



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



This year's sunflower crop is expected to be bountiful as market forces have driven up demand and prices

Sensational Sunflowers

Sunflower market blooms

Pages 8-9

Everyone's welcome in the Chislic Circle

Pages 12-13

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Members of Douglas Electric Coop., Inc. was held at Douglas Electric Headquarters on September 13, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by Chairman Ervin Fink and Secretary David Neugebauer kept the minutes thereof.

Pastor Erika Lehmann gave the invocation.

The Chairman declared that a quorum was present.

The Affidavit of Mailing and Notice of Meeting were read by Secretary David Neugebauer.

Motion was made and second to waive the reading of the minutes of the last Annual Meeting and to approve minutes as printed in the September Cooperative Connections. Motion carried.

Treasurer David Neugebauer presented the Audited Financial Report for the past fiscal year. Motion was made and second to accept the Audited Financial Report. Motion carried.

President Ervin Fink assumed the chair to conduct the election of Director. A petition had been returned by Larry VanderLey of District No. 4 and shall be deemed elected as Director from said district.

Jay Spaans gave the Manager's Report, which consisted of the following items: 75th Annual Meeting, introduction of Staff and Board, various projects done by Douglas Electric, 17 months out for some material, prepaid some RUS Loans, new equipment purchased, Coop's in the Classroom and a safety video was played.

Tom Boyko gave the East River Report and he explained the Power Grid during the crisis in February when we were stressing the Grid.

Joel Baier presented the Service Awards to Director Ervin Fink 35 years and Cashier Receptionist Sheila Sanders 45 years and Lineman Brandon Metzinger 15 years.

Jay presented \$50.00 to the youngest member present who was Grace VanderLey age 26.

Chairman Ervin Fink called for any old business. There was none. He then called for any new business. There was a question about wind power and coal that was asked, SPP (Southwest Power Pool) was explained as to how some of it works to market power.

Chairman Ervin Fink then made some introductions of visitors present. He also thanked all those that helped to put the meeting together successfully.

Motion was made and second to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



RE-ENERGIZING CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

YOUR VOICE. YOUR POWER. YOUR CO-OP.

The best part about being a member of your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative is just that...it's YOUR cooperative. That means:



ONE MEMBER = ONE VOTE

Your co-op membership means that you get a vote, which ensures that your voice is heard and accounted for. Every member can vote and has a right to help elect local board members - shaping policies and influencing business.



YOU HAVE A SAY

The democratic process means you have a say in co-op decisions that affect your home, business and community.



YOUR CO-OP ANSWERS TO YOU

Because your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative is not-for-profit, its responsibility is to answer to you, not shareholders.



INVESTED IN COMMUNITY

When you're a member of a local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, you're part of an organization that is dedicated to your local community.



CAPITAL CREDITS

Because rural electric co-ops are not beholden to shareholders and are not-for-profit, they are able to return profits to their members. That means you can get money back in your pocket for being an electric co-op member!

Learn more about the power of membership at YourCoopPower.com

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

DOUGLAS ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 019-046)

Board of Directors:

Ervin Fink - President
Joel Baier - Vice President
David Neugebauer - Secretary/Treasurer
Wayne Lefers
Larry VanderLey

Office Staff:

Jay Spaans - Manager/Line Superintendent
Phyllis Hrdlicka - Staff Assistant
Sheila Sanders - Cashier-Receptionist

Line Crew:

Troy Ziebart - Line Foreman
Randy VanZee - Journeyman Lineman
Brandon Metzinger - Journeyman Lineman
Adam Nase - Journeyman Lineman

Douglas Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Douglas Electric Cooperative, 27913 US Hwy 281, Armour, SD 57313-5726. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Douglas Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living. Subscription information: Douglas Electric Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Armour, SD 57313 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Douglas Electric Cooperative Connections, 27913 US Hwy 281, Armour, SD 57313-5726, Phone (605) 724-2323; Fax (605) 724-2972; e-mail sheila@douglaelec.coop

**In case of a power outage, call
(605) 724-2323**

MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to provide safe, low-cost reliable electricity to all our Members.

NOTICE OF 76th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDER MEMBERS OF DOUGLAS ELECTRIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all members of Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc., that pursuant to provision of the Bylaws, the Annual Meeting of the shareholder members of the above cooperative will be held at the **Douglas Electric Headquarters at 27913 US Hwy 281**, County of Douglas, State of South Dakota commencing at 7:00 PM on the 12th day of September, 2022, to take action upon the following matters:

1. To elect two director's for a three year term for District No. 2 consisting of Garfield, Lincoln and Washington Townships and District No. 3 consisting of Chester, Grandview and Valley Townships. **Ervin Fink has decided not to take out a Petition for re-election for District No. 3.**
2. To hear reports and transact any other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

David Neugebauer
Secretary-Treasurer
Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc.

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. If special assistance is needed, please contact Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc., 27913 US Hwy 281 Armour, SD (605) 724-2323.

76TH ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

6:30 p.m. Member Registration

Dinner Served
Displays

7:00 p.m. Business Meeting Called to Order

Invocation
Determination of Quorum
Proof of Notice for Meeting
Minutes of Previous Meeting
Financial Report
Director Election
Manager's Report
East River Report
Award Presentation

- David Neugebauer - 25 Years
- Larry VanderLey - 5 Years
- Randy VanZee - 25 Years
- Adam Nase - 5 Years

Retirement Presentation

- Ervin Fink - 36 Years

Adjournment of Meeting

\$50 Cash to Youngest Member Present



Take safety precautions during harvest season

Harvest season brings long, grueling hours in the field, which can make workers weary and prone to neglect safety precautions that can prevent serious or fatal electrical injuries. Every year, an average of 62 farmworkers are electrocuted in the U.S., and many more are injured by shocks.

Farm operators, their family members and farm employees are urged to beware of overhead power lines, to keep farm equipment safely away and to know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines.

The increasing size of farm equipment, particularly grain tanks on combines that have become higher with extensions, allows operators to come perilously close to overhead power lines over entrances to fields. It is vital to keep equipment safely away from these lines. Maintain a minimum 10-foot radius around electric lines.

Portable augers are the No. 1 cause of electrocution on the farm. Augers being maneuvered by hand around bin sites have caused the deaths of many farmworkers who became the path to ground for electricity when the top of the auger touched overhead power lines. Always retract or lower augers when moving or transporting.

Other equipment commonly involved in power line accidents includes oversized wagons, large combines and other tall equipment.

Harvest is the most likely period for farm-related injury accidents and fatalities. Combines and other equipment loaded onto trailers can contact power lines and cause electrocutions, as can raising the bed of a truck to unload. That's exactly how a 53-year-old Michigan truck driver was tragically killed when he raised the bed of his semitrailer truck while parked beneath a power line at the edge of a field. He was attempting to clean out the bed, and when he touched the truck bed, he became the path to ground for the electricity.

Follow these safety measures:

- Use a spotter when moving tall loads near power lines.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- Make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. These accidents are survivable if the right actions are taken.

STUDENTS LEARN HOW POWER IS PRODUCED

A group of high school students recently gathered together to take a trip and learn how electricity is produced and how it is used to power their homes, farms, appliances and local businesses.

The students traveled to Bismarck, N.D., to tour the power generation facilities of Basin Electric, which supplies electricity across nine states and is one of the largest power producers in the country.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Don't Mess With a
Transformer Box



Beware of the green box

Cambrie Koistinen

Cambrie, age 11, advises electric cooperative members to use caution around pad-mounted transformers, also known as green boxes, because they contain high-voltage power equipment. Cambrie is the child of Lance and Holly Koistinen of Hayti.

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.

FRESH FROM THE GARDEN

ZUCCHINI SPINACH CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

2 lbs. zucchini
1 lbs. frozen spinach
1 chopped onion
4 cloves of garlic
5 beaten eggs
1/2 cup salad oil
1-1/2 cup cracker crumbs (save
1/2 cup for top)
1-1/2 cup cheddar cheese (save
1/2 for top)

METHOD

Cook and drain first four ingredients. Add eggs, salad oil, cracker crumbs and cheddar cheese. Add salt, pepper and parsley to taste. Spread the remaining crumbs and cheese on top. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes.
Glenda Morton, Sioux Falls

CREAMY CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

1 1/2 long English cucumbers cut
in half moons
1 1/2 lb tomatoes on the vine
sliced in segments
1/4 cup red onion thinly sliced
(optional)
3 tbsp dill finely chopped
2 small garlic cloves grated
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 tsp salt
Ground black pepper to taste

METHOD

In a large bowl, add cucumbers, tomatoes, red onion, dill, garlic, sour cream, salt and pepper. Stir gently from the bottom in the center of the bowl until well combined. Serve salad within next six hours or so.
ifoodreal.com

CUCUMBER SANDWICHES

Ingredients:

1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese,
softened
1 pkg. Good Seasons Italian
Dressing Mix (dry)
1 mini loaf of cocktail rye bread
1 cucumber, sliced
fresh dill weed, chopped

METHOD

The night before serving the cucumber sandwiches, mix together the cream cheese and the Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix. Refrigerate overnight. Shortly before serving, spread some of the cream cheese mixture on a slice of the cocktail rye bread. Top with a slice of cucumber and sprinkle with dill weed.

Elaine Rieck, Harrisburg

CHERI'S SALAD

Ingredients:

1-1 lb. pkg. veggie spiral noodles
2 1/2 c. diced ham
1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
1 c. chopped celery
1 bag frozen peas, thawed

Dressing:

1/2 c. mayonnaise
1/2 c. sour cream
1 tbsp. mustard
1 tbsp. sweet pickle juice
3/4 tsp. onion powder
1/3 c. sugar

METHOD

Cook noodles according to package directions, drain and rinse. Mix ingredients together in a bowl and set aside. Mix until blended and pour over salad. Stir until well blended.

Jan Antonen, Arlington

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.

Q: I'm a firm believer that saving energy helps the environment as well as the pocketbook. So, how can I help others improve their energy savings at home?



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

A: Helping people feels good. Supporting community is sewn into the fabric of your electric co-op, which is guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles that put the needs of members first.

On National Good Neighbor Day, which is Sept. 28, join in the cooperative spirit and help your neighbors, friends and family save at home with these do-it-yourself energy-saving tips.

Tips range in physicality and cost, providing options based on your ability.

CHANGE LIGHTBULBS

Prioritize changing lights that are used the most, such as incandescent porch lights left on all night. LEDs use about 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Some neighbors can't climb step stools or ladders, so help them out if you are able. Be sure to check for overhead power lines when using ladders outside.

SWAP THE FILTER

Furnace filters should be checked regularly and replaced when they are dirty. Simply writing down the dimensions of the furnace filter can help your neighbor, who can pick up a pack of new ones in the store or order online.

If you find a really dirty furnace filter, don't remove it until you have a replacement. Operating your system without a filter allows dirt and dust in the system to go directly to the heating and cooling components, which can damage the system and necessitate costly repairs.

OPEN THE DAMPERS

Register dampers allow heated and cooled air to properly circulate throughout the home. If you have a central air heating or cooling system, dampers should be left open. The idea

that closing registers saves energy is a common misconception. If furniture is on top of dampers, move it to a new permanent spot so it does not block air flow.

ADJUST THE WATER HEATER

Check the water heater and set it to 120 degrees. Use a kitchen thermometer to test the water temperature. At the faucet nearest the water heater, turn only the hot water on and wait until it gets hot. Let the hot water run into a glass and place a kitchen thermometer in it. Wait until it registers the highest temperature. If the water heater is set too high, you can save energy by lowering the setting.



KEEP OUTDOOR UNITS CLEAR

Clean brush and debris from around the air conditioner or heat pump. If leaves or brush pile up around the outdoor unit of a heat pump or air-conditioning system, it can reduce the airflow, making the system work harder than it should. That uses more energy and can reduce the life of the unit.

REMOVE THE WINDOW AC

By removing the unit before wintertime, the window can close properly. This prevents heat from escaping and wasting energy. It also keeps the room more comfortable. Window AC units are heavy and awkward. This project is best done with a buddy. Get that person to commit to helping put the unit back next spring.

SHARE ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAMS

Information is a great way to help, and it's free. Look into programs your co-op offers and share that information with your neighbor. Don't forget to check the U.S. Department of Energy for federal tax credits for upgrades.

Wordes works to master complexity of the pipe organ

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The many pastimes of Rachel Wordes include popular activities such as dance, soccer and volunteer work through her church.

And then there's the pipe organ. Wordes, a native of Clara City and recent graduate of Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, has been on a quest to perfect her musical skills on this arcane instrument since she joined the music program at Dordt.

She received scholarship support in dance and education, but also received a special private scholarship to study the pipe organ because of her proficiency on piano, her passion for music and eagerness to learn. She sat down at the imposing Casavant organ at Dordt and it was love at first listen.

Wordes read a history of the vaunted Casavant organ written by Dr. Joan Ringerwole, who described it as having voice and breath and taking on the qualities of a living being. The massive organ has 2,865 pipes, 57 ranks, 37 stops and 32 pedals.

"The appeal to me is that the pipe organ is like a palette you can use to paint a musical picture," Wordes said. "Every one is different and has its own unique tone and timbre."

Throughout her college career, Wordes taught piano and pipe organ lessons, led summer music camps, participated in recitals and distinguished herself in her ability to play and teach.



Rachel Wordes plays an organ at St. Bavorkerk in Haarlem, Netherlands. The instrument was built in the early 1700s and was played by Handel and Mozart.

During two weeks last spring, she was selected to take part in a pipe organ tour across the Netherlands. She has also traveled with her fellow Dordt College students and faculty to Europe for the opportunity to play 24 famous and historic pipe organs.

"The Netherlands trip was remarkable," she said. "We got to play two or three pipe organs a day. We had some pieces picked out and played in the style represented during the time the organ was made, going all the way back to the 1300s. It was kind of like driving a car that's not yours. They're all different with

different tones, temperaments, character and personality. I learned a lot."

Knowledge is something Wordes is more than eager to share. In 2019, she spent the summer teaching music in La Entrada, Honduras. During the first five months of 2022, Wordes worked with students in Managua, Nicaragua, and recently returned there with a year-long commitment to teach English and music at a local private school.

Her career goal is to teach English as a Second Language (ESL).

"I love to teach and watch students expand their skills," she said.



Sunflower commodity prices are making farmers smile

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

It's hard to keep from smiling when you're driving past a field of golden sunflowers in full bloom during the late summer months.

Wall Drug billboards, old red barns and shiny grain bins are no match for the attention of motorists along I-90 when the sunflowers are bursting forth in all their spectacular yellow splendor stretching far into the horizon.

The subject of many aerial and terrestrial photographers across the region, sunflowers have a special appeal as they grow tall in the field and seem to greet the day leaning forward with a positive energy that exudes joy and optimism.

The current sunflower commodity market certainly has given farmers a reason to smile. South Dakota farmers raised nearly 600,000 acres and more than 1 billion pounds of sunflowers

last year, ranking second only to North Dakota for sunflower production. In fact, for the past decade the Dakotas and Minnesota have alternated the top three spots in their friendly competition depending largely on the vagaries of weather patterns. At least 75 percent of the U.S. commercial sunflower production has taken place in those three states.

About 1,000 of those South Dakota acres were grown by Brad Schecher, a fourth generation farmer who also rotates wheat, corn, flax and soybean crops on his 3,500-acre spread located near Bison in the northwestern part of the state, one of the hot-bed regions for sunflowers.

Schecher took over the family farm from his father nearly 10 years ago and said the military conflict in Ukraine and other economic factors have converged to form a "perfect storm" that has constricted international supplies and created a favorable environment for the

current global sunflower oil market. Commodity prices have broken all-time records by soaring 60 percent compared to a year ago.

"It's as good as any of the 10 years I've been involved in it," Schecher said. "Ukraine was the largest producer of sunflowers and the largest exporter of sunflower oil on the world market with about 50 percent of the overall market, but a lot of their crop has been destroyed or confiscated by the Russian military. That's one of the things that have driven prices up, and it's been good for the farmers."

High prices and high returns are keeping Schecher interested in raising sunflowers, but sometimes he has his doubts. Especially when he gets tired of fighting the fires, a battle that all sunflower farmers are bound to face at some point.

Schecher said that for all the eye appeal sunflowers hold, it's not always easy to bring in the crop. He explained that reaping the high-yield, high-oleic variety that he grows for the sunoil market can cause fires to break out during the combining process in the



Brad Schecher farms roughly 1,000 acres of sunflowers near Bison. *Photo by Brooke Schecher*

fall. The elevated oil content of the plant - ranging anywhere from 38 to 44 percent - along with the dust that's created during combining can result in a combustible mixture that is sometimes ignited by the presence of static electricity.

To make sure he's prepared, Schecher keeps a battery-operated leaf blower aboard the combine at all times.

"I have to keep blowing the combine off when I get to the end of the field to keep a fire from breaking out," he said. "You can see the accumulated piles of dust start glowing red-hot, and you can usually smell it and get it put out before it gets out of control. It's a hazard that you just have to contend with. Sometimes it can happen two or three times a day, especially when it's dry conditions."

Other farmers, such as Lance Hourigan of Lemmon, S.D., have addressed this common problem by investing in after-market solutions. Hourigan reached northward across the state border and recruited Stelter Repair out of New Leipzig, N.D., to manufacture an air tower to help

Estimated number
of sunflower acres

600,000

planted in South
Dakota in 2021

reduce the risk of fire during harvest time. Resembling a chimney, the device draws in air from above the combine where there is much less dust and debris billowing from the threshing process, and blows the air over the engine to help it stay cool and clean.

While Schecher focuses on the high-oleic variety that represents about 80 percent of the market, there are other varieties grown for silage, birdfeed and other uses. Confection sunflowers, grown mostly in the eastern part of the state, are those found bagged up on convenience store shelves, the kind loaded with an assortment of flavors and

seasonings and meant for chewing.

While sunflowers are native to the continent, their history in North America can be traced to American Indian tribes in present-day Arizona and New Mexico. Archaeologists have found that these tribes domesticated the crop as early as 3000 B.C. The seed was ground or pounded into flour for cakes, mush or bread. Some tribes mixed the meal with vegetables such as beans and squash. The seed was cracked and eaten for snacking, while the oil was squeezed from the seed and used in making bread.

Non-food uses included purple dye for textiles, body painting and other decorations. Parts of the plant were used to treat snakebites. The oil was used on the skin and hair, and the dried stalk was used as a building material.

Today, agricultural scientists are exploring new uses for the plant while also figuring out how to provide protection from wireworms and other threats. Meanwhile, bullish farmers are keeping their eye on the global markets while exuding the same sense of sunny optimism associated with the sunflowers they work so hard to raise.

DOUGLAS ELECTRIC ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Balance Sheet

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Total Utility Plant	\$9,360,420	\$8,994,757
Less: Reserve for Depreciation	\$2,952,310	\$2,790,680
Net Value of Electric Plant	\$6,408,110	\$6,204,077
Investments in Associated Organizations	\$158,842	\$149,774
East River, Basin and CFC Capital Credits	\$1,816,220	\$1,796,190
Other Investments		
Total Investment Account	\$1,975,062	\$1,945,964
Cash and Temporary Investments	\$130,455	\$198,535
Accounts Receivable	\$345,290	\$428,321
Materials and Supplies	\$126,396	\$113,608
Prepaid Expense	\$57,817	\$25,178
Other Current Assets	\$337	\$337
Other Deferred Debits	\$40,749	\$69,998
TOTAL ASSETS and OTHER DEBITS	\$9,084,216	\$8,986,018
MEMBER EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital, Memberships & Other	\$3,349,995	\$3,290,743
LIABILITIES		
Long Term Debt (RUS, FFB & CFC)	\$5,473,085	\$5,408,160
Notes and Accounts Payable	\$149,441	\$163,211
Consumer Deposits	\$8,784	\$10,587
Accrued Taxes and Employee Benefits	\$94,247	\$106,030
Deferred Credits	\$8,664	\$7,287
TOTAL MEMBER EQUITIES & LIABILITIES	\$9,084,216	\$8,986,018

Statement of Revenue and Expense

	2021	2020
REVENUE		
Farm and Residential Energy	\$2,144,627	\$2,240,863
Irrigation Energy Sales	\$58,572	\$21,903
Commercial Energy Sales	\$736,297	\$676,459
Other Electric Revenues	\$16,916	\$12,951
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,956,412	\$2,952,176
EXPENSES		
Purchased Power Costs (East River Electric)	\$1,501,553	\$1,480,995
Operating and Maintenance	\$426,528	\$437,591
Customer Service, Consumer Accounting and Collections	\$166,518	\$162,679
Administrative, Office and General Expense	\$419,612	\$382,744
Depreciation	\$229,585	\$221,750
Interest on Long Term Debt	\$159,233	\$173,754
Other Deductions	\$1,242	\$332
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,904,271	\$2,859,845
MARGINS		
Operating Margins	\$52,141	\$92,331
Non-Operating Margins, Interest and Other	\$5,811	\$16,924
G & T Capital Credits (East River & Basin)	\$97,240	\$110,103
Other Capital Credits (RESCO & CFC)	\$13,706	\$21,235
TOTAL MARGINS	\$168,898	\$240,593

Statement of Non-discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

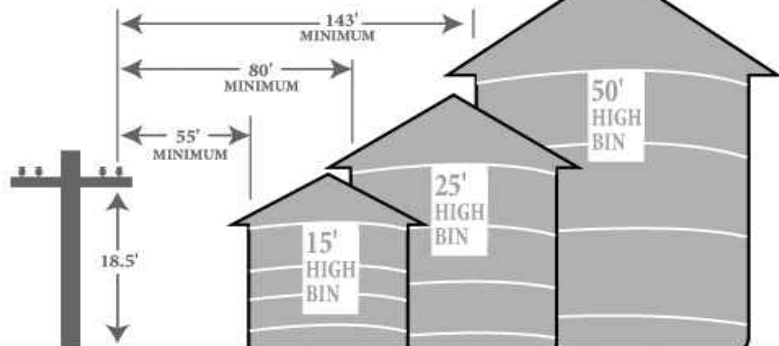
Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <http://www.acsr.usda.gov/complaintfilingcust.html> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

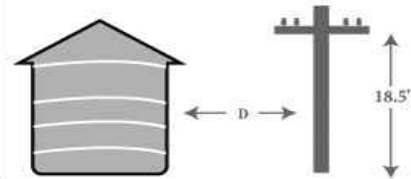
GRAIN BIN SAFETY



DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.



IN CASE OF OUTAGE, CALL 605-724-2323

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 ST | Look at your main meter. |
| 2 ND | If the display is NOT lit up, you do not have power and should call Douglas Electric. If your main meter display is ON, you should have power. |
| 3 RD | If the display is ON, you can check your breakers below the meter or the breakers in your house. |
| 4 TH | When reporting outages, please give name of member and location number to assist with prompt response.
If you don't get an answer at 605-724-2323, call:
Troy Ziebart, 933-2249, Adam Nase, 770-0630, Brandon Metzinger, 770-6469, Randy VanZee, 770-2565 or Jay Spaans, 530-3683 |

CHISLIC FESTIVAL

Roger and Lori Pietz claimed the New Age Nosh Award at last year's Chislic Festival in Freeman. Photos by SD Chislic Festival

Step inside the Chislic Circle for unique food and lots of family fun

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

In a world already rife with scads of dander-raising hot-button issues, add chislic to the list. It seems that anytime more than a few cocksure chislic chefs gather around a grill, controversy can't be too far away.

The bickering typically begins with picking the proper protein. Opt for the traditional scrumptious cubes of mutton or lamb, or take a risk and go hog-wild with pork or maybe buffalo? How about swinging farther to the edge with venison, goat, beef or chicken? Dare we add emu to the list?

At least one restaurant is sending the chislic cosmos into spasms by serving up plates of (gasp) "fish-lic."

The plethora of opinions surrounding the preparation of chislic starts with the choice of meat and springboards from there into seasonings, cooking methods and even serving techniques. Grilled,

deep fried or air fried? Fork, toothpick or skewer? Don't get a chislic enthusiast started on the sauce selection.

Many people and various cultures have a strong attachment to their particular favorite types of food, but South Dakota's desire for chislic is unusually intense – especially for those who dwell within the Chislic Circle.

If the name Chislic Circle evokes images of a secret society that conducts mysterious midnight rituals around a raging bonfire deep in the forest, well, it's not quite that. It's more of a clever marketing concept, and an effective one for community leaders who take pride in their chislic lore. In fact, everyone is invited to come inside this circle.

At the center of the Chislic Circle lies Freeman, S.D., with the chislic realm falling inside a 100-mile radius and including communities such as Kaylor, Menno, Hurley, Marion, Bridgewater, Emery and others. The Circle was spun into creation in 2018 when a small

but passionate contingent of chislic connoisseurs decided to celebrate and demonstrate their pride in their unique culinary heritage.

Andrea Baer was part of that early chislic cadre. She said the catalyst came when chislic was officially declared the "state nosh" by the Legislature four years ago.

"Before then, when you mentioned chislic outside of the area, there was hardly anyone who knew what you were talking about," said Baer, who is a native of Turkey Ridge still living on the farm her forebears from Denmark settled several generations ago. "It's something that's very unique to the area and we



like to celebrate it.”

That celebration has taken the form of an annual event that’s been recognized by tourism officials as one of the state’s fastest-growing festivals with an estimated 10,000 attendees last year after a pandemic pause in 2020. Organizers were expecting up to a couple thousand for the inaugural event in 2018, but four times that many showed up. The following year, the party was moved from the Freeman softball field to the more spacious 40-acre Prairie Arboretum.

This year’s festival was held on July 30 with the usual food vendors touting their unique savory recipes, libations, live music, a family-friendly kid zone, bingo, dancing, a cornhole competition, 5K run/walk, helicopter rides and other forms of family-oriented fun.

Festival board member and chislic expert Ian Tuttle also presented, “From Russia with Love: The History of Chislic” at the nearby Heritage Hall Museum and Archives.

Tuttle enjoys telling the story of how chislic arrived in the late 1800s with a particular group of immigrants described as “Germans from Russia.” A group of German Mennonites and Hutterites originally fled religious persecution in the 16th century and migrated eastward through the Russian Empire where they raised crops and sheep.

They chopped the meat into small pieces, cooked it over a fire and called it “shashlik,” a word for “skewer” rooted in the Turkic languages of Central Asia. The word is a close cousin to the more widely known “shish kebab.”

Eventually, those migrants found their way to present-day southeastern South Dakota and made sure to bring their shashlik with them. Those residing



inside the Chislic Circle generally recognize Johann Hoellwarth as the individual who introduced chislic to the Dakota Territory. Born in 1849 to a German Lutheran family in the Crimea, Hoellwarth settled just outside of where Freeman is today and was laid to eternal rest in the town.

Each year a panel of seven fearless judges takes on the task of naming the festival’s “best chislic.” For the past two years the top Traditional Division Award has gone to Kyle Sturzenbecker and his squad of Sheep Flockers.

Sturzenbecker said he and his fellow chef Josh Goehring don’t characterize themselves as competitive, but he also isn’t about to give away any trade secrets.

“You don’t have to do a whole lot. I just let the flavor of the meat speak for itself,” he said. “Honestly, I never

thought I’d win. I just like to cook good food that people enjoy eating.”

In 2021, the non-traditional New Age Nosh Award was claimed by Roger Pietz, owner of the Pietz Kuchen Kitchen. The establishment is mostly known for its rich custard dessert, but for the festival Pietz decided to go in a different direction and put together a tangy chislic pizza.

Ultimately, the Chislic Festival is about celebrating family, honoring the past and preserving the rural lifestyle.

“The tradition of chislic comes not from cities, the wealthy, or the privileged,” Baer said, “but from the rural, hardworking farm tradition of the people who settled this area. We thrive on the rural, while building the region through vibrant community.”

Anglers get hooked on fly fishing for fun and sport

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Tall tales, small tales, long tales, short tales...Buddy Seiner is interested in hearing any fishing tale you'd like to tell.

While he's partial to fly fishing, Seiner is passionate about fishing in all of its forms. And he offers an open invitation to anglers of every ilk to share their stories of fishing adventures enjoyed with friends, family members or in the presence of one's own company.

Seiner started www.fishstories.org after his grandfather passed away and he realized there were no audio or video recordings of the many outings they took together casting flies and chatting about whatever popped into their minds in the moment.

Several years ago, Seiner stood on the main stage during a TED X speech in Rapid City and explained his purpose in creating the website. Soon after, he began hauling in a mess of fish stories submitted by avid anglers from far and wide. Today, the archive holds more than 400 sagas of lunkers that were landed, the big ones that got away and precious time spent with loved ones in the great outdoors.

"I believe all fish stories need to be told," said Seiner, who works as a communications consultant based in Pierre. "I used to fish a lot with my grandpa and I realized I'd never hear his voice again after he passed away. He was full of wisdom and had a great sense of humor. I had some regrets about not recording him, so I started this project as a way for people to preserve those cherished voices and to preserve the memories."

Seiner observes that many people are in some way connected with fishing, whether they pursue it themselves or know someone who likes the feel of a rod and reel. He has found that the stories submitted to the site feature not only intriguing narratives of reaching the day's limits under clear cerulean skies but they also reveal relationships that run deeper than the deepest river channel. Some describe disastrous events.

One of those is the story of an outdoors escape that quickly turned tragic. A young woman tells how she lost her husband to an accident while the two were ice fishing on a frozen lake in Minnesota.

While there are stories of heartache and loss, Seiner said most tales tend to trend toward the positive. He has his own fond memories of how his uncle introduced him to fly fishing



Part art and part skill, fly fishing is an increasingly popular pastime across the region. *Photo by Travel South Dakota*

26 years ago and how he started tying his own flies as a college student.

“My Uncle Dwaine gave me a rod and I went in the back yard and started practicing. He always told me I’d enjoy it and he was right,” Seiner said.

It was at Bear Butte Creek near Sturgis that Seiner landed his first trout. He was casting for a brown trout beneath a willow tree. The fish went for the dry fly – a blue wing olive – and both the fish and Seiner were hooked. The fish was landed and released but Seiner’s love of the sport has never waned.

Fly fishing is growing in popularity across the region as more anglers discover the adventure and what many describe as the therapeutic benefits of casting flies out across the water. Though fly fishing is often associated with the clear, cold, fast-running streams found in the Black Hills area, Seiner said there is a wide range of options available depending on an angler’s tastes and preferences.

“We have a lot of water that’s prime for fly fishing,” he said. “It’s a sport

Buddy Seiner started fishstories.org to preserve fishing tales and memories like those he has of his late fishing pal, Lucy.

that’s new to a lot of people and it’s gaining momentum. You can catch anything on a fly rod. You can go for trout and fish the stock dams out west, you can sight-fish for walleye or channel catfish in the clear waters of the Missouri River, you can fish the glacial lakes in the northeast or fish for carp out near Yankton.”

Whether they go for carp or brown trout, many fly fishers take an interest in maintaining and preserving the habitat for future generations to enjoy.

Seiner serves on the board of a group called Black Hills Fishers and works

with folks like Hans Stephenson of Dakota Angler and Outfitter in Rapid City to promote the sport of fly fishing, support conservation and educate the public on how to preserve the environment.

“Fly fishing is so much fun,” he said, “but if we don’t do what we can to protect our woods and waters, it will be a tragedy. We need to stay committed to preservation and conservation, and I’ve found that most people who enjoy the outdoors are very conscientious. We want people to have fishing stories to share for generations to come.”



REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
Photo Credit: SD State Fair

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.

AUGUST 24-28
Corn Palace Festival
604 N Main St., Mitchell, SD,
605-995-8430

AUGUST 24-28
Kool Deadwood Nites
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

AUGUST 25-28
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village, Madison, SD,
605-256-3644

AUGUST 26-27
Hill City Wine, Brew and BBQ
Elm St., Hill City, SD, hillcitywine
brewandbbq.com

AUGUST 26-27
Sizzlin' Summer Nights
Main St., Aberdeen, SD,
605-226-3441

AUGUST 26-28
Hot Air Balloon Festival
Various Locations, Hot Springs, SD, fallriverballoonfest.com

AUG. 30-SEPT. 4
Sturgis Mustang Rally
Thunderdome, Sturgis, SD,
sturgismustangrally.com

SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
890 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD,
sdstatefair.com

SEPTEMBER 4
Dakota Five-O
City Park, Spearfish, SD,
dakotafiveo.com

SEPTEMBER 8-11
S.D. State Senior Games
Watertown, SD, 605-491-0635
or 605-753-3668

SEPTEMBER 10
605 Black Hills Classic
Lions Park, Spearfish, SD,
605-274-1999

SEPTEMBER 10
Germanfest
Fawick Park, Sioux Falls, SD,
siouxfallsistercities.com/event

SEPTEMBER 10
Insect Festival
McCrory Gardens, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6707

SEPTEMBER 10-11
Fall Harvest Festival
Delmont, SD, 1-605-491-4808

SEPTEMBER 16-18
South Dakota Film Festival
Capitol Theatre, Aberdeen, SD,
southdakotafilmfest.org

SEPTEMBER 17-18
Northeast South Dakota Celtic Faire and Games
37925 Youth Camp Rd.,
Aberdeen, SD, 605-622-0144

SEPTEMBER 23-24
Hops and Hogs Festival
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

SEPTEMBER 23-25
HNIRC Championship of Champions
Stanley County Fairgrounds,
Fort Pierre, SD, horsenations
indianrelay.com

SEPTEMBER 24
Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival
Main Street Square, Rapid City,
SD, 605-716-7979

SEPTEMBER 24-25
Menno Pioneer Power Show
Pioneer Acres, Menno, SD,
mennopowershow@yahoo.com

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1
Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival
Custer, SD, gfp.sd.gov/buffalo-roundup

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1
Oktoberfest
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

SEPT. 30-OCT. 2
SiouxperCon
1201 N West Ave., Sioux Falls, SD, siouxpercon.com

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