

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Hooked on Fishing

**South Dakota Fish  
Hatcheries**

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**Methods of  
Moving Structures**

Pages 12-13

*Photo Credit:  
Markus Erk*

# BOARD REPORT



FEM Board of Directors

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 p.m. on February 21, 2023, 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 the minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Eric Odenbach (teleconference), Tom Thorpe. Line Superintendent Rob Vetch, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer, Ryan Holien and Jesse Brown were present.

Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Sean Christiansen.

**Changes to the agenda:** None

**Changes/Additions to Minutes from January 17, 2023, meeting:** none

**Next Meeting Date:**

After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Paula Petersen to approve hiring seasonal help to assist in the electrical department and operations.

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to acknowledge management and staff reports.

The board acknowledged receiving the January Cyber Security report.

At 9:20 Janis Dailing, REED Economic Development Finance Specialist, joined the meeting, by phone, to discuss and present a loan within FEM Electric's territory.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Tom Thorpe, Kelly Melius abstained to approve \$420,000 loan to Homan Hardware, Inc of Faulkton.

**Resolutions, Contracts, and Nominations:**

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve Kirk Huber, Josh Heinrich, District 3 Pat Lapka, Lloyd Schaunaman District 2 and Justin Davis At-Large for 2023 Director nominating committee.

Board acknowledged receipt: Notice of NRTC Annual Meeting Board Election NRTC

NRECA Proposed Resolution  
NCSC Request for board candidates  
Notice of NISC Annual Meeting

**Membership Business:**

Board acknowledged membership business.

The board acknowledged the Value-Added Economic Development Loan Committee minutes.

BEEF Meeting to be held February 23, 2023, was postponed to a date to be determined maybe in June.

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

**Disconnects:** Michael Rath, Long Lake, Active Farm; Mike & Kris Huck, Aberdeen, Active Farm; Ken & Sue Melius, Sioux Falls, Active Farm; Barbara Heilman, Roscoe, Active Farm; Lee Dale Oster, Camdenton, MO, Active Farm; Walter & Mary Grismer, Bowdle, Active Farm and Pasture Pump; Justin Metzger, Eureka, Active Farm; Robert Malsam, Roscoe, 3 Active Farms, 3ph Bin Site

**Reconnects:** Chris & Amy Fischbach, Mansfield, Active Farm; H3 Holdings, LLC, Aberdeen, Active Farm; Robert Melius, Faulkton, Active Farm; R&M Commercial Properties, LLC, Minneapolis, MN, Active Farm; City of Eureka, Eureka, Active Farm; Sylte Bros, Ipswich, SD, Pasture Pump and Active Farm; Gary Metzger, Eureka, Active Farm; Darin Malsam, Roscoe, Active Farm; Daniel Malsam, Roscoe, 2 Active Farms and 3ph Bin Site

**Contracts:** BKG Family Farms, Inc., Onaka, Grain Bins; Darin Malsam, Roscoe, Active Farm

**Capital Credits:**

**Estates: February 2023** – two = \$0 (approved to clear Basin/East River capital credits only)

**73 & Older: February 2023** – None

**Continued on pg 6**

## 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:

oban@femelectric.coop

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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#### How to contact us:

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  
Design assistance by SDREA

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



**Scott Moore**  
**General Manager/CEO**

The office department has work to get our 2022 books closed and final reports completed. FEM Electric finished a good year with a net operating margin of \$883,918.00. This figure is unaudited as Eide Bailly, our auditing firm, will perform our annual audit in March and report to the board at FEM Electric's regular April board meeting. With a good start in 2023, and with discussion for many agriculture expansions, I believe FEM Electric is on a path to another good year.

When the weather permits, the operation crews have been changing poles that were rejected from pole testing and installing the final Verizon AMR meters. It will not be long after this edition of the Cooperative Connection hits the kitchen table, counties will implement road limits. When the load limits are implemented, our operations department shifts to alternative projects to keep our large trucks off the roads.

We have attempted to host an informational beef meeting twice now, once in December and once on February 23rd. However, we've had to postpone and reschedule the event to a later date due to weather. Some of our members asked if we would host this informational meeting and have an informal discussion on opportunities to add value to local beef production. With calving season

here and planting not far off we will look for a date soon.

With our winter snow, and hopefully with some spring moisture, we will get off to a good planting and growing season for both crops and grass. FEM Electric has been blessed with a strong rural economy and a bright future. We are fortunate to have many young producers and business owners in our communities, but we need to continue to work at maintaining, and bringing in a young, new work force to our service territory.

Our summer construction season and workload are a moving plan, but if you plan to add any electrical load in 2023 or even 2024, please call early. A project with a good plan seems to save everyone some money and helps keep the project running smoothly until completion. Please call Rob Vetch or Ryan Holien 605-426-6891.

#### 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.

## Statement Mailing Dates

March 30, 2023 for March's energy

April 28, 2023 for April's energy

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

# Practicing Electrical Safety Inside and Outside the Home

Electricity is a vital resource South Dakotans depend on daily, but when used unsafely, the consequences can be costly and sometimes even deadly.

Many tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension cords. Sadly, most of these deaths and injuries are preventable.

To help reduce electric safety casualties and injuries, South Dakota's electric cooperatives are dedicated to raising awareness of electric safety information to educate people of all ages on the dangers of electricity.

### Inside the Home:

- Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying. Throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- Don't overload power outlets.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- When trying to unplug something from an outlet, pull on the plug, not the cord.
- Keep in mind that turned off appliances are still connected to electricity until they are unplugged. Always unplug appliances before cleaning or repairing.
- Use extension cords only for short-term purposes, and make sure the cord is adequately suited for the amount of electricity it will be transferring.
- Turn off and unplug all portable electrical appliances, like hairdryers, irons and shavers, when you're finished using them.
- Be familiar with the location of your breaker box and make sure the switches are clearly labeled so you can shut off electricity quickly in the event of an emergency.
- Teach children never to put their fingers in electrical outlets and appliances.
- Keep appliances and cords away from children and use plug covers in outlets.

### Outside the Home:

- If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- Teach children to stay away from power lines and substations and make sure they can recognize "Danger-High Voltage" signs.
- Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.
- Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path and if you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path.
- "Call Before You Dig." Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.



### Power Line Safety

#### Annette Tschetter, age 9

Annette Tschetter, age 9, offers a great safety tip for power lines. Planting trees near power lines can be dangerous and problematic. Annette is the daughter of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter, members of Whetstone Valley Electric based in Milbank, S.D.

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

# SMOOTHIE SENSATION



## WAKE UP COFFEE SMOOTHIE

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup milk
- 1/8-1/4 cup instant coffee granules
- 1 envelope chocolate or vanilla instant breakfast drink mix
- 3 cups ice cubes

### METHOD

In a blender, combine all the ingredients except the ice. Blend until well mixed. Add the ice and blend until well mixed and slushy.

**Catherine Peterson**  
Viborg, S.D.

## STRAWBERRY SMOOTHIE

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups fresh strawberries, stemmed and halved
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1/2 cup ice cubes or chips
- 1/2 tsp. ground cardamom
- 1/4 tsp. ginger

### METHOD

In a blender, combine all of the ingredients. Blend on high speed until it has a smoothie texture. Makes two 12 ounce glasses.

**Dar Duncan**  
Milbank, S.D.

## MINT CHOCOLATE BREAKFAST SMOOTHIE

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup ice
- 1/2 medium avocado, peeled, pitted and chopped
- 1/2 cup frozen sliced banana
- 1/2 cup packed baby spinach leaves
- 1/2 cup reduced fat milk
- 1 tablespoon agave nectar
- 1/2 teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1/4 teaspoon Pure Peppermint Extract
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped chocolate

### METHOD

Place all ingredients except chocolate in blender container; cover. Blend on high speed until smooth. Stir in chocolate. Serve immediately.

[mccormick.com](http://mccormick.com)

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Continued from pg 2

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

- The check register for the month of January 2023 contained information on checks #33103 through #33195 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for January 2023 totaling \$510,574.22. East River and Basin Allocations for 2023 were reviewed and discussed.
- FEM Electric's December 2022 financials were reviewed Patronage Cap and Operating Margins are \$883,918 unaudited.
- January 2023 Financials were reviewed Patronage Cap and Operating Margins are \$296,766.  
The board reviewed the 2023 KWH Tax Report for year-end 2022.
- The board reviewed the Federated Insurance Group Retention Report.
- The board reviewed the East River Margin Stabilization refund for January 2023.
- The board approved and signed the transfer of RUS Z8 Loan Funds in the amount of \$1,722,000.
- Motion by Paula Petersen, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

**Legal Update:** none

**Meeting Report:**

East River board update was given by Gary Bachman.

East River Forum update was given by Tom Thorpe and Gary Bachman

Basin member only teleconference meeting was given by Gary Bachman.

The board acknowledged the receipt of the January 27, 2023, Safety Meeting Minutes and any accident reports.

**Adjourn:** President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.





Macie Luce, 2022 Snow Queen, crowns Addison Kuecker as the 2023 South Dakota Snow Queen in January. *Photo credit: South Dakota Snow Queen Festival*

## South Dakota Snow Queens Keep Rich History Thriving

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

It's not your typical pageant. Getting to the top depends on the pageant participant's goals, ambitions, knowledge and talents. Involvement in community and school functions as well as their success in the interview process is how the winning young women are crowned.

The first South Dakota Snow Queen Festival was organized by Aberdeen's Jaycees and Jaycettes after World War II in 1946. From there, it has grown across eastern South Dakota with the hope of even more involvement across state. Today, approximately 30 communities send contestants, and the program has continued to thrive due to the scholarships and former snow queens who advocate for the program.

Scholarships are given to the winners of the festival – Snow Queens receive \$3,500, Junior Snow Queens receive \$2,000, and Snow Princesses are offered \$200 for any school and any program.

Don Bremer, former president of the South Dakota Snow Queen Committee,

said, "Once the festival is over, the winning Snow Queen and Junior Snow Queen begin their year representing South Dakota at various other festivals – including St. Paul Winter Carnival, Minneapolis Aquatennial, Montevideo Fiesta Days, Willmar Fest, Gypsy Days, Bands Brews & BBQs, the Brown County Fair, and more. They represent their communities and the state of South Dakota and build lasting friendships and skills for their future."

The community gathers behind these young women to make the program special and meaningful. It's a tradition full of history and fun for all.

"We even have an important mascot named Frosty," Bremer said. "Frosty is typically a local businessperson who supports the festival...he or she has six guards, and their identity is revealed only at coronation. Notable past Frosty mascots were Joe Foss and Tom Daschle"

Gabriella Premus, weekend morning anchor and live reporter for television news in Green Bay, Wis., was crowned Junior Snow Queen in 2013. She recounted moving to Webster, S.D., from California and



Gov. Kristi Noem was crowned the South Dakota Snow Queen in 1990.

jumping into the program as a way to get acquainted with the community.

"I would definitely recommend this program – it shaped me as a young woman and gave me confidence," Premus said. "I was able to succeed in the profession I am in today as a television news anchor because of the experience I gained as Junior Snow Queen."

"My highlight was being able to represent my state when we traveled and establish comradery with others involved in the program," Premus continued. "I hope the legacy continues."

# HOOKED ON FISHING

A Game, Fish and Parks employee consolidates fish in a raceway at McNenny State Fish Hatchery for loading and stocking.

## South Dakota Fish Hatcheries Meet Growing Demand

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Fishing guide Dave Spaid, of Pierre, has a passion for helping anglers pull fish out of South Dakota waters. When a customer catches a memorable monster along the banks of the Missouri River, Spaid knows he has had a successful day.

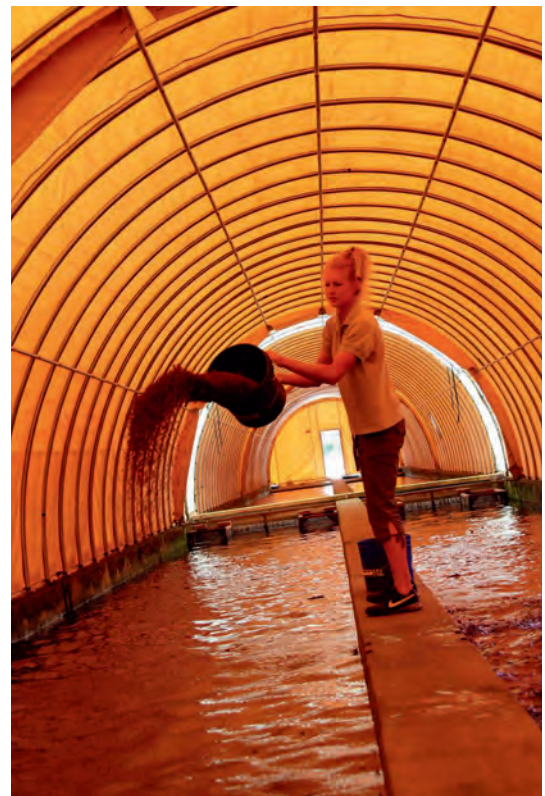
“I basically enjoy watching other people catch fish,” said Spaid, who has been a guide for fishermen from across the Midwest for more than 37 years.

Over the course of his long-standing career, Spaid says he observed more anglers on the water and improved fishing technologies and capabilities, yet fewer sizable fish. “There’s a growing amount of people out there that are fishing every day and having success,” said Spaid. “It puts a detrimental dent in our fishery and sometimes the fish just don’t have a

chance to grow to those bigger sizes.”

According to data from Game, Fish and Parks (GFP), fishing continues to be an important part of South Dakota’s outdoor heritage, confirming Spaid’s suspicions. And while fishing guides, like Spaid, have earned a living by taking fish out of the water, managers of fish hatcheries have taken on the responsibility of putting new fish back in.

Fish Hatcheries administrator Mike Barnes said GFP is being proactive in the development of its three hatchery locations to meet the needs of South Dakota’s anglers. Recent improvements to South Dakota’s three hatcheries located in



Regular feedings help bolster fish before their introduction to South Dakota lakes and rivers.



Spearfish, Rapid City and Waubay have significantly improved the state's abilities to produce and rear mass quantities of fish – everything from walleye to rainbow trout to largemouth bass – for stocking across the state.

The fish produced at these state hatcheries can even bolster South Dakota's larger fisheries, and without them, there would be significantly fewer fish to catch. In 2022, GFP and other entities stocked a total of 66 million fish, including 19 different species, in 138 lakes and streams in South Dakota. Over 60% of the walleye fisheries in South Dakota depend on stocking, and walleye stocking is increasing in Lake Oahe, South Dakota's largest reservoir. Other fisheries, like those for Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and paddlefish, only exist because of hatcheries.

So how does the state manage to raise millions of fish? When raising walleye, hatcheries collect and fertilize fish eggs collected during the spawning season in the spring. The eggs incubate in upwelling jars, which circulate fresh water and gently roll the eggs. When the eggs hatch,

the small fry are either stocked directly into lakes or kept for further growth in ponds or newly installed re-circulating aquaculture system (RAS) tanks.

Due to the recent addition of RAS technology in 2019, Barnes said it is now possible to grow more fish and different species of fish to sizes never before possible. "Anglers are going to feel a huge impact from what we have done with these new systems, even as soon as this summer," said Barnes. "We are increasing small walleye production, and will be stocking bass at 10 inches or bigger, bluegills at eight inches, and muskies at 16 inches or longer – we've never had the opportunity to grow and stock these species of fish at these sizes before. This is all happening at the same time as increased numbers of walleyes returning from traditional rearing ponds and trout production at record levels. I'm extremely proud of the people I am privileged to supervise."

Rearing fish in RAS is complex, and Barnes compares the process to a factory. The scale of production is massive and energy intensive. Barnes is also the

manager of McNenny Hatchery in rural Lawrence County. As a co-op member of Butte Electric, Barnes said the McNenny hatchery in Spearfish has had consistent support from its local co-op to keep the operation rolling.

"There is no way we could do what we do without reliable electricity," said Barnes. "It's just a tremendous blessing for us to have Butte Electric as our provider. They are just so good to work with and so responsive and helpful."

The state is keen on keeping the momentum rolling. In fact, GFP has plans for a new hatchery facility on SDSU's campus. Increasing production, increasing rearing efficiencies, saving money, developing student interns, and enhancing fisheries education, are all reasons for the new facility. Barnes estimates that the project could be completed within the next three years.

"Keep an eye out for new projects because they are happening and underway," he said. "And at the end of the day, it's all about maximizing the satisfaction of our customers, South Dakota's anglers."



Game, Fish and Parks uses trucks equipped with livewells to stock fish directly into South Dakota fisheries across the state.

# WORK ZONE SAFETY

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 17–21, 2023, is a good time to learn more about work zone safety; however, work zone safety should be observed 365 days a year to save lives.

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone not only endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or too close to a work truck can also put an elevated worker in danger by causing their raised bucket to move or sway.

Streets and highways are lined with power poles and electrical equipment, and narrow roadways often require crews like ours to place their equipment in or near traffic lanes. Be alert to utility and other work zone crews for their safety and yours. Besides our crews, you might encounter road workers, other utility crews, tree trimmers or first responders working in or on the side of the road.

According to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, 774 fatal crashes and 857 deaths occurred in work zone crashes in 2020 (at the writing of this article, data was not available for 2021). Many other work zone crashes result in injuries. In 2020, 102,000 work zone crashes occurred.

### To help keep roadside crews safe:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers.
- Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so allow time for unexpected setbacks.
- Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as texting, operating a radio, applying makeup or eating.

Remember, slow down when approaching a work zone and move over for first responders and work crews. Do your part to help everyone return home safely at the end of the day.

## WHAT'S THE ORANGE SIGN FOR?



### It's not a suggestion. It's the law.

Speeding through a work zone is not worth losing your life or taking someone else's.

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 17-21, 2023, is a good time to learn more about work zone safety. However, work zones should be observed every day of the year to save lives.

### 2020 Work Zone Statistics\*

#### Crashes and Injuries

 Estimated total crashes  
**102,000**

 Estimated injuries  
**44,000**

#### Fatalities



**857**  
Total fatalities



**244** Fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles

#### Pedestrian Fatalities in Work Zones

 **105** Pedestrians (non-workers)

 **51** Pedestrian workers

Do your part to help everyone return home safely. The orange sign is not meant for everyone else; it is meant for everyone.



\*most recent data available

Sources: National Work Zone Awareness Week ([nwzaw.org](http://nwzaw.org)), National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, American Traffic Safety Services Association

 Safe Electricity.org®

# LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 10TH

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 126,600 jobs in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

### Safety Comes First

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the U.S. BLS, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.





# MOVING STRUCTURES

A home is moved in Fargo, N.D., due to flooding.

## Reasons to Move and Methods to Get it Done

**Jocelyn Johnson**

[jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop](mailto:jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop)

You found your dreamhouse. It's affordable and everything you ever wanted. The catch? You must move it across town.

It's not an easy thing to do, but moving a complete structure from the past to its future home can be done and is done for the right reasons.

Milbank House Movers, Inc., located in Milbank, S.D., has been in business since 1965 and serves all of South Dakota, North Dakota, and the Mid-Western parts of Minnesota.

Josh Wendland from Milbank House Movers said, "The demand for moving structures remains high across all of our service area...we have multiple crews, that, at times, move multiple houses every week."

A house, sentimental barn or historical

church are all structures that people have moved in South Dakota. Sentiment, safety, time, cost, convenience, and restructuring could all be reasons why this occurs.

Throughout the United States,

intimidating structures are moved regularly – lighthouses, hotels, movie theatres, airport terminals, barges, ships, bridges, grain elevators, houses, libraries, transformers, draglines, and viaducts are a few examples.

"Relocating structures is the world's oldest and largest recycling industry," Wendland stated. "Why people move structures varies greatly, but a few of the most common reasons occur in a



Two buildings are moved from Augustana University campus due to expansion of the college athletics complexes.

vast state like South Dakota. People that would like a home built may have difficulty finding builders that will work in their parts of the state, or the local builders are simply booked out and cannot help in the timeframe that works for them.”

In these circumstances, ready-built companies offer pre-built homes that could be moved to the customer’s site and set it on their basement as if it were built there all along.

A homeowner wanting to upgrade homes in their current location while also wanting to make a profit over the home they currently live in, is another example to move a home. Out with the old and in with the new! This philosophy can be true with barns, buildings, garages, and other types of structures that are in the way of new opportunities, but still hold value.

Flooding is an additional reason why some in the Midwest may want to move their homes to higher ground. Wendland observed that structural movers have seen an increase in the number of requests to elevate houses permanently, so owners

would not have to pay for expensive flood insurance. This move would elevate the long-term value on their home.

“We also work with numerous historical societies to help preserve historic structures, trains, churches, hotels, and schoolhouses by moving them to historical society grounds where they can be saved for future generations to learn from and enjoy,” Wendland stated. “We like to say, Moving the Past to the Present for the Future!”

## Things to Consider When Moving a House

Despite professionals making it look somewhat easy, getting from Point A to Point B may not be that simple. It requires constructive planning and forethought. The following are just a few considerations to take before any structure is moved.

1. Size – the bigger the house, the more expensive it is to move.
2. Obstacles – trees, overhead utility lines, bridge weight limitations, traffic signals, and railroad crossings should be considered

with every route taken.

3. Price of moving the house
4. Distance of the move
5. Cost of the new lot
6. Cost to purchase the house or building
7. Fees associated with moving overhead utilities, tree trimming, and any permits or inspections required to move and place the house
8. Fees associated with disconnecting all of the current utilities, HVAC, and electrical and plumbing systems
9. Remodeling costs
10. Financing costs

Moving a structure can be an exciting process if done correctly. It’s saving a piece of history from destruction or putting in something new without the headache of waiting. Whatever the reason behind the move, the ability to do it is astounding. Homes can be saved, history can be preserved, and future options are made more available.



A home is moved due to flooding near Waubay, S.D.

# SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Now that the seasons have changed, and April is upon us, it's a great time to remind everyone about calling 811 before you dig.

### REMEMBER THESE QUICK TIPS WHEN YOU WANT TO DIG:

1. Mark your project area with white spray paint or white flags.
2. Call 8-1-1 or go online to request locates.
3. Make sure to have any private lines located, too.
4. Wait at least 2 days for utility companies to mark their lines.
5. Do not move any flags or marks left by utility companies.
6. Finally, take your time, and respect the lines by digging a safe distance from any marked lines.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

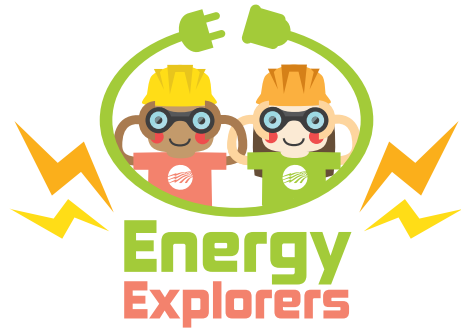
Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# SPRING EFFICIENCY WORD SCRAMBLE

Did you know there are several ways you can save energy during spring months?

Read the efficiency tips below and unscramble the bolded letters to reveal how you and your family can save energy during springtime.

Don't forget to check your work in the answer key below!



1. Sealing air leaks around doors and **diwwson** saves energy and keeps your home comfortable.

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2. LED **hlgist** typically use 75% less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs.

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3. Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone **scragher**.

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4. Planting shade **esrte** around your home can block unwanted heat from the sun.

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5. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room to save **yengre**.

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Answer key: 1) windows 2) lights 3) chargers 4) trees 5) energy



**April 22, 2023**  
**RiverRat Run**  
 Gavins Point Recreation Area  
 Yankton, SD  
 605-660-9483

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.

**MARCH 31-APRIL 2**  
**70th Annual Hayes Play: Trouble in Tumbleweed**  
 Hayes Community Hall  
 Hayes, SD  
 605-280-6556

**APRIL 1**  
**Hill City Easter Egg Hunt**  
 9:45 a.m.  
 Visitor Information Center  
 Hill City, SD  
 605-574-2368

**APRIL 1**  
**Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt**  
 10 a.m.  
 City Park  
 Groton, SD  
 605-397-8422

**APRIL 1**  
**East Dakota Chapter NWTf 30th Banquet**  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-940-0702

**APRIL 2-4**  
**"The Psychic-a Murder Mystery of Sorts" Community Theater Performance**  
 Town Players Theater  
 Watertown, SD  
 605-280-6556

**APRIL 8**  
**East Dakota Chapter NWTf 30th Banquet**  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-940-0702

**APRIL 8**  
**Easter Egg Hunt for Helping with Horsepower**  
 2 p.m.  
 Reclamation Ranch  
 Mitchell, SD

**APRIL 21**  
**Museum After Dark**  
 7 p.m.  
 Children's Museum of South Dakota  
 Brookings, SD

**APRIL 21-22**  
**Junkin' Market Days, Spring Market**  
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
 Expo Building  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-941-4958

**APRIL 22**  
**RiverRat Run**  
 8 a.m.  
 Gavins Point Recreation Area  
 Yankton, SD  
 (605) 660-9483

**MAY 6**  
**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**  
 Lake Farley Park  
 Milbank, SD  
 605-432-6656

**MAY 17**  
**Norwegian Independence Day**  
 6 p.m.  
 Vivian, SD  
 605-222-3296

**MAY 20**  
**Buggy Museum Open House**  
 10 a.m.  
 Stockholm, SD  
 605-938-4192

**MAY 25**  
**Wine Walk**  
 5 p.m.  
 Downtown Businesses  
 Aberdeen, SD  
 605-226-3441

**MAY 27**  
**Back When They Bucked All-Day Rodeo**  
 9 a.m.  
 Days of '76 Event Complex  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-717-7642

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