devices.

2.



## DON'T USE FAULTY ELECTRICAL CORDS OR PLUGS

Do not use cords that look frayed, worn or cracked. Do not use broken plugs. Never remove the grounding pin from a three-pronged plug.

3.



## HAVE YOUR ELECTRICIAN'S NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE

Most electrical repairs or installations are not DIY projects. Hire an expert to avoid serious injury or wiring problems.

4.



## BE CAREFUL AROUND H<sub>2</sub>O

Never use electricity while standing in damp or wet conditions. Keep all electrical devices away from water, including cell phones that are charging.

5.



## EVALUATE YOUR APPLIANCES

Do not use appliances in disrepair. Older or broken appliances can overheat, start a fire, and cause serious injuries.

6.



## TEST YOUR GFCIs

Outlets near a water source should be equipped with GFCIs, which help prevent shock and electrocution caused by ground faults. Test monthly to make sure they are working.

7.



## MAKE SURE YOUR HOME IS UP TO CODE

Your home should be properly wired and electrically sound. Contact a reputable electrician to evaluate your home.

Safe  
Electricity.org®

# FEM ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 28TH, 2022

Ipswich High School  
Dinner at 5:00 p.m.  
Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Make plans to attend the FEM Electric annual meeting. As a member of FEM Electric, you have voting rights. This June, FEM members will be voting on proposed bylaw changes, seen in the April edition of the Cooperative Connections, as well as district representatives for District 1 and 4.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



# THE POWER OF LOAD MANAGEMENT

Chris Danielski monitors an irrigation pivot control panel from his phone app. Photos by Billy Gibson

## Load control program reaps big rewards for both residents and large energy users

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Danielski Farms didn't become a blue chip producer over the past four decades by making boneheaded business decisions.

In 2013, the company was invited by Cherry-Todd Electric to participate in the cooperative's irrigation load management program. Load management is a term used to describe a co-op's ability to balance the system's electrical load by adjusting or controlling network demand.

Better balance brings greater efficiency and lower costs for all consumers on the system.

Len Danielski recalls pulling the leadership team together and weighing the pros and cons. The proposal included installing specialized equipment that would allow Cherry-Todd to temporarily interrupt power - when warranted - to any of roughly 200 irrigation pivots across 18,000 acres.

While different electric co-ops have their own load management policies, Cherry-Todd's guidelines call for a lower irrigation rate for participants and the right of the consumer to withdraw and return to the regular rate at any time.

The deliberation process was helped along by the fact that Danielski's General Manager Gary Garvin previously served as a board member at Cherry-Todd. He was aware the cooperative business model was designed and intended to produce "win-win" situations for both the co-op and its owner-members.

Danielski Farms ultimately decided to place all of its irrigation system under load management and Len Danielski reports the results have exceeded expectations.

"We found it was a winner all the way around. We have the choice to place one pivot, two pivots, or all pivots on the load control program, or none," he said. "We've analyzed the benefits over time and found that the company wins,

the cooperative wins and the co-op members win. It's a great partnership."

Chris Rahn, Cherry-Todd's primary key account contact, said load management is a tremendous benefit for members because it allows the cooperative - working in concert with both the member and the co-op's wholesale supplier Rushmore Electric - to distribute power more efficiently.

Rahn explained that one of the best ways to deliver power at the lowest possible cost is to "shave the peak" or to make sure supply and demand stay in a constant state of equilibrium as conditions such as weather, member consumption and market forces change constantly. Utilities are able to control supply but can find it challenging to project what consumer demand will be at any point in time.

Educated projections are important, but there are occasions when it helps for the co-op to have some control over demand. In the end, everyone benefits.

"We've had a residential water heater load control program for quite a while and it's been well-received by our

members,” Rahn said. “It enables us to get a better handle on the demand side and that’s a benefit for all the members on our lines.”

Garvin said another mitigating consideration for Danielski Farms is the fact that Cherry-Todd has done its part by making significant improvements to its infrastructure over time.

“We used to joke that we were always under load management because the power would go out a lot, but things have changed dramatically for the better and we hardly ever get bumped these days,” Garvin said. “I’ve also got load management on my water heater at home and it works for us.”

Len Danielski said that under the load control program power to his pivots rarely gets disrupted and typically only for a few hours when it does. He said the company is pleased to participate in a program that will ultimately benefit all co-op members across the system.



From left, Gary Garvin, Len Danielski, Chris Danielski and Chris Rahn discuss Cherry-Todd Electric’s load management program.

“We’ve found interruptions are usually during times when we don’t need to be irrigating anyway, like in the heat of the day when a lot of the water will only get evaporated,” he said. “And if it helps the cooperative and saves every member on the system some money, that’s great.”

Another element that makes the program work for Danielski Farms is the installation of a remote irrigation control system. All of Danielski’s pivots



All of the roughly 200 irrigation pivots at Danielski Farms are under Cherry-Todd Electric’s load management program.

are connected to the Ag Sense phone app that enables a user to turn the pivots on or off individually or in groups, and receive an abundance of electronic data.

Chris Danielski manages the app and said the telemetry allows him to track exactly when load control is being implemented, though he usually receives information from the co-op as well. He said efficiencies gained through both programs have resulted in net savings.

“If we have an hour or two of load management, once we get the notice that we’re back on I can restart the pivot from inside the office,” he said. “It used to take several hours to get someone to go out and restart the system.”

East River Electric, based in Madison, is a power supply cooperative that delivers wholesale electricity to 24 distribution co-ops in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. East River has offered its co-ops a load management option since 1985 and has saved members roughly \$260 million in avoided wholesale power costs.

More than 75,000 different electric loads in homes, farms and businesses are connected to the system, including water heaters, air conditioners, irrigation systems and other big energy users.

Chris Larson, general manager of Clay-Union Electric, said the co-op based in Vermillion offers end-use consumers a load control program for

water heaters, irrigation systems, grain bins and other commercial processing equipment.

The cooperative has 320 irrigation systems under load management with requests for 10 more in the near future as drought conditions show no signs of abating.

Larson emphasized that every cooperative has its own unique rate structure and load management policies when it comes to discounts, demand charges, time-of-use, system peaks and other variables. He said it’s important for consumers to contact their local co-op for details and to work closely with staff to find the best solutions for the member.

He said co-ops are obligated to capture their costs of providing power but are also responsible for finding ways to accommodate their member-owners and helping them achieve their individual goals.

“Load management really is essential to maximizing system efficiency,” Larson said. “It’s a sophisticated process that ultimately leaves the member with plenty of choices. If we’re controlling irrigation or commercial operations at a time that’s not good for them or complicates their workflow, they need the ability to override the control system so they can make a good business decision that’s best for them.”

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



MEGAN NASH

Megan Nash submitted the winning application for the \$1,000 Basin/FEM Electric Scholarship. She is a senior at Northwestern Area High School in Mellette, and is the daughter of Crystal and Kevin Nash.

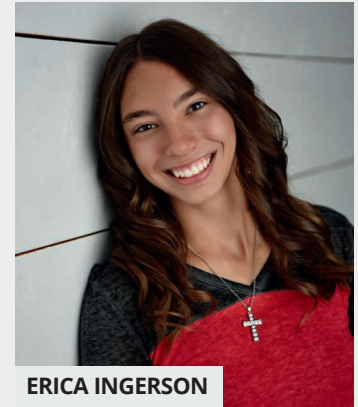
Megan is highly involved in school activities including FFA where she is currently serving as Chapter President, FBLA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Band where she plays Alto saxophone, and served as Drum Major during the marching band season, basketball, robotics and much more. She has received a number of honors for her involvement in various clubs and activities, and is well deserving of this scholarship.

Her future plans include attending South Dakota State University for Ag Business with minors in Ag Leadership and Communications. FEM Electric wishes to extend a hearty congratulations to Megan, and wishes her well on her future endeavors.

Erica Ingerson is one of the recipients of the \$500 FEM Electric Scholarship. She is a senior at Eureka Public High school, and is the daughter of Francie and Brian Ingerson.

Erica is involved in sports and music, as well as various other extracurricular activities. She has competed in golf and basketball, and been a member of band, choir, National Honor Society, the yearbook staff, FCCLA, FCA, Teens as Teachers and was a South Dakota Legislative Page.

After she graduates, she will be attending Mitchell Technical College for Machining and Manufacturing. Once she has completed her studies, she intends to gain some experience working in her field of study before returning home to follow in her father's footsteps. FEM Electric would like to congratulate Erica for her hard work and dedication, and wishes her luck at Mitchell Technical College.



ERICA INGERSON



SHAYNA HEITMANN

Shayna Heitmann also won a \$500 FEM Electric Scholarship. She is a senior at Faulkton High School, and is the daughter of Bobbi and Grady Heitmann.

Shayna is a student-athlete, playing Volleyball and Basketball. She is a 3-year state qualifier, is on the CSDC All-Tournament Team, and a 2-year starter for Volleyball. She is also a 3-year SoDak 16 qualifier, 1-year state qualifier, and 2-year starter for Basketball. Shayna has also been a member of FCCLA for six years, is a 2-year State Gold Top Superior and a 1-year National Gold Top Superior.

Shayna's future plans include attending SDSU for an Animal Science degree with a Science Specialization, including an Animal Health Minor and a Dairy Industry Minor. Once she completes her degree, she hopes to be accepted into the SDSU DVM program with the goal of becoming a veterinarian and opening her own clinic. Congratulations to Shayna, and FEM wishes her the best of luck.

# FLAG ETIQUETTE

May is the time of year where we begin planning our first outdoor gatherings as the warmer weather rolls in. While we enjoy the changing temperatures, we also use this time to reflect upon and honor the U.S. military personnel who have fallen while serving in the United States armed forces on Memorial Day.

We hoist the United States Flag up poles, or set out staffs in a show of respect at our homes, throughout our neighborhoods and at our businesses. Here are a few tips for properly displaying the U.S. Flag this Memorial Day:

- It is customary to raise the flag at sunrise, and lower it at sunset. However, flags can be displayed 24 hours a day as long as their is proper lighting on the flag during the night hours.
- Flags should be raised on national holidays, as well as any other days that may be proclaimed by the President of the United States. A list of flag flying holidays is available through local veterans groups, or at [usa.gov/flag](http://usa.gov/flag).
- If hanging a flag vertically in a window, on a wall or on a door, the union (or the blue section with the stars) should be to the observer's left. The same is true if hung horizontally.
- In a procession of flags, the U.S. flag should be to the right of any other flag, or in the front of the center of the group.
- When hanging a flag from a staff off a building, the union should be at the peak.
- The flag should always fall freely if flown from a pole.
- The flag should not be displayed on days with inclement weather.
- There are a number of additional rules based on events, locations, and how you hang your flag that you can find through local veterans groups or at [usa.gov/flag](http://usa.gov/flag).
- Special Rules: Do not let the flag touch the ground. Do not fly the flag upside down unless there is an emergency. Do not carry the flag flat, or carry things in it. Do not use the flag as clothing. Do not store the flag where it can get dirty. Do not use it as cover. Do not fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free. Do not draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.

The United States flag should be retired when it is damaged, or when it's not fit to represent the U.S. Any city with an active veterans post will gladly accept flags that need to be retired, and will hold flag retirement ceremonies.

There are several places in Faulk County where flags can be delivered for retirement. The American Legion Post in Cresbard retires approximately 150 flags every Veterans day. For questions, call 605-324-3203 or 605-380-6995 and visit with Wayne Vetter. Flags can be dropped off at the Veterans Services office in the courthouse, who passes any flags in need of retirement to the Cresbard American Legion. Davis Hoss with Veterans Services can be reached at 605-598-6222.

In McPherson County, flags can be dropped off with the American Legion in Eureka where retirement ceremonies are held once a year. Samantha, who works with the American Legion in Eureka, can be reached at 605-282-9227 for questions. For another option, flags may be dropped off at the post office and Veterans Services will pick them up.

The Edmunds County Courthouse in Ipswich will accept flags in any office and county staff will pass them along to the Veterans Services officer. Any American Legion member in Ipswich will accept flags, and perform a retirement ceremony. The American Legion in Roscoe, located at 409 Broadway St., Roscoe, SD 57471, will also accept flags to be retired and can be reached at 605-287-4993.

Other options to retire a flag include flag burial, shredding the flag properly, or recycling the flag to make a brand new one. Visit with your local veterans groups to see what option would work best for you.





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.

**APRIL 27-30**  
**45th Annual Kingswood Rummage Sales**  
 Southwest Sioux Falls, SD,  
[kingswoodrummage.com](http://kingswoodrummage.com)

**APRIL 28**  
**MercyMe: The Inhale (Exhale) Tour**  
 Denny Sanford Premier Center,  
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

**APRIL 28-30**  
**26th Annual Black Hills Dance Festival**  
 The Monument, Rapid City, SD,  
[blackhillsdancefestival.com](http://blackhillsdancefestival.com)

**APRIL 29-MAY 1**  
**State USBC Women's Bowling Tournament**  
 Village Bowl, Mitchell, SD,  
 605-336-5583

**APRIL 29-MAY 1, 5-7**  
**Ordinary Days**  
 Grand Opera House, Pierre,  
 SD, [pierreplayers.com](http://pierreplayers.com)

**APRIL 30**  
**SDSO Centennial Finale**  
 Washington Pavilion, Sioux  
 Falls, SD, [sdsymphony.org](http://sdsymphony.org)

**MAY 3-8**  
**Come From Away**  
 Washington Pavilion, Sioux  
 Falls, SD, [www.washingtonpavilion.org/event/come-away](http://www.washingtonpavilion.org/event/come-away)

**MAY 7**  
**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**  
 131 E Falls Park Drive, Sioux  
 Falls, SD, 605-274-3735

**MAY 8**  
**Mother's Day Tours**  
 Historic Adams House and  
 Days of '76 Museum,  
 Deadwood, SD, 605-578-3724

**MAY 14-15**  
**AMA Coins and Sports Cards Show**  
 Denny Sanford Premier  
 Center, Sioux Falls, SD,  
 605-321-9195

**MAY 14-15**  
**Ellsworth Air and Space Show**  
 1940 EP Howe Drive, Ellsworth  
 AFB, SD, [ellsworthairshow.com](http://ellsworthairshow.com)

**MAY 15**  
**PAW Patrol Live!**  
 Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD,  
[www.swiftelcenter.com](http://www.swiftelcenter.com)

**MAY 17**  
**Norwegian Independence Day**  
 Main Street, Vivian, SD,  
 605-222-3296

**MAY 20-22**  
**Annual Sound of Silence Tesla Rally**  
 615 Washington Street, Custer,  
 SD, 605-673-2244

**MAY 20-22**  
**Open House and Free Fishing Weekend**  
 Statewide, SD, 605-223-7660

**MAY 21**  
**Booth Day**  
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery,  
 Spearfish, SD, [dcboothfishhatchery.org](http://dcboothfishhatchery.org)

**MAY 21**  
**Frühlingsfest & Spring Market**  
 Main Street, Rapid City, SD,  
 605-716-7979

**MAY 28**  
**Deadwood Live: Hank Williams Jr.**  
 Outlaw Square, Deadwood, SD,  
[www.deadwoodlive.com](http://www.deadwoodlive.com)

**MAY 28**  
**Memorial Weekend in Mitchell**  
 Main Street, Mitchell, SD,  
 605-292-4444

**MAY 28-29**  
**Black Hills Renaissance Faire**  
 Manuel Brothers Park, Lead,  
 SD, [www.blackhillsrenfest.com](http://www.blackhillsrenfest.com)

**MAY 29-30**  
**Back When They Bucked Rodeo**  
 Days of '76 Arena, Deadwood,  
 SD, 605-718-0810

**MAY 30**  
**Prairie Points Quilt Guild Show**  
 Harding County Memorial Rec  
 Center, Buffalo, SD,  
 605-641-5591

**JUNE 2-5**  
**Wheel Jam**  
 South Dakota State  
 Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,  
[www.wheeljam.com](http://www.wheeljam.com)

**JUNE 3-5**  
**Lake Andes Fish Days**  
 Citywide, Lake Andes, SD,  
 605-487-7694

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