


# Cooperative Connections



AgritourismSD seeks to attract visitors from far and near

**Education and Entertainment on the Farm**

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**College Students Deal with Change**

Pages 12-13

# Genuine, Authentic, and Unadulterated Kindness



**Stephanie Horst**

horst@byelectric.com

**Here at Bon Homme Yankton Electric, our mission is to serve our members, and every employee here prioritizes serving our membership to keep electricity affordable and reliable while adopting an innovative approach to meet their needs now and into the future.**

Last October I turned 50. That's right...the Big Five-Oh! I've noticed that with every turn of a new decade my body starts to experience a growing number of unfamiliar and unexplainable issues. This time it was no different with hormone levels and metabolism changes coming on faster and more unpredictable than the South Dakota weather, and the stubborn pounds finding a comfortable home on the most unflattering parts of my body that do not want to leave. To make sense of all these changes, I have been reading through books that seem to all have the same overarching theme: there are no easy solutions, hidden secrets or magic bullets. As much as I don't want to admit it, the real answer lies in a healthy diet, moderate exercise, plenty of water and an adequate amount of sleep. As Willie Cap, our retired custodian, would say: "Easy Peasy!" I have found through experience that "easy peasy" is more of a mindset than it is physical effort. The process of looking good and feeling good can be as hard or as easy as I want. Some days it's a struggle, and some days it really does seem "easy peasy."

Recently, I experienced an evening that I have to put in the "struggle" category. One of my goals is to build up my asthmatic lungs by doing some interval running. When it came time to head outdoors, neither my mind nor my body was willing. The couch and the television screen had a pretty firm grip on me that they weren't willing to let go. Eventually, I was able to pull myself out the door by force of will and with a few minutes of stretching out and warming up, I found my rhythm. The more physical distance I put between myself and the sofa and TV, the more I felt that cobweb sensation of stiff joints and tight muscles going away.

There were others on the Lewis & Clark Lake bike paths enjoying the beautiful 85-degree summer-like weather. There was a lady walking her Golden Retriever – or it may have been the other way around - lots of cyclists, and families out for an early evening stroll. I jogged by each of them flicking my hand up with a friendly wave and a smile without breaking in my pace, until a boy about 3 years old jumped off his Strider bike and stopped me in my tracks. He looked up at me and waved and said, "Hi!" I said hello to the child, and before I could get going again, he asked me something that I didn't anticipate. "Can I hug you?" A bit startled by this sudden invitation from a stranger, I looked at the boy's mom for permission and with her nod I received the greatest blessing! I thanked him for the hug and for being so nice to me and he hopped back on his bike and peddled away with glee. I continued my run with those words hanging heavy in the air around me. "Can I hug you?" The simple words reverberated in my head and began to synchronize with the beat of my feet against the pavement. Why did these words keep bouncing around in my brain? Then I realized, he did not ask, "Can I have a hug?" but "Can I hug you?" Two very different meanings. The first is wanting something from someone, and the other is giving something to someone else. This little guy with a simple phrase, a simple gesture and his enthusiasm for sharing a spontaneous display of affection with a stranger was all about serving, and I was incredibly fortunate to receive this blessing right out of the blue.

For the first time, I realized the importance of being the receiver of such genuine, authentic, unadulterated kindness and how it made me feel. Here at Bon Homme Yankton Electric, our mission is to serve our members, and every employee here prioritizes serving our membership to keep electricity affordable and reliable while adopting an innovative approach to meet their needs now and into the future. My hope is that as a Bon Homme Yankton Electric member you feel the positive impact that our dedicated employees make even beyond restoring power, in the same way I received that boy's desire to just spread a little joy in the world.

We are engaging in more programs for our members like the Co-op Connections Card, which we recently rolled out to help our members save money and support local businesses. You can use this card for discounts at participating businesses locally and nationally. The letter that was included with the card explains the program, and in our newsletter, our website, and/or our social media platforms, we will have our local business discounts advertised. Please contact Jaclyn in our office if you have a business and want to participate. *Continued on next page*

# Bon Homme Yankton Electric

## Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-973)

**Bon Homme Yankton Electric  
Association, Inc**  
PO Box 158  
134 S Lidice St  
Tabor, SD 57063

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**7:30am - 4:30pm**

**To pay by phone, call:**  
**1-888-395-5315**

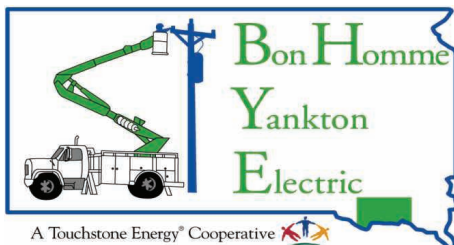
**To report an outage, call:**  
**Local call from Tabor, Tyndall and  
Yankton:**  
**605-463-2507**  
**Toll Free in South Dakota:**  
**1-800-925-2929**

**NOTICE: Electric bills must be paid  
by 10:00am on the 20th of each  
month to avoid a \$10 late fee.**

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## Manager's Column Cont.

We will continue to find new ways to serve our members, and looking at the technology heading our way there is a lot of opportunity for us to do so.

To the 3-year-old I met on the bike path that day, thank you for reminding me of the impact that a servant attitude has, being a grateful receiver, and of course what I would have missed out on if I'd allowed myself to stay stuck on that couch.

Until next month, Stay Safe!

## FFA Farm Safety Day in Scotland

On March 19th, Bon Homme Yankton Electric put on an electric safety demonstration for Scotland School District K-8 grade students. Scotland's FFA Advisor Lindsey Kaufmann planned the Farm Safety Day with the help of FFA committee members Joslyn Walloch, Tori Dvorak, Kalley Vitek, and Addison Haase.

Kevin Meyer, Tyler Suess, Sean Kafka, and Travis Zomer of Bon Homme Yankton Electric used the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) High Voltage Trailer to put on the presentation. They used hot dogs and grapefruit to demonstrate what electricity can do to a human body.

FFA Advisor Lindsey Kaufmann said she saw a need for farm safety education for elementary and middle schoolers and filled it. She plans to continue the FFA Farm Safety Day every year with rotating topics.

In addition to the high voltage trailer, sessions this year were animal safety (Northwest Vet), chemical safety (Central Farmers Co-op), gun safety (Brian Humpfrey), basic first aid (Scotland EMS), and accident safety (FFA).

Kaufmann's favorite part of this event was how willing all the volunteers were to help educate kids on farm safety, especially the scary parts of farming.

If you are interested in organizing an electric safety demonstration, contact Jaclyn Arens at [jarens@byelectric](mailto:jarens@byelectric).



## Remodeling? Keep Efficiency in Mind

Sunny days are prime time for tackling remodeling projects, upgrades and repairs around your home. If you're planning a project, make a point of adding energy efficiency features along the way. Here are a few ideas:

- Add insulation around recessed lights so heated or conditioned air doesn't leak out of them and the weather can't sneak in.
- Install programmable thermostats when you add rooms to the house. While you're at it, have the thermostats in the rest of your home upgraded to programmable models.
- Your contractor will install more insulation in any new spaces you're adding than your builder did during the original construction of your home. Consider adding insulation to already-insulated areas, like the crawlspace and attic, to meet new energy efficiency standards.
- A new kitchen means shiny new appliances. Select those rated as energy efficient by ENERGY STAR®, which use less energy than unrated models.
- If your older home still has single-pane windows, consider an upgrade. Double-pane windows are more energy efficient because they better shield your home from the outdoors - and keep your conditioned air indoors.
- Replace old lightbulbs in your most-used rooms with LEDs. They last 10 years or longer and save considerable energy when compared to incandescent bulbs.
- Work with a contractor who understands how passive solar design can affect your energy bills. Rooftop solar panels, sunrooms and skylights are popular additions.
- Add or upgrade ventilation fans in bathrooms. This can improve air quality throughout the home - not just in the bathrooms - by removing moisture from the air.
- Consider having a home energy audit conducted. Audits can help you evaluate your home for energy wasters, suggest ways to remedy inefficiencies and recommend additions that will make your house more comfortable and cheaper to heat and cool.



## Generate Safely.

Never use a portable generator indoors.

Do not plug generators into standard electrical outlets.

Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances into the generator.

Start the generator before connecting appliances.

## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



### Don't Grill Too Close to the House

Mia Phillips, 5 years old

Mia is the granddaughter of Jim and Hans Moore of Rapid City. They are members of Black Hills Electric.

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.



# A Craving for Casseroles

## Chicken and Rice

- 1 bag Success Brown Rice
- 1/2 cup ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tbsp. chopped Italian parsley
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1/3 cup chopped onions
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 package (4 ounces) mushrooms, sliced
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 4 cups baby spinach leaves
- 2 cups shredded, cooked chicken breast
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper

Prepare rice according to package directions. In small bowl, combine ricotta, Parmesan and parsley; reserve. In large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add onions and garlic; saute 2 minutes. Add mushrooms and wine to skillet. Continue cooking 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add spinach and chicken. Stir until spinach is wilted and chicken is heated through, about 2 minutes. Stir in rice, salt and pepper. Serve casserole topped with dollops of reserved cheese mixture.

SuccessRice.com

## Meat Lovers Pizza Casserole

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 can (15 oz) pizza sauce
- 8 oz. elbow macaroni, cooked and drained
- 2 c. (8 oz) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 pkg (3 1/2 oz) sliced pepperoni, quartered
- 1/2 tsp. salt

In a large skillet, cook ground beef and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Stir in remaining ingredients. Transfer to a greased 2-quart baking dish. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until heated through. Yields 6 servings.

Gail Lee, Brookings

## Chicken Doritos Casserole

- 2 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 can Ro-tel tomatoes, drained (canned tomatoes with jalapenos-mild)
- 1/2 packet taco seasoning (or more, to taste)
- 1 bag of regular nacho cheese Doritos

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a mixing bowl, combine all ingredients except Doritos. In a greased 2 quart baking dish, put a layer of crushed Doritos (about 2 cups), then a layer of the chicken mixture. Top with more shredded cheese, cover, and bake 30-35 minutes until bubbling hot. Enjoy!

Alana Neville, Milesville, SD

## Garden Cafe Casserole

- 1 bag hash browns
- 1 onion
- 1 green pepper
- 1 box mushrooms
- 1 tomato
- 1/2 lb. deli turkey (cut in pieces)
- 1 lb. bacon (fried and cut in pieces)
- 2-3 cups cheese (Monterey Jack, Colby, Cheddar)

Place thawed hash browns in the bottom of a 9 x 13 pan. Saute onion, green pepper, and mushrooms. Place the meat and tomato on top of the potatoes. Then onion, green pepper and mushrooms. Top with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

Joanna Gum, Clear Lake, SD

Please send your favorite 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 December 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# WELCOME MEMBERS

**Irene**

Luxor Signs LLC  
Jay & Brandy McDonald

**Springfield**

Carol & Del Bartness

**Tabor**

Jacob Carda

**Utica**

Mason Blaha

**Yankton**

Gavins Point Recreational Center LLC  
Paul Sharp  
Geoff Kleinschmit  
Tim & Melissa Blotske  
Matthew Malloy  
Luke Mcallister  
Travis & Nicole Schnabel  
Ben Cameron & Jessica Kotschegarow  
Rebecca Flying Hawk  
Troy Nashleanas  
Ron & Virginia McCabe

## Statement of non-discrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

# Spring Planting Safety

Do you know what do to if you contact a power line?

## Stay Put

If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside the cab. DO NOT EXIT. Call 911 and Bon Homme Yankton Electric for help and warn anyone nearby not to approach your equipment. Only exit the machinery after you are told by the authorities that it is safe to do so.

Exiting equipment that has contacted energized power lines can cause electrocution. The downed power lines could be charging the equipment with electricity and, if you step out, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be killed by electric shock.

## Jump Clear

If you must get out of your equipment because of a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump with your feet together as far as possible from the equipment so no part of your body touches the equipment and the ground at the same time.

Move away from the equipment with your feet together, either by hopping or shuffling, until you are at least 40 feet away. Electricity spreads through the ground in ripples. Keeping your feet together prevents one foot from stepping into a higher voltage zone than the other foot, which could cause electrocution.

## Stay Away

When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. DO NOT approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.

## And Remember, Always Look Up

Farm equipment is getting larger. Bigger machinery improves productivity, but it can pose a threat to overhead power lines.

Always look up before operating machinery or raising implements. And be extra cautious when moving tall equipment around the yard and exiting or entering fields from roadways.



# Director Petition Deadline June 11th

Bon Homme Yankton Electric is making plans for its annual meeting. The meeting will be held August 10, 2021.

Director positions with three year terms expiring this year are districts **three and five**.

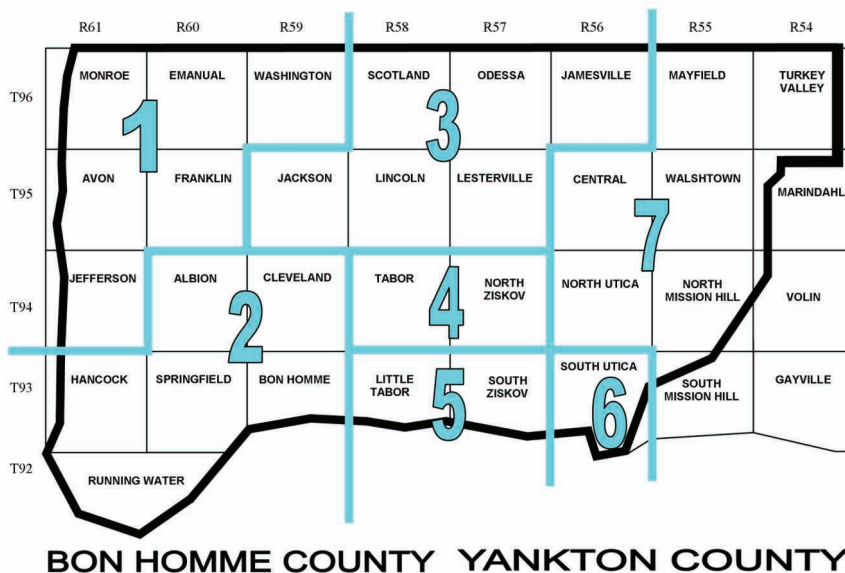
Incumbent directors in those districts are:

District 3 – Dave Sykora    District 5 – John Lillevoid

Any person wishing to run for a directorship of Bon Homme Yankton Electric will need to file a nominating petition. The petition must have at least 15 signatures of members living in the appropriate district in Bon Homme Yankton Electric's service area. Petitioners must reside in the district and have an active membership in the cooperative.

If you are interested, contact us, and we will send the petition paperwork via mail. Petitions will be available in the main office by April 26th and must be filed at the Bon Homme Yankton Electric office by **4:00p.m. June 11, 2021**.

Contact General Manager Stephanie Horst for more information regarding the responsibilities and qualifications for being a cooperative director.



## Notice: Call in Construction and Electrical Projects ASAP

Do you have any projects you'd like to get done this spring and summer that need electrical service? Call our office at (605) 463-2507 and ask for our Operations Manager Ken Carda to get your project on our schedule.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### March 2021

The March board meeting was held on March 17, at 8am as a hybrid in person and Zoom meeting. All board members were present. Others present were Attorney Sheila Woodward, General Manager Stephanie Horst, Office Manager Nicole Einrem, Operations Manager Ken Carda, and Communications/ Marketing Coordinator Jaclyn Arens.

### The Board Reviewed and Approved:

- Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- Capital Credits to Estates: None
- Closed Work Order Inventory: None
- New Members & Cancellations
- Special Equipment purchases: None

### The Board Reviewed and Approved Reports:

- East River Cyber Security/IT Report
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their departments.
  - Member Service/ Communications Report
  - Operations Report
  - Safety Report
  - General Manager's Report
- Reports from board members
  - South Dakota Rural Electric
  - East River Electric Power Cooperative
- Cost of Service Study Report
  - Mary Ann Hatch and Jason Strong from CFC

### The Board Reviewed and Approved:

- 5/7 Accounts Fuel Reimbursement
- Policy 50-22 Update
- The Dex - Dakota Events Complex \$1,000 donation
- Executive Session - Enter & Exit
- Next meeting date set for Monday, April 26, at 8 am.



The AgritourismSD program blends the state's top two economic drivers: agriculture and tourism. Photos provided by SD Tourism.

# AGRITOURISM

## New Program Blends South Dakota's Top Two Economic Drivers

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Amy Kruse already had a baby before she actually became a mother. That baby was proudly named Circle View Guest Ranch. That's the bed and breakfast establishment in Interior run by Amy and her husband, Philip.

"Before I had three kids, this was my baby," Kruse said on a recent Thursday afternoon while taking a break from getting the nearly 3,000-acre ranch spiffed up for weekend visitors and the busy travel season. "I got out of college and we got married and we came here 18 years ago. It's a lot of work to operate the ranch and make things run to give our guests a memorable experience, but it's worth it to see them enjoy themselves and have a great time in South Dakota."

While Kruse has long been engaged in her own form of what's called agritourism, she's an enthusiastic supporter of a new initiative designed to promote the accelerated growth of more agritourism enterprises across the state.

In 2017, the South Dakota Agritourism Work Group was formed to create an intensive program aimed at providing education, training and various support services to agribusiness owners interested in expanding their operations to include recreational, entertainment, educational, hospitality, cultural, on-farm sales and other activities for the general public. As tourism and agriculture are the two most significant business sectors in the state, organizers felt it only made sense to combine the two.

Spearheaded by South Dakota State University Extension and the state Office of Tourism, other local, state and federal agencies and entities joined in the effort. A partial list of participating organizations includes the Bed and Breakfast Innkeepers of South

Dakota, Experience Sioux Falls, Southeast Technical Institute, the South Dakota Specialty Producers Association, the South Dakota Value Added Ag Development Center and others.

According to Program Coordinator Stacy Hadrick of SDSU, AgritourismSD kicks off this month and consists of eight two-day, in-person workshops taking place over the course of 24 months where instructors provide the basic skills and tools that have been demonstrated to help increase the chances of success. The curriculum includes field visits to venues that already have a sustained track record of running thriving agritourism businesses.

The Circle View Guest Ranch, a member of West River Electric Association, is one of those venues. During the program's second year, the facility is slated to serve as a case study on how to launch and grow an agritourism operation and participants can have direct personal conversations with operators who will offer solid advice on every aspect of their business. Kruse said she looks forward to sharing some of the approaches and strategies that she and Philip have used to keep visitors coming to the ranch. The program, which kicks off this month, is designed to educate and train those associated with the ag industry on how to start, manage and operate an agritourism enterprise.

"This is such an excellent time to do something like this because things are opening up and people are ready to travel and escape the cities, get off the interstate and explore the back roads and see the tremendous beauty of our state," Kruse said. "They're craving an authentic experience after being shut down for so long."

Kruse added that she is eager to coach and encourage the group, but she also plans to shoot straight. That means giving the partici-





pants a healthy dose of unvarnished reality so they'll have a clear understanding of the commitment required.

"I think it's a wonderful program for our state. We're going to show them how we make things work with the overnight facilities and with the animals and their interactions with our guests," she said. "The business pretty much runs our lives for seven to eight months out of the year, and if you do it right it's all-consuming. But it's also extremely rewarding to see families have a terrific time bonding with each other, bonding with the natural landscape and the animals. It can be extremely rewarding for our guests and for our family as we're always making new friends. But you have to be committed."

Amy and her husband operate 12 guest rooms and three cabins with an average of 30 guests at any given time from April through September. She explained the cattle ranch and the bed-and-breakfast are separate businesses all set on 2,800 acres of land that includes prairie terrain in addition to Badlands formations, a river valley, rock beds, rolling hills, grazing pastures and tree groves.

For more effective statewide coordination, the AgritourismSD program organizers have developed a hub system, selecting the communities of Wall, Faulkton and Timber Lake to serve as regional organization centers. Participating business owners work through these hubs and meet six times over two years to share ideas and

discuss strategies for attracting visitors to their communities.

Robin Bickel is the hub coach for the Timber Lake area. A member of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Bickel runs a Red Angus cattle ranch in Firesteel that has been in the family for four generations. She said her interest in getting involved was to pursue potential economic growth not only for her ranch but for the entire area as well. She also sees agritourism as an incentive to both keep and attract young families to rural communities.

"If working ranches can find ways to expand and diversify their businesses, it may present opportunities for those young people who have left to come back to the family farm and be able to generate enough revenue to sustain multiple families on one place," she said.

Aside from the potential for added revenue, Bickel said she is eager to share with the rest of the world the wonders of rural life and the rural lifestyle she experiences each day.

"I think there's an increased interest people have about where their food and fiber come from, and we need to find a way to make that connection between the producer and consumer," she said. "We have such a rich history and so many natural resources to share. It's insane how many people can't see the sky full of stars at night where they live and can't see the prairie grass waving in the wind and



rolling across a hillside. There are people interested in things we take for granted. There are people in Nebraska that have a prairie chicken dance tour where people actually pay to see the chickens. I think there are many opportunities for our state if we commit ourselves and do it right."

For more information on the program, contact Jacey Ellsworth, Industry Outreach and Development Representative, at 605-773-3301 or [Jacey.Ellsworth@TravelSouthDakota.com](mailto:Jacey.Ellsworth@TravelSouthDakota.com).

# CLASSIFIEDS

June Issue Deadline: May 1, 2020. Email your classified ad to: jarens@byelectric.com. Members can post one free ad per year. Repeats or longer ads are \$1/column inch.

FOR RENT: 1 bedroom apartment. Tabor Manor. Contact Gary at 605-463-2209 or Ron at 605-463-2256.

Beseda Hall, Tabor, SD for rent for any special occasion such as weddings, anniversaries, graduation or birthdays! For more information contact Linda Bares at 605-661-6220 or snlbare@gmail.com.

FOR RENT: Tabor Self Storage. Call 605-660-0274 or 605-660-3497.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.



Source: www.energy.gov

## FREE Classified Ad Service

Members can submit classified ads for the following categories: Giveaway, For Sale, For Rent, and Wanted Ads. All ads must be received by the first of the month to be included in the following month's issue. Ads will run one time unless resubmitted. Bon Homme Yankton Electric reserves the right to edit content or exclude ads due to space restrictions. Email ads to Jaclyn Arens at jarens@byelectric.com.

## Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week

# Brooke Anderson

Bon Homme Yankton Electric along with Dakota News Now are pleased to announce that Brooke Anderson, a senior at Yankton High School, was selected as a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week. Brooke's segment aired the week of April 11-17 on Dakota News Now.

Brooke has a 4.1 GPA, and she is involved in band, choir, play, musicals, dance, Yankton Area Summer Band, Augustana Band Festival, All State Choir, and Regional Honor Choir. She is a drum major and the first chair flute at YHS.

She has received many awards including: Honor Roll, Academic Letter, USD Music Camp Scholarship (6 times), Outstanding Sophomore of Band, and Outstanding Junior for Band.

Brooke is the daughter of Jason and Beth Anderson and was nominated by Yankton High School Guidance Counselor Jennifer Kirchner.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives along with Dakota News Now have joined together to recognize the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. "Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week" has been celebrating the achievements of high school seniors since 2002. Recipients are highly motivated high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community. This program was founded on the four pillars of Touchstone Energy: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and a Commitment to Community.

Brooke received \$250 from Bon Homme Yankton Electric in recognition of her many accomplishments.



Brooke Anderson - Senior Picture

Bon Homme Yankton Electric Marketing and Communications Coordinator Jaclyn Arens (left) presents Brooke Anderson (right) with her \$250 scholarship check



# 2021 Scholarship Winners

## \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship

Grace Fryda will graduate from Scotland High School in May with a 3.88 GPA and a class rank of 3 out of 22. She plans to attend Dakota Wesleyan University to study athletic training and play on the women's basketball team. Her career goal is to become a physical therapist.

Grace has been involved in many extracurricular activities throughout her high school career including FFA, FCA, school play, student council, yearbook, marching band, concert band, jazz band, quiz bowl, and the mentoring program. She also plays volleyball, basketball, track, and softball. She volunteers at her church and at the Yankton Area Banquet, and she has worked on her family farm, at her grandmother's farmer's market stand, and at Vishay Dale Electronics. Grace's parents are Steve and Vicky Fryda.

Grace Fryda



Beatrice Nelson



## \$500 Bon Homme Yankton Electric Scholarship

Beatrice Nelson will graduate from Freeman Academy with a 4.0 GPA and a class rank of 1 out of 9. She plans to attend Dordt University to study animal science. Her future plans are to return to her family farm north of Yankton, expand the operation, and someday provide a setting where children with special needs can connect with and care for farm animals.

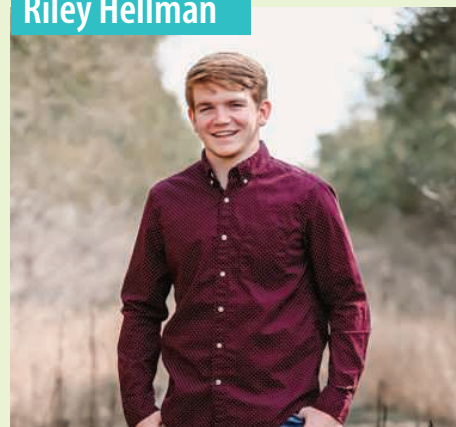
Beatrice has been involved in many extracurriculars during her high school career including choir, chamber choir, band, school musicals, and one-act plays. Outside of the classroom, she volunteers at her church, sings and plays piano at local nursing homes (pre-Covid), and works on her family farm. During the past two summers, she has worked at the KOA in Yankton. Beatrice's parents are David and Lauren Nelson.

## \$500 Bon Homme Yankton Electric Scholarship

Riley Hellmann graduated from Bon Homme High School in May 2020 with a 4.21 GPA and a class rank of 5 out of 33. He is currently attending SDSU to study human biology and psychology. His future plans are to attend medical school, become a physician, and specialize in either orthopedic or pediatric care.

Riley was very active throughout his high school career in National Honor Society, FFA, 4-H, wrestling, football, track, and drama. In college, he is involved in the Pre-Professional Club, American Medical Student Association, EMS Club, and American Sign Language Club. Outside of the classroom, Riley is an Angel Volunteer in Brookings, a volunteer coach for Bon Homme Youth Wrestling, a 4-H volunteer, and he is involved in community service projects in Brookings. He currently works as a CNA at the Brookings Health System. Riley's parents are Ben and Sara Hellmann.

Riley Hellman



Cassandra Voigt



## \$1,000 Basin Distribution Cooperative Scholarship

Cassandra Voigt was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric for dependents of cooperative employees. She competed with other co-op employee dependents for one of twenty Basin Electric scholarships.

Cassandra is currently a freshman at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, and she studies forensic science at the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources (CASNR) department. Her career goal is to obtain placement in a crime scene forensic lab somewhere in the Midwest close to family. Cassandra's parents are Paul and Tracy Voigt. Paul is the Bon Homme Yankton Electric Director for district one.

# Rural POWER

## Leadership Program Aimed at Boosting Co-op Leadership

Intentional listening is a skill Billie Sutton has honed over the course of his adult life. And as he leaned into recent conversations with electric cooperative leaders across the state, the former legislator from Burke started noticing a trend.

He picked up on a common refrain: cooperatives are having a hard time finding qualified candidates to run for positions on their governing boards.

As not-for-profit organizations, electric cooperatives don't have pockets deep enough to dangle large compensation packages in front of potential board candidates. This reality tends to narrow the field of interested parties.

After hearing this a few too many times, Sutton decided to take action and do something about it. He began working to develop a leadership program through his non-profit Billie Sutton Leadership Institute to encourage and inspire rural co-op members to consider campaigning for a board position.

The new year-long leadership development program is called "Rural POWER: Powering Opportunities While Energizing Rural." It will be held alongside the third leadership class offered by the Institute. The first program in 2019 attracted more than 100 applicants to fill 12 spots. Last year's class drew roughly 70 applicants but was hampered by the impact of the pandemic.

Sutton surmised that the high interest level in the Institute's first two programs stems from a desire to return to a more community-focused style of leadership and steer away from a brand of politics that appears to be growing more openly hostile.

His supposition comes from the comments he heard not only during his six years serving in the state senate but also from voters during his gubernatorial campaign three years ago in which he received more than 167,000 votes while losing the race to Gov. Kristi Noem.



Billie Sutton and his wife, Kelsea (foreground) are shown with the Institute's inaugural class of rural leaders.

"I think people were excited about a new style of leadership I brought to the table that's focused on service, finding common ground, overcoming adversity and getting things done on behalf of the people. I think people are tired of politics as usual," he said.

For the Institute's inaugural class, applicants ranged in age from 18 to 60 and represented a plethora of professional backgrounds: health care, teaching, education administration, local elected officials, ranchers and more. Sutton said he hopes the new program will also attract interest from a diverse set of applicants.

Rural POWER will kick off this summer and is sponsored by the South Dakota Farmers Union. Participants will engage in educational leadership training opportunities emphasizing community building and

**Participants will engage in educational leadership training opportunities emphasizing community building and serving neighbors, while learning from cooperative leaders.**

serving neighbors, while learning from cooperative leaders who have demonstrated their commitment to rural development. They will gain the knowledge and enthusiasm to re-imagine and re-energize rural South Dakota, Sutton said.



Rural POWER aims to provide leadership training that will help re-invent and re-energize rural South Dakota.

The program has an advocate in Melissa Maher, general manager at Moreau-Grand Electric based in Timber Lake. Maher notes that while most of the state's electric co-ops qualify as "rural," that doesn't mean they are merely small-time mom-and-pop operations. For instance, Moreau-Grand Electric is a member-owned business with more than \$47 million in assets.

Maher said it's important that electric co-ops be run by managers and board members dedicated to the task at hand. Board directors are democratically elected by the members in their respective districts and charged with the responsibility of developing the policies that guide the future of the co-op. They also have certain legal, fiduciary and industry-related issues they must deal with during the course of carrying out their duties.

"These are positions of responsibility and leadership, and you need qualified people because they're making big decisions," Maher said, adding that serving on a co-op board requires considerable time and attention. "If someone is interested in being nominated, you have to be up front and honest about that fact. That's one of the first things people ask, and the honest answer is that it's a commitment."

Those who succeed in meeting their board responsibilities recognize and appreciate the fact they're contributing to the advancement of their entire service area by providing an essential commodity. Maher said it also takes a certain type of personality and temperament to be a successful board member.

"They have to learn protocol and there can be situations like dealing with personnel issues where they have to be discreet. They have to be the type of person who can agree to disagree and walk away and not let it get to them," Maher said. "They have to study up on the issues. We send out information a week ahead of time so that the board members can brush up on things and we can have a productive conversation. They need to care enough to be engaged and prepared."

Suzie Jones Pranger serves as executive director of the Institute. Today, Jones Pranger is an attorney living in rural Hartford, but she grew up on her family's farm in Burke and remembers her grandfather's involvement in her local co-op, Rosebud Electric.

"Even as a kid, I knew our power came from the local co-op, and I knew my family had a legacy of service to the co-op and our neighbors through my Grandpa's longtime position on the board," she said. "But what I never considered growing up is the need for subsequent generations to become active and continue to power our rural communities and our South Dakota way of life. Rural POWER will help build a pipeline of rural leaders ready to step up and take on leadership positions."

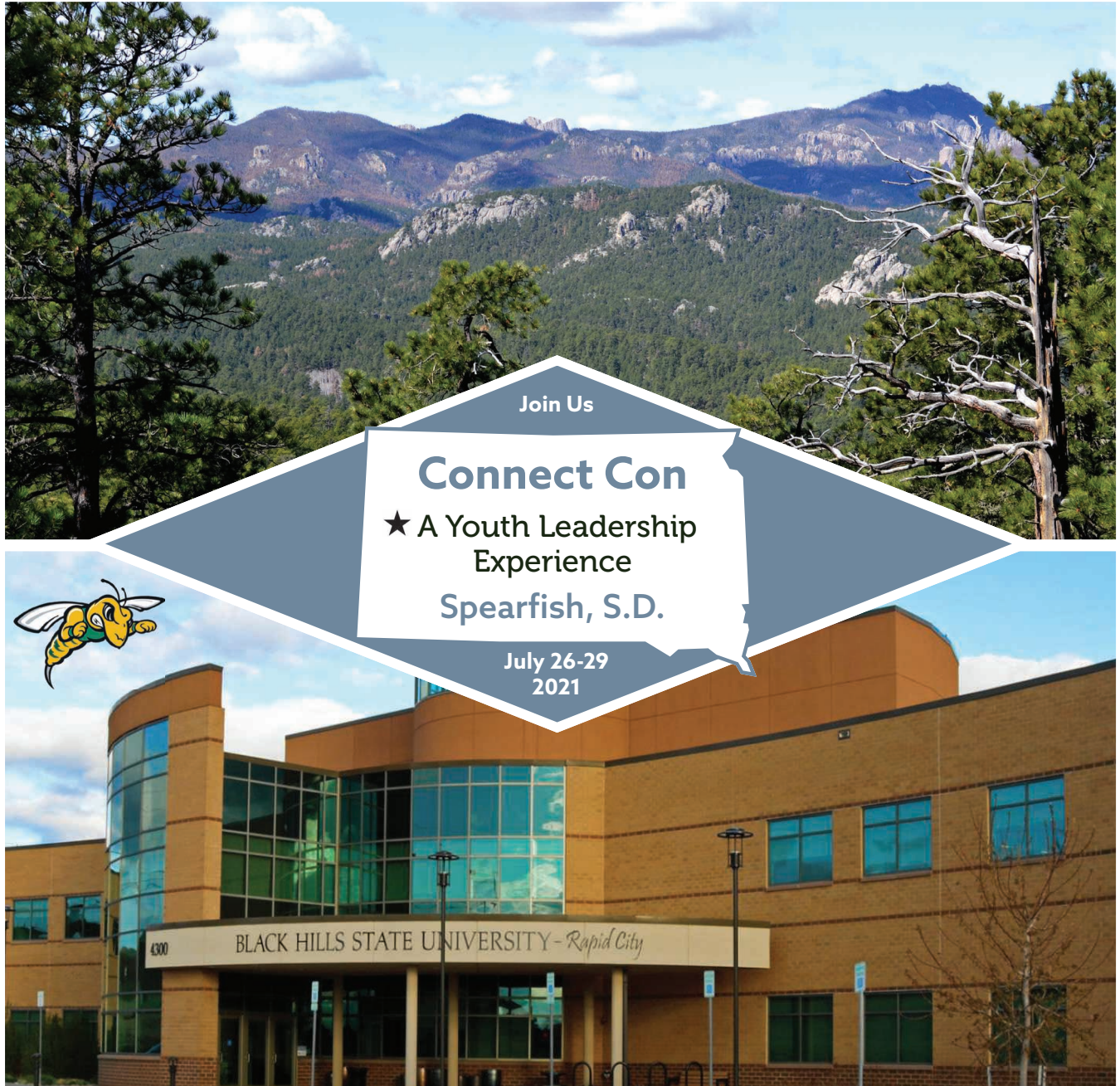
Kevin Mikkelsen, general manager of Rosebud Electric, is also supportive of the program and believes there is a lot of potential in the leadership program, especially when it comes to drawing some younger participants.

"I'm hoping the program sheds some light



on how cooperatives function and how they work on behalf of all the member-owners," he said. "All around the state, we really need to see some younger folks get involved and provide a new perspective and help us discover new and more effective ways to carry out our mission as co-ops, whether it's electric co-ops or ag-based co-ops."

Visit [suttonleadership.org/rural-power](http://suttonleadership.org/rural-power) to learn more about the program or to apply.



Join Us

## Connect Con

★ A Youth Leadership Experience  
Spearfish, S.D.

July 26-29  
2021



## Apply for a FREE Summer Fun Conference!

Attention high school students! If your parent or guardian is an active member of Bon Homme Yankton Electric, you have a chance to take an all-expenses-paid trip to the beautiful Black Hills this summer for a youth leadership event. If chosen, you will travel with other students from electric co-ops throughout the state and take part in South Dakota's Connect Con: A Youth Leadership Experience.

Participants will stay on campus at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, S.D., on July 26-29, and have the opportunity to sightsee, meet new friends and gain valuable leadership skills while taking part in our youth leadership activities. They will also be able to tour a local electric co-op and learn about "The Story Behind the Switch" and see how electricity is directed into their homes.

### How to Apply

- Students may apply if their parent or guardian is an active member of Bon Homme Yankton Electric.
- Students must be in high school.
- Students can apply for the trip at [byelectric.coop/youth-tour](http://byelectric.coop/youth-tour).
- Students can request an application from their guidance office or by emailing [jarens@byelectric.com](mailto:jarens@byelectric.com).

[www.byelectric.coop](http://www.byelectric.coop) | Bon Homme Yankton Electric | (605) 463-2507

# Co-op Connections Card FAQs

## How does it work?

When you show the Co-op Connections Card at any participating business, you receive a discount determined by the business owner. It's that easy!

## Is it a credit or debit card?

Absolutely not! It is simply a discount card.

## What type of discounts are available?

A wide variety of discounts are offered.

## Where can I find a list of discounts?

View our current local list to the left. View all discounts through the national site [connections.coop](http://connections.coop). Find pharmacy discounts or healthy savings at [connections.coop](http://connections.coop). To find discounts on-the-go, download the Co-op Connections® app. Disclaimer: The Co-op Connections Program has partnerships with 3rd party discount providers.

## Where can I use the card?

Anywhere Co-op Connections® Cards are taken. You'll see a Co-op Connections sticker in the window or on the cash register of our participating businesses. Nearly 400 cooperatives across 45 states participate. Benefits are national, so your card can also be used in other states while you're on vacation!

## How does the pharmacy discount work?

More than 60,000 locally-owned pharmacies and national chains like Wal-Mart®, CVS®, and Walgreen's® participate in the program. Show this card at checkout and save 10-60% on prescription medications. Note: Pharmacy discounts are not insurance, and are not intended as a substitute for insurance.

## Does everyone in my family need an individual card?

No. One card may be used by the entire family.

## Why is Bon Homme Yankton Electric offering this program to members?

The Co-op Connections program is included in Bon Homme Yankton Electric's membership in Touchstone Energy®, a cooperative made up of hundreds of other electric co-ops just like us from across the nation. Because of our size, we are able to achieve great economies of scale.

## Does Bon Homme Yankton Electric financially benefit from this card?

No. Bon Homme Yankton Electric members benefit from using the card, but Bon Homme Yankton Electric does not receive any money for promoting this program.

## When does the card expire?

The card doesn't expire. As long as businesses opt to

participate, your card will be effective. Businesses have the option to cancel their offer at any time. We notify our members of cancellations by updating our online list and updating the list in our monthly newsletter.

## I've lost my card. How can I get a replacement?

You can download the free Co-op Connections app and simply show your app during checkout, download a Co-op Connections card printout from your account on the Co-op Connections website, or request a card to be mailed to you

## What is the account number on the back?

The member number listed on the card simply identifies you as a member of the Bon Homme Yankton Electric Co-op Connections® Card Program. It is NOT your electric account number.

## I frequently shop at businesses that are not on the list. Can I get them to participate?

Mention the program to your local business and tell them to call Bon Homme Yankton Electric if they are interested.

## How do I get more information?

If you have any questions about this program or you are a local business owner who would like to participate in this program, please contact our Marketing and Communications Coordinator Jaclyn Arens at [jarens@byelectric.com](mailto:jarens@byelectric.com) or (605) 463-2507.

**ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS:** The Co-op Connections Program is great FREE advertising for your business! If you are interested in joining the Co-op Connections Program please contact Jaclyn Arens at [jarens@byelectric.com](mailto:jarens@byelectric.com) or (605) 463-0743.

## Co-op Connections Card

Head2Heels	(605)665-2599	Yankton	10% off any regular priced item
Royal Sport Shop	(605)665-9333	Yankton	10% discount on in-store purchases
Mead Cultural Education Center	(605)665-3898	Yankton	\$3.00 off admission
Linda's Angel Crossing	(605)608-0080	Yankton	20% off one regular-priced item
Loving Hands Creations	(605)760-6066	Tabor	Pay CASH and buy 2 dolls at the same price and get the 3rd doll, at equal or less price, and save 50%
Haase's Main Stop	(605)583-4336	Scotland	\$2 cheese sticks w/ specialty pizza order and/ or free 32oz fountain drink w/ \$5 deli purchase

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

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**April 22-May 2**

Beauty & the Beast, Sioux Empire Community Theatre, Sioux Falls, SD  
605-367-6000

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**April 23-24**

Junkin' Market Days, W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Building, Sioux Falls, SD  
605-941-4958

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**April 24**

Party for the Planet, Great Plains Zoo, Sioux Falls, SD  
605-367-7003

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**April 30-May 2, May 6-8**

Radium Girls, Pierre Players Community Theatre, Pierre, SD  
605-224-7826

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**May 8**

Davis Flea Market & Artisan Fair, Main Street, Davis, SD  
605-940-0069

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**May 8**

Wells Fargo Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, Falls Park, Sioux Falls, SD  
605-271-0468

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**May 8 NEW DATE**

Winefest Renaissance, Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area, Aberdeen, SD  
605-225-8714

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**May 9**

Mother's Day Tours, Historic Adams House & Days of '76 Museum, Deadwood, SD  
605-578-37241

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**May 13**

Vermilion-Area Farmers Market - Plant Sale, High & Cherry Streets, Vermilion, SD  
605-659-3399



State Parks Open House & Free Fishing Weekend, May 21-23, 2021

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**May 15**

Red Dirt Music Festival featuring Casey Donahew, Ian Munsick and Randy Burghardt Mountain Grand, Deadwood, SD  
605-559-0386

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**May 21-23**

Annual Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Downtown, Custer, SD  
605-673-2244

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**May 21-23**

State Parks Open House & Free Fishing Weekend, All State Parks & Recreation Areas, SD  
605-773-3391

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**May 22**

Frühlingsfest & Spring Market, Main Street, Rapid City, SD  
605-716-7979

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**May 22**

La Framboise Island Bike Race, Steamboat Park, Pierre, SD  
605-224-7054

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**May 31**

PPQG 25th Annual Quilt Show, Harding County REC Center, Buffalo, SD  
605-641-5591

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**June 3-6**

Wheel Jam, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD  
605-353-7340

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**June 4-5**

State BBQ Championships, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD  
605-353-7354

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**June 4-6**

Black Hills Blues Stomp & Swamp Romp, Rush No More RV Resort & Campground, Sturgis, SD  
605-347-2916

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**June 4-6**

Lake Andes Fish Days, City-wide, Lake Andes, SD  
605-487-7694

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**June 5-6**

18th Annual Wessington Springs Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs Rodeo Grounds, Wessington Springs, SD  
605-770-5720

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**June 5-6**

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD  
866-489-9241

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**June 19**

South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation Prime Time Gala, Denny Sanford PREMIER Center, Sioux Falls, SD  
605-945-2333

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.