

# Cooperative Connections

An aerial photograph of a large blue and white mobile crane, branded with 'COTEAU' and 'SERRANA', positioned at the bottom of a deep quarry. The crane's long lattice boom extends upwards and outwards, reaching towards the top of the quarry walls. The surrounding terrain is dark and rocky, with visible tracks and some smaller equipment in the distance.

**Ready for the  
Classroom**

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**SD Truckers  
Keep on  
Truckin'**

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# Don't Wait. Be Prepared Before the Storm.



**Joel Janorschke, General Manager**

[jjanorschke@traverseelectric.com](mailto:jjanorschke@traverseelectric.com)

**Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects.**

It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything – food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).

## Preparedness Actions and Items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e. diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

## With advance warning

If a severe storm such as a hurricane is expected with high winds and sustained rain, you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home. Shutter windows and securely close exterior doors. Fully charge all cell phones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

## During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates or check Traverse Electric's website for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property.

## Power in planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information. Act today, because there is power in planning.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Janorschke".

# Traverse Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-903)

**Board of Directors**

- President:** Alan Veflin, Sisseton, SD
- Vice President:** Pat Homan, Beardsley, MN
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- Joel Janorschke - General Manager
- Karen Lupkes - Office Manager
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- Jerrel Olson - Member Service Representative/Electrician
- Melissa Przymus - Accountant
- Susan Wilts - Billing Clerk

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- Richard Davis - Foreman
- Lonnie Tekrony - Journeyman Linemen
- Joe Gahlon - Journeyman Linemen
- Chris Faulk - Journeyman Linemen
- Josh Shoutz - Journeyman Linemen
- Austin Reinke - Journeyman Linemen
- Dennis Koch - Facility Technician

**General Managers Contact Information**

Joel Janorschke  
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**In case of a power outage call 1-800-927-5443**

Traverse Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Traverse Electric Cooperative, PO Box 66, 1618 Broadway, Wheaton, MN, 56296 for its members. Families subscribe to Traverse Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Traverse Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric co-op members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

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Web site: www.traverseelectric.com. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Our Mission:** To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.

Design assistance by SDREA.



## Congratulations to Mark Koch!

Mark recently retired from Traverse Electric after 34 years of service.

Mark, we wish you all the best....enjoy every minute of your retirement!

### June Financial Information

	June 2018	June 2019	YTD 2019
Total Revenue	\$811,391.90	\$804,602.53	\$5,453,905.57
Cost of Power	\$510,561.84	\$510,050.35	\$3,367,885.09
Total Cost of Service	\$874,707.30	\$856,806.88	\$5,383,172.96
Operating Margins	\$(63,315.40)	\$(52,204.35)	\$70,732.61
Total Margins	\$(38,564.90)	\$(32,819.00)	\$189,014.70
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	7,847,532	8,013,747	58,956,228
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	7,494,479	7,689,212	56,242,336
Line Loss	4%	4%	4%

### IN CASE OF OUTAGE

- 1<sup>ST</sup>** Check the fuses or breakers in your home or building in which you do not have power.
- 2<sup>ND</sup>** Check your breaker below your meter on the yard pole. Some residential members may not have breakers.
- 3<sup>RD</sup>** If you still do not have power, call your neighbor to check if their electricity is also off.
- 4<sup>TH</sup>** Call immediately; do not wait for your neighbor to call in the outage.
- 5<sup>TH</sup>** Call Traverse Electric Cooperative at 1-800-927-5443.



## Back to School Safety

As many prepare for this upcoming school year, we want to share some electrical safety tips that are useful for students of all ages.

### Elementary School Students

- Never throw shoes onto power lines and definitely don't try to get them off of the lines.
- Writing utensils and other supplies like paper clips should never be placed in or near electrical outlets, even if you think the outlet isn't working.
- Make sure your hands and the area around you are dry before plugging something in. This is especially important in science labs where there are usually several sets of sinks, an eye wash, chemicals, etc.
- When unplugging things from an electrical outlet, always hold the plastic base to pull the plug out.

### Middle/High School Students

- If you've just received the privilege of driving to school with your newly obtained driver's license, pay close to attention on those morning and afternoon drives for utility crews at work. Should you be involved in an accident involving a power line or pole, assume live electricity is outside of the car and use extreme caution.
- Always steer clear of pad-mount transformers – the big green metal boxes. All electrical equipment on school property should be avoided due to the possible dangers of electrical shock.
- Always be cautious in science classes, specifically the ones with labs. Sinks, eye washes, chemicals – it's likely your hands or the area near you will be wet. Keep everything dry and use caution when plugging in equipment.

### College Students

- Get in the habit of unplugging what's not in use.
- Use only approved electrical products with the mark of a recognized certification agency.
- Choose a power strip with a heavy-gauge cord that is approved by a recognized certification agency.
- Replace frayed or damaged extension cords with new ones.
- Keep extension cords out from under carpet, rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and also present a fire hazard.
- Keep flammable materials such as books, paper and clothing away from heaters, stoves and other heating sources.
- Never leave cooking appliances unattended.
- Plug portable heaters and air conditioners directly into the outlet. If an extension cord is needed, to prevent overheating and risk of fire, use only one that is rated for this purpose to ensure that the cord can handle the electrical current.
- Never remove the third prong from an electrical product. The third prong is the grounding device and is a critical safety feature.
- Keep gadgets and cords away from bedding and curtains. The heat from a laptop charger or mini-fridge can start an electrical fire if left in contact with flammable material for too long.
- Avoid overloading outlets or circuits as this can cause overheating that may lead to fire.

Source: [twielectric.com](http://twielectric.com)



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER

IF YOU DRIVE INTO AN  
ELECTRIC LINE, CALL 911  
FOR HELP!



**"If you drive into an electric line, call 911 for help!"**

**Sawyer Nelson, 12 years old**

Sawyer is the son of Wes and Chris Nelson, Wolsey, S.D. They are members of Dakota Energy Cooperative, Huron, SD.

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.





# Garden Goodness

## Roasted Vegetables

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 tsp. garlic salt                         | 1 small red onion, cut into thin wedges |
| 1 tsp. Italian seasoning                   | 1 small zucchini, sliced                |
| 1/2 tsp. fennel seed                       | 1 cup asparagus pieces                  |
| 1 small green bell pepper, cut into chunks | 1 cup red potato chunks                 |
| 1 small yellow squash, sliced              | 2 T. oil                                |

Mix seasonings in small bowl. Toss vegetables and oil in large bowl. Add seasonings; toss to coat well. Spread vegetables in single layer on foil-lined 15x10x1-inch baking pan. Bake at 450°F. for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Makes 6 Servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 93, Total Fat 5g, Sodium 342mg, Cholesterol 0mg, Carbohydrates 10g, Protein 2g, Fiber 2g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Apple Pie Filling

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 4-1/2 cups sugar                 | 1 tsp. salt                                    |
| 1 cup cornstarch                 | 3 T. lemon juice                               |
| 2 tsp. cinnamon                  | 2 to 3 drops yellow food coloring              |
| 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg, optional | 5-1/2 to 6 lbs. tart apples, peeled and sliced |

In a large saucepan, blend sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add salt and stir in 10 cups water. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Add lemon juice and food coloring. Pack raw apples into hot jars, leaving 1-inch head space. Use spatula to help distribute syrup. Adjust lids. Process in boiling water bath – pints 15 minutes and quarts 20 minutes. Makes 6 to 8 quarts. Before serving, prepare pastry for a double crust 8- or 9-inch pie. Line pie plate with pastry, add 1 quart apple pie filling. Adjust top crust, cutting slits for escape of steam; seal edges. Bake at 400°F. for 50 minutes.

**Linda Goulet, Tea, SD**

## Microwave Tomato Dish

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 large, firm ripe tomatoes | 1/2 cup seasoned stuffing mix |
| 1/2 lb. ground beef         | 2 beaten eggs                 |
| 4 T. chopped onion          | Dash of pepper                |
| 1/4 tsp. garlic salt        |                               |

Cut a slice off the stem end of tomato. Scoop out pulp; place into a small glass baking dish. Combine remaining ingredients to fill tomato shell. Place filled tomatoes in dish of pulp. Cover with waxed paper. Microwave 5 to 8 minutes. Let set covered 2 minutes.

**Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, SD**

## Kohlrabi Au Gratin

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6 med. kohlrabi, peeled and sliced | 3/4 cup shredded American cheese    |
| 3 T. flour                         | 1/2 cup milk                        |
| 3 T. margarine, melted and divided | 2 T. sliced green onion             |
| 1 cup sour cream                   | 3/4 cup soft bread crumbs (1 slice) |

Cook kohlrabi, covered, in small amount of boiling salt water 25 minutes, drain. Blend flour into 2 T. melted margarine. Stir in sour cream, cheese, milk and onion. Cook and stir until cheese melts. Combine kohlrabi and sauce; turn into 1.5-quart casserole. Toss crumbs and remaining margarine; sprinkle over top. Bake, covered, at 350°F. for 15 minutes. Uncover and bake and additional 15 to 20 minutes. Serves 6 to 8.

**Shirley Thedorff, Centerville, SD**

## Zucchini Chips

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 4 cups thinly sliced zucchini (about 2-3 medium) | 2 T. white balsamic vinegar |
|  | 2 tsp. coarse sea salt      |
| 2 T. extra virgin olive oil                      |                             |

Use a mandolin or slice zucchini as thin as possible. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil and vinegar together. Place zucchini in a large bowl and toss with oil and vinegar. Add zucchini in even layers to dehydrator then sprinkle with coarse sea salt. Depending on how thin you sliced the zucchini and on your dehydrator, the drying time will vary, anywhere from 8 to 14 hours. To make in the oven, line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Layer zucchini evenly. Bake at 200°F. for 2 to 3 hours. Rotate half way during cooking time. Store in an airtight container.

**Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD**

Please send your favorite pasta, slow cooker and holiday 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 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# Insulating for Comfort and Energy Savings



**Pat Keegan**

Collaborative Efficiency

**The amount of R-value you need depends on your climate and where the insulation is being added in your home.**

**Dear Pat and Brad:** We're dreading winter. It feels like every year, no matter what we do, our home still feels cold and our heating bills go through the roof. We think our home may need more insulation. Any advice before winter hits? – Grace

**Dear Grace:** There's a good chance you are right about the problem. Most older homes – and many newer ones – are not properly insulated and adding insulation can be a good investment year-round since it can help keep out the summer heat as well.

There are many types of insulation, but I'll focus on the three most common types in residential buildings: batt, loose-fill and rigid.

Batt insulation can be made with several kinds of fibers including fiberglass and wool. It's cut to fit between the framing in your ceilings, walls or floors. Loose-fill insulation is made with small pellets or particles. It can be added by hand or blown in by machine into attic floors or exterior wall cavities. Rigid insulation comes in light sheets and is installed against a solid surface like an exterior wall or foundation.

All insulation is measured by its R-value. A higher R-value is more effective. The amount of R-value you need depends on your climate and where the insulation is being added in your home.

If your heating costs are too high, there's a good chance the attic is part of the problem. Finished attics are usually under-insulated and correcting the problem can be a challenge. If your attic is unfinished, solutions will be simpler and more cost-effective.

You can inspect your unfinished attic, but be cautious. Loose-fill insulation in older homes may have harmful asbestos that you absolutely do not want to disturb. It's probably best to just poke your head in enough to look around, since it's easy to damage wiring or ducts, or step through the ceiling.

The attic will likely have loose-fill insulation or batts on the floor. Look carefully to see if the insulation is spread evenly with no gaps or voids. To determine whether there is enough insulation, you can start by researching the recommended amount for your climate. The Department of Energy publishes that information, which you can find on their website. After measuring the depth of the insulation, you can calculate the R-value. Different types of insulation have different R-values per inch. If your attic insulation is far short of the recommended levels, you will likely see major energy savings by having a professional add enough to reach that level.

The next place to check is the walls. Many homes built before 1980 have little or no wall insulation, and even newer homes may lack proper insulation. You might be able to see if the walls are insulated by carefully removing an outlet cover.

The most common technique for adding insulation to walls is to have it blown in through holes drilled from inside or outside the home. These holes can be easily patched. An alternative, if the house is being re-sided, is to add rigid insulation to the exterior, underneath the new siding.

Finally, if your floor gets cold in winter and you have a crawl space, you can install batt insulation between the floor joists. If your home is built on a concrete slab, rigid foam can be installed around the perimeter.

Insulation works great if you choose the right approach and the work is done carefully. Contact the energy experts at your electric co-op for more information about insulation solutions.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips)



# Co-op Leaders to be Recognized

## Trio to be inducted into South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame

Three co-op leaders – Mike Nickolas of Aberdeen, Ray Scherschligt of Alpena and Don Snyders of Valley Springs – will be inducted into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall



**Mike Nickolas**



**Ray Scherschligt**



**Don Snyders**

of Fame during the Co-op Month Banquet and Induction Ceremony Sept. 17 at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls, S.D. Induction into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame is the highest honor that the cooperative community can bestow on those whose endeavors in the cause of the cooperative form of enterprise have been genuinely heroic.

### Mike Nickolas, Agtegra Cooperative

Bowdle-native Mike Nickolas was a leader in two of the nation's largest cooperatives. Nickolas began his grain marketing career at South Dakota Wheat Growers Association (SDWG), now Agtegra Cooperative, in 1981. In 1998, he joined North Central Farmers Elevator (NCFE) as grain division manager before becoming that co-op's general manager in 2012. When SDWG and NCFE merged to become Agtegra, he became the new co-op's executive vice president/COO of Grain, retiring in January 2019.

### Ray Scherschligt, Alpena Co-op Oil and Santel Communications

At Alpena Co-op Oil Company, Scherschligt was the general manager of the ag and fuel cooperative from 1958 to 1989, instilling and supporting a community and cooperative philosophy. One nominator wrote, "Ray worked tirelessly to lead his employees by example. He worked six days per week doing the bookwork, fixing tires, hauling fuel and fertilizer, pumping gas...whatever needed done. No job was too menial for the manager to do." He also served on the Santel Communications Cooperative board of directors from 1973 to 2002, including as board secretary.

### Don Snyders, Alliance Communications

During his tenure as manager of Alliance Communications in Garretson, S.D., Snyders was at the helm when the cooperative was formed through the merger between Splitrock Telecom and Baltic Telecom in 2003. By the time of his retirement in 2015, the co-op had 11,600 customers and served 19 communities. He also oversaw a nine-year \$66 million project to bring fiber-optic connectivity to every customer in its market. His 36 years at Alliance saw him not only serve on the South Dakota Telecommunications Association board of directors but also on the SDN board of directors.

### Interested in attending?

To purchase tickets for the banquet, contact the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives by Sept. 1 at 116 N Euclid, Pierre, SD 57501. Tickets are \$45.

## Past Inductees

- **1985** – Arthur Jones (1905-1985) and Emil Loriks (1895-1985)
- **1986** – Albert Schramm (1916-2000) and Herman D. Holt (1909-1986)
- **1987** – John Riedy (1911-2001) and August Dahme (1901-1980)
- **1988** – J. Evan Rasmussen (1905-1990) and John Skage (1904-1989)
- **1989** – Darrell Moseson (1926-2019) and Warren G. Grebner (1920-2014)
- **1990** – J.E. Krull Sr. (1909-1999) and Lawrence Stoley (1901-1987)
- **1991** – Clifford G. Bell (1904-2000) and Warren Moe (1925-2011)
- **1992** – Ken Holum (1915-1998) and John A. Cink (1911-2002)
- **1993** – Clement J. Kloucek (1925-2005) and S. Douglas Murphy (1904-1996)
- **1994** – Philip Testerman and Max Farrar (1897-1980)
- **1995** – Quentin E. Loudon (1919-2012) and Oscar C. Johnson (1880-1965)
- **1996** – Vernon L. Berg (1920-1998) and Leo P. Flynn (1908-2001)
- **1997** – Ben Radcliffe (1915-2014) and G.L. Moseson (1894-1973)
- **1998** – J.D. Lynd (1933-2013) and George A. Hargens, Jr. (1921-1999)
- **1999** – Raymond M. Judy (1919-1997) and Virgil Fodness (1922-2013)
- **2000** – Keith Taylor (1923-2002) and Joseph Hieb (1924-2017)
- **2001** – Robert A. Johnson (1921-2014) and Donald N. Olson (1928-2006)
- **2002** – Vincent Erz (1926-2012) and Donald Wynia
- **2003** – Brian Meyer (1943-2003) and Don Paulsen (1930-2018)
- **2004** – Ed Fritzsche (1923-2005) and Dean Rasmussen
- **2005** – Robert Ching (1924-2012), Darrell Henderson and Alex Stoesser (1925-2000)
- **2006** – Dennis Hagyn and Robert Rademacher
- **2007** – Leroy Schecher, Ralph Schreurs and Merlin VanWalleghen
- **2008** – Charles Olsen and Donald Fieber
- **2009** – Delbert Bushong and Owen Jones
- **2010** – Jake Boomsma, Milo Gilbertson and Barry Jensen
- **2011** – Jeffrey L. Nelson and Wayne Wright
- **2012** – Luverne Crosser, Gary French, Ron Minnaert and Larry Wilson
- **2013** – Thomas Hueners, John D. Johnson and Loren Noess
- **2014** – Gene Kroell, John Van Beek and Harvey Wollman
- **2015** – Keith Hainy, Roy Ireland, Rodney Renner and Carlyle Richards
- **2016** – Bill Bielmaier, Mark Hofer and Ronald Sandine
- **2017** – Jerry Heiberger and Clair Bonebright
- **2018** – Dale Locken and Kermit Pearson



Patricia DeMers of Colome, S.D., takes part in activity demonstrating the mining and reclamation process.

# TEACHERS HIT ENERGY CLASSROOMS

## Annual Seminar Equips Educators with First-hand Experience

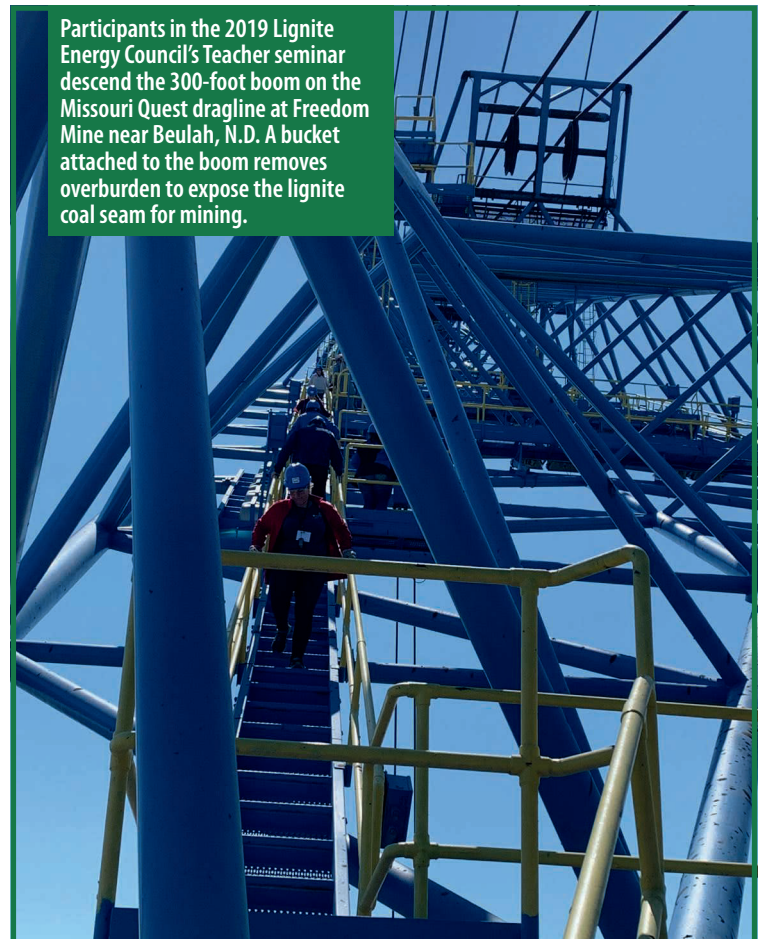
**Brenda Kleinjan**

[editor@sdrea.coop](mailto:editor@sdrea.coop)

When Craig Shryock’s vocational agriculture students at Wessington Springs High School return to the classroom this fall, they will eventually cover a section on electricity and Shryock can provide some first-hand lessons to his students thanks to a summer course he took.

Several years ago, Shryock was one of dozens of teachers to attend the Lignite Energy Council’s Teacher Seminar held each June since 1986. Since the first seminar was offered, more than 3,300 teachers have attended, giving each an insight into not only coal’s role in energy production, but also into electricity in general.

At a meeting of fellow ag teachers this summer, Shryock spoke about the seminar and its value.



Participants in the 2019 Lignite Energy Council’s Teacher seminar descend the 300-foot boom on the Missouri Quest dragline at Freedom Mine near Beulah, N.D. A bucket attached to the boom removes overburden to expose the lignite coal seam for mining.



“Being able to hold up that vial of coal and let the students see it is important,” Shryock said.

Having that tangible piece of coal to serve as a learning tool helps students understand that electricity is more than just flipping on a switch in the morning.

The piece of coal was just one take away that seminar attendees like Shryock benefit from. At the conclusion of the seminar, teachers take home handouts, videos, coal samples, and activities that can be used in the classroom, as well as two professional graduate credits.

The goal of the seminar is to provide teachers with the information and educational materials they need to teach their students about how lignite is mined and used to produce electricity for homes, farms and businesses in the Upper Midwest. In addition, the seminar covers lignite’s economic impact on the region, as well as important environmental issues affecting the lignite industry.

Educators attending the seminar are eligible to earn two professional development graduate credits from three North Dakota universities: North Dakota State University (teaching and learning),



University of North Dakota (education), Minot State University (science).

All teachers and faculty are encouraged to apply for the seminar with preference given to fourth grade through 12th grade teachers, those with science, math or social studies as a primary subject matter and career counselors.

The seminar is a no-cost seminar for K-12 teachers in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Iowa, but they may incur travel expenses. Sponsorships may be available for transportation reimbursement to and from the seminar for eligible teachers in Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. Those sponsorships will be arranged by the

utilities and cooperatives serving those states. Housing and most meals during the seminar are paid for as are graduate credit hours.

Handouts and classroom activities made available to the teachers go beyond lignite coal and lignite mining and reclamation. Teachers also dive into light bulb efficiencies and types, electricity transmission systems, energy use, carbon capture and storage, workforce issues, geology and environmental compliance.

For more information on the seminar, visit <https://lignite.com/events/teachers-seminar/> or contact the Lignite Energy Council at 701-258-7117.



### Member Comments

Thanks to the guys for putting up my new security light.

Ronald Hervey, Wheaton, MN

Thank you for awarding me your scholarship. It will be very helpful in pursuing my college degree.

Isaac Deal, Herman, MN



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

#### Cookware

#### Efficiency Tip:

Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: energy.gov



### TEC Statistics

Members Served .....	2,200
Meters Served .....	3,194
Number of meters including off-peak meters.....	4,388
Miles of Overhead Line .....	1,170
Miles of Underground Line .....	532
Total Miles of Line .....	1,702
Members Served Per Mile.....	1.8
Number of Poles to Maintain ...	22,624

## June Board Meeting Highlights

The June board meeting was held on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 8 a.m. Absent: None.

Staff members present were General Manager Joel Janorschke and Karen Lupkes.

- The minutes of the May board meeting were approved.
- The May check register was approved.
- The board viewed the Basin Electric board video report.
- Homan reported on East River board business.
- Janorschke presented the Manager's Report, which included:
  - ▶ Recapped the East River manager's meeting topics.
  - ▶ Updated the board on Minnesota and South Dakota legislative issues.
  - ▶ MREA held a conference call on communication and transparency.
  - ▶ NRECA has formed an online community for distribution cooperative directors.
  - ▶ Reviewed the first quarter 2019 Budget and Capital Budget.
  - ▶ Discussed proposing bylaw changes.
- Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:
  - ▶ Discussed an inventory adjustment made for resale material.
  - ▶ Reviewed the changes to the RUS Cushion of Credit.
  - ▶ The May 31, 2019, accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
  - ▶ Uploading the board policies to the board portal is in progress.
  - ▶ Reviewed and approved the May Financial Report.
  - ▶ Passed resolutions for the RUS FFB \$5,006,000 loan.
- Janorschke gave the Operations Report. Items discussed included:
  - ▶ May outages were reviewed.
  - ▶ Crews have been doing pole changes, fixing URD faults and plowing in cable for new services.
  - ▶ Will have the temporary service energized for the new dairy.
  - ▶ The cable is in for the ditch widening projects. Crews are now working on terminating.
  - ▶ Pole inspections are complete with 314 poles rejected out of 2,138 for a 14.9 percent rejection rate.
  - ▶ We received a bid from a locating company to take over our URD locating.
  - ▶ Reviewed our safety program and meetings.
  - ▶ We have 20 routers left to install for our new meter system.
  - ▶ Two linemen attended Hot Line School.
- Approved revisions to Policy 501 Equal Employment Opportunity.
- Approved revisions to Policy 502 Equal Employment Opportunity for Handicapped Individuals, Disable Veterans and Veterans of the Viet Nam Era.
- Approved revisions to Policy 503 Employment Practices.
- Approved revisions to Policy 505 Employee Benefits.
- Approved revisions to Policy 506 Termination of Employment and Retirement.
- East River annual meeting voting delegates were selected.
- Attorney Scott Dymoke assisted with the completion of the loan mortgage documents.
- July board meeting is moved to July 23, 2019.
- Went into Executive Session.
- There will be training on board governance and the general manager review at the July board meeting.
- A list of upcoming meetings and attendees was reviewed.



# Traverse Electric Reports Taxes Paid to Schools

Traverse Electric is an electric cooperative based in Wheaton, Minn., that serves rural communities in the South Dakota counties of Marshall and Roberts. As a nonprofit corporation, it sometimes gives people the false impression that Traverse Electric does not pay taxes. However, under the state law, rural electric cooperatives are required to pay a generation tax based on kilowatt hour sales to the local school districts in their service area.

School districts located within the Traverse Electric Cooperative service area will receive \$132,289 in generation tax as a result of electric sales to the members. Sisseton School District will receive \$51,156 and Rosholt School District will receive \$81,133.

Of this total, \$67,373 will be paid by Traverse Electric and \$64,916 will be paid by East River Power Cooperative of Madison, S.D., and Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, N.D.

Generation Tax by County			
	TEC	ER/BA	TOTAL
Marshall	\$28,500	\$22,071	<b>\$50,571</b>
Roberts	\$38,873	\$42,845	<b>\$81,718</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>67,373</b>	<b>64,916</b>	<b>132,289</b>

## Update Your Contact Information

In the utility business, we know rough weather will occur and sometimes power outages simply can't be avoided. But did you know there are steps you can take to ensure your electricity is restored as quickly and safely as possible? By keeping your contact information up-to-date, you can take full advantage of the services Traverse Electric offers.

You may have noticed prompts through our billing statements and webpage requesting your updated contact information. If we don't have the correct phone number linked to your home address, it makes it very difficult to contact you during an outage.

Updating your contact information is helpful because it speeds up the power restoration process. With correct information, we can also contact you in advance of planned outages for repairs and maintenance.

Please call 320-563-8616 and make sure you're up to date.




**Like Us on Facebook!**

To check out news and happenings, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search **Traverse Electric Cooperative**

## HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
  - **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
  - **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
  - **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.
- Source: Safe Electricity*



# Trucking Along

## Future Driver Shortage May Tap the Brakes

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

**Our industry could be short just over 100,000 drivers in five years and 160,000 drivers in 2028.**

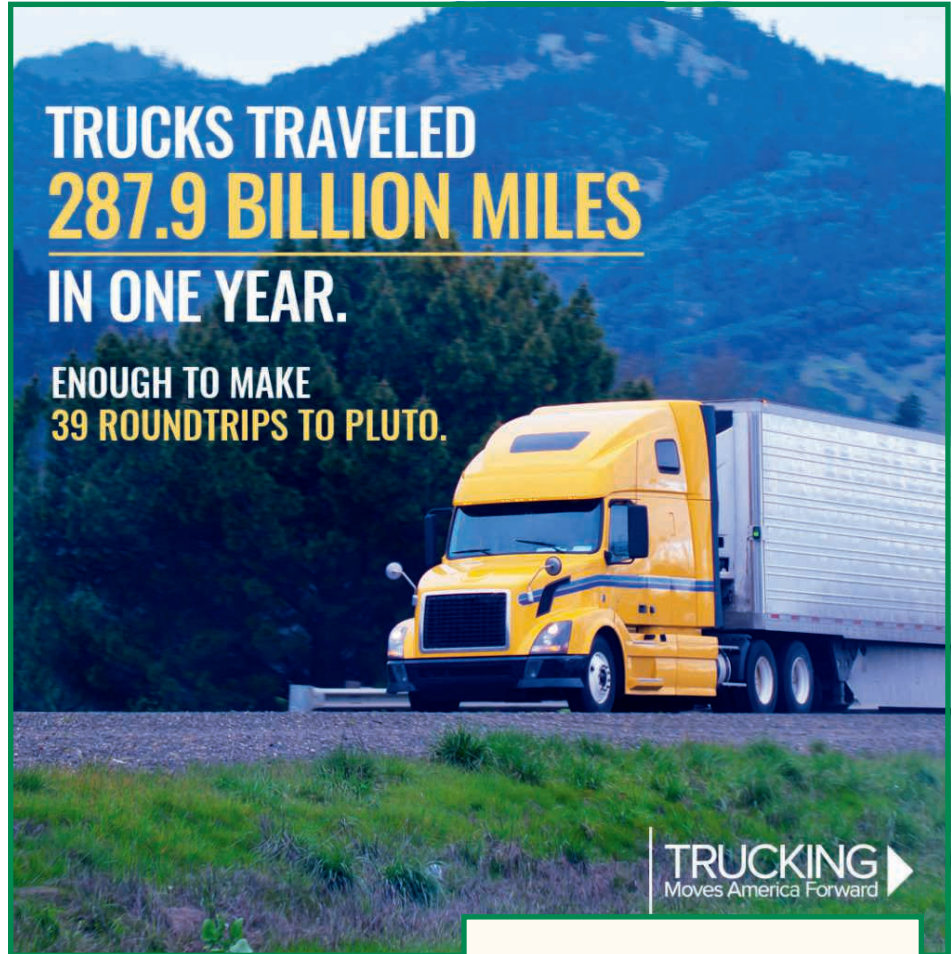
Travel down any major highway in the region and chances are you'll encounter dozens of semi trucks.

Some are hauling agriculture equipment or products, others may be hauling specialized loads such as wind turbine components. Yet others contain items destined for your local grocery store's shelves. Even your electric cooperative relies on timely deliveries of poles and materials hauled in by trucks.

There's no doubt about it, we're all connected by this nationwide trucking industry network.

This summer, the American Trucking Associations released its latest examination of the driver shortage, finding the industry needed 60,800 more drivers at the end of 2018 to meet the country's demands for freight services.

"Over the past 15 years, we've watched the shortage rise and fall with economic trends, but it ballooned last year to the highest level we've seen to date," said ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello. "The combination of a surging freight economy and carriers' need for qualified drivers could severely disrupt the supply chain.



The increase in the driver shortage should be a warning to carriers, shippers and policymakers because if conditions don't change substantively, our industry could be short just over 100,000 drivers in five years and 160,000 drivers in 2028."

The report details the factors that contribute to the shortage, including an aging driver population, increases in freight volumes and competition from other blue-collar careers. It also outlines potential market and policy solutions. While the report covers the entire trucking industry, the bulk of the shortage is in the over-the-road for-hire truckload market.

"The trucking industry needs to find ways to attract more and younger drivers," Costello said. "Right now, the average age of an over-the-road driver is

**Sept. 8-14 is National Truck Driving Appreciation Week**

**National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is a week recognizing the 3.5 million professional truck drivers that are an important part of our economy. Every day these dedicated professional men and women transport goods and services safely, protected and on time, while keeping highways safe.**





A semi travels along U.S. Highway 281 north of Plankinton, S.D.

46 years old, and almost as alarming is that the average age of a new driver being trained is 35 years old.

“Whether by removing barriers for younger drivers to begin careers as drivers, attracting more demographic diversity into the industry, or easing the transition for veterans, we need to do more to recruit and retain drivers,” he said. “That includes increasing pay, which happened at a brisk pace last year, to keep pace with demand, addressing lifestyle factors like getting drivers more time at home, and improving conditions on the job like reducing wait times at shipper facilities.”

In order to meet the nation’s freight demand, the report says the trucking industry will need to hire 1.1 million new drivers over the next decade – an average of 110,000 per year to replace retiring drivers and keep up with growth in the economy.

Myron Rau, president of the South Dakota Trucking Association in Sioux Falls, recently commented on the shortage in the *SDTA Trucking News*.

“It is probably not new news to anyone but it is reported that the U.S. trucker shortage is expected to double over the next decade. The driver deficit swelled by more than 10,000 to 60,800 in 2018 from a year earlier. The American Trucking Associations (ATA) estimates that 160,000 driver positions will go unfilled a decade from now. A possible solution has been proposed to regulators by the ATA. That solution is to lower the age for commercial drivers who can cross state lines by three years to 18. This proposal included increased training and supervision. Over 40 states now allow 18 year old drivers to get a commercial driver license to operate within the borders of their license issuing state. I believe there is a chance, if all parties come to the table, to implement this proposal that will bring some relief to predicted driver shortages,” Rau wrote.

The SDTA holds its annual convention Sept. 4-6 in Sioux Falls, S.D.

## Facts About Trucking

- Professional truck drivers drove over 287.9 billion miles in 2016, more than double 25 years ago. Those miles accounted for 14.2 percent of all motor vehicle miles and 29.8 percent of all truck miles.
- The trucking industry paid \$41.8 billion in federal and state highway taxes in 2016, and represented 13.3 percent of vehicles on the road. The trucking industry paid \$17.6 billion in federal highway-user taxes and \$24.2 billion in state highway-user taxes in 2016.
- The trucking industry consumed 54.9 billion gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline in 2016. Based on consumption and price, ATA reported that motor carriers spent \$142.9 billion in 2015.
- The federal fuel tax for diesel in 2018 is 24.4 cents per gallon; the average state tax for diesel fuel was 25.2 cents per gallon.
- There are 3.68 million class 8 trucks on the road in the United States and 11.7 million commercial trailers were registered in 2016.
- There are 7.7 million truck drivers in the United States. Total industry employment is 3.5 million or one out of every 16 people working in the United States.
- There are 777,240 for-hire carriers and 700,591 private carriers in the United States; 97.3 percent of them have fewer than 20 trucks and 91 percent are operating six trucks or less.
- In 2016, the trucking industry hauled 10.77 billion tons of freight, or 70.1 percent of total U.S. freight tonnage. Rail was the next busiest mode, moving 13.8 percent of the nation’s freight tonnage.
- In 2017, the trucking industry was a \$700.18 billion industry, representing 79.3 percent of the nation’s freight bill.
- More than 80 percent of U.S. communities depend solely on trucking for delivery of their goods and commodities.

Source: *Professional Truck Drivers and The Trucking Industry*, October 2018



International Vinegar Museum volunteer Dick Snaza extols the virtues of seven types of vinegar available for sampling at the museum's tasting bar.

# ALL THINGS VINEGAR

## Roslyn Attraction Celebrates International Vinegars

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

As county fair and state fair season rolls around, it's easy to think of prize-winning jars of pickles preserved in vinegar-based solutions.

But, there's so much more to the world of vinegar than the basic white vinegar or apple cider vinegar sold by the gallon in grocery stores.

And, the folks of Roslyn, S.D., want to tell you that story.

Enter the International Vinegar Museum located on the north edge of Roslyn's business district. Housed in a historic auditorium built by the community and Public Works Administration employees during the Depression, the museum seeks to inform and educate about vinegar.

Twenty years ago, Lawrence Diggs, also known as



The International Vinegar Museum is located in the Roslyn Auditorium, a building built by the Town of Roslyn and the Works Progress Administration in 1936.



The Vinegar Man, moved from California to Roslyn. Discussions soon began on ways to improve the quality of life and future of the towns of Roslyn and Eden. The museum opened in 1999 in the historic Roslyn Auditorium.

Once home to the Roslyn Vikings, the building's wood floors would become the foundation to showcase all things vinegar. Community volunteers oversee the museum's daily operations and provide tours to guests.

The first stop on entering the museum is a display explaining the process of making vinegar. According to eight yellow signs on the wall, one starts with a starch from either grains or root crops which becomes sugar by malting, molds, enzymes and hydrolysis. The sugar is converted to alcohol by yeast and then the alcohol is converted to vinegar by *Acetobacter Aceti*. The vinegar is then aged to improve flavor and mouth feel before finally being packaged and shipped. (The museum's own brand of balsamic vinegar is aged 18 years.)

The museum's north wall is lined with 200-plus different bottles of various vinegars from around the world. Explanatory panels describe different types of world vinegars. Fruit vinegars include wine vinegars

and cider vinegars, while grain vinegars include malt, corn and rice vinegars. The displays further explain differences between balsamic vinegar, Chinese vinegar, Japanese vinegar, Korean vinegar and vinegar uses in the Bible.

The displays also explain different health-related uses for vinegar as well as household and farm uses.

A corner of the museum features artwork made from vinegar, including paper made from vinegar. (The paper is formed from vinegar bacteria to produce a sheet of cellulose. The cellulose is pressed and dried to produce paper.)

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. During the rest of the year, it may be open by appointment by contacting museum volunteers. If you're planning adventures for 2020, be sure to mark the International Vinegar Festival down on your June calendar.

For more information on the museum, contact them at PO Box 201, Roslyn, SD 57261 or online at [museum@internationalvinegarmuseum.com](mailto:museum@internationalvinegarmuseum.com). They also have a Facebook page @internationalvinegarmuseum.



A corner of the museum features items for sale, including several varieties of vinegar as well as Roslyn community items. The museum has its own labeled balsamic vinegar for sale. (Pictured above, right.) The vinegar, which is aged 18 years, is a product of Italy and is bottled for the museum in North Dakota.

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**August 21-25**

Corn Palace Festival, Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

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**August 22-24**

Senior Games, Watertown, Contact Andrew Magedanz at 605-949-0028

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**August 22-25**

Prairie Village Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

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**August 22-25**

Kool Deadwood Nites, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

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**August 22-25**

Hugh Glass Rendezvous, Lemmon, SD, 605-393-5832

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**August 24-25**

Great Dakota Wine Festival, Vermillion, SD, 605-624-4500

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**August 26-September 1**

Mustang Rally, Sturgis, SD, 605-490-1663

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**August 29**

South Dakota State Fair Value Added Ag Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT, Huron, SD

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**August 29-September 2**

South Dakota State Fair, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

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**August 30-September 2**

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Powwow, Fair and Rodeo, Eagle Butte, SD, 605-964-2447

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**August 30-September 1**

Studebaker Car Show, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

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**September 1**

Mount Rushmore Rodeo at Palmer Gulch, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2525

**August 24-25: Fourth Annual Fall River Balloon Fest, 6 a.m., Airport, Hot Springs, SD, 605-745-4140**



Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

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**September 6-7**

Supermoto, Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800

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**September 6-7**

Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll, Vermillion, SD, 605-624-2021

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**September 7**

Sidewalk Arts Festival, Sioux Falls, SD

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**September 7**

Insect Festival at McCrory Gardens, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6707

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**September 7**

Germanfest, 1 to 10 p.m., Fawick Park, Sioux Falls, SD

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**September 7**

Foothills Bud Light Bull Bash, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

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**September 7**

Geothermal Greenhouse & High Tunnel Tours, Mission, SD, 605-430-4699, SDSPAmembers@gmail.com

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**September 7-8**

Quilt Show, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2810

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**September 8**

Homesteader Day Celebration, Valley Springs, SD, 605-367-4210

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**September 13**

Organic Grains & Pumpkin Patch Agritourism Tours, Milbank, SD, 605-430-4699, SDSPAmembers@gmail.com

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**September 13-14**

Deadwood Jam, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

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**September 13-15**

Dakota Western Heritage Festival, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-222-0079

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**September 14-15**

Stirling Family Memorial Ranch Rodeo, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-870-2472

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**September 14-15**

Twin Rivers Old Iron Harvest Festival, Delmont, SD, 605-505-0535

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**September 19-21**

St. Joseph's Indian School Powwow, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-3452

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**September 21**

AgriCulture on the Square, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. MDT, Free, Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-1722

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**September 26-28**

Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival, Opens at 10 a.m., Game Lodge grounds, Custer State Park, Custer, SD, 605-255-4541

**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.**