

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

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Save Power and Money



Laura London

“Who touched the thermostat?” In many households it’s an unwritten rule, maybe written in some, that you don’t touch the thermostat. In the 2017 movie *Daddy’s Home 2*, directed by Sean Anders, dads of several generations discuss how allowing a child to “fiddle with the thermostat” is equivalent to handing the kids your wallet or 401(k,) claiming

“The thermostat is a sacred covenant!” At my house, the thermostat isn’t a problem. I don’t touch it because I’m sure there is something wrong with my internal thermostat and I’m either hot or cold or both and it has little to do with the actual temperature in the house. The lights, however, are a different story! When we have company, I often find myself reminding my “adult” children to turn the lights off and close doors. I still ask the age-old rhetorical question: “Were you raised in a barn?” knowing full well where they were raised, and there was no barn involved. They are all now responsible for their own bills, including the electricity. I have formed the conclusion that they either like wasting money or it’s different at Mom’s house. Hence: I subscribe to old man rhetoric like, “Are you trying to heat the entire neighborhood? Shut the door!”

These days, you also have your electric company telling you to conserve energy: turn that thermostat up in the summer, down in the winter, and turn the lights off. It seems counter-intuitive that your power company would ask you to conserve electricity, to use more efficient appliances, and to monitor your usage, but that is exactly what we are doing. We are not a big investor owned-utility out to make a profit on the amount of power you use. Lake Region is a cooperative, owned by our members, on a mission to provide you with reliable affordable power. We are living in a time when the demand for electricity is unprecedented. Practically everything we do relies on electricity! Due to the higher demand for electricity, power generation companies like Basin Electric are investing billions of dollars in infrastructure and new sources of power, including clean energy. Government and regulatory

agencies seem to be doing their best to block our ability to provide reliable energy to our members at any cost, affordable or not.

Adjusting the thermostat just a few degrees so the heat or air conditioning takes just a little more time resting between cycles can make a big difference in your electric bill. Another thing to watch out for, especially if you have teenagers at home, or visitors, is the use of baseboard heat and window air conditioners. We often get calls from members in the spring and fall trying to figure out why their usage is so high, only to find out that someone has turned a heater on in a bedroom or basement family room



Whether you are looking for free or low-cost ways to save energy or need to make a major purchase that will help pay for itself over time due to energy savings, here are some ways to make a difference.



No-Cost

- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Program your programmable thermostat.
- Use sunlight for heat in the winter.
- Fully load dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers.
- Use window coverings to keep out cold or heat.
- Turn off electronics when not in use.



Low-Cost

- Use smart strips that turn off power to unused items.
- Make sure your HVAC system is serviced regularly and filters are changed as often as recommended.
- Purchase an insulating blanket made for hot water heaters.
- Find and fill air leaks in your home.
- Caulk between window/door frames and walls.
- Install a smart thermostat.



Major Purchases

- Upgrade to a high-efficiency HVAC system.
- Purchase energy-efficient appliances.
- Insulate attics, exterior walls, basements and crawl spaces.
- Purchase a clothes dryer with a moisture sensor.
- Purchase a water-saving dishwasher or washing machine.
- Replace old windows with energy-efficient versions.

Learn more at:



Continued on page 3.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

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LAKE REGION RIPPLES COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 341, 1212 N Main St., Webster, SD 57274. Lake Region Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, Lake Region Electric members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. (USPS 018-904) Periodicals Postage Paid at Webster, SD 57274 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lake Region Ripples Cooperative Connections, PO Box 341, Webster, SD 57274. Telephone 605-345-3379; Toll Free 1-800-657-5869; Fax 605-345-4442 E-mail: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

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Save Power and Money, Continued

while the AC is running in the rest of the house. People running heat and AC simultaneously happens more often than you would think. And no matter what the advertisement says, space heaters use a lot of electricity to run.

In addition to adjusting the thermostat and turning off lights, or unplugging appliances when not in use, you should definitely be monitoring your usage! If you are not already using SmartHub, start now! You don't have to download the app; you can access it through any browser. There are some great tools and graphs that can help you monitor your energy use day to day or compare year to year. Don't wait until your bill arrives to try to figure out what is going on; check your SmartHub every few days or weekly.

We want to provide you with the energy you need while asking you to conserve when and where you can. It will help ease the strain on your wallet and the nation's electric grid.

If you would like more information on how to monitor your usage through SmartHub or on energy saving rebate programs through Lake Region Electric Association, contact our office or visit our website: www.lakeregion.coop and click on the Together We Save tab.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Brian and Sarah Hohlen

Dakota Electronics LLC

SOL Sisters LLC

Wendy Meyers

Donald Rye

Brooks Katzer

Brian and Julie Carda

John and Meagan Spears

Jerrel and Jodi Olson

Tanner and Kassie Roehr

Tracey Luitjens

Mark Gulbrandson

Moshall White

Extreme Heat Preparation

Learn How to Stay Hydrated

You need to drink enough water to prevent heat illness. An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of water daily. Everyone's needs may vary.

- You can check that you are getting enough water by noting your urine color. Dark yellow may indicate you are not drinking enough.
- Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- If you are sweating a lot, combine water with snacks or a sports drink to replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prepare if you have a medical condition or are taking medicines.

Make a Plan to Stay Cool

Do not rely only on electric fans during extreme heat. When temperatures are in the high 90s, fans may not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

- Spending a few hours each day in air conditioning can help prevent heat illness.
 - If you have air conditioning, be sure that it is in working order.
 - If you do not have air conditioning or if there is a power outage, find locations where you can stay cool. For example, a public library, shopping mall or a public cooling center. Plan how you will get there.
 - Additional resources may be available from local government or community groups.
- Make sure you have plenty of lightweight, loose clothing to wear.
- Create a support team of people you may assist and who can assist you. Check in with them often to make sure that everyone is safe.

Learn Emergency Skills

- Learn how to recognize and respond to heat illness.
- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power. Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power.

Gather Emergency Supplies

- Gather food, water and medicine. Stores might be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home

Kit. In the event of a power outage, you may lose access to clean drinking water. Set aside at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Consider adding drinks with electrolytes. Include sunscreen and wide-brimmed hats.

- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies.
- Have a one-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.
- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up)
- Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

Source: American Red Cross



Power Line Safety "Call 911 and Don't Get Out"

Hobie Klein, Age 12

Hobie Klein warns farmers to call 911 and don't get out of the tractor if contact is made with a power line. Hobie's parents are Dean and Karey Klein, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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

Summer SALADS

MOM'S VEGETABLE SALAD

Ingredients:

Salad

2 cans diced carrots
1 can green beans
1 can yellow beans
1 small can peas
1 can cut baby corn

Drain all the vegetables

Add

1/2 cup diced green pepper
1 cup diced celery
1 diced medium onion

Dressing

Combine in a saucepan
1/2 cup oil
1 1/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup white vinegar
1/3 cup cider vinegar
2 Tbsp water

*Combine in a saucepan
and boil until clear*

Method

Pour dressing over vegetables and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Keeps for a week.

Debra Clow
Harrisburg, S.D.

FRESH SUMMER SALAD

Ingredients:

3 tbsps. olive oil, divided
1 tbsp. lime juice
1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/5 cups fresh corn or thawed frozen corn
1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
1/2 cup cucumber, finely chopped
2 tbsp. fresh basil, minced
1/3 cup crumbled Feta cheese or Parmesan cheese
1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar or Italian salad dressing

Method

Mix 2 tablespoons of oil, lime juice and salt in a small bowl. Cook corn in a skillet with remaining 1 tbsp. oil. Pour corn into bowl, cool slightly. Add tomatoes, cucumber and basil. Refrigerate. Before serving, drizzle with dressing, cheese and balsamic vinegar or Italian dressing.

Barb Selland
Mitchell, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
2 tbsps. mayonnaise
1 tsp. parsley flakes
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/4 cup chopped red onion

Method

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.

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 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Unclaimed Capital Credits

Help Us Get Our Member's Money to Them

One thing that sets Lake Region Electric Association apart from other electric companies is that we are a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative. LREA allocates any excess margins to our consumers after paying all the bills, reinvesting in infrastructure, and meeting our financial obligations. Lake Region tracks the allocations and refunds the money, back to

our member-owners, as cash positions allow. Active Members saw their refund as a credit on their bill that was sent out at the beginning of May. Inactive members were mailed a check in June. A number of checks were returned to Lake Region as undeliverable by the post office. We are asking for your help getting unclaimed payments to previous account holders.

Here's where you can help your fellow cooperative members:

If you know the current address or phone number of anyone listed here, please notify them to contact us: Lake Region Electric Association by calling 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869 or by sending an email to lakeregion@lakeregion.coop. Thank you for your help!

Ackerman Paul
or Barbara Ackerman
Alberts Tim
or Jodie Alberts
Anderson Ben
or Bonnie Anderson
Azure Jr Val
or Angel Azure
Bair Helen
or Craig Bair
Barse Cheyenne
or Mary Barse
Becker Doug
Behrens Kathy
Benda Carol
Benda Chan
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Dumarce, Sr. Sampson
Eagle Ione
Eagle-Anderson Nadine
or Francis X Eagle
Ehlebracht Joel

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or Joann Eisenbeisz
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Halbert Likness Lis
Halsam Jr. James E
or Julie Huso
Harty Kenneth
Hawkins Beverly
Heezen Jon
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Hill Ruth
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Huffman Tom
Hughes Sid
Irizarry Robert
Iverson Darron
Johnson Alex
Johnson Shane
Johnson Theodore
Johnson Hazel B
or Terry Johnson
Johnson Tom
Jordan John
or Myron Jordan
Joyner Mary C
Joyner Herman Tami
Kellen Est David or Marilyn Kellen
Kluck Doug

King Michael
Knock Russell
Knutson Randy
Kolkman Gene
Lake Ryan
Larsen Lance
Larson James
Likness Evelyn
Lien Richard
Lufkins Amanda
Marian Est Lew
or Tammy Paul
Marske Dean
McKay Joyce
McKittrick Roger
McMurtry Sharon
Micka Ed
Nerison Jamee
Neilan Kaci
Neugebauer Ronald
or Lynn Neugebauer
Nyhus Jeanine
Owens Hauser Ellen
Palleson Sarah
Parrow Mike
or Dennis Parrow
Payne Steven
Peck Everett (Fred)
or Caron Peck
Peckham Rick
Peterson Joseph
or Debbie Peterson
Plenty Chief Lynelle
Privatt Carl
Rabenberg Maurice
Rathbun Est Arlyce
or Mark Rathbun
Redday Darren
Redday Dennis
Redday Jr. Gordon
Redday Tiger Jessica
Redday Tamara
Redwing Norman
Rickert Craig
Robinson Charles
or Carol Robinson

Roman Jeffrey
or Mary F Roman
Rosand Robert
or Linda Stanfill
Rozell Lana
Samson Herbert or Abigail
or Touchmark@ All Saints
Sayers Randall
Sass Est Kenneth
or Chris Sass
Scotting Gaylon
Sea Douglas
Seaboy Sarah
Seaboy Walter
Seas Blake
Shepherd Est Kenneth
or Karen Shepherd
Shepherd Raymond
Shortall Joseph
Sigaty Est M M
or Nancy Sigaty
Soukup Chris
St John Elmer
Stokke Kendall
Strand Est Duane
Swanson Adelaide
Ter Eick Mary J
Tobin Greg
Tracy Mark
Turner Dawn
Weagel Don
or Monte Bundy
White Felonna
Williams Imogene
Wilson Michael
Winckler Paul
Woldt Sr. James L
Woytcke Jesse
Wycoff Mary K
Hilltop Aerial Inc.
Dakota Grain Enterprises
Dakota Nation Broadcasting
Northern States Fiber Inc
Marcy Lucy
TIC Wyoming, Inc,

Sparking Innovation On The Farm

Tara Miller

Central Electric Cooperative, Manager of Communications

The year was 1950, and a teenager named Robert Moe was living on a farm in northern Hanson County when Intercounty Electric brought power to the prairie. His parents, Chester and Myrl, had three boys and three girls. Robert was the second youngest of the Moe children.

When farms started receiving power, welding manufacturers held demonstrations to sell their products to area farmers. So, Robert's dad and his brother, Roy, purchased a 220-volt Forney brand welder.

"Intercounty Electric started small group welding classes in each county. Hanson County's classes were held at an implement dealer in Alexandria," Robert said.

After several weeks of classes, Intercounty Electric organized a contest in each county to pick the best welder, and Robert emerged as the winner in Hanson County. His skills were further recognized in a four-county contest held at the Intercounty Electric office building, where he was again named the winner.

Robert presented the first-ever 4-H welding demonstration at the South Dakota State Fair.

"Because my welding demonstration required a special electrical connection, Intercounty Electric installed an electric plug on a pole in the middle of an empty lot on the state fairgrounds."

Robert fabricated livestock gates and other farm necessities. In 1953, he also made a metal grille guard for the family's 1952 International pickup. His welding demonstrations would earn him a trip to Chicago to attend the 4-H Club Congress in the electrical division.

At age 21, Robert joined the United States Army and served for two years before returning home to farm. He eventually met his future wife, Norma Northrup, who grew up on a farm served by Intercounty Electric east of Letcher on Highway 37.

Robert and Norma grew crops and raised cattle on the Moe homestead for more than 25 years. They spent 32 winter seasons in south Texas and traveled around in an RV in the summer for 18 years before eventually moving to Mitchell.

Robert remembers, "Having a yard light was a handy new luxury when we first got electricity, but it got even better later when Intercounty offered a free all-night light if wired through the meter."

Norma said, "It's amazing to look at all that's changed with electric appliances. Refrigerators, deep freezers, water heaters, and washing machines."

However, Norma explained, one of the more profound impacts of electricity was how it would shape their children's lives. Their two sons, Kevin and Keith, both have successful careers related to computer technology, a field that would not exist without electricity.

Intercounty Electric merged with Tri-County Electric in 2000 to form Central Electric Cooperative, which today serves mostly rural portions of Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Miner and Sanborn Counties.

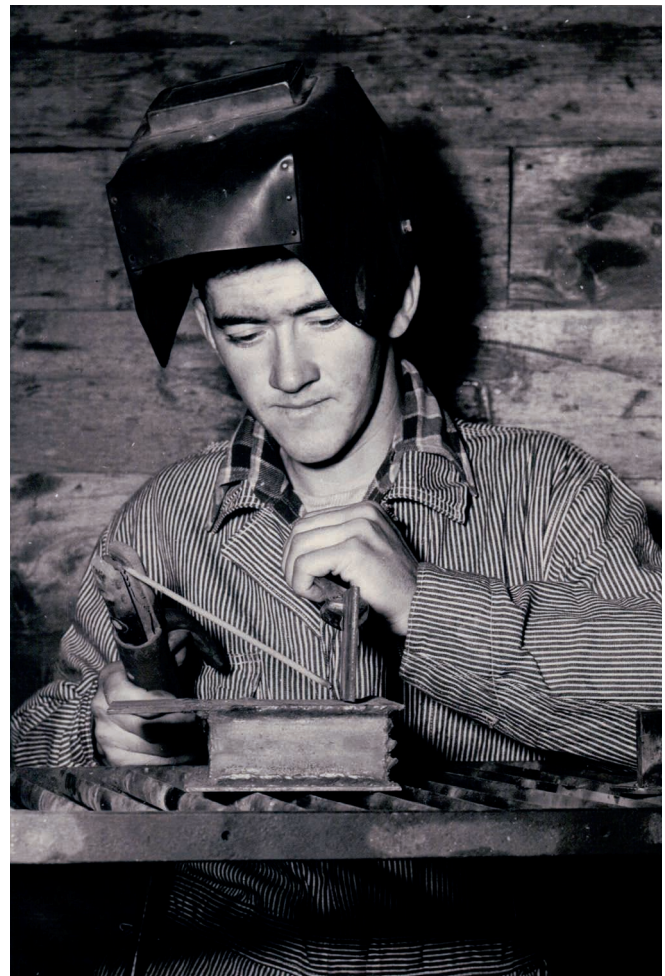




Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

Mammoth Discovery

Shannon Marvel

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Over Memorial Day of 2023, a coal miner made a historic discovery at the Freedom Mine in North Dakota.

“The shovel operator just happened to take a scoop that had a complete mammoth tusk,” said Jeff Person, a paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey.

“The tusk was about seven-foot-long. That shovel must’ve picked it up just perfectly to not damage or break it. The driver reported the find to his superiors at the Freedom Mine, who then contacted us,” Person said.

The tusk was found in an old streambed. Other fossils



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

were found in the streambed, including “more than twenty bones from the skeleton, including ribs, a shoulder blade a tooth and parts of the hips,” according to a news release.

“Most of the mammoth fossils known from North Dakota are isolated bones and teeth,” stated Clint Boyd, Senior Paleontologist for the North Dakota Geological Survey, in the news release. “This specimen is one of the most complete mammoth skeletons discovered in North Dakota, making it an exciting and scientifically important discovery.”

The bones were sent off to the Paleontology Lab at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck to undergo extensive cleaning before being prepped to be dried out, which requires that the bones be

wrapped in plastic.

It could take up to another year for the bones to be dried out enough to be taken out of the plastic wrap, Person said.

At that point, the bones will be the focus of scientific research, he said.

According to the news release, “mammoths lived in North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, commonly called the Ice Age, and went extinct in this area around 10,000 years ago. Several species of mammoth lived in North America, including the Woolly Mammoth and the Columbian Mammoth. They lived alongside other iconic animals like saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Once the bones are fully cleaned, paleontologists will be able to identify which species was collected from the mine.”



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey



All Aboard for the Basin VIP Tour

Laura London

Lake Region Electric Association joined with Northern Electric Cooperative this year to offer the Basin Tour, or as some are calling it the VIP Tour. Lake Region has been offering this informative adventure to our members for roughly three decades, minus two years we took off due to the pandemic. This is a very popular event that our members look forward to and our staff enjoys planning. Nate Baumgarn, Utility Specialist at Lake Region chaperoned this year's tour alongside Manager of Member Services Brett Kwasniewski and Northern Electric's Director of Communications, Kelly Brandlee. Nate has worked for Lake Region for 12 years, but this was his first tour of the Basin Electric facilities, "I really enjoyed it. It seemed like most everyone on the trip had a great time learning about the Basin facilities." One of the things that he enjoyed the most about the trip was, "some of the reactions from our members seeing the scale of these facilities and what it takes to produce power." In addition to being able to spend time with members and getting to know them on a personal level, Nate feels that going on the tour will positively affect his job in other ways, "I have a larger appreciation for the luxury of flipping a light switch on after seeing the amount of effort & energy it takes to produce reliable power to everyone. It's something that needs to be seen firsthand to really appreciate the

magnitude of what it takes." These sentiments were echoed by LREA member Jodi Schlotte, commenting that she has never really thought about what it takes just so she can turn the lights on to read a book. Jodi commented, "We really enjoyed it; I would love to go back in four years just to see how things have changed!"

The bus tour takes place over two days with stops at several facilities. Typically, the first stop is at Basin Electric



Power Cooperative headquarters. Basin is a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative incorporated in 1961 to provide supplemental power to a consortium of rural electric cooperatives, like Lake Region Electric. Basin currently serves roughly 3 million electric consumers. The next stop is a Next Era Energy location the Wilton Wind Energy Center. This wind farm and adjacent Baldwin Wind Energy Center provide more than 200 megawatts of power to the Basin Electric system. Basin has over 1,700 MW of wind energy in its generation portfolio. Another stop on the tour is the Dakota Gasification Company (DGC) Synfuels Plant, the only commercial-scale coal gasification plant in the United States that manufactures natural gas. Next up is a stop at Antelope Valley Station which is part of an energy complex that includes the Great Plains Synfuels Plant and the Freedom Mine. The Freedom

Coal Mine is a widely popular stop. This mine delivers approximately 16 million tons of coal per year, making it the largest lignite mine in the United States in deliveries. There is a sort of symbiotic relationship between the latter three facilities. The Synfuels Plant and Antelope Valley Station share certain facilities and coal and water supplies: Antelope Valley Station supplies the Synfuels Plant with electricity, and the Synfuels Plant supplies several of Basin Electric's gas peaking facilities with synthetic natural gas.

This year, the tour attendees had the added bonus of being able to relax aboard the Lewis & Clark Riverboat for supper and a sight-seeing cruise along the Missouri River.

Keep your eyes out next spring for information regarding the tour in our Cooperative Connections monthly newsletter magazine and our Facebook page!

Biel Takes A Trip to Washington, D.C., With the Youth Tour

Hunter Biel of Veblen joined fellow South Dakota Youth Delegates on a journey to our nation's capital in June as a part of the Rural Electric Youth Tour program. Nearly 40 teens from across the state met in Brandon for orientation, where they immediately started forming friendships as they boarded a bus to Minneapolis to catch a flight to Washington D.C. As with many students who are chosen for this opportunity, this was Hunter's first trip to Washington and his first flight. The itinerary was packed with visits to many historical sites. It's always interesting to visit with the students after they return to hear what their most memorable part of the trip was. Hunter said he didn't mind the fast pace of the trip because it meant he got to see a lot of things that he has been wanting to see, "Seeing the memorials was probably the best part; the memorials really help you understand what America is about."

The Youth Tour program, which can trace its existence back to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson where he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capital so that they "can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," encourages teens to engage in their communities and learn about the importance of political involvement. Students had the opportunity to meet with the state's congressional delegation while touring our nation's

capital. Senators Thune and Rounds made sure to take a few minutes to welcome the young visitors from South Dakota to Washington. Rounds posted on his Facebook page, "Great to meet students with the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in DC growing their leadership skills and knowledge on rural electric services. Enjoy your week here!"

Hunter encourages students to apply for this trip in the future, "You learn a lot, meet a lot of people from all over the country and make new friends, I even met kids from Hawaii."



A GOLDEN HARVEST

The Buzz Behind Adee Honey Farms

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Three generations ago, the Adee family learned that a tumultuous time can lead to significant opportunity. During the 1930s, the Great Depression wreaked havoc on small rural communities and the agricultural industry. The value of crops and livestock plummeted, and the land became arid.

These hard times impacted many in the Midwest, including Vernon Adee, a rural teacher and rancher in Nebraska. Vernon needed a new way to provide for his family, and a letter from his brother held the answer: “I can’t sell chickens or hogs, but I’m doing well with honey. Be advised: Get a beehive.”

Following his brother’s advice, Vernon attended a foreclosure auction and purchased his first beehive. The decision to begin

beekeeping would inspire several more generations of the Adee family to continue in the trade.

Wanting to start their own operation, Vernon’s sons, Richard and Stanley, purchased a retiring beekeeper’s business through a trade magazine advertisement in 1957. Located in Bruce, South Dakota, the business included 1,500 hives and a breeding yard in Woodville, Mississippi. The acquisition marked the beginning of Adee Honey Farms, and what began as a small family farm quickly grew into the largest beekeeping operation in the country. Today, Adee Honey Farms supports more than 80,000 colonies and nearly 70 full-time employees.

“It started with survival and eventually became a family business,” said Bret Adee, Vernon’s grandson and the owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms. “I can remember being four or five years old and being in the field with my dad, holding the smoker and helping where I could. By the time I was in elementary school, I was loading trucks and moving boxes in the warehouse. Like anyone who grew up on a farm, I was involved in the family business by the time I could walk.”

From a young age, Bret has held a deep love and appreciation for the honey bee. The insect’s ability to cooperate and produce golden treasure while benefiting plants, crops, and the ecosystem at large makes them a unique livestock, unlike any other.

“To watch a hive grow and forage, and by the end of the summer make up to 150 pounds of honey – it’s just so exciting,”

said Bret. “It’s the dynamics of the biology that keeps it interesting.”

Right now, Adee Honey Farms is engaged in honey production in the Midwest, with their bees spread across South Dakota and the west edge of Minnesota and the south edge of North Dakota. Around the first week of August, Bret’s business will start the honey harvest, an event that can last until the first frost or even longer. For now, Bret said this year is shaping up to be a good season for honey production.

“It’s early, but I’m optimistic. The years when there is a lot of clover are the years that beekeepers do well,” said Bret. “We had a wet enough fall that enough clover germinated. We can always lose that to a hot dry wind... but we are optimistic right now.”

But bees aren’t just used to make honey; they also have hand in pollinating crops across the country. More than a neat fact, it’s also the second half of the beekeeping industry. The mere presence of honey bees can increase yields for crops such as alfalfa and sunflowers by up to 20 to 30 percent, depending on the variety of crop. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollination is responsible for more than \$18 billion in added revenue to crop production in the country.

Once the honey harvest is over, the bees will be loaded onto a truck to tour the country, traveling from the Dakotas to California and later to Texas in search of favorable weather and crops to pollinate. In fact, crop yields from California almond trees and apple trees are almost totally dependent on pollination from bees, enticing farmers from across the country to welcome

bees onto their land. Everyone benefits – even bees.

“It’s a win for the consumer who gets to eat the honey. It’s a win for the landowner who has the bees on his land, and if everything goes right, it’s good for the beekeeper’s family too,” said Bret.



Bret Adee, owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms, is a third-generation beekeeper in the Adee family. Photos courtesy of Adee Honey Farms.





Photos Courtesy of Karli Hinds

Food Trucks

How Karli Hinds Jumped Into the Business

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Karli Hinds was working a typical corporate 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job when she realized she wanted a life where she had the flexibility to travel with her husband.

“So I had actually quit my job and stayed home for six months or so,” Hinds said. “Then I wanted something I could do but still have the flexibility to travel.”

Hinds had a couple ideas, one that had to do with the fact that she’s a “foodie.”

“I started cooking really young. I would say I was making meals by myself when I was in middle school,” she said.

The idea for opening a food truck was at the forefront of her mind, given that she was not interested in having a storefront.

“I didn’t want the hassle and responsibility of it. I wanted a business I could rely on myself and not have to rely on several employees,” Hinds said.



“On my second day in the food truck, I was serving Tex Mex, and I had a crazy line. It was just insane. I wanted to quit right then, but I also was thinking, ‘this is going to work.’ It was a good turnout, and it was only my second day.”

- Karli Hinds

Financially, there are pros and cons to starting up a food truck business.

Hinds said there’s limited finance options for food trucks while at the same time, there’s more cash that you must have on hand to get started.

Finding a food truck or trailer was the next challenge and proved to be fairly difficult for Hinds at first.

“We wanted one that was brand new,” Hinds said. “Most of the manufacturers are out of Mexico, and they don’t always have the best reputations. We really struggled with finding a reputable company to build a trailer with me. Somehow, we found a random post on Facebook from a guy that was selling brand new food trailers somewhere in the middle of nowhere in Iowa.”

Hinds and her husband walked through the trailers and picked out what they liked and didn’t like before finally deciding on the one to get.

Hinds uses the food truck to cook up an array of menu items every week.

“I’m actually a really picky eater, believe it or not,” Hinds said. “I didn’t want to specialize in one thing. People in small towns know we get kind of burnt out from eating the same thing over and over.”

Hinds rotates between eight or so different food themes.

“Once in a while I come

up with something new to add within that theme,” Hinds said. “My best seller is always my smash burgers.”

She’ll find her recipes on the popular social media app, Tik Toc.

On her second day of business, Hinds knew her food truck business would be sustainable.

“On my second day in the food truck, I was serving Tex Mex, and I had a crazy line,” Hinds said. It was just insane. I wanted to quit right then, but I also was thinking, ‘this is going to work.’ It was a good turnout, and it was only my second day.”

Hinds said the job isn’t always fun and is physically demanding.

“The hours are a lot more chaotic,” she said. “The problem-solving aspect is better as I don’t have a chain of command that I need to go through to make things right with the customer.”

During the winter months, Hinds delivers lunches a couple days out of the week.

“It’s just one item and I deliver them in town within Vermillion,” Hinds said. “That’s just something that I do that’s a little bit different than other food trucks.”



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AUG. 2-11
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Sturgis, SD
www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

JULY 27
Lake City Leading Ladies
Puttin' in the Pasture
1 p.m.
43572 113th St.
Lake City, SD

JULY 28
Langford Car Show
Park of the Pines
Langford, SD

AUG. 2-4
Arlington Days
Arlington, SD
605-690-5717
Follow Arlington Days, South
Dakota on Facebook &
Instagram

AUG. 3
Prairie Fest
Armour, SD

AUG. 3
Bloomin' Quilt Party
12-5 p.m.
Bennett Barn
Aurora, SD

AUG. 6-8
IDEAg's Farmfest
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Redwood County, MN
651-316-4369

AUG. 7
Ag Appreciation Day
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 10
Perseid Meteor Shower
Palisades State Park
Garretson, SD

AUG. 10
Camaro Fun Days
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Pioneer Park
Brookings, SD

AUG. 10-11
Fur Trader Days
Geddes, SD
605-680-2160

AUG. 15
Farm Safety Party
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Brown County Fair Kids Zone
Aberdeen, SD

AUG. 17
6th Annual Black Hills Super
6 Mountain Bike Race
3 hour race, 10 a.m.
6 hour race, 8 a.m.
Northern Hills Area CASA
Spearfish, SD

AUG. 18
Arlington Car Show
Arlington, SD
605-203-0728

AUG. 20-22
Dakotafest
Mitchell, SD

AUG. 22
61st Annual Steam
Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2
South Dakota State Fair
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
State Fairgrounds
Huron, SD
www.SDStateFair.com

SEPT. 6-8
50th Annual James Valley
Threshing & Tractor Show
Andover, SD

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