

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Crisp Breezes and Corn Mazes

Autumn Family Fun
Pages 8-9

Rodeo Champions
Pages 12-13

EPA's Power Plant Rule Threatens Electric Reliability



Chris Larson,
General Manager

As a consumer-member of Clay-Union Electric, keeping the lights on at a cost you can afford is the focal point of everything we do. Transparency is one of our core values, so in addition to sharing co-op successes, I believe we also have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges too.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country.

The rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS)—a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required. No power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA. When power plants aren't able to comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations, or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7.

Renewable sources, such as solar and wind, are important components of our overall generation mix. But given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on them because the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power generating resources is still essential. (See examples on page 3 from the SPP website).

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand – driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the American economy and the rapid

expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling power outages during normal peak electricity demand conditions.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members.

I don't say all of this to worry you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead. Just as we've always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. We are joining electric co-ops across the country to fight

these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials to help them understand the consequences this would have on all South Dakota residents.

Co-ops are no strangers to innovation, and we're taking proactive steps to address today's energy challenges and tomorrow's energy needs. We will continue to explore new technologies and strategies that bolster reliability and our local grid in a financially responsible way.

Electric cooperatives like Clay-Union Electric deliver power to 42 million Americans. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, but we must have reliable, affordable electricity available to do that.

Thank you again, for allowing us to provide your electric service needs.

Chris Larson
General Manager
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Solar and wind are important components of our overall generation mix, but we cannot depend on them alone

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

CLAY-UNION ELECTRIC SPARKS

(USPS 116-800)

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
31321 SD Hwy. 19, Vermillion, S.D.

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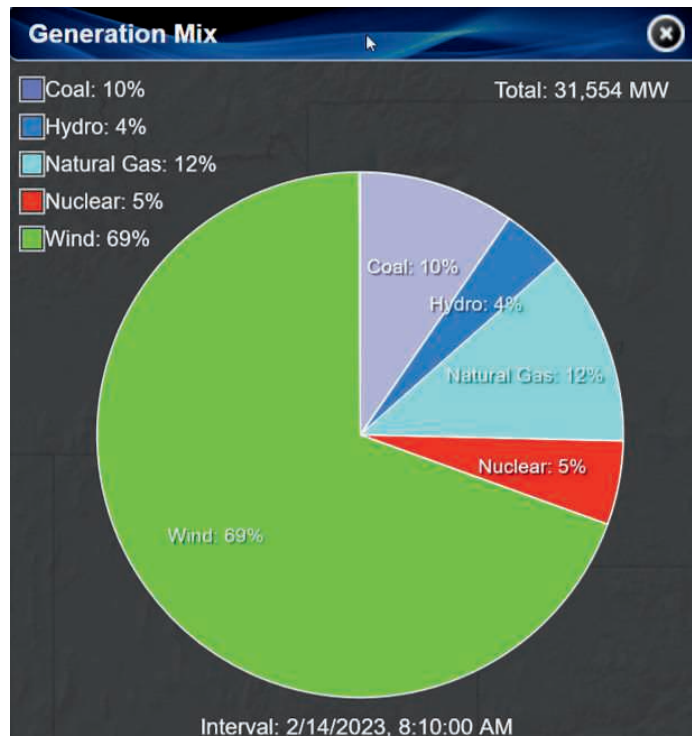
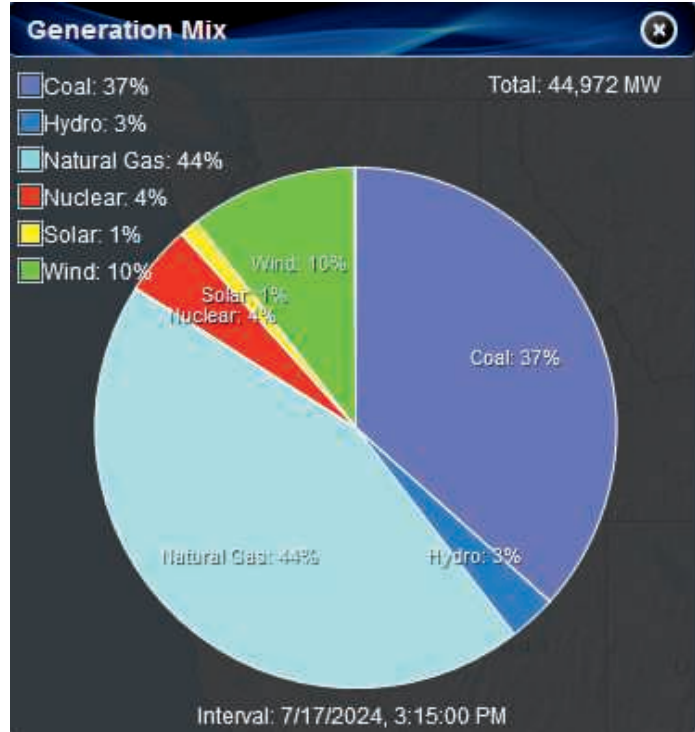
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Below are examples of different dates and times of using different generation mix to provide your home or business with reliable electricity 24/7.



WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS

Each year in the United States, there are about 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes and about 300 people struck by lightning. Of those struck, about 30 people are killed and others suffer lifelong disabilities. Most of these tragedies can be prevented. When thunderstorms threaten, get inside a building with plumbing and electricity, or a hard-topped metal vehicle!

The National Weather Service collects information on weather-related deaths to learn how to prevent these tragedies. Many lightning victims say they were “caught” outside in the storm and couldn’t get to a safe place. Other victims simply waited too long before seeking shelter. With proper planning, similar tragedies can be avoided.

Some people were struck because they went back outside too soon. Stay inside a safe building or vehicle for at least 30 minutes after you hear the last thunder. While 30 minutes may seem like a long time, it is necessary to be safe.

Finally, some victims were struck inside homes or buildings while they were using electrical equipment or corded phones. Others were in contact with plumbing, outside doors, or window frames. Avoid contact with these electrical conductors when a thunderstorm is nearby.

AVOID THE LIGHTNING THREAT

- **Have a lightning safety plan.** Know where you’ll go for safety and ensure you’ll have enough time to get there.
- **Postpone activities.** Consider postponing activities if thunderstorms are forecasted.
- **Monitor the weather.** Once outside, look for signs of a developing or approaching thunderstorm such as towering clouds, darkening skies, or flashes of lightning.

- **Get to a safe place.** If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, seek safety immediately. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing are best. A hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed is also safe. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning.
- **If you hear thunder, don’t use a corded phone except in an emergency.** Cordless phones and cell phones are safe to use.
- **Keep away from electrical equipment and plumbing.** Lightning can travel through the wiring and plumbing if your building is struck. Don’t take a bath or shower, or wash dishes during a storm.

Source: National Weather Service



Power Line Safety “Don’t Fly Kites Close to Power Lines”

Lillee Pannell, Age 11

Lillee Pannell cautions kite flyers to be careful around power lines. Great advice, Lillee! Hobie’s parents are Scottie and Kimberly Pannell, members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

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.

Summertime SWEETS

SUMMER FRUIT TART

Ingredients:

1 refrigerated pie crust
1 egg white, lightly beaten
1/3 cup sugar
2 tbsps. cornstarch
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ginger
2 cups sliced peeled peaches,
(about 3 peaches)
1 cup blueberries
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Method

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Prepare crust as directed on package. Place on foil-lined 12-inch pizza pan. If necessary, press out any folds or creases. Brush crust with about 1/2 of the beaten egg white. Mix sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon and ginger in medium bowl. Add fruit and vanilla; toss gently. Spoon into center of crust, spreading to within 2 inches of edges. Fold 2-inch edge of crust up over fruit, pleating or folding crust as needed. Brush crust with remaining egg white. Bake 20 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Cool slightly before serving.

McCormick

RHUBARB PIE

Crust

1-2 cups flour
1/2 stick butter or margarine
1/4 cup water

Add ingredients and knead to complete a pie crust. Amounts will vary due to humidity. Knead dough into pie pan and poke holes into the bottom as needed. You may make creative edges as you wish, however it is not necessary.

Pie

3 tbsps. butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
3 eggs, separated
2 tbsps. flour
1/8 tsp. salt
2 1/2 cups rhubarb
Smucker's Caramel Sundae
Syrup

Soften butter or margarine and stir together with the sugar, egg yolks, flour and salt. Beat egg whites until stiff. Add rhubarb and fold in the egg whites. Add the filling to the 8-inch unbaked pie crust. You may add a drizzle of Smucker's sundae syrup for additional flavoring before baking. Bake in oven set at 400 degrees until golden brown. You may also add more Caramel syrup to pie after baking for ultimate effect.

**Lisa Soukup (Kummer)
Tea, S.D.**

PEACH DELIGHT

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter, melted
1 3/4 cups flour
Pinch of salt
2 tbsps. sugar
2 cups water
2 cups sugar
4 tbsps. cornstarch
3 oz. package peach jello
1 tbsp. butter
10 fresh peaches

Method

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine butter, flour, salt and 2 tbsps. sugar. Mix and pat in 9x13 inch pan which has been sprayed with Pam. Bake for 15 minutes. Let cool when done baking. Combine 2 cups sugar and 2 cups water. Whisk in 4 tbsps. cornstarch until smooth. Cook until thickened in the microwave – stirring often. Remove from microwave and add 1 tbsp. butter and package of peach jello (do not add any water). Stir until dissolved and let cool. While cooling, dip fresh peaches in hot water and plunge in cold water bath. Remove skins and pits. Place back in cold water until all peaches are peeled. Drain peaches, slice into bite size pieces and mix into cooled peach glaze. Carefully pour the glaze over the crust and chill until firmly set. May be served with whip cream. You can substitute strawberry jello and sliced strawberries in place of the peaches. This makes a delicious cool summer dessert.

**Shirley Fletcher
Rapid City, S.D.**

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.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PREPARATION INCLUDES LIFE-SAVING DRIVING TIPS



Teach teens what to do around downed power lines

It is back-to-school time and that means shopping for school supplies or dorm room décor and the sound of cicadas beckoning us back into our pre-summer routine.

As you prepare the students you know to return to school or a college campus, take a moment to share the story of Mary Gehrig, a teenager who was driving home from a friend's house on a stormy June night. Although some cars had pulled over to wait out the storm, Gehrig was close to home, and she thought she could make it.

Around 25 minutes into her 30-minute drive, Gehrig turned onto the county road that would take her home. Although there was near-zero visibility due to the storm, which turned much more severe than originally forecast, she noticed two white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized that those lines were across the road, in her

path, and they were anything but small.

"I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it," Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car struck the object, which happened to be one of two high-voltage transmission power lines lying in the road. The massive cable stopped Mary's car in its tracks. The car's electrical system was damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

The next thing Gehrig did was pick up her phone and call her parents. When her dad heard that there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay in the car and call 9-1-1.

Fire chief Rich Schock, who was on the scene that night, said, "Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them," adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. "Mary did

everything right," he said.

When there is an accident involving downed power lines, a padmount transformer or other related utility equipment, Safe Electricity offers these safety tips:

- Call 9-1-1 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit.

• Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back.

Exiting a vehicle or equipment is the last resort and should only be attempted if the car is on fire or giving off smoke. If this is the case, exit the vehicle by crossing your arms and jumping from the vehicle without touching it. Then, hop with both feet together as far as you can.

To watch Mary's story or to learn more, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Clay-Union Electric, Basin Electric and East River Electric pay kWh taxes to our local schools each year. These taxes are in addition to the property and payroll taxes paid by the cooperative and are figured by the number of Clay-Union Electric members in that school district. Despite being a non-profit organization, your cooperative has many tax obligations.

School	Amount
Alcester.....	\$713.34
Beresford.....	\$27,963.12
Centerville.....	\$9,038.97
Elk Point.....	\$977.90
Gayville/Volin	\$36,529.09
Irene/Wakonda	\$42,528.76
Vermillion.....	\$121,420.55
Viborg.....	\$420.27
Yankton	\$20,047.82
Total	\$259,639.82

5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

1. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.





CRISP BREEZES AND CORN MAZES

A broken-down 1950s-style Chevrolet pickup welcomes visitors to the Back Forty Beef corn maze. *Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.*

Celebrating Autumn on the Family Farm

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

The first signs of autumn sweep across the plains as daylight dwindles and treetops wither into amber. For some, the nostalgia of fall is evoked by the first crisp breeze at a football game or the taste of a freshly picked apple from the orchard. But for Clint and Kelly Brandlee, Lake Region Electric members living in rural Pierpont, the magic of the harvest season begins with the opening of their family-owned corn maze.

The Brandlee family homesteaded their land in 1886 on the western edge of the Coteau Hills, an area characterized by rolling hills, fertile ground and native pastures. With deep roots extending through five generations of ranching and farming, Clint and Kelly's daughters, Jaycee

and Kylie, represent the sixth generation on the farm.

Over the years, the family has maintained their commitment to traditional farming values while embracing innovation. In 2020, Clint and Kelly

transformed their operation into a direct-to-consumer agriculture business, launching Back Forty Beef, LLC. Their new venture allowed them to provide locally raised beef at a fair price while giving customers the opportunity to see



Back Forty Beef hosts a number of family-friendly events including duck races. *Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.*

how their animals and crops are raised, from farm to table.

“During the pandemic, people were looking for a direct source for their beef, and we wanted to provide that,” Kelly said.

Through Back Forty Beef, Clint and Kelly supplied their area with local beef and discovered new ways to engage their community. Just last year, the two started an annual tradition by planting a 12-acre, agriculture-themed corn maze as a way to bring something new to their part of the state. In just a year, the maze has become a hub for families to come together and celebrate agriculture and the harvest season.

“We wanted to do something really fun and get families outside in northeastern South Dakota during the fall, and what better way to do that than through a corn maze?” Kelly said. “It’s a way for us to share our passion for agriculture and our story. As a population, we are getting two to three generations removed from the farm. There is less of a connection to rural life, so any time we can provide people an opportunity to get out onto the farm and learn something, that benefits the whole of agriculture.”

This fall, Clint and Kelly are again inviting their surrounding communities to visit their homestead and explore this year’s newly designed maze. The maze is set to be open to the public every weekend after



A bird’s-eye view of last year’s Back Forty Beef corn maze. Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.

Labor Day to the last week of October. The theme is pollinators, featuring images of a corn cob, flower, bee and barn. Several twists and turns will be embellished with fun facts about pollinators and crop production in South Dakota, making it an educational experience for all ages.

Along with the corn maze, Back Forty Beef is planning to incorporate other family-friendly activities, including duck races, farm animal exhibits, farm basketball, a straw mountain slide and more. Back Forty Beef will also host a farm store where customers can buy everything from local pumpkins to their homegrown beef.

Other local businesses are also joining

in the fun. A different local food truck is scheduled to attend each weekend during the open season, and local businesses are offering small discounts and deals for participants who complete the maze.

“There are checkpoints in the maze, and each checkpoint is equipped with a fun fact and a partnered local business,” said Kelly. “For example, Dairy Queen is offering a buy one, get one free offer for those who hole punch their card at their checkpoint and read the fun fact about pollinators and production agriculture.”

Clint and Kelly’s efforts to engage the community have resulted in a community that engages with their business. Like many other direct-to-consumer operations, Back Forty Beef has its own website and online shop for its brand of beef, dairy products, merchandise and even hand-poured tallow candles. The Brandlee family has also found success through their beef subscription club where boxes are regularly delivered to the doorsteps of customers every month. Whether it’s through the corn maze or the subscription beef boxes, Kelly said the local community has fully embraced Back Forty Beef.

“We had a lot of people who attended that had never done a corn maze before, so a lot of people were excited to do something new and different,” said Kelly. “We had a great turnout to our maze last year, and that’s why we decided to do it again.”



Owner-operators of Back Forty Beef, Kelly and Clint Brandlee and their two daughters, Jaycee and Kylie. Photo submitted by Back Forty Beef.



Member/Community Appreciation Day held at the Clay County Fair

Clay-Union Electric was “Sponsor of the Day” and Participated in Ag Safety and Education Day during the 2024 Fair

Jackie Williams
jwilliams@clayunionelectric.coop

Clay-Union Electric was a proud Sponsor of the Day for the Clay-County Fair on August 9th and partnered with the concession stand for our Member/Community Appreciation Day. Any one that stopped by our booth on Friday was treated with a \$5 voucher that could be used at the concession stand on Friday or Saturday, compliments of Clay-Union Electric. We are pleased to announce that we handed out a

little over 500 vouchers at our booth and all proceeds will be paid to the concession stand for their hard work.

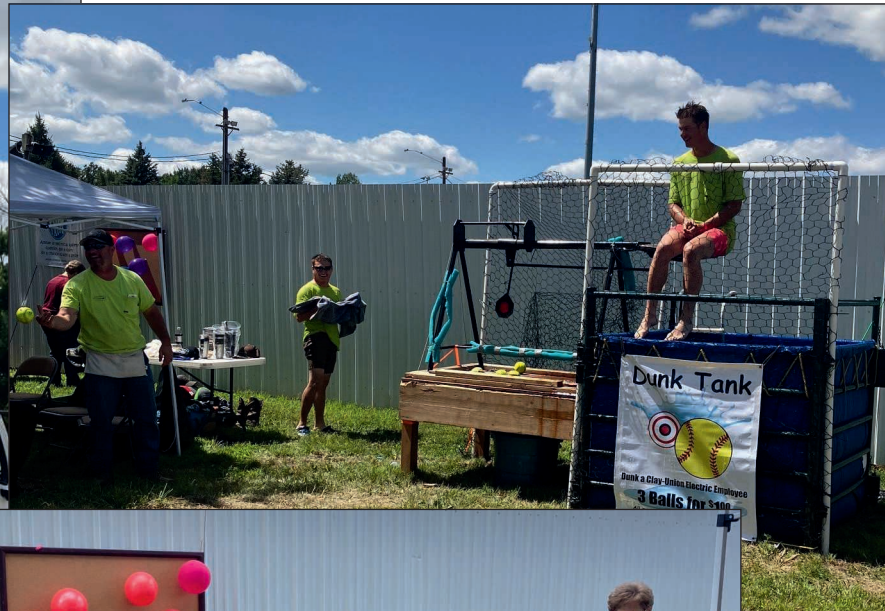
We also provided bucket truck rides, dart throwing for swag, door prize drawings (winners are listed on page 7) and linemen in the dunk tank and the proceeds go to the local 4-H groups. Although the temperatures weren't our normal 90's, our young lineman hung in there for more than 2.5 hours in cold water to provide entertainment to the fair goers. Thank you!

Along with all the activities planned

for the day the fair board also planned an Ag Safety and Education Day for the 9th. The high voltage trailer was on hand to demonstrate the importance of staying away from downed power lines, teaching everyone about the green boxes and the importance of staying away from them. We do the demonstration on the trailer to express that electricity is lazy and will take whatever means it can to reach the ground and to show what it can do to a person on the inside while traveling through your body.

Our linemen are experts in their field and wear protective equipment to perform this demonstration, please do not try this at home.

Thank you to everyone that stopped by to register and visit with our staff. It is always a pleasure to meet new friends and see our members in such a fun environment.



Door Prize Winners: Don Lyso, 2 tickets for the Demo Derby; Margaret Kathol, Fidget Bottle; Rick Kneeland, Beverage Cup; Brian Mount, Beverage Cup; Tom Robinson, Cap and Cooling Cloth; Katie Kassin, Electric Lunchbox; Linda Sorensen, Cutting Board; Sarah Skatvold, Cutting Board; Karen Wearne, Cutting Board. Sorry we are not permitted to print the kids winning names but the parents have been notified.



RODEO CHAMPIONS

Short Go Finalists Win Touchstone Energy Shirts During the State Competition in Ft. Pierre

Jocelyn Johnson

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South Dakota's electric cooperatives united in celebrating rodeo on June 15 during the state high school competition in Ft. Pierre, S.D. Cowboys and cowgirls competed in events that mimic the daily chores of a typical rancher, racing to place in the Short Go.

Short Go state finalists earned the coveted Touchstone Energy shirts that mark them as the top competitors of a beloved rural pastime. After a season of competing, the visual representation of wearing this shirt is

more than a fashion statement.

"These shirts are almost like a trophy," said Kylee Ellerton, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D. "It's something you can keep and look back on to remember."

Ellerton earned the Short Go shirt, sponsored by Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives. She won 10th place in goat tying at state.

"My grandpa and dad grew up rodeoing," Ellerton said. "So, I got started in rodeo pretty young."

High school rodeo events began in 1949, and by 1951, South Dakota was among five states that established the National High School Rodeo

Mataya Ward keeps her eyes on a goat she tied during the Short Go. Photo credit: Charles Minor

Association.

It's a shared heritage for many in the state, and electric cooperatives have a 22-year history of celebrating rodeo by sponsoring the Touchstone Energy Short Go Shirt program. More than \$150,000 has been given to this program since 2002, and these funds are used to honor the contestants who make it to the Short Go round



Photo credit: Charles Minor



Kailey Deknikker rounds a Touchstone Energy barrel during the state Short Go in barrel racing. *Photo credit: 4-C Photography*

of the state finals competition in their respective events.

Kailey Deknikker, member of Southeastern Electric Cooperative in Lennox, S.D., has a passion for rodeo and wishes to go as far as she can in the sport. She will be attending Mitchell Technical College this fall for business management and joining

the college rodeo team in barrel racing and pole bending.

“The shirt shows that your hard work paid off,” explained Deknikker after placing in the Short Go and winning a Touchstone Energy Short Go shirt. “It shows your accomplishment.”

Decknikker placed 7th in barrel

racing after running a time of 18.246 seconds in the 1st Go, 17.802 seconds in the 2nd Go, and 18.078 seconds in the Short Go.

Leighton Sander, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D., won 6th place in the bareback riding Short Go competition. Sander works with his family on a cow/calf operation outside of Custer, S.D.

“There’s some pride that goes with wearing that Short Go shirt,” said Sander. “You go to a rodeo and see a couple people wearing those shirts outside of the high school season, and you think, ‘they must have been good enough to make it to the Short Go – I better watch that guy.’”

Sander explained that his draw to one of the toughest events in the sport of rodeo is the adrenaline rush. He hopes to use his bareback riding skills in future horse training efforts while noting, “being able to stick to a horse is important.”

“I don’t know how to explain it,” Sander said. “It’s super scary before you start, but once you climb into that chute and they open up the gate, it’s like eating your favorite cake.”



Finalists wear Touchstone Energy Short Go shirts. *Photo credit: Charles Minor*

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Clay-Union Electric Corporation Board Meeting Summary

JULY 3, 2024 • VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

The June board meeting was called to order on July 3, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. by board President Tom Larsen. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Clay-Union Electric Headquarters.

In attendance were Tom Larsen, Jim Ryken, Chris Kinney, and Mike Slattery. District #1 seat vacant. Attending staff members included Chris Larson, Beth Bottolfson, Mike Kruse, and Jackie Williams.

Agenda (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda.

Visitors to Be Heard – Bob Sahr and Danny Brown, East River Electric, Teams Meeting 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from the May Board Meeting (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 5/24/24 board minutes.

Approval of Minutes from the May Executive Session (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 5/24/24 executive session.

Check List & Electronic Funds Transfer – The board reviewed the EFT/ACH payments and the monthly check list as presented.

New Members and Refunds (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve new members, refunds and credit deposits as presented.

Early Retirement of Capital Credits – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Early Retirement of Capital Credits as presented.

Contracts – None

Policy Review – None

Work Order and Special Equipment Summary – None

Management Reports:

A. Manager's Report - Manager Larson provided reports on the monthly activities:

July Board Meeting - The date of July 23, 2024, was set as the next regular board meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m.

East River REED/MAC - The REED/MAC meeting was held June 4th in Madison.

New Building – Manager Larson reviewed with the Board various warranty and other happenings that are being worked through with Puetz and other contractors.

Cherry St. property (Action)- The partial mortgage releases were received from RUS, CFC, and CoBank which allowed Manager Larson to close the Cherry St. properties on June 11th and 12th.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to transfer \$683,137.85 from the construction fund to the general fund account.

Distributed Generation Discussion – Manager Larson discussed how the agreements are complicated, and he is reaching out to Star Energy for some help.

Clay County Fair - We will be doing our member/community event at the fair again this year on August 9th.

Basin Annual Meeting (Action) - The Basin Annual Meeting will be held August 13th to the 15th in Bismarck. A motion was made, seconded and approve attendance. Mike Slattery was designated to be the delegate and Chris Larson as the alternate.

NRECA Regional – Minneapolis, MN (Action) - The NRECA Regional meeting will be September 16th to the 18th in Minneapolis, MN. A motion was made, seconded and approve attendance. Chris Larson will be the delegate.

East River Annual Meeting Delegate (Action) - The East River Annual Meeting will be held September 4, 2024, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls. A motion was made, seconded and approve attendance. Chris Kinney was designated to be the delegate and Tom Larsen as the alternate.

Ag Appreciation at the Sioux Empire Fair - Ag Appreciation Day is Wednesday, August 7th.

Pictometry – Manager Larson reported that he will notify the Director of Equalization that Clay-Union will participate in another three-year agreement for \$2,284 a year for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Managers/Attorneys Meeting -The annual Managers/Attorneys meeting was in Rapid City from the 24th to the 26th.

RESCO – Manager Larson submitted a vote for the RESCO director election.

Basin Bus Tour– Jackie Williams, Marketing/Communications, gave a summary of the Basin Bus Tour.

B. Administrative Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Billing Activity
- May 2024 Financials
- PSE – Cost of Service Seminar
- Building Proceeds

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

C. Operations Report – Operations Manager reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Monthly department work summary
- Wiring Crew
- New Services
- Service Upgrades
- May Outage Report

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Financial Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Balance Sheet
- Interest Income

- kWh Sales Report
- Large Power
- Line Loss
- Operating Statement
- Power Bill
- Summary of Purchased Power
- Wiring Income & Expense

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Legal Report – None

Strategic Planning – None

Safety Meeting Minutes – None

Cyber Security – The May Cyber Security report from East River IT was posted to the website for the board to review and was discussed during the meeting.

Video and/or Meeting Reports –

- East River Report
- East River Financials
- Basin Reports

Calendar – The board reviewed the July 2024 calendar.

Executive Session – The board went into Executive Session at 1:09 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned at 2:09 p.m. There was no action taken.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Thomas Larsen, President

James Ryken, Secretary

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

	June 2024	Year To Date
Number of Consumers	3,902	3,889 Avg.
Total Revenue	\$740,979	\$4,243,471
Total Cost of Service	\$740,231	\$4,829,321
Operating Margins	\$748	\$(585,850)
Other Margins	\$574,389	\$641,118
Total Net Margins	\$575,137	\$55,268
kWh Purchased	5,178,311	41,152,313
Cost of Power	\$394,960	\$2,560,509
kWh Sales	4,882,129	39,033,027
Residential Average Usage	1,120	1,303
Residential Average Monthly Bill	\$143	\$155

Outage Reports

Date	Time	Township	Members	Cause
7/13	11:25 a.m.	Fairview	1	Tripped Breaker
7/14	6:36 a.m.	Garfield	6	Branch
7/14	9:21 a.m.	Riverside	4	Tree
7/18	10:45 a.m.	Gayville	62	Animal
7/22	8:30 a.m.	Spirit Mound	21	Equip. Failure
7/22	10:30 a.m.	Prairie Center	411	Animal

Office Hours and Due Dates

Our office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please remember your PAYMENT DUE DATE is the 20TH OF EACH MONTH. Your payment must ARRIVE in our office on the 20th to avoid any penalties. Please allow mailing time as we go by the received date, NOT the postmark. If the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, payment is due the following business day. If payment is still not received within 10 days by 8 a.m., a \$25 collection fee will be applied and a final disconnect notice will be mailed. If disconnection for nonpayment occurs, all past and current energy charges, a reconnect fee and sufficient credit deposit will be required before the meter can be reinstalled.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, WE ALSO ACCEPT THESE PAYMENT OPTIONS.



Bank Draft – Have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. No fees apply for this service.

Recurring Debit/Credit Card

– You may call in your credit/debit card payment and ask for recurring, it will then bill to that card every month on the 20th (or next business day) of each month until you call to cancel. No fees apply for this service.

Pay by Phone – You may call in your credit/debit card payment each month. No fees apply for this service.

By Mail – Send check or money order with your payment slip. Please be sure to mail early so we receive it by the 20th, we do not go by postage date.

In Office – We accept cash, check and money order or we can take your credit/debit card in our office. No fees apply for this service.

On Line Billing – Pay your bill on line at www.clayunionelectric.coop No fees apply for this service.

Collection Fee	\$25
Standard Reconnect Fee	\$50
Reconnect Fee for Non-Payment.....	\$100
After Hours Reconnect Fee.....	\$150
Insufficient Funds Check Fee	\$30

Delinquent Accounts (gross rate)
10 percent on the first \$200 plus 2 percent on the balance.

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



Photo Credit: SDStateFair

SEPT. 20-22 **South Dakota Festival of Books**

Various Locations
Brookings, SD
605-688-6113

SEPT. 27-29 **Coal Springs Threshing Bee and Antique Show**

Meadow, SD
605-788-2299

OCT. 5 **Old Time Favorites**

7 p.m.
Gayville Music Hall
Gayville, SD
605-624-2859

OCT. 5-6 **Magic Needlers Quilt Show**

Codington County Extension Complex
Watertown, SD
605-881-3273

OCT. 5-6 **The Black Market**

Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Building
Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-6004

OCT. 6 **Giant Pumpkin Festival**

Bentley Memorial Building
Bison, SD
Enter Pumpkins by 11:30 a.m.
605-244-5475

OCT. 19 **Classic Country**

7 p.m.
Gayville Music Hall
Gayville, SD
605-624-2859

AUG. 28-SEPT. 2 **South Dakota State Fair**

7 a.m.-8 p.m.
Huron, SD
www.SDStateFair.com

SEPT. 1 **Studebaker Car Show**

10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Custer, SD
605-673-2244

SEPT. 2 **Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show**

Starts at 1 p.m.
Clear Lake, SD
605-881-8405

SEPT. 6-7 **Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll**

Vermillion, SD
www.sdbbq.us

SEPT. 8 **Homesteader Day**

1-4 p.m.
Valley Springs, SD
Beaver Creek Nature Area

SEPT. 12-15 **South Dakota Film Festival**

Downtown Capitol Theatre
Aberdeen, SD
605-226-5494

SEPT. 13-14 **Black Hills Polkapalooza**

Each Night at 4-10 p.m.
Palmer Gulch
Hill City, SD
605-574-2525

SEPT. 13-14 **Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show**

Davison County Fairgrounds
Mitchell, SD
605-359-2049

SEPT. 14-15 **2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival**

Delmont, SD
605-928-3792

SEPT. 17 **EV Expo**

W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

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.

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