

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Invasive Species

**Zebra Mussels
on the Missouri**
Pages 8-9

Drone Spraying
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BOARD REPORT



The FEM Board of Directors meet with staff at the July meeting.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on July 24, 2023, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Secretary Eric Odenbach kept the minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Eric Odenbach, Tom Thorpe. General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Line Superintendent Rob Vetch, Ryan Holien and Jesse Brown were present.

Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Gregg Zwart.

Changes to the agenda: none

Changes/Additions to Minutes from June 20, 2023, meeting: Change 8:30 pm start time to 8:30 am start time.

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Tom Thorpe and Carried to approve 2023 Reorganization minutes.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to acknowledge management and staff reports.

Board President Gary Bachman handed out Manager/CEO Performance Appraisals and Board Self Appraisal and asked board members to have them completed by August 22, 2023 meeting.

The board acknowledged receiving the June Cyber Security report.

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Paula Petersen to approve bid of \$14,041.99 to replace flooring in main lobby of office.

Resolutions, Contracts, and Nominations:

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve final version of Policy #318 Courtesy Service.

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to nominate Eric Odenbach as NRECA voting Delegate and Tom Thorpe as Alternate Voting Delegate.

Membership Business:

Board acknowledged membership business.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to set June 25, 2024, as the date for FEM Electric's 2024 annual meeting.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Petersen to send \$35.00 check and letter to members that did not receive a meal at the annual meeting.

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Rowland Geist, Tolstoy, SD, Shop and Pasture Pump; Chaun & Nickie Peterson, Aberdeen, SD, Active Farm; David Fischer, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Taylor Loken, Mina, SD, Active Farm

Reconnects: Lauren & Tim Oster, Bowdle, SD, Shop & Pasture Pump; Aaron Skroch & Elizabeth Ramsey, Mina, SD, Active Farm; Collin Fischer, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Taylor & Trenton Steger, Mina, SD, Active Farm

Contracts: Jerome Lapka, Leola, SD, Farm Shop; Wesley Schaible, Hosmer, SD, Barn; Long Lake Colony, Westport, SD, Truck Washout Station

Retired Services: Town of Long Lake, Long Lake, SD, Commercial Service

Capital Credits:

Estates - July 2023 - None

73 & Older - July 2023 - One = \$380.76

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: The check register for the month of June 2023 contained information on checks #33483 through #33581 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for June 2023 totaling \$951,222.43.

June Financials and 2nd Quarter Budget Projections were reviewed.

Continued on pg 6

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Kelly Melius, Asst. Sec./
Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Rob Vetch
Line Superintendent
Rhonda Tuscherer
Director of Finance and
Benefits

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FEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451. FEM Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

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Design assistance by SDREA

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opportunity provider and
employer.**



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

HEAT Alert. The media has been busy warning millions of Americans that it was hot in July 2023 and the power grid was overloaded. My question is: what did Americans do before we had air conditioning in our homes and businesses not to speak of our agriculture and contracting equipment? America didn't become the best country around by not working when the temperature got to triple digits. We used some common sense, took a few breaks to drink some extra fluid and we sure don't need Washington, DC making new policy or promising aid to the States because of warm temperatures.

Is the power grid having problems? The answer is yes. Is there a possibility there could be brown/black outs? The answer is yes, but unlikely. In the 1970's I remember seeing on the two TV channels, CBS and South Dakota Public Broadcasting ENERGY ALERTS that said, "please conserve power and refrain from washing clothes, using your stove or oven if possible." That was fifty years

ago, and our rural electric system was around twenty-five years old. Businesses, farms, and homes were all finding new equipment that needed electricity. Power companies, including rural electrics, were looking for ways to build and generate more power for the growing demand. The Federal government put policies in place limiting the use of natural gas for power production, or we will deplete the resource. Rural electric's invested millions and started to build for the future. It started at the mouth of the coal mines, to the coal-fired generators, then to electric meters, now in three million farmyards and homes. When asked, electric cooperatives spent millions of dollars on pollution control systems creating some of the cleanest baseload, coal fired power plants in the world. Today, power from baseload coal plants is still the most reliable and affordable power in America.

The situation on the energy grid has been created by bad policy and political agenda nonsense coming from Washington, DC, and billionaire investors. The policies and agendas aren't just one party or just a current issue, the trail leads back well past twenty years and multiple administrations.

I'm not against using renewables on the power grid but we need good policies and fair open markets. We need to protect our baseload generation and not penalize or force them into closure without a long-term plan and fuel source for future power generating. We have people making policies that are agenda

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Statement Mailing Dates

August 30, 2023 for August's energy

September 28, 2023 for September's energy

Regardless of the statement mail out date, payments are due in the office by the 9th of the following month.

No One Can Take Your Place

National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 17-23, 2023

The 2019 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 573 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. For this reason, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

This annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. National Farm Safety and Health Week is led by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council.

Did you know?

- Rural roads pose special dangers especially during harvest season. Watch out for slow-moving farm vehicles and be informed, aware, and patient while sharing rural roadways.
- Farm stress is real, and many things like weather events, tragedies, market uncertainty, or diseases can tip us out of our comfort zone.
- Every day, about 33 children are seriously injured in agricultural-related incidents.
- Hazardous gasses on farms can be found in silos, manure storages, grain bins, and other confined spaces. Be in the know about hazardous gasses and where they can be found on farms.

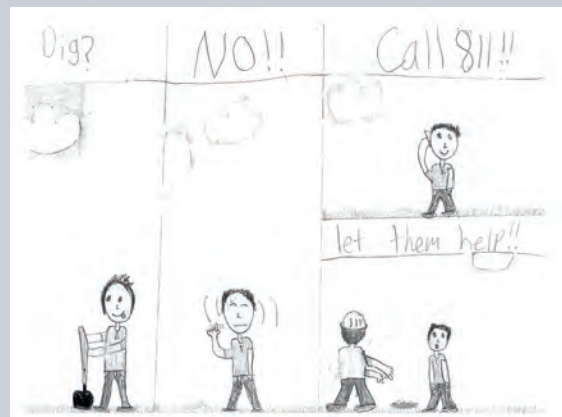
Farm and ranch life can be demanding and stressful. Over the past several years, it has reached a critical stage for the folks who grow America's food with COVID-19 pandemic impacts on top of natural disasters, extreme weather events, financial pressures due to fluctuating commodity prices, labor shortages, trade disruptions and a

long list of other factors. Given these ongoing challenges, it's no surprise that more farmers and farm families are experiencing stress and mental health concerns.

Today, safety professionals still use this promotional week to remind those working in our nation's most dangerous industry to be careful. Agriculture's death rate is why farmers and ranchers must use safe farming practices during harvest and throughout the year.

South Dakota's electric cooperatives urge our agricultural producers to make better safety and health decisions this harvest season and during the next year. Join us in promoting safety during the 80th annual **National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 17-23, 2023.**

During this time, please encourage others to adopt safe practices and behaviors as we prepare to prevent injuries during this harvest season.



Call 811!

Evey Hinrichs, Age 9 3/4

Evey Hinrichs advises people it's not safe to dig before calling 811. Evey is the daughter of Kelby and Carrie Fey from Aberdeen, S.D., members of Northern 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.



DIPS AND SPREADS

SPINACH DIP**Ingredients:**

16 oz. sour cream
 1 cup mayonnaise (must be mayo)
 1 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
 1 can water chestnuts, chopped
 1 tbsp. minced onion
 1 tsp. season salt
 1/2 tsp. Accent
 Dash of Worcestershire sauce
 2 dashes of hot sauce

METHOD

Serve with Club or Ritz crackers.

Linda Hubbard
 Rapid City, S.D.

CREAMY CINNAMON DIP**Ingredients:**

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
 1 container (8 oz.) sour cream
 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
 2 tbsps. milk
 2 tps. ground cinnamon
 1 tsp. all natural pure vanilla extract

METHOD

Beat all ingredients in medium bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Spoon into serving bowl. Cover.
 Refrigerate until ready to serve.
 Serve with fresh fruit slices, cookies or pound cake or angel food cubes.
mccormick.com

CARAWAY CHEESE SPREAD**Ingredients:**

1 container (12 oz.)
 Cheddar cheese spread, at room temperature
 2 tps. minced onions
 1 1/2 tps. whole caraway seed
 1/2 tsp. Lawry's® Seasoned Salt

METHOD

Mix cheese spread and seasonings in medium bowl. Cover.
 Refrigerate at least 2 hours to blend flavors.

Serving Suggestion: Serve with assorted vegetables such as celery sticks, cherry tomatoes, jicama sticks, carrot sticks, endive leaves, and/or assorted crackers.

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

FEM Employees Obtain Professional Certificates

Angie Sieh and Ryan Holien achieve milestone in national leadership program

Across the U.S., a vast number of supervisors and management staff at electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts are participating in the Supervisor and Manager Development Program from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).



Angie Sieh

FEM Electric is recognizing Angie Sieh and Ryan Holien for their commitment to professional development and leadership best practices by achieving the SMDP-20 level in the Supervisor and Manager Development Program (SMDP).

NRECA created the SMDP specifically for employees responsible for leading others. The SMDP is a tiered educational program in which participants earn recognition for every five credits of SMDP course work they successfully complete. Achieving the SMDP-20 level in the program requires active participation in 20 credits worth of SMDP course work. This course work focuses on strengthening the leadership skills, knowledge and abilities needed to hire, develop and lead others,



Ryan Holien

manage performance, build teams, communicate effectively and make decisions.

The leadership skills, knowledge and abilities covered in the SMDP are based on the input from electric cooperative leaders across the nation. Only rural electric cooperative, public power and public utility district employees participate in the program, ensuring the program's focus and content is on leadership challenges unique to these organizations.

NRECA represents more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts in the United States. These utilities provide electricity to approximately 42 million consumer sin 47 states and sell approximately twelve percent of all electric energy sold in the United States. FEM Electric serves approximately 1,294 members in Faulk, Edmunds and McPherson counties in South Dakota.

Continued from pg 2

Motion by Eric Odenbach, seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

Legal Update: Attorney Vaughn Beck discussed FEM Electric easements along with papers being filed by Summit Carbon Solutions. It was discussed that FEM Electric has no reason to sign off on easements allowing Summit to cross but has no recourse to stop someone from crossing.

Meeting Report:

East River board update was given by Gary Bachman. SDREA Board report was given by Tom Thorpe. There were no Safety Minutes or Employee Minutes.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.

Continued from pg 3

driven by big money and have no understanding of what it takes to create and move electricity while keeping reliability and affordability top priorities.

In the coming months and years, you will hear about a new baseload fuel choice--Nuclear power. Nuclear power has been around for decades and is clean burning, but the drawback is the radioactive waste. I've often wondered why we can power our navel fleet with nuclear generators that are in harm's way but it's almost impossible to build nuclear generation in America. My opinion only, but bad policy.

In closing, we need all fuel types to be successful in the energy world, but we need fewer bad policies/government subsidies and more open and real markets.



Dear FEM,

Thank you very much
for the many tasty meals for
your yearly meetings! I
had the steak & potatoes, ^{this year} &
it was awesome! Every-
one makes us feel welcome!

Sincerely,
Rachel Gundt



Ipswich Pioneer Village
Ipswich, South Dakota

FEM Electric

Thank you for donating two cases of water to our cookout that we had at the park to raise money for projects at the Pioneer Village.

It was a successful day and our total income was matched by modern woodman. Many local people came out, generously supported our goal of preserving the history of Edmunds County that is at the Pioneer Village, and glad Ipswich is a community that works together on all projects.

Ipswich flower & Garden Club
Patty Kadlec President

IPSWICH PIONEER VILLAGE

"The Ipswich Pioneer Village consists of a group of seven buildings, five of historical significance, depicting life in a South Dakota prairie town in the early 1900's."

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@FEMElectric on 

@fem_electric on 

@FEMElectric on 

We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.



INVASIVE SPECIES

State run boat checks and washing stations aim to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species, such as zebra mussels, in South Dakota.

Zebra Mussels and Their Impact on the Missouri River

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdra.coop

The Missouri River in South Dakota, renowned for its outstanding recreational areas, fishing holes and scenic campgrounds, draws a wide swath of tourists from around the world. However, these welcoming public waters have become the home of one unwelcome intruder—the infamous zebra mussel.

Endemic to southeastern Europe, the zebra mussel made its journey to the United States Great Lakes in the '80s as an unlikely stowaway, clinging to the hulls of large ships and barges. Since their arrival, the mussels have proliferated across the Midwest, spreading from one river system to the next.

So how can a mollusk, merely the size of a fingernail, inflict millions of

dollars in economic damage to local recreation, agriculture and hydroelectric power generation? Martin Goding, Gavins Point Dam maintenance and operations manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, explains that one zebra mussel can spawn more than a million eggs in a season, overrunning the local ecosystem. Once established, the mussels latch onto every viable surface in the water—they envelop pipes, ruin beaches and disrupt hydroelectric dams.

In 2015, local governments detected South Dakota's first infestation of zebra mussels in Lewis and Clark Lake. Goding says this discovery ignited a fierce battle against the invasive species.

“We are in the war to eradicate the zebra mussel, but I don't think we're ever going to completely eliminate them,” said Goding. “They are multiplying faster than we can get rid of them.”



Zebra Mussels completely envelop Gavins Point Dam's water gates, adding up to an additional 30 tons of weight.



With few effective treatments at their disposal, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been forced to adjust to operating within a river infested with mussels. The change has significantly

increased the maintenance costs associated with running Gavins Point Dam. Pipes, essential for cooling the dam as it produces electricity, now require routine disassembly and cleaning. Over the course of six months of warm weather, the dam's lakeside gates collect an additional 30 tons of weight from the relentless accumulation of zebra mussel shells and the debris they carry.

"We have spent a million and a half dollars over the last five years just in maintenance to deal with this invasive species—and that's not even counting the cost of materials," said Goding. "Zebra mussels have really impacted the operation and turned maintenance into a nightmare."

Beyond maintenance, zebra mussels have also disrupted power generation. Outbreaks of zebra mussels within

the dam's infrastructure have resulted in unscheduled and forced outages, interrupting an energy source that has been historically reliable.

"One could safely say that Gavin Point Dam has lost a million dollars in power generation over the last five years," said Goding.

Since the initial invasion in 2015, some strategies have emerged to mitigate damage from the invasive species. The introduction of UV lights and the addition of strainers have curbed the presence of zebra mussels within the dam. Even still, the mussels have continued their spread northward through the Missouri River to Lake Sharpe near Pierre, S.D.

According to Goding, the experiences at Gavins Point Dam serve as a stark warning for dams and water systems yet to face infestation.

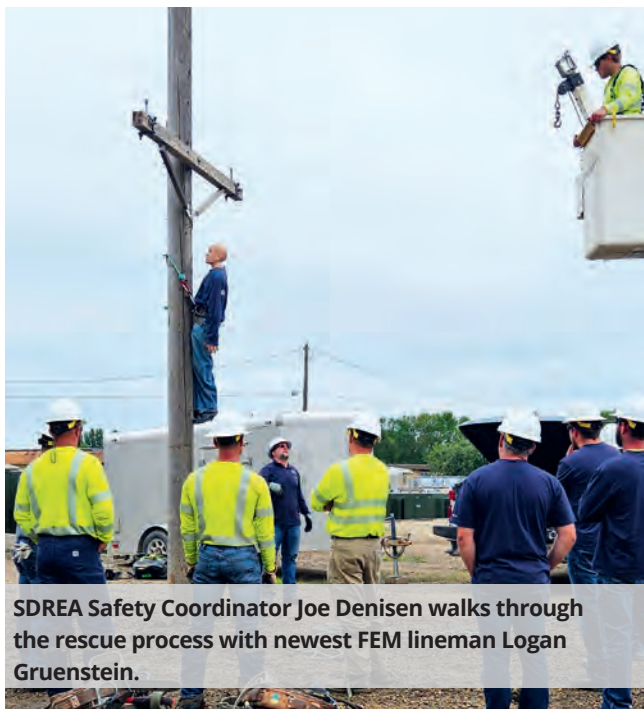
"Lewis and Clark Lake is beyond prevention," said Goding. "We have crossed that bridge and they are not going away."



POLE TOP RESCUE TRAINING

FEM line workers practice their rescue skills

On July 12th, FEM line workers went through their annual pole top rescue training as well as bucket truck rescue training, and other safety procedures.



SDREA Safety Coordinator Joe Denisen walks through the rescue process with newest FEM lineman Logan Gruenstein.



FEM Lineman Dan Feldhaus lowers the practice dummy to the ground.

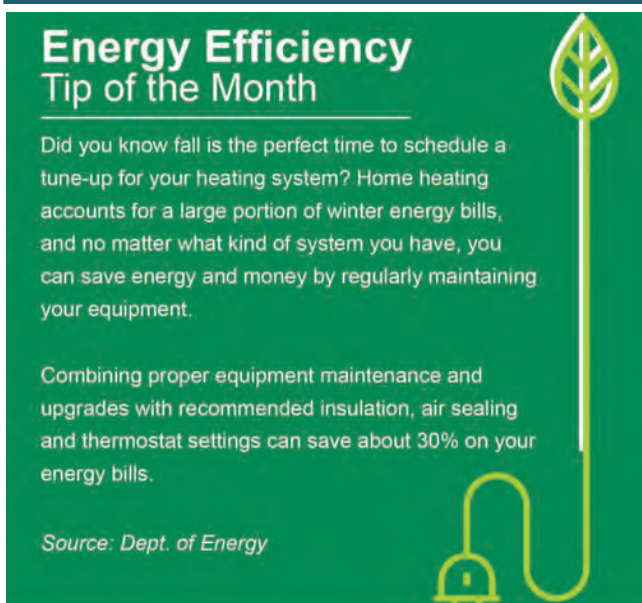
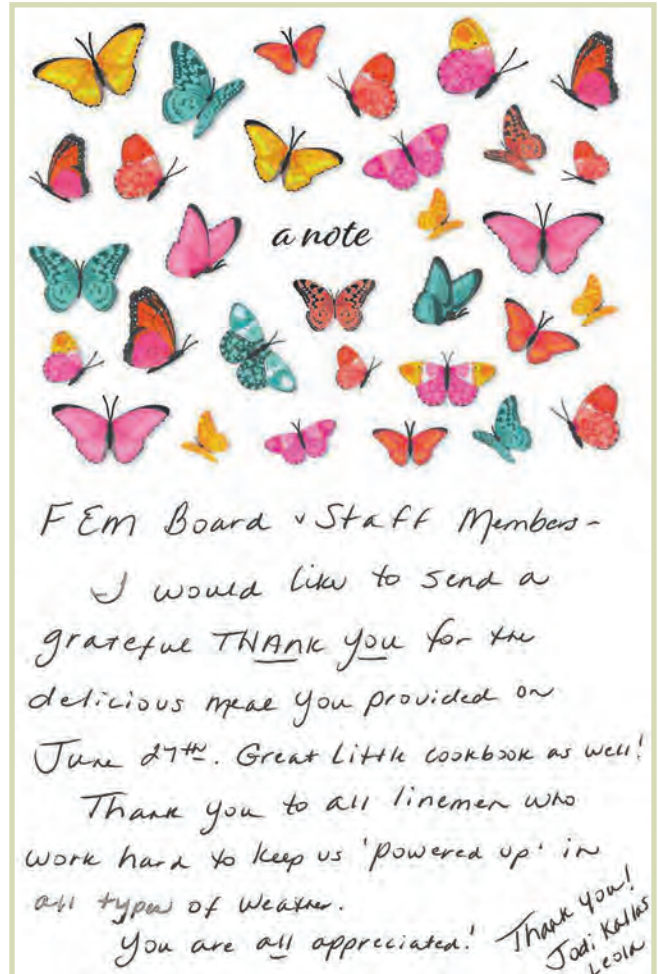
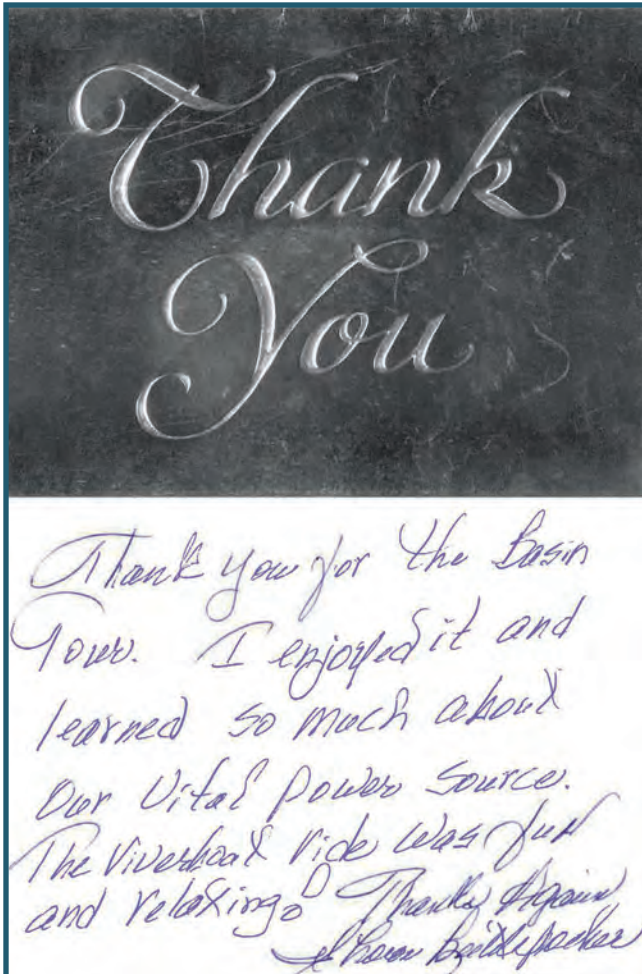
During pole top rescue training, line workers are tasked with rescuing a dummy that simulates a line worker in peril. Each crew member takes turn climbing a pole, securing a rope to the pole and around the dummy, and safely lowering the dummy to the ground.

These rescue trainings are continually held so that the crew not only has safety at the forefront of their mind when they are working in the field, but also to make sure their skills are fresh.

HARVEST SAFETY TIP

If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.





DRONE SPRAYING



Drone Spraying

A Modern Tool in Today's Agriculture

Scott Waltman

As modern agriculture continues to evolve, drones are one of the newer tools farmers can use to help their land and crops.

The hovering, unmanned aircraft can be handy for small areas and places it's difficult for traditional spraying options to get to, according to those who offer the service to those in the ag sector.

Drones aren't the weapon of choice to spray chemicals on 1,500 acres of corn or soybeans, but that day is likely coming, said Derek Ver Helst, who operates Dakota Unmanned Aerial in Brandt.

Closer to the coasts, drones are already used for a multitude of purposes that aren't just fun and shooting videos. They are only going to become more prominent in ag-heavy states like the Dakotas, he said.

"The possibilities are pretty much

just limited by your imagination," Ver Helst said.

He said his background as an agronomist piqued his interest in spraying with drones. Dakota Unmanned Aerial is a side hustle he started about two years ago. He works as a senior conservation agronomist for AgSpire.

Nick Williams had a background in agriculture working for CHS Cooperative and selling farm equipment before starting Williams Drones southeast of Parkston in August 2020. Business has been good, he said, estimating that it has doubled each year.

"It's really taken off, it continues to grow," Williams said.

He and Ver Helst agree that farmers have been receptive to the relatively new option, willing to give it a try when the project isn't too big.

Williams said he does mostly ag-related work. In late July, he was staying busy with fungicide applications.

Drones are great near shelter belts and around wet areas. Those are places



that are hard for a land rig or spray plane to get to. Drones work better because they are smaller and more agile, he said.

A route is mapped out and the drone reads that information and flies mostly autonomously, Williams said.

He sets the height, speed, gallons of application per acre and swath width. Once a drone is in the air, it does almost all of the work, though Williams said he can control the height a little, if needed.

Drones have sensors and other features so they don't run into trees, equipment, wind turbines or structures, he said.

Depending on the amount of land to be sprayed, it can take longer to map a field than to spray it, Ver Helst said.

His drones carry 10 liters, but others have a capacity of 40 liters, he said. When a drone runs out of chemical, it returns back to the operator, who puts on a new tank, changes the battery and sends it back out, Ver Helst said. The drone will pick up spraying right where it left off, he said.

In 2016, land-grant university researchers and educators started work to increase the use of drones in agriculture, according to information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

That work continues today. It includes identifying and evaluating the most user-friendly and cost-effective drone platforms and sensors, according to the USDA.

Some drone operators offer swarm spraying, Van Helst and Williams said.

For instance, there could be five drones programmed to follow the same grid over a field, pasture or slough working in unison, Van Helst said. As one runs out of spray, it returns for a new tank of chemical and battery until the job is finished.

Van Helst said he doesn't do a lot of spraying. Most of it is on pastures.

But, he said, he has done some work in orchards and vineyards where grapes are grown.

Williams has branched out a little more. Last year, he said, he was hired to do a dust-control project at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in the Black Hills. That is the former Homestake gold mine near Lead.

And both men say drones can be used to combat one of South Dakota's least-popular commodities – mosquitoes.

Drones can be used to spray for skeeters on fairgrounds, when there's a big city gathering and even in a residential area.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, they were even used to shower stadiums with antibacterial spray, Van Helst said.

One drone operator in Texas was contacted to see if drones could be used to drop fish food into a pond, Williams said.

He said his drones can cover about 20 acres an hour, though some can do 30 hours an acre. And he expects the new drones released next year will be able to spray 40 hours in an acre.

For large fields, a land rig or a spray plane is still a better bet, Williams said. A traditional ground sprayer can probably cover 70 acres an hour, he said.

Van Helt said his T-40 drone can handle about 100 acres a day.

One challenge in getting started is getting all of the licensing needed from the Federal Aviation Administration.

He spent about two years testing and writing exemptions and working through the legalities.

Commercial drone operators need a remote pilot certificate from the FAA. Another license is needed to dispense chemicals from a flying aircraft, Van Helst said.

He said he has procured 14 FAA exemptions and will need two more next year.

That's why some drone operators hire a business to navigate that process. That's the route Williams took.

Being a drone operator can be fun or frustrating, just like any other job, he said. He just checks the forecast and hopes it holds. Trying to spray when the wind is 20 mph or more just isn't going to work, he said.

Even so, Van Helst said, drones are a fantastic tool. Ground rigs and spray planes will always be needed, and drones are just one more option for farmers to tap.

"There's a right time and a right place for everything," he said.





GENERATOR SAFETY

FIRING UP ONE PORTABLE GENERATOR IS LIKE STARTING A PARKING LOT FULL OF CARS

Firing up one fuel-powered portable generator produces as much carbon monoxide (CO) as hundreds of combustion-engine cars, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Using a portable generator in a home, garage or too close to an enclosed area is like starting a parking lot full of cars and letting the CO poison seep into that area. The devastating result is almost immediate: The CO from one generator can kill in minutes.

CO facts

CO is colorless and odorless. Poisoning can happen so quickly that exposed persons may become unconscious before recognizing any symptoms.

Each year in the U.S.:

- Approximately 85 individuals die from CO poisoning.
- Most deaths (81%) occur in residential locations.

African Americans are at greater risk of CO poisoning, accounting for 23 percent of generator-related CO deaths, nearly double their estimated 13 percent share of the U.S. population, according to the U.S. Census.

Safety tips

To use a portable generator safely:

- Always use a portable generator at least 20 feet away from your home.
- Never operate one inside a home, on a porch or near windows and doors.

- Apply the 20-foot distance rule to other locations, such as a shed, cabin, camper or trailer.
- When shopping for a generator, look for one that gives off reduced emissions.
- Also look for one that shuts off automatically when high levels of CO are present.
- Keep your generator well maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions.
- Operate it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot pool underneath.
- Ensure CO detectors are installed on every level of your home and near or in bedrooms.
- Test CO alarms monthly; also track their age. They need to be replaced every seven years.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and movable. A generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator will be able to create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

Besides portable generators, there are also standby generators. The standby versions are attached directly to the house and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

To prevent feeding power back into the power grid and endangering electric line crews and others, standby generators should have a transfer safety switch installed by a professional. Never plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system for the same reason.

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.



USING A GENERATOR?

8 DANGEROUS MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE



1 IN ENCLOSED SPACES

Always use it in a well-ventilated area.



2 NEAR WINDOWS OR DOORS

Place it at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.



3 IN A GARAGE

Even if the door is up, never use a generator in a garage.



4 IN THE ELEMENTS

Run it on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure (but not in a carport).



5 PLUGGED INTO A WALL OUTLET

This can be deadly to you, family members, neighbors or utility workers.



6 WITH THE WRONG EXTENSION CORD

Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.



7 WITHOUT CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) TESTERS

CO detectors should be on every level of your home (test them monthly).



8 IN DISREPAIR

Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.



LEARN
MORE
AT:

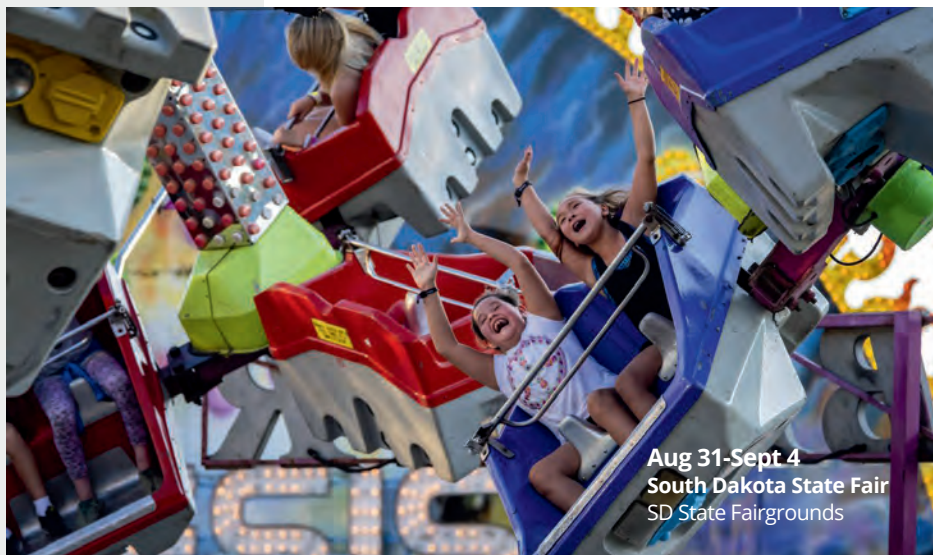
 **Safe
Electricity.org®**

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: _____



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.

SEPT 2
Hidewood Valley Barn Dance

7 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 4
Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show

Steam Whistle Blows
1 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 8-10
James Valley Threshing & Tractor Show

World's Largest Steam Traction Engine
Andover, SD
605-868-3242

SEPT 9-10
Old Iron - Fall Harvest Festival

Delmont, SD

SEPT 10
10th Annual Black Hill Beer Run

Spearfish Campground Pavilion
Spearfish, SD
605-642-7730

SEPT 10
100th Anniversary of Little Brown Church

11 a.m.
Service, Potluck & Auction
West of Hayes
Hayes, SD

SEPT 11-17
Traditions & Olivia American Legion

Olivia, MN
320-523-1000

SEPT 11-17
HOBO Days

Live Music-Fun
Olivia, MN
320-523-1000

SEPT 16
Midland Appreciation Day

Theme: Automobiles
1:30 p.m.
Midland, SD

SEPT 17
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Church Bazaar
12 p.m.
Hoven, SD

SEPT 22-24
Coal Springs Threshing Bee

Meadow, SD
605-788-2229

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival

9 a.m.
Springfield Community Building
Springfield, SD

SEPT 30
Day of Wellness

10 a.m.
Sturgis Armory
Sturgis, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days

Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

OCT 6-7
Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest & Vendor Show

Philip, SD
605-441-1060

OCT 7
Spirit of Dakota Award

Huron Event Center
Huron, SD
605-352-6073

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