

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

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Electricity Provides Powerful Value



Matt Hotzler
Manager

For many, there are aspects of life that become sort of a daily routine. Some get ready each day for work and stop for coffee on the way to work. At lunchtime, they stop at a restaurant or C-Store and get lunch. Then, finally, end the day at home and stream an episode or two of their favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provides me compared to the money I spend. Using the example above, a morning latte costs about \$6, a lunch costs another \$10, and a streaming subscription costs about \$16 monthly. All these daily expenses total around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. This got me thinking.

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$6.75, and the average monthly electric bill for members of H-D Electric Cooperative is \$205. Often that includes heating costs in the winter. With \$6 lattes, you could power your entire home daily for that price. Now, to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has remained relatively cost-stable despite rising inflation. H-D Electric's last rate

increase was in 2018, but annually we look at the rates and we know we will have to increase sometime in the future because our costs have increased dramatically. But as a member-owned cooperative, H-D Electric Cooperative does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains of great value for our members. It's not always easy, as several factors beyond inflation impact the price of electricity – some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance, and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we also consider the impact of those costs on our members.

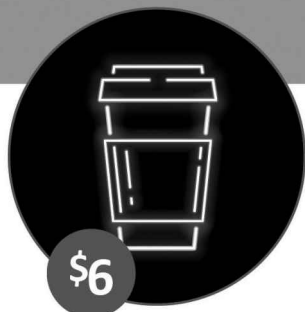
As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, farms, schools, and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured that H-D Electric Cooperative always puts you at the top of mind and works daily to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

The construction season has been slower moving with all the rain we have gotten this summer, but the crews are working incredibly hard and making progress on the line construction. Hope everyone has a wonderful summer season and be safe and careful while working near electrical equipment.

Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

H-D ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-905)

General Manager: Matt Hotzler

Headquarters Employees:

Annie Aberle – Finance and

Administration Manager

Michelle Prins – Billing Clerk

Heidi Brewer-Grimlie – Accounting Clerk

Jami Bolden – Receptionist/Cashier

Roger Cutshaw – Engineer

Darren Matthes – Building Property

Worker

Operations:

Troy Kwasniewski – Operations Manager

Todd Sprang – Line Foreman

Line Crew:

Pat Kirby – Operations Support

Kevin Holida – Lead Lineworker

Joe Raml – Lead Lineworker

Cody Scarrott – Lineworker

Derek Bille – Lineworker

Eric Page – Lineworker

Joseph Jordan Jr. – Apprentice Lineworker

Matt Miller – Lead Equipment Operator/

Mechanic

Brady Mellendorf – Equipment Operator/

Mechanic

Member Services:

Tom Lundberg – Member Services

Manager

Noah Reichling – Electrician Foreman

Jim Thompson – Lead Electrician

Deaven Boots – Apprentice Electrician

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Design assistance by SDREA.

Pole Testing

Annually, typically in July or August, we have an outside contractor come to test power poles on our system.

They check to make sure the poles are solid inside and out. It's that time again, so if you see a group digging around our poles, you can call the office to verify they are in the area or ask them.

We provide them a documentation letter from us explaining what they are doing to show anyone with questions. They will test around 750 poles this year throughout the season. In addition, H-D Electric personnel test meter poles throughout the year to verify poles are structurally sound.



Operating Statistics

	May 2023	May 2024
Customers	3,786	3,844
Amount Collected.....	\$911,843	\$954,354
Average Bill	\$240.85	\$248.27
Average Kilowatt-Hour	2,046	2,178
Kilowatt-Hours Purchased.....	8,212,770	8,999,244
Kilowatt-Hours Sold	7,745,243	8,372,751

Extreme Heat Preparation

Learn How to Stay Hydrated

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

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

Make a Plan to Stay Cool

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

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

Learn Emergency Skills

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

Gather Emergency Supplies

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

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

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

Source: American Red Cross



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

Hobie Klein, Age 12

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

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

Summer SALADS

MOM'S VEGETABLE SALAD

Ingredients:

Salad

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

Drain all the vegetables

Add

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

Dressing

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

*Combine in a saucepan
and boil until clear*

Method

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

Debra Clow
Harrisburg, S.D.

FRESH SUMMER SALAD

Ingredients:

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

Method

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

Barb Selland
Mitchell, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

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

Method

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

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Types of Heat Pumps



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Q: My heating system is 10-plus years old, and I want to switch to a heat pump. Can you help me choose the best option for my home?

A: Heat pumps have been around for decades, and in that time, the technology has come a long way. In my opinion, they could use a rebrand.

The name heat pump does not highlight the benefit of air conditioning that comes with the technology. Heat pumps are highly efficient because they don't use energy to create heat. Instead, they use energy to move heat – into the home in the winter and out of it in the summer. They typically produce about three times more energy than they use.

The most common types of heat pumps are air source and ground source. Air source heat pumps transfer heat from the outside air, even if it isn't particularly warm outside. Ground source, or geothermal heat pumps, transfer heat between your home and the ground. With a lower upfront price tag, air source heat pumps are more common.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, air source heat pumps can reduce heating use by about 65% compared to an electric furnace. They come in a variety of styles and configurations to fit different homes. Air source heat pump technology has been popular in warmer climates for decades. There are now cold climate versions available, too.

Here's an explanation of how each type operates:

Ducted air source heat pumps are ideal for homes with existing ductwork or homes where ductwork can be feasibly added. Replacing an aging central air conditioning system with a heat pump can significantly reduce heating costs.

Ductless heat pumps, or mini-split heat pumps, also draw heat from the outside air. They are a great solution for homes that do not have existing ductwork.

There are many configurations to suit

different home layouts. New options on the market allow for coupling with gas or propane backup heat, which might be a good fit for your home. Ductless heat pumps can be a great option for homes with wood stoves. This can help home air quality, heat the home without gathering wood and provide air conditioning in warmer months.

Geothermal heat pumps transfer heat from the ground to your home. They are even more efficient than air source heat pumps, reducing energy use by 70% to 80%, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. They can also heat water for use in the home, which saves on water heating costs.

From a user experience perspective, heat pumps are a little different because the heat from the register doesn't feel quite as warm as oil, electric, natural gas or propane heat. That can take a little getting used to, but the efficiency gains and energy savings make the investment worthwhile.

Before buying a heat pump, compare equipment ratings. The higher the rating, the more efficient the equipment. If it is time to replace your heating system, I recommend making the switch to a heat pump to conserve energy and potentially save on your electric bills.

Understanding the Backup Heat Feature

Most heat pump systems are installed with a backup or auxiliary heat for cold weather. This auxiliary heat can be electric coils, gas, propane or oil, which is usually more expensive to operate. This helps keep your home warm on cold days, but you don't want to use it if you don't need it.

For some heat pumps, turning up the thermostat too quickly or too high can trigger the backup heat. Typically, your thermostat will display emergency or auxiliary heat when using this feature. Speak to your HVAC technician to ensure your thermostat is set to maximize efficiency.

Sparking Innovation On The Farm

Tara Miller

Central Electric Cooperative, Manager of Communications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

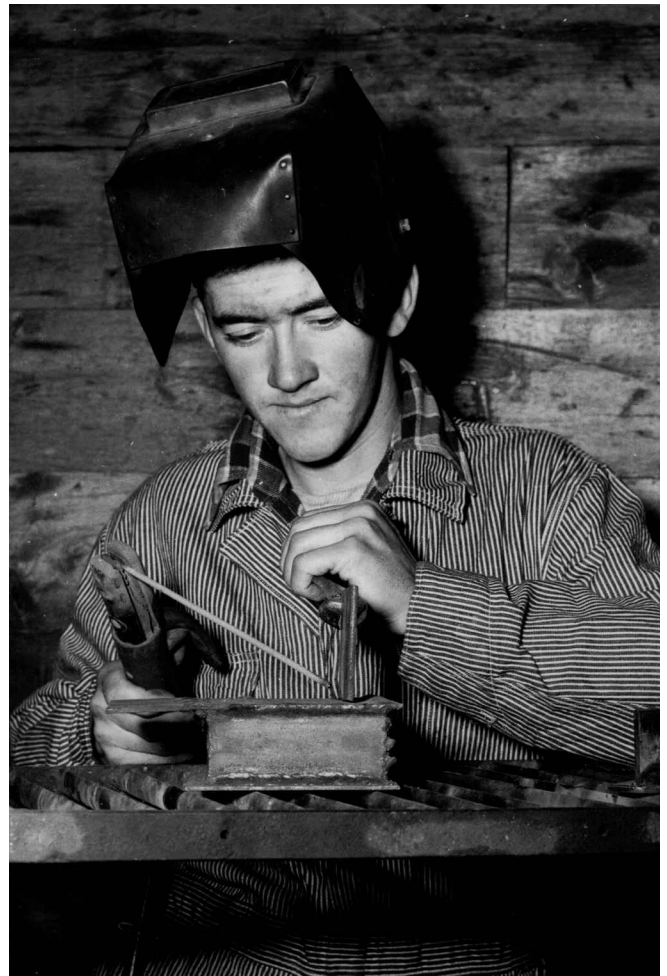




Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

Mammoth Discovery

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

The tusk was found in an old streambed. Other fossils



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

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

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

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

wrapped in plastic.

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

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

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



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

H-D Electric Water Heater Program

H-D Electric sells three sizes (50, 85, 100 gallons) of high-efficiency lifetime warranty Marathon water heaters. We have a rebate and discount program for our members.

Replacing an old water heater?

Call H-D Electric and see if you qualify for a new 50-, 85-, 100-gallon lifetime water heater from H-D Electric, and after the rebate only pay \$600 for a 50 gallon and \$850 for an 85- or 100-gallon (tax included).

New Construction or Gas Water Heater Conversion?

Check out what H-D Electric has to offer for the lifetime warranty water heaters for you. If you qualify a new 50 gallon would only be \$400 and an 85- or 100-gallon would only be \$600 (tax included).

Call the H-D Electric office during normal business hours to find out the complete list of qualifications.

To receive the rebates noted above, a controller must be installed within 90 days of purchase. If a member chooses to not have a controller installed, they may only purchase 50 gallon and must pay the full amount with no rebates. The cost with no rebates is \$1,300. Due to 85- and 100 gallon being grid enabled they must have controllers installed.



Back to School Safety Month

August is Back-to-School Safety Month, so let's remember to play it safe as we begin a new school year. A friendly reminder to slow down as you drive through residential areas and school zones.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY MONTH

Slow down in residential areas and school zones.



Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

Thirty-six students representing 18 South Dakota electric cooperatives headed to the Washington, D.C., area June 15-21 for the 2024 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

The program, which can trace its existence back to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson where he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capital so they "can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," encourages teens to engage in their communities and learn about the importance of political involvement. More than 1,300 teens have represented the Rushmore State since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963.

The 2024 group visited many of the historic sites the region offers, including Fort McHenry in Baltimore. The fort's bombardment in the War of 1812 was captured in Francis Scott Key's poem, which would eventually become the national anthem. Old Glory would play a recurring theme in the trip as students could see it at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and also hear an inspirational message centered on the flag from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men's wheelchair basketball.

Students also met with the state's congressional delegation with a short meet and greet with U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Sen Mike Rounds. Also, while in D.C. Youth Tour participants from across the country while touring many of our nation's historical sites – including the National Archives, Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, U.S. Supreme Court, and many more.

"We flew from Minneapolis very early Sunday morning, and when we got to D.C., we went to Fort McHenry right away. Through the week, we saw the Lincoln and Washington Memorials, Holocaust Museum, and toured the house at Mt. Vernon. I had really looked forward to seeing the Vietnam Vet wall, so I was happy to see that.

We had a dance on a touring boat that first night, with a DJ on both the top and lower decks. We were meeting with kids from other states all the time, so that was fun. I talked with someone from Hawaii, Alaska, Texas, and Colorado. There were students from 44 states total. On Thursday night, the last night, there was another dance.

I thought the trip was very fun. We got to see all the places that I wanted to see."

Garon Kruse



Winners Announced in Regional Who Powers You Contest

The third annual Who Powers You contest hosted by the region's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives has officially come to a close with the announcement of three winners who were chosen from among the contest's 20 finalists. The contest spotlights outstanding individuals and organizations who are making a difference in their communities while recognizing them for their remarkable efforts in empowering and inspiring others.

"As an electric cooperative, our services extend beyond delivering safe, affordable, and reliable power to our member-owners," H-D Electric Cooperative Manager, Matt Hotzler. "The Who Powers You contest highlights the commitment of our co-op to the communities and member-owners that we serve. We know that our co-op community is filled with people making a difference and we are honored to celebrate them."

Weekly contest finalists were featured on KELOLAND Living from March through mid-May. Three contest winners were announced on May 30, 2024.

Becky Krause, a member of H-D Electric Cooperative, has been awarded the first-place grand prize in the Who Powers You contest. Becky, who was nominated by five separate individuals, is an invaluable volunteer and member of her community.

She has been instrumental in many community projects and efforts that enrich Deuel County. She's deeply involved with the farming industry, supporting local farmers through her banking expertise and hands-on experience and a pillar of support in her church and community, volunteering for church suppers, teaching Sunday School, and leading youth groups. She also serves on the Stewards Against Childhood Hunger committee, providing weekend backpacks for students. Her role in the Deuel County Community Foundation is significant, organizing major fundraisers and promoting scholarships for local students. She also mentors high school students, offering guidance on college, tech schools, and finances. She co-leads the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is actively involved with her church as a Sunday school coordinator and financial secretary.

As the grand prize winner, she will receive a \$3,000 award to support her continued efforts. The Who Powers You award recognizes her as a true ambassador of her community and the individuals within it.

The second-place, \$1,500 prize was awarded to Pierre Area Referral Service, whose outreach impacts Oahe Electric Cooperative's service territory. The organization has been servicing the community for 50 years and is always there to help with food, clothing, emergency/medical bus tickets, emergency hotel vouchers, eviction prevention, and many other services. One of their best programs is their weekend backpack program for kids in grades K-5 and they feed over three thousand meals each weekend during the school year. They are powering their community through their dedication and mission to support community in numerous ways.

Sandi Kramer, a member of Bon Homme-Yankton Electric Cooperative, was awarded the third-place \$500 award in the contest. She has been a dedicated volunteer for the Yankton Food for Thought program for many years. She started with the program when they began the Sack Pack Program 15 years ago, which provides a sack of food for the weekend to children who are food insecure. She is involved in their once-a-month food pantry from food ordering to set-up and working the events. She also serves on the board of directors, bringing her experience and great ideas to the program. Her contributions to the region are numerous, which is why she was chosen for the well-deserved recognition.

To learn more about the Who Powers You contest, visit whopowersyoucontest.com.



Capital Credits What Are Capital Credits?

Capital credits are one of the many benefits of cooperative membership and represents each member's share of the H-D Electric's margins and ownership.

Since H-D Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, it does not earn profits in the sense that other businesses do. Instead, any margins, or revenue remaining after all the expenses have been paid, are allocated to the members in proportion to their electricity purchases.

These margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to the cooperative. From these margins the cooperative builds equity with the intention of repaying the member's investment, which is done through the retirement of capital credits.



A GOLDEN HARVEST

The Buzz Behind Adee Honey Farms

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

bees onto their land. Everyone benefits – even bees.

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



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





Photos Courtesy of Karli Hinds

Food Trucks

How Karli Hinds Jumped Into the Business

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

- Karli Hinds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hinds rotates between eight or so different food themes.

“Once in a while I come

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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AUG. 20-22
Dakotafest
Mitchell, SD

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

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

SEPT. 8
Homesteader Day
1-4 p.m.
Beaver Creek Nature Area
Valley Springs, SD

SEPT. 14-15
2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival
Delmont, SD

SEPT. 17
EV Expo
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

OCT. 17
Co-op Month Celebration
Cherry Rock Farms
Brandon, SD

AUG. 2-4
Arlington Days
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AUG. 3
Prairie Fest
Armour, SD

AUG. 3
Bloomin' Quilt Party
12-5 p.m.
Bennett Barn
Aurora, SD
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AUG. 6-8
IDEAg's Farmfest
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Redwood County, MN
651-316-4369

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

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

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

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

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

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