

Cooperative Connections

United States®
**Census
2020**

**Census 2020:
Be Counted.
It Matters.**

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**Safety Shines
at Stock Show**

Page 12

2019 in Review



Alan Veflin, Board President

ajveflin@yahoo.com



Joel Janorschke, General Manager

jjjanorschke@traverseelectric.com

On behalf of the board of directors and the employees of your co-op, Traverse Electric, it is our pleasure to welcome everyone to this year's annual meeting of Traverse Electric. This marks the 80th year of successfully delivering the electricity to the members and the 80th time we gather collectively to report on the previous year and also to report on the financial condition of our plant. I hope you find tonight's meeting both informative and enjoyable.

2019 sets the high marks in several categories. Your cooperative ended the year with operating revenue of \$11,503,535.23, with sales of kWh at 115,297,896. We also ended the year with an operations margin of \$507,284.88 and total margins of \$1,187,012.20. As a result of the cooperative's sound and stable financial condition, we returned \$450,000 to estates and general retirement capital credits to those who received electricity in 2002 and 2003. That adds up to more than \$8.9 million returned over the years – quantifiable proof that you are an owner of a successful, effective organization.

2019 continued to be a year of growth for the cooperative; the line crews continued to install and upgrade services for new grain dryers, drain tile pumps, houses and new shops. We also converted overhead single-phase line with underground cable in areas of the system where the terrain and weather affect the reliability to these members that are served on these lines. We already have several jobs lined up next spring. The crews also installed new three-phase underground lines to serve larger loads on the system along with replacing the underground conductor that was failing. We continued to work on our maintenance programs, where we continued our pole testing program, OCR maintenance program, overhead line inspection, underground inspection and right-a-way program.

We also started the installation of our new Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) that will replace the existing and aging metering equipment. AMI allows for two-way communication and has capabilities to track a broader range of data and analytics. Information provided will include kilowatt-hour readings, voltage, kilowatt demand, load profiling, verifying load control, alarms signaling power interruptions and remote disconnect and reconnect.

While we are proud that planning and hard work has paid off, we still remind ourselves that dependable service and customer satisfaction are as – or maybe more – critical than bottom-line numbers. As we work our way into 2020, we will keep those thoughts in mind and continue to deliver more than just electricity to our members.

In closing, our sincere thanks to our members for your continued patronage this past year. We appreciate your business and the opportunity to serve as your board president and general manager. We also want to express our thanks and appreciation to our employees. Their constant service, their commitment to the membership and their support of our mission have enabled the cooperative to complete another successful year in 2019. It is their collective expertise and steadfast effort at what they do that helps us move forward confidently down this new road we're traveling as we search and discover new and better ways to serve our members.

Cooperatively yours,

Alan Veflin, Board President

Joel Janorschke, General Manager

While we are proud that planning and hard work has paid off, we still remind ourselves that dependable service and customer satisfaction are as – or maybe more – critical than bottom line numbers.

Traverse Electric Mission Statement:

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

Traverse Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-903)

Board of Directors

President: Alan Veflin, Sisseton, SD
Vice President: Pat Homan, Beardsley, MN
Secretary: Mark Pearson, Rosholt, SD
Treasurer: Karen Kath, Campbell, MN
 Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
 Russ Armstrong, Wheaton, MN
 Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
 Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
 Tom Frisch, Dumont, MN

Office Personnel

Joel Janorschke - General Manager
 Karen Lupkes - Office Manager
 Dale Schwagel - Operations Manager
 Stephen Powers - Member Service Representative/Electrician
 Melissa Przymus - Accountant
 Susan Wilts - Billing Clerk

Operations Personnel

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

General Managers Contact Information

Joel Janorschke
 Cell: 320.304.1392
 Direct: 320.563.1055
 jjanorschke@traverseelectric.com

**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.



Traverse Electric Cooperative 80th Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2020 • Wheaton High School

Registration begins at 5 p.m.
 Dinner from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
 Meeting to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that the annual membership meeting of Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Thursday, March 19, 2020, at the Wheaton High School, Wheaton, Minn. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. The dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

At the annual meeting you will be presented with pertinent information regarding the activities of the cooperative and elect directors to represent you. The bylaws set up nine districts for the cooperative, with one director from each district, and staggers the terms of the directors, with three directors to be voted on each year. In keeping with the bylaws, meetings were held in these three districts. Members of these districts will select one member from their district to represent them on the board of directors.

No letters will be sent out. This is your official notice.

Director Candidates:

Voting will take place during the business meeting. Ballots will be given out at registration. Others interested individuals can be nominated at the meeting and written-in on the ballots.

District 1:

Tom Frisch

District 4:

Doug Diekmann

District 7:

Mark Pearson

ANNUAL MEETING DOOR PRIZE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

- Please print your name as it appears on the mailing label or your electric bill.
- Clip and bring this ticket with you to the meeting when you register.
- One registration ticket per member.

Please fill out this form and bring it and this newsletter with you to the meeting. This ticket will register you for the door prize drawings. One entry per member.

Extension Cord Safety Tips

Not enough cord for your lamp or radio to reach the nearest outlet? Just plowing through the junk drawer for an extension cord? This may not be a good idea. Extension cords can be very helpful in delivering power right where we need it. However, regardless of the gauge or rating of the cord, an extension cord is a temporary solution, and is not meant to be used as a long-term extension of your household's electrical system.

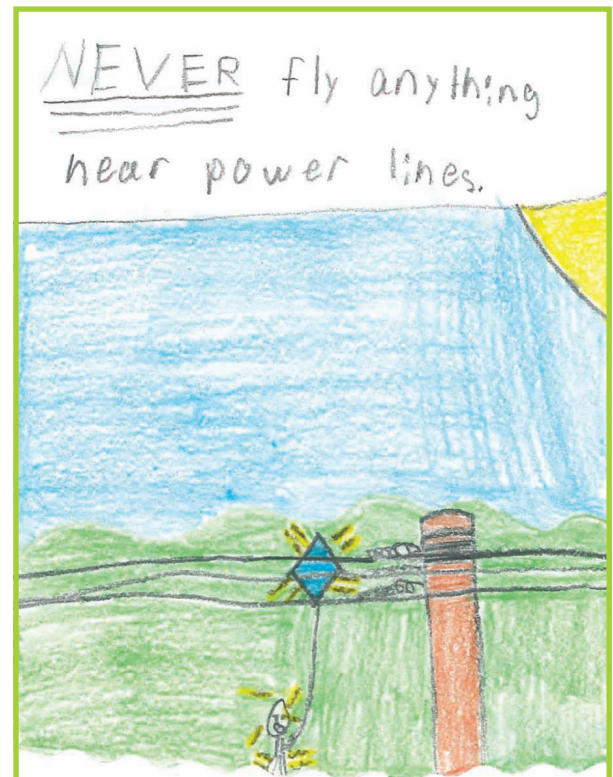
Using extension cords properly is critical to your safety. With continuous use over time, an extension cord can rapidly deteriorate, creating a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips for staying safe from electric shock and electrical fires:

- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.
- Do not substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- Do not run through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a fire hazard.
- Do not use an extension cord for more than one appliance.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.
- Multiple plug outlets must be plugged directly into mounted electrical receptacles; they cannot be chained together.
- Make sure the extension cord or temporary power strip you use is rated for the products to be plugged in and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- The appliance or tool that you are using the cord with will have a wattage rating on it. Match this up with your extension cord and do not use a cord that has a lower rating.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can give you an electric shock or burn.
- Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug. Do not cut off the ground pin to force a fit. This defeats the purpose of a three-prong plug and could lead to an electrical shock. Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Use extension cords with polarized and/or three-prong plugs.
- Buy only cords approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Intertek (ETL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Source: esfi.org



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never fly anything near power lines."

Gage Cumbow, 12 years old

Gage is the son of Ryan and Kiley Cumbow, Pierre, S.D. They are members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Blunt, S.D.

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



Seafood Sensations

Hot Crab Dip

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 1/2 tsp. ground mustard |
| 1 cup mayonnaise | 1 lb. lump crabmeat |
| 2 tsp. OLD BAY® Seasoning | 1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, Old Bay Seasoning and ground mustard in medium bowl until well blended. Add crabmeat; toss gently. Spread in shallow 1-1/2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese and additional Old Bay Seasoning, if desired. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serve with assorted crackers or sliced French bread. Makes 28 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 110, Total Fat 10g, Cholesterol 30mg, Sodium 181mg, Protein 5g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Seafood Casserole

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 (6 oz.) pkg. crab, tuna or salmon, drained | 4 eggs, beaten |
| 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese | 1 cup milk |
| Onions, chopped | Salt and pepper, to taste |
| | Paprika |

Spray an 8x8-inch pan or casserole dish. Combine seafood, cheese and onions. Put in pan. Beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over casserole; sprinkle paprika on top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Let stand a few minutes before serving.

Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel, SD

Red Salmon Spread

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 (14 oz.) can red salmon, drained | 1 tsp. liquid smoke |
| 6 oz. cream cheese, softened | 1/2 tsp. garlic salt |
| | Parsley flakes |

Remove skin and bones from salmon; cut into small chunks. Combine cream cheese, liquid smoke and garlic salt. Add salmon. Shape into 2 or 3 balls. Sprinkle with parsley flakes. Refrigerate. Serve with assorted crackers.

June Herke, Watertown, SD

Crab Lasagna

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/4 cup chopped onion | 12 oz. cottage cheese |
| 1 stick butter | 1 egg |
| 1 quart half-and-half | 1 T. parsley |
| 1/2 tsp. minced garlic | 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese |
| 4 T. cream cheese | 12 uncooked lasagna noodles |
| 24 oz. pkg. imitation crab, shredded | 2 cups mozzarella cheese |

Saute onions in butter. Add half-and-half, garlic and cream cheese. Prepare 9x13-inch pan. Assemble layers as follows: 1 cup sauce, top with lasagna noodles, 1/2 of cottage cheese mixture, 1/2 of crab, 1 cup sauce, lasagna noodles and 1 cup mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers. Cover with foil; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour. Remove foil and bake an additional 20 minutes until bubbly and cheese starts to brown. Let set 10 minutes before serving.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

Crab or Shrimp Salad

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 (7-oz.) pkg. ring, shell or spiral pasta | 1 cup diced cucumber |
| 1/2 cup diced celery | 1 cup Miracle Whip |
| 1/4 cup diced onion | 1/2 cup Dorothy Lynch dressing |
| 1 (8 oz.) container mock crab or shrimp | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| | 1/2 tsp. pepper |

Prepare pasta according to package directions. Toss together celery, onions, crab or shrimp and cucumbers. Add Miracle Whip, dressing, salt and pepper. Chill.

Joyce Hermans, Milbank, SD

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage, casserole or dairy recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.



Tom Frisch
District 1



Michael Marks
District 2



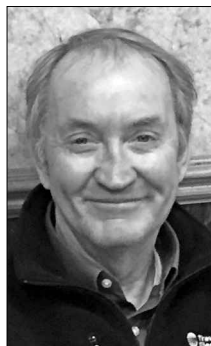
Karen Kath
District 3
Treasurer



Doug Diekmann
District 4



Pat Homan
District 5
Vice President



Russ Armstrong
District 6



Mark Pearson
District 7
Secretary



Alan Veflin
District 8
President



Terry Monson
District 9

District Meeting Prize Winners



The following were lucky winners of a \$25 bill credit at our recent district meetings.

Dan Hagelin • Mark Findlay • Albert Braun

Jerry Borgen • Ronald Hervey • Janet Hasbargen

Jerome and Geraldine Broz

A big heartfelt thanks to those that attended.

Thursday, March 19, 2020 Wheaton High School - 6:30 p.m.

- 5 p.m.** Registration
- 5:30 p.m.** Dinner/Bingo (Bingo in Auditorium)
- 6:30 p.m.** Call of Meeting by Alan Veflin, President
- Introduction of Directors and Guests
- Reading of the Notice of Mailing and Proof of Mailing by Mark Pearson, Secretary
- Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting by Mark Pearson, Secretary
- Tom Boyko, CEO, East River Electric Power Cooperative
- Treasurer's Report by Joel Janorschke, General Manager
- General Operating Report by Joel Janorschke, General Manager
- Questions
- President's Report by Alan Veflin
- By-laws, Opening of Polls and Closing of Polls
- 2019 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour Report by Jennifer Findlay
- Old Business
- New Business
- Announcement of Results of Election of Directors and By-law Changes
- Prizes
- Adjournment

Current Addresses Missing for These Former Consumers

We have capital credit checks for these people, but they were returned to us marked unknown. Please call the office at 1-800-927-5443 if you know their new address. Thanks.

| Name | Address | Years On |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Brent Baker | Sisseton, SD | 2002-2009 |
| Eric Boersma | Wilmot, SD | 2003 |
| Chaska Boucher | Rosholt, SD | 2003 |
| Charles Carroll | Sioux Falls, SD | 1981-2006 |
| Charrieth Cloud-Castillo | Dawson, MN | 2002-2004 |
| Jeffrey Ehlen Estate | Chokio, MN | 2002-2003 |
| Cliff & Emily Ellingson | Rosholt, SD | 2003-2004 |
| Joann Firecloud | Sisseton, SD | 2003 |
| Genetiporc USA LLC | Alexandria, MN | 2003-2012 |
| Crystal Helde | Sacaton, AZ | 2003-2004 |
| Thomas Inman | Andover, MN | 2003-2009 |
| Travis Jarman | Mandan, ND | 2003-2005 |
| Gerald Lubarski | Monticello, MN | 2000-2001 |
| John Miller | Browns Valley, MN | 1994-2002 |
| Tina Muller | Rosholt, SD | 2003-2004 |
| Madelyne Newborn | Sisseton, SD | 2003 |
| Kenneth C Peterson | Granite Falls, MN | 1983-2014 |
| Rodney Piechowski | Orlando, FL | 2003-2004 |
| Nichole Rein | Veblen, SD | 2002 |
| Dale Ritzschke | Wheaton, MN | 2003-2007 |
| Amy Ronning | Apple Valley, MN | 2003-2005 |
| Monica Smotherman | Battle Lake, MN | 2003-2004 |
| Renee Topoluk | Corcoran, MN | 2003-2006 |
| Wesley Torke | Clear Lake, SD | 1999-2004 |
| US Geological Survey | Columbia, SC | 1999-2013 |
| Ralph & Joy Wagner | Sahuarita, AZ | 2000-2016 |

79th Annual Meeting March 21, 2019

The seventy-ninth annual meeting of Traverse Electric Cooperative was held in the High School Auditorium at Wheaton, Minnesota on Thursday, March 21, 2019. Registration started at 5:00 p.m. A roast beef dinner was catered by Bobby Jo's Café from Beardsley, MN and approximately 350 dinners were served. Members played bingo until the meeting commenced.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

General Manager, Joel Janorschke, welcomed the members to their annual meeting.

President Veflin called the meeting to order.

A motion was made from the floor to approve the agenda as printed in the annual meeting report. A second was made and upon vote motion carried unanimously.

President Veflin introduced the directors and thanked the employees for their service and dedication and informed members that employee pictures and years of service are printed in the annual meeting program.

President Veflin thanks Bobby Jo's of Beardsley for the meal the great job they do.

Special guests in attendance were also introduced: Chis Studer, Bob Sahr and Mike Jaspers from East River; Tim Velde, and Tom Jones from RUS/USDA.

President Veflin asked the Secretary, Mark Pearson, to read the Notice of Mailing and Proof of Mailing. These were read. A register of attendance was presented. The chairman declared a quorum present and directed the register to become part of the official minutes. A motion was made from the floor to accept the reading. A second was made and upon vote motion carried unanimously.

President Veflin called for the reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting. A motion was made from the floor, seconded, and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

General Manager, Joel Janorschke, presented the 2018 year end operating and financial reports:

1. Members were encouraged to look at the Financial Report on page 11 of the program. Janorschke reviewed the revenue and expenses and margins for 2018. Janorschke answered questions on

our operating margin and total margin.

2. The cooperative buried 11 miles of line west of Sisseton.
3. Reviewed our pole testing, tree trimming, and OCR testing programs.
4. The cooperative conducted a Cost of Service Study and Rate Design Study. Most services will see a slight increase in the monthly facility charge.
5. Informed the membership about the new metering system that will replace our aging meter system. The new system will improve outage detection and efficiencies.
6. Reviewed the 2019-2022 Construction Work Plan and the costs that make up the \$5 million associated with it.
7. The board retired \$400,000 in capital credits in general retirement from 2001 & 2002 and to estates. The co-op has paid back more than \$8.4 million to date.
8. WAPA is building a new WAPA transmission substation in Roberts County, South Dakota. East River will build line coming out of it. This will improve service reliability to our South Dakota substations.
9. In 2019, we will begin doing urd cabinet testing as part of our maintenance program.
10. Informed the membership of the new dairy coming, a ditch widening project taking place, our upcoming GIS mapping system, and Mobile Customer App for members will be available for download soon.
11. Linemen will use Ipads in the field to utilize new technologies and increase efficiencies.
12. Thanked the members for their patronage and the employees for their service and dedication.
13. Announced that Terry Ehli will be retiring after 31 years at Traverse Electric.

General Manager Janorschke asked the membership if they had any questions on his reports. There were none.

A motion was made from the floor to approve the financial and operating reports. There was a second and upon vote motion carried unanimously.

President Veflin directed the membership to read his President's Report in the program book at their convenience.

President Veflin opened the polls for the election of three directors. The different methods of being nominated were reviewed. Veflin announced the following candidates who were nominated at the district meetings or by petition: District 3 – Karen Kath, District 6 – Russell Armstrong and District 9 – Terry Monson.

President Veflin asked for any further nominations from the floor for each of the three districts. There being none, a motion was made from the floor to cease nominations. The motion was seconded and upon vote it carried.

President Veflin announced The Special Electric for District 1 and that there were three interested candidates to fill and complete the remaining term of the District 1 vacancy: Tom Frisch, Kaley Thoennes, and Kelly Zimmerman.

President Veflin announced the Appointment of Tellers. The members proceeded to mark their ballots, which the tellers collected and then retired to tabulate.

Kymerlea Braun spoke about the Washington DC Youth Tour she participated in last June.

President Veflin announced the results of the election of directors: Karen Kath, Russell Armstrong, and Terry Monson were re-elected in their districts. The Special Election in District 1 resulted in Tom Frisch receiving the highest number of votes with 22.

The door prize drawings were held.

The chairman asked for any old business, and there being none, he proceeded to ask for any new business. There being none, it was moved and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Final adjournment.



Mark Pearson, Secretary



Self-responses to the 2020 census begin March 12 online, by phone or by paper.

GET COUNTED

Census 2020 Will Shape Region's Future

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Census Day is coming April 1 and a push is being made in March to get people counted.

The census counts people where they are at on April 1, 2020.

The process opens March 12 when people can begin the online completion of the census. Most people will have received an invitation to respond to the census. The form will be mailed to USPS mailable addresses. Hand delivery will take place in cases where addresses are a rural/PO Box or non-USPS household unit. The card will have an address-specific code for responders to use, but they can still go online without the card.

“The goal on March 12 is to have as many people as possible go online and complete the census,” said Rob Timm, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Timm has been focusing on western South Dakota businesses and government agencies in preparation for Census 2020.

People can also complete the census by phone or complete a paper form.

On May 1, the labor-intensive process of sending enumerators

The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.

We're making sure that **however you choose to respond**—online, by phone, or by mail—that **the census is accessible**. You'll receive an invitation to respond **beginning in mid-March**. You choose how you want to respond.



You can respond **online** in English or in 12 additional languages. The online questionnaire is accessible, following the latest web accessibility guidelines. We'll also have a video in **American Sign Language** available to guide you through responding online.



You can respond by **phone** in English or in 12 additional languages. You can also respond in English by **TDD** at 844-467-2020.



By mid-April, we'll mail a **paper questionnaire** to every household that hasn't already responded. (Some households will receive a paper questionnaire along with the first invitation in March.)

We'll have **braille and large print guides** available online to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire.



If necessary, you can respond **in person** beginning in mid-May. Census takers will visit all households that have not yet responded.

We'll have census takers available who can communicate in **American Sign Language** and additional languages. When the census taker visits to help you respond, you can request that another census taker who communicates in American Sign Language returns, if you prefer.

If you prefer, you may also choose to have another member of your household interact with the census taker.

Responding is important. A complete count helps ensure that services like Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and public transportation can support those who need them.

Responding is safe. All of the information you share with us is protected by law and cannot be used against you.

Responding is accessible. We're doing everything we can to ensure the ways to respond are accessible for everyone.

Any questions? Please visit 2020census.gov. This website is 508 compliant and accessible to people of all abilities.

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020

tors door-to-door to count people begins. An estimated 1,200 people will be serving as enumerators through July.

“We know there are tracts with low response areas,” said Timm. Census officials are working to improve those response rates.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on U.S. Census Bureau data. According to the report, “Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds” by the GW Institute of Public Policy, South Dakota was allocated more than \$2.3 billion in 2016. This money represented the allocation of funds from 55 large federal spending programs guided by Census 2010 data. Of that \$2.3 billion, nearly one-quarter was for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs while one-third went to U.S. Health and Human Services programs.

Census Key Dates

March 12:
Self-response begins
and continues
through July 2020.

April 1: Census Day

**Dec. 31: Census
Counts Delivered
to President**

The report, by Andrew Reamer, a research professor at The George Washington University, noted that census-derived datasets help define eligibility criteria for various programs, compute formulas that geographically allocate funds, rank project applications based on priorities and set interest rates for federal loan programs.

Officials in Sioux Falls estimated that the community missed out on nearly \$1,600 per person for every person missed in the 2010 census.

The value of the census goes beyond dollars.

In Minnesota, the fate of the state’s 8th Congressional District is at stake. The U.S. House of Representatives is based on population. Minnesota currently has eight seats while Nebraska has three and South Dakota and North Dakota have one seat each.


“It’s not going to take a ton of your time and it makes a difference for South Dakota,” said Jake Droge, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Droge has been working with government agencies and businesses in eastern South Dakota.

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.


Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.



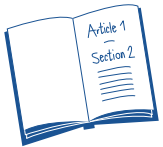
It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



It's in the Constitution.


The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.



It's about \$675 billion.

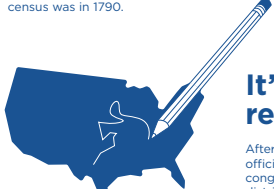
The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.




It's about redistricting.

After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.



Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"




Census data are being used all around you.

Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.

Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.

Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs.


Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



Your privacy is protected.

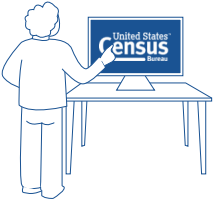
It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.



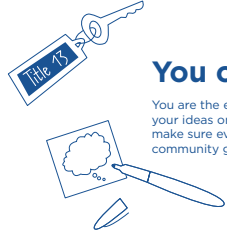
2020 will be easier than ever.


In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.




You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.





FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT
[2020CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS](https://2020census.gov/partners)



March 2020 | Cooperative Connections

9



Joel Janorschke
2 Year of Service



Karen Lupkes
18 Years of Service



Dale Schwagel
20 Years of Service



Stephen Powers
6 Months of Service



Melissa Przymus
7 Years of Service



Sue Wilts
41 Years of Service



Rick Davis
13 Years of Service



Lon TeKrony
20 Years of Service



Joe Gahlon
12 Years of Service



Chris Falk
12 Years of Service



Josh Shoutz
1 year of Service



Austin Reinke
1 Year of Service



Dennis Koch
24 Years of Service

December Board Meeting Highlights

The December board meeting was held on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, at 9 a.m. Absent: None.

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

- The minutes of the November board meeting were approved.
- The November check register was approved.
- Approved presenting bylaw amendments to the membership to be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting on March 19, 2020.
- MREA annual meeting attendees and voting delegates were selected.
- East River Energize Forum attendees were selected.
- Approved the Labor and Service Charges Rates with no changes.
- Homan reported on East River board business and the Mid-West Consumers annual meeting.
- Veflin, Monson and Pearson reported on the Northeast Legislative Forum they attended.
- Janorschke presented the Manager's Report, which included:
 - ▶ Provided an East River update.
 - ▶ Provided a Minnesota legislative update.
 - ▶ Provided a South Dakota legislative update.
- Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:
 - ▶ Nov. 30, 2019, accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
 - ▶ We are seeking applicants for the Basin Scholarship and Washington, D.C., Youth Tour.
 - ▶ Each member received a bill insert with their recent monthly statement detailing our process and requirements to install a new sub meter.
 - ▶ Provided an update on the member services/electrician department activities.
- Reviewed and approved the November Financial Report.
- Janorschke gave the Operations Report. Items discussed included:
 - ▶ Outages were reviewed.
 - ▶ Meter change update.
 - ▶ A list of projects was reviewed.
 - ▶ Our safety program was reviewed.
 - ▶ Crews are working on pole changes and service upgrades.
- Approved revisions to Policy 306 Water Heater Value Certificate.
- Approved revisions to Policy 307 Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and Generator Programs.
- Reviewed the January 2020 district meeting dates.
- A list of upcoming meetings and attendees was reviewed.

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2019

What We Have

Assets and Other Debits

Utility Plant

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Utility Plant in Service | \$25,586,769 |
| Construction Work in Progress | <u>\$753,491</u> |
| Total Utility Plant | \$26,340,260 |
| Less: Reserve for Depreciation | <u>10,387,763</u> |
| Utility Plant Less Reserve for Depreciation | \$15,952,497 |

Investment and Fund Account

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Capital Credits – East River, Basin & CFC | \$5,896,535 |
| Investments in Associated Enterprises | \$380,607 |
| Temporary Investments | <u>\$3,862,481</u> |
| Total Investment and Fund Account | \$10,139,623 |

Current Assets and Deferred Charges:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Special Deposits | \$0 |
| Accounts Receivable | \$993,975 |
| Prepayments/Materials and Supplies | \$348,835 |
| Interest Receivable | \$28,511 |
| Deferred Debits | <u>\$188,998</u> |
| Total Current Assets and Deferred Debits | \$1,560,319 |
| Total Assets and Other Debits | <u>\$27,652,439</u> |

What We Owe

Liabilities and Deferred Credits

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Long-Term Obligations to REA | \$12,376,877 |
| Long Term Obligations Other | \$607,257 |
| Current and Accrued Liabilities | \$1,030,717 |
| Deferred Credits | <u>\$26,390</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Deferred Debits | \$14,041,241 |
| Net Assets – Member Equities | <u>\$13,611,198</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Other Credit | <u>\$27,652,439</u> |

What We Own

Member Equities

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Patronage Capital | \$11,965,750 |
| Operating Margin – Current Year | \$507,285 |
| Non-Operating Margin | \$679,729 |
| Other Equities | <u>\$458,434</u> |
| Total Member Equities | \$13,611,198 |

Comparative Operating Statistics

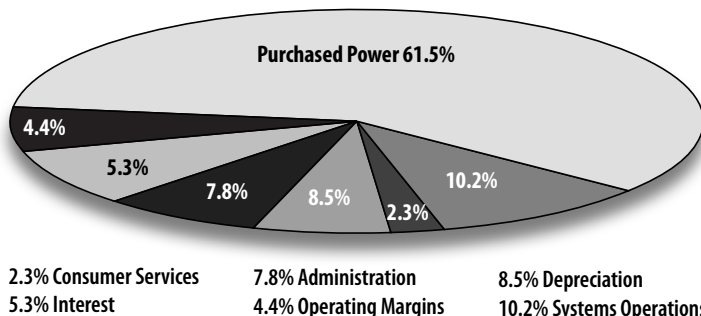
| | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Miles Energized – Distribution | 1,702 | 1,714 |
| Number of Services in Place | 3,179 | 3,217 |
| Kilowatt Hours Purchased | 114,685,172 | 121,406,122 |
| Kilowatt Hours Sold | 108,574,832 | 115,279,896 |
| Percent Line Loss | 5.0% | 5.0% |

Revenue and Expenses

January 1 to December 31, 2019

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Operating Revenue | \$11,503,535 |
| Cost of Purchased Power | \$7,071,701 |
| Total System Operations | \$1,180,298 |
| Total Consumer Services | \$265,947 |
| Total Depreciation | \$969,733 |
| Total Interest | \$616,587 |
| Total Administration | <u>\$891,984</u> |
| Total Cost of Electric Service | \$10,996,250 |
| Operating Margins | \$507,285 |
| Non-Operating Margins | \$217,527 |
| Transmission Capital Credits | \$462,200 |
| Total Margins | \$1,187,012 |

What Do Your Dollars Pay For?



Summary of Loan Fund

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Debt Obligation, Dec. 31, 2019 | \$12,984,134 |
| Balance | <u>\$12,984,134</u> |
| Less: Advance Payments | \$0 |
| Net Obligations to RUS, FFB, CFC CoBank and USDA 12/31/2019 | \$12,984,134 |

Capital Credits Paid*

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1956 to 2002 | | |
| \$4,085,721.50 | 2008..... \$280,627.11 | 2014..... \$299,995.08 |
| 2003..... \$197,525.99 | 2009..... \$321,723.71 | 2015..... \$288,893.81 |
| 2004..... \$219,103.90 | 2010..... \$331,007.12 | 2016..... \$300,004.40 |
| 2005..... \$38,449.06 | 2011..... \$384,588.29 | 2017..... \$400,010.49 |
| 2006..... \$245,719.10 | 2012..... \$220,197.99 | 2018..... \$400,000.00 |
| 2007..... \$245,782.06 | 2013..... \$199,990.49 | 2019..... 450,000.00 |

Total Paid Back: \$8,909,340.10

*Capital credits shown above have been paid to estates of deceased members plus payments to members for years 1942 through part of 2003.

Boots, Broncs and Safety

Electric Safety Remains a Tradition at Black Hills Stock Show®

Courtney J. Deinert

courtneyd@centralec.coop

“We’re just selling safety.”

During the first week of February, people from across the region pull on their boots and gather in Rapid City, S.D., to celebrate the area’s deep history of cattle ranching at the Black Hills Stock Show.

The Black Hills Stock Show is the second largest event in the state, after the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

On the vendor floor, you can find anything a cowboy or cowgirl would dream of. Among the leather boots, hides, saddles and hats for sale, you can also find the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota booth.

“We’re just selling safety,” said Todd Eliason, assistant general manager at Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D. “We’ve been doing this for more than 20 years.”

The booth features a tabletop safety demonstration, also known as “Neon Leon” or “Power Town.” The table demonstration features a model farmyard with a barn, house, overhead power lines, ground transformer and props such as tree branches, a ladder, backhoe and line down on a tractor.

With the step of a pedal, the operator can conduct electricity through the lines and produce a shock or arch with the props.



With the step of a pedal, Central Electric’s Pat Soukup illustrates the effects of electricity when contacting a power line.

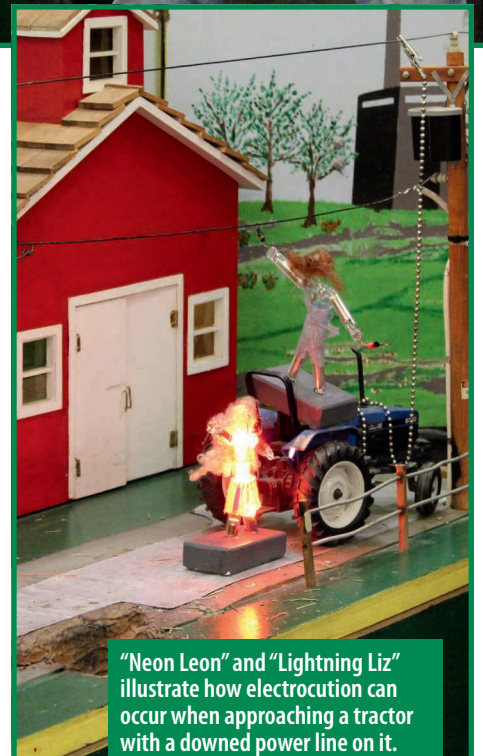
The presentation is designed to educate elementary-aged children about the dangers of electricity, but all ages gather to see the demonstration.

As parents and grandparents pass by the booth, they’ll smile and nod, likely remembering the presentation from their earlier days. Parents with young cowboys and cowgirls along will nudge them towards the booth to hear about the importance of respecting electricity on the farm.

Eliason recalls working at the safety booth one year and a young boy pointed at him and yelled, “That’s him!”

Eliason admits that his first thought was, “Oh, no. What did I do?”

However, the mother approached him in tears, gave him a big hug and said, “My son hit a power line with a tractor, and



“Neon Leon” and “Lightning Liz” illustrate how electrocution can occur when approaching a tractor with a downed power line on it.



The demonstration is designed for elementary-aged children but draws crowds of all ages.

because he saw your presentation, he knew to stay in the tractor. He is here today because of you.”

Many cooperative representatives across the state can share similar stories where children, farm wives and equipment operators knew exactly what to do in a dangerous situation involving electricity because they saw one of the cooperative’s electric safety presentations.

“When watching the demonstration, the kids probably don’t understand everything right away,” says Patrick Soukup, manager of member services/marketing at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D. “But it might get them asking questions about electricity and they’ll go look it up or bring it up in conversation.”

Kids rarely leave the booth empty-handed. Attendees can count on taking home a souvenir including pencils, rulers, band-aids, plastic hardhats, stickers and a variety of different hand-outs to remind them about the presentation.

Representatives from the electric cooperatives from across South Dakota take turns operating the demonstration at the booth.

During the Stock Show, the electric cooperatives also facilitate the high voltage

trailer demonstration held Thursday evening in conjunction with the sheep dog trials and mutton busting.

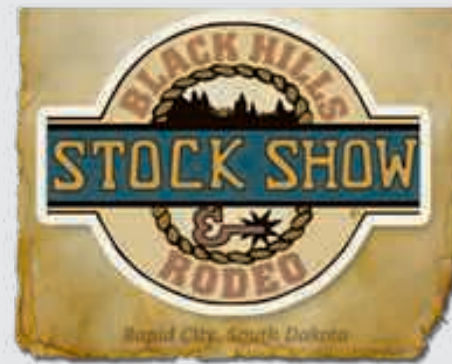
In addition to the Stock Show, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota provide energy efficiency and safety education at other events across the state, including the South Dakota State Fair and Dakotafest. You can also likely find them at your local home and farm shows, town festival, school

events and more.

To request a safety demonstration in your community, contact your local electric cooperative.



A young girl at the booth gets a closer look at overhead and underground conductor samples.



Ranch Rodeo Events

One of the most popular events at the Black Hills Stock Show is the Ranch Rodeo. Teams from a five-state region compete for more than \$21,000 in cash and prizes.

Preliminary and final events represent real-life chores on the ranch and provide unique entertainment.

- **Steer Loadin’**
Teams must sort and load a steer into the trailer and shut and latch the trailer.
- **Range Doctorin’**
Teams must head and heel a cow, lay it on its rib cage, “doctor it” on the neck with medicine on a paint stick and remove the ropes.
- **Stray Gatherin’**
Teams must head and heel a steer and tie any three legs.
- **Blake’s Trailer Loading**
Teams will have trailers loaded with horses in the arena. They must unload their horses, rope two steers and load them into the trailer.
- **Rope, Mug and Tie**
Teams must lay and tie down a designated steer.
- **Head, Heel and Brand**
Teams must head and heel two steers, lay each on its side, and brand them.
- **Pendleton Ranch Bronc Ride**
A team member must ride a bronc for 8-seconds and can hang on with both hands if desired.



East River Electric employees work the serving line at a previous feed. Pictured, from left, are Mike Jaspers, Business Development Director; Paul Lambert, radio, SCADA and LM foreman; Rory Johannsen, materials coordinator operator; Tom Boyko, CEO/General Manager and Kim Boyko.

FEEDING FOR A CAUSE

East River Electric to Hold 56th Annual Mountain Oyster Feed March 12

Shayla Ebsen

sebsen@eastriver.coop

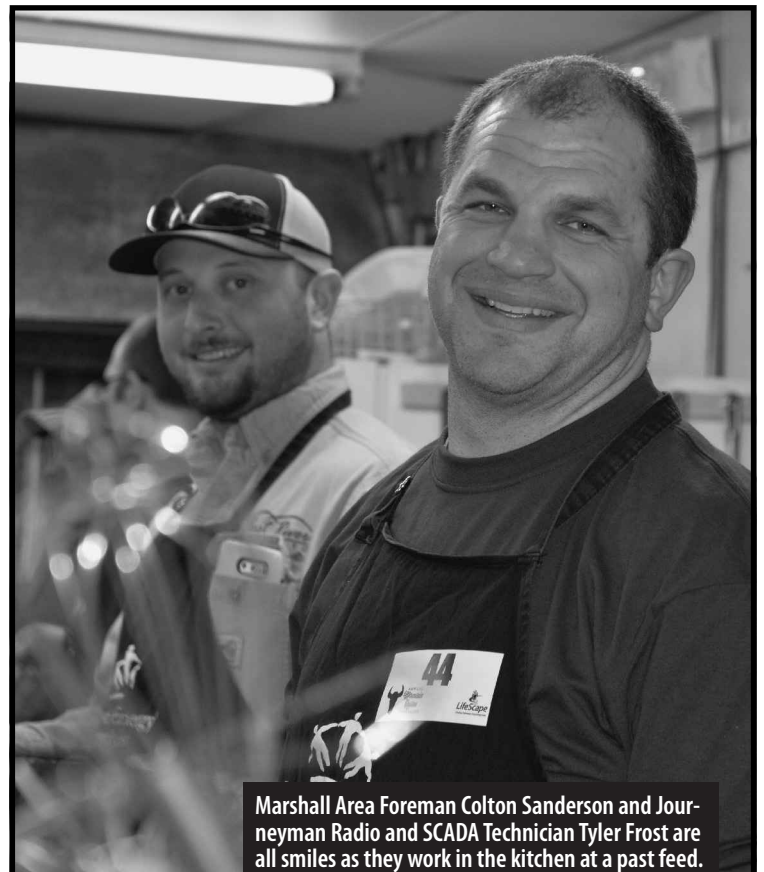
Mountain oysters will be the center attraction at a fundraising event held by East River Electric Power Cooperative on March 12.

Serving for the 56th annual Mountain Oyster Feed begins at 5:30 p.m. at Nicky's on the west edge of Madison, S.D.

But for those not so interested in the prairie delicacy, the event's menu will also include pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert. There will be a raffle, door prizes, silent auction and 50-50 tickets.

Proceeds from the event will once again benefit LifeScope, formerly Children's Care Hospital and School and SD Achieve, whose mission it is to empower children and adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. With more than \$275,000 contributed to LifeScope over the years, East River's Annual Mountain Oyster Feed has helped provide for the very best in medical care, therapy, education and other services for the children at LifeScope.

"LifeScope is so honored to benefit from this tremendous event each year. It is so fun and so



Marshall Area Foreman Colton Sanderson and Journeyman Radio and SCADA Technician Tyler Frost are all smiles as they work in the kitchen at a past feed.

unique, and it brings the community together in fellowship and food, but more importantly, it brings the community together in support of children with disabilities. The money raised over the years has made a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of Madison-area children and their families supported by LifeScape,” said Jessica Wells, LifeScape Foundation president. “This is a tradition we love and look forward to each year. We are so grateful for this event and for the people of this community that show their compassion and care by coming out in support of this each year.”

The partnership began about a dozen years after Children’s Care Hospital & School opened in 1952.

According to the history of the organization on LifeScape’s website, the school was a private, nonprofit organization started as a citizens’ grassroots effort to provide rehabilitation and education to children recovering from polio. Until then, children often never returned to school after recovering from the acute phase of their illness, as buildings were seldom accessible. As the polio threat waned, children with other disabilities were admitted, but the early mission of the organization was to serve children with physical disabilities only. More children were “mainstreamed” into public schools in the 1970s and

Crippled Children’s began serving children with more complex disabilities – the result of modern medicine’s ability to save sicker and more premature babies. Also in the 1970s, the organization began serving children in their own communities through the outreach program. The organization acquired an outpatient center in Rapid City in 1985 and was able to provide services throughout the state. The name changed to Children’s Care Hospital & School in 1994 and an outpatient rehabilitation center opened in Sioux Falls in 1999, serving children and adults. In 2012, Children’s Care celebrated its 60th anniversary.

“Every year, the East River Employees’ Committee seeks out donations of any kind and every year the community steps up in supporting our cause and making this event a success,” said Sam Anderson, East River Employees’ Committee chairperson. “East River takes pride in our community and is committed to benefiting non-profits in our area such as LifeScape.”

“The charity event was very successful and a direct tribute to our employees fulfilling



03.12.20
THURSDAY

NICKY'S
RESTAURANT

5:30 P.M.
SERVING
BEGINS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT 

our Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives principle of Commitment to Community,” said East River General Manager Tom Boyko after the 2019 event, which saw the East River Employees Committee donate \$1,000, a total matched by East River Electric at \$1,000 and CoBank also contributed \$2,000. In total, the 2019 event raised more than \$25,000 for LifeScape.



Apprentice Substation Technician Tim Fuerst, Facilities Maintenance Technician Mark Even and Mechanic Terry Zingmark prep the mountain oysters for frying.

December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

February 21

KORN and Breaking Benjamin, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 21-22

Mardi Gras Weekend, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

February 22

Cabin Fever Games, Yankton, SD, 605-665-8994

February 22-23

48th Annual Farm, Home & Sports Show, Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD 605-224-1240

February 26

The Harlem Globetrotters, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 27-29

SD High School State Wrestling Tournament, All Classes, Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

February 27-March 1

35th Annual SD State Dart Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

March 12-14

SD State B High School Girls Basketball Tournament, Donald E. Young Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-224-9261

March 14

28 Below Fatbike Race, Ride and Tour, Lead, SD, 605-641-4963

March 14-15

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Davison County Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD, 701-361-9215



February 20-25: Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

Photo courtesy: travelouthdakota.com

March 18, June 11, August 13 and October 8

Kids Mystery Dinner Theater, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

March 19-21

SD State A High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-224-9261

March 19-21

SD State AA High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

March 19-21

SD State B High School Boys Basketball Tournament, Barnett Center, Aberdeen, SD, 605-224-9261

March 20-21, 27-28

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 21-22

Gun Show, Codington County Ag Building, Watertown, SD, 701-361-9215

March 28

Annual Ag Day at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

March 28

SD High School All-State Band Concert, Mitchell Fine Arts Center, Mitchell, SD, 605-224-9261

April 3-4

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876 or 800-999-1876

April 4-5

Annual USD Wacipi, Vermillion, SD

April 11

Eggstravaganza, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

April 17-19

First Dakota Classic Archery Tournament, Yankton, SD, 605-260-9282

April 18

Black Hills Gold & Treasure Show, Rapid City, SD

April 18

Design Challenge, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-731-2348

April 25

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

July 14

Rock Nobles Cattlemen 2020 Summer Beef Tour, Nobles County Fairgrounds, Register Before June 1: \$20, After June 1: \$40, Worthington, MN, 507-967-2380, www.mnsca.org

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.