

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## South Dakota 4-H Shooting

Shooters Prepare for  
the State Competition  
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Wild Horses Roam at  
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Jackson Neprud, 4-H archer for Jones  
County, poses next to his target.

# Understanding Heat Pumps



**Jeremy Lindemann**  
CEO/GM

Hello, Lake Region Electric Members!  
I am sure you have noticed that this winter, we are having warmer weather than average. Now, we have had a few cold snaps but overall, I would say it would classify as a mild winter. One nice thing about a mild winter is that an air source heat pump can do the majority of your heating. If you have a heat pump, you may want to check your thermostat to make sure you are using your heat pump, as it is more efficient than a gas furnace. With modern technologies, air source heat pumps can continue

to heat your home even when outside temperatures reach well below zero.

If you do not have an air source heat pump, you may want to think about adding “install heat pump” to your list of projects. With the rebates that are available and the ability to put it on the electric heat rate offered by Lake Region Electric, there is a quick payback on your investment, plus you will have lower heating bills for your home.

Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) are extremely efficient, and an added bonus is they can also cool your home. Unlike a furnace, an ASHP does not burn fuel to make heat; it simply uses electricity to move heat from one place to another. Think of an air-source heat pump as a heat transporter constantly moving warm air to where it is needed or from where it is not needed, depending on the season. Even cold air contains some heat. When it is cold outside, a heat pump extracts this outside heat and transfers it inside. When it is warm outside, it reverses direction and acts like an air conditioner, removing heat from your home.

If you are looking for the most efficient and affordable heating and cooling for your home, an Air Source Heat Pump is hard to beat.

Lake Region’s rebate program offers incentives of up to \$800 on new heat pumps installed. Rebate information can be found by visiting our website or calling our office. Another check for the pro list is that there are tax credits for air source heat pumps. Do not just take my word for it; make sure you check with your tax professional and visit the [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) website for more information on tax incentives for energy saving measures.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact us at Lake Region Electric and ask to speak to someone in the Member Services department; they will get you more information on heat pumps, electric heating, and ways that you can save money while staying comfortable year-round!

Until next time, we will keep the lights on for you!

Jeremy T. Lindemann  
CEO/General Manager

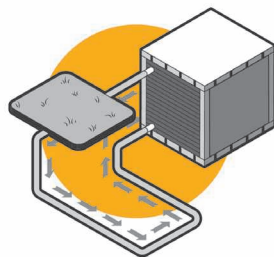
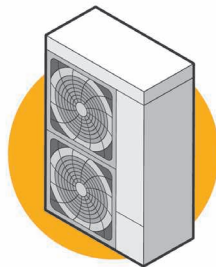
## Types of Heat Pumps

There are three main types of heat pump systems. Use the information below to determine the system that’s best suited for your climate and home.

### Air-Source Heat Pumps

- Most commonly used heat pumps
- Moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do
- Can reduce heating costs by about 50 percent when compared to baseboard heaters or electric furnaces
- Newer, more efficient systems now represent a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions like the Northeast and Midwest.

*Note: If temperatures in your area drop below 10 to 25 F, you will need an auxiliary heating system (depending on the size of the system).*

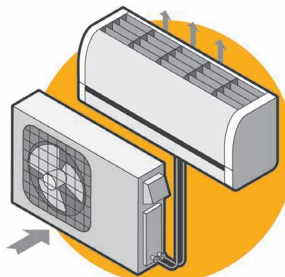


### Geothermal Heat Pumps

- More expensive to install but provide more energy savings for heating and cooling
- Move heat through pipes buried underground
- When compared to a conventional heating system, can reduce energy use by 25 to 50 percent
- Effective in extreme climates
- Not ideal for smaller lots and certain soil conditions

### Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps

- Easier to install, quiet, small in size
- Flexible for heating and cooling individual rooms and smaller spaces
- No energy loss through ductwork, which accounts for more than 30 percent of a home’s energy use for space heating/cooling.
- Installation can be pricey, but federal incentives may be available



Heat pump systems should be installed by a licensed professional. Contact your local electric cooperative for more information about options and potential incentives.

*Sources: Dept. of Energy and Consumer Reports*

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES

(USPS 018-904)

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# ATTENTION Trade Students

## Do you want free money for school?

### Apply now for the Charles Johnson Education & Training Trust Scholarship

The scholarship through the Charles Johnson Trust is awarded to persons who intend to further their education in order to return to the area with the knowledge and skills necessary to flourish in the trades industries.

### Criteria for Award

- **Qualifying Course of Study** Examples, not limited to: Precision Machining, Welding, Electronics, Robotics, Energy Technology, Engineering, Construction Management, etc.
- **Positive Character Qualities**
- **Future Goals & Plans Align With Scholarship**
- **Reference from educator or employer**

### For information and applications:

- Visit: [www.lakeregion.coop](http://www.lakeregion.coop)
- Contact Laura at Lake Region Electric
  - [LLondon@lakeregion.coop](mailto:LLondon@lakeregion.coop)
- Contact your High School Counselor



## Applications Due April 1st

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Laurie Bergman  
Shannon White  
Michael Lesnar  
Jordan Henricks

Wesley Hanson  
Cathy Hofland  
Terry & Deb Kenny  
Galen Jensen Jr.

# Falls Are Preventable

March is Ladder Safety Month. Whether working from a ladder, roof or scaffolding, it's important to plan ahead, assess the risk and use the right equipment. First, determine if working from a height is absolutely necessary or if there is another way to do the task safely.

- Discuss the task with coworkers and determine what safety equipment is needed.
- Make sure you are properly trained on how to use the equipment.
- Scan the work area for potential hazards before starting the job.
- Make sure you have level ground to set up the equipment.
- If working outside, check the weather forecast; never work in inclement weather.
- Use the correct tool for the job, and use it as intended.
- Ensure stepladders have a locking device to hold the front and back open.
- Always keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder.
- Place the ladder on a solid surface and never lean it against an unstable surface.
- A straight or extension ladder should be one foot away from the surface it rests on for every four feet of height and extend at least three feet over the top edge.
- Securely fasten straight and extension ladders to an upper support.
- Wear slip-resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top.
- Don't lean or reach while on a ladder, and have someone support the bottom.
- Never use old or damaged equipment; check thoroughly before use.



### Fall Hazards at Home

Are you a weekend warrior or do-it-yourselfer? If you take on home improvement or other weekend projects, it's important to prepare yourself for physical exertion, especially if you've been sedentary through the winter months, and take extra precautions to prevent falls.

Risky projects, like installing siding, gutters or roofs, are best left to professionals. Saving money isn't worth risking a debilitating or fatal fall.

At home or at work, many of the same rules apply. When taking on a project, remember the following.

- Practice all of the ladder safety tips mentioned to the left.
- Keep the work area clear of hazards and immediately clean up spills.
- Read all instructions and safety precautions on your equipment.
- Don't wear loose clothing that can get caught in equipment.

*Source: National Safety Council*



### "Don't cut trees near power lines."

#### Remington Welsh, Age 11

Remington warns readers to not cut trees around power lines. Thank you for your picture, Remington! Remington's parents are Ryan and Rachel Welsh, members of Black Hills 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.

# Hearty FAMILY MEALS

## EASY CREAMY HAMBURGER PASTA

### Ingredients:

1 lb. ground hamburger  
1 lb. cooked pasta  
5 oz. spinach  
1/4 cup butter  
2 cups heavy cream  
1 tbsp. minced garlic  
1 cup grated parmesan cheese

### Method

In a large pan, brown hamburger and minced garlic. Remove any excess grease. Turn heat to low and add the butter and heavy cream. Stir and simmer for a few minutes until the butter melts and it starts to boil. Stir in the spinach and cook for about three more minutes. Stir in the parmesan and cooked pasta. Enjoy!

**Lyndell Todd**  
Rapid City, S.D.

## MINI BBQ BACON CHEDDAR MEATLOAF

### Ingredients:

2 lbs. ground beef  
6 oz. chili sauce  
4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled  
1 1/2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs  
2 large eggs  
1 tsp. onion powder  
1 tsp. seasoned salt  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
2 tbsps. Worcestershire sauce  
1 tsp. yellow mustard  
1/2 cup BBQ sauce

### Method

Preheat oven to 425°F. Cook and crumble bacon. In a mixing bowl, mix together all meatloaf ingredients except the BBQ sauce. Divide the mixture into eight round loaves. Press a small depression into the middle of the meatloaves. Brush BBQ sauce on top of the meatloaves. Bake for 25 minutes. Turn on broiler and brown the BBQ sauce for two to five minutes.

**Kayla Beaner**  
Centerville, S.D.

## SKILLET CHICKEN POT PIE

### Ingredients:

1/4 cup butter  
1 cup chopped onion  
1/4 cup flour  
2 cups chicken stock  
1 cup milk  
1/2 cup apple cider  
1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. whole thyme leaves  
1/4 tsp. black pepper  
2 cups cubed cooked chicken  
1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes (about 2 cups)  
1 cup frozen peas  
1 can (7.5 oz.) refrigerated biscuits, (10 biscuits)

### Method

Preheat oven to 450°F. Melt butter in large ovenproof nonstick skillet on medium-high heat. Add onion; cook and stir five minutes or until softened. Sprinkle with flour. Stir with whisk until mixture is well blended. Add stock, milk, apple cider, garlic powder, cinnamon, thyme and pepper; whisk until mixture is smooth.

Stir in chicken, sweet potatoes and peas. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium; cook and stir 15 minutes or until sweet potatoes are tender.

Place biscuits on top of chicken mixture. Bake 10 minutes or until biscuits are golden brown.

**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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Spring Planning Your Electrical Needs

Laura London

There is still snow on the ground, but it's never too early to start planning for your spring and summer projects! One of the first things that should be done during the planning stage of any project is determine if you require any digging, trenching, or electrical work. If that is the case, contact Lake Region Electric Association as soon as possible.

Lake Region Electric takes calls on

a daily basis from members wanting to know where the utility lines are buried; we always recommend that anyone who plans on digging call 811 first. General locates require a call to 811, the national call-before-you-dig phone number. This is a free service that coordinates the approximate location of buried utilities be marked with paint or flags so that you don't unintentionally dig into an underground utility line. Personal projects are often planned in advance but are typically started

when it is convenient for the member or there is a dire need. You must call 811 at least two business days prior to digging, as scheduling can be a challenge. Lake Region Electric receives around 2,000 calls for locates per year through the 811 system, not including the members who call us directly asking questions about their lines. Secondary electrical lines are the member-owned wires that go to the house or structure from the meter. There is an additional charge for locating secondary lines.

People planning to build new structures, add buildings, or do major installs that will require additional power load will need to call Lake Region and speak with the Operations Department to make sure you have enough electricity to handle



**LAKE REGION ELECTRIC**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## MEMBER SERVICES

### What can we help you with?

- Issue Rebates
- Electrical Wiring
- Assist members with usage questions, concerns & conservation
- Trenching & Aerial Line Construction and Repair
- Yard Light Installation & Repair
- Load Controlling
- Heat Meter Installation
- Secondary Line Locates
- Other Electrical Services as Requested

605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869 ⚡ email: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

the additional load.

Early project planning should also include a call to Lake Region Electric's Member Services Department. The Member Services Department is comprised of a six-man team. Manager Brett Kwasniewski, Journeyman Electricians Nick Kvernevig and Zac Bremmon, Apprentice Electrician Vinson Dargatz, Materials Clerk Leonard Deibert, and Custodian Kurt Hoines.

The team is very busy with wiring projects for our members in addition to all of the other services that they handle. In 2024, the Service Department worked with

our members on 587 service visits. General wiring jobs tops the list of jobs as far as numbers go but they are also quite busy with yard lights, heat meters and load control. While wiring jobs make up most of the calls, they don't necessarily take priority. The top priority for the service department will always be taking care of members who have outages. We are an electric utility service provider, and we simply cannot let members go without power, so outages must always be taken care of as soon as possible. Keep in mind that the nearly 600 service calls responded to do not include the members that are helped

when they come into the office needing parts and advice, or that number would be at least double!

The Member Services team at Lake Region is comprised of a fantastic group of guys who are ready to assist you with repairing or replacing a yard light, wiring a new building, and all things in between. Work for the Service Department is year-round, but we field a lot of calls from members who are building or working on projects in the spring and summer who want work done right away. Due to the demanding schedule, we recommend that you contact us as early as possible to get on the schedule.

# BUDGET BILLING

## Keeping Your Electricity Affordable Year Round

- Applicants must have received service from LREA and have a minimum of one-year history with a satisfactory credit rating.
- LREA will determine monthly payments based on prior use.
- Monthly payments will be calculated annually and commence with the June payment, due July 15th. The consumer must pay any balance due by the June 15th due date. Any credit remaining on the account will be re-calculated into the next year's budget balance.
- If the kilowatt hour usage changes substantially during the year, the Cooperative may change the monthly payments. The consumer is responsible for notifying the Cooperative of any significant electrical load additions during the year that could impact the Budget Billing amount.
- Budget Billing will have a sign-up period from the April billing cycle to the August billing cycle each year.
- Account must be paid in full prior to qualifying.

The enrollment period for budget billing is from April until the end of August. Anyone interested in budget billing should contact the Lake Region Electric office by calling: 605-345-3379 or by e-mailing: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop.





West Central Electric CEO Jeff Birkeland, left, is the retired archery coach, and IT Coordinator Derek Wolf, right, is a first-year rifle coach for Jones County, South Dakota.

# SOUTH DAKOTA 4-H SHOOTING

## Shooters Prepare for the State Competition in April

Jocelyn Johnson  
jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

Dedicated practice is the price each marksman pays to qualify and compete at the South Dakota 4-H Shooting Sports state event.



Sophie Wolf takes aim during a weekly practice.

This year, hundreds of shooters will compete on April 25-27 to showcase marksmanship. Their hard work will be on display as every shot will impact the final score. Among these competitors is a dedicated group from Jones County, South Dakota. For the past two decades, employees from West Central Electric Cooperative in Murdo, S.D., have dedicated their time to coaching various 4-H shooting disciplines.

“It’s the cooperative giving back to the community and promoting our youth,” said Jeff Birkeland, CEO of West Central Electric. “A few years ago, we took 41 kids to state, and we brought home 43 state trophies. I’m proud of our kids.”

Birkeland coached archery for 15 years and happily recounted the experience with his two boys during that time.

“Kids want to shoot. We have the best participation in shooting sports

than we have in anything else.”

Birkeland’s son, Jacob, competed for 10 years in shooting sports among other 4-H competitions.

“While I explored many aspects of 4-H, shooting sports became my primary focus,” Jacob said. “I began my journey in shooting sports with BB gun and was introduced to archery. Archery quickly became my main area of competition, and it has been an incredibly rewarding and impactful part of my 4-H experience.”

This experience offered him a competitive edge as well as bonding memories that Jacob vouches as life shaping.

“One of the greatest highlights of my time in 4-H has been the lasting friendships and memories I’ve built along the way,” Jacob said. “Whether it was constructing a trophy shelf with my grandpa, having archery competitions against my dad to see who had to do the chores or representing South Dakota at the national shooting sports event – each experience has contributed to my personal and professional growth. I would not be where I am today without it.”





Matthew Birkeland, left, stands with Hayzen Sealey, right, at the spring state competition.

Derek Wolf, IT coordinator for West Central Electric and first-year coach for Jones County 4-H, said, “We begin practicing once a week in January. We work on safety first – getting the kids comfortable with their firearms. Then, we step into practicing for competition.”

Each county competes in three matches leading up the state competition, and every participant must make a qualifying score in at least one match to qualify for state.

“We encourage every kid to enter and compete in all three matches,” Birkeland said. “It’s better to practice at it instead of getting to state and having the wheels fall off.”

The art of practicing perfectly is what brings these competitors to state. Birkeland noted that those who practice, will win. And those who overcome a disappointment may come home with the trophy.

“It teaches those kids a lot about life,” Birkeland said. “You practice and practice, you put the time in and then one thing happens – one flinch,

one mistake and it’s over. Emotionally, hopefully it strengthens them a bit. Instead of breaking down and crying, you better be able to handle it...Limit your problems. Don’t increase them with a mental meltdown.”

Wolf agreed with this sentiment and described how overcoming a bad shot and being mentally tough is sometimes more important than being a skilled shooter.

“There are a lot of kids who find success in this, so I find it rewarding to be involved as a coach,” he said.

Wolf’s daughter, Sophie, competes in .22 rifle and archery and remarked that the highlight of the competition was that it challenged her and made her a stronger competitor. She trains twice per week for several hours while preparing for the state competition.

“I feel excitement when I compete,” Sophie said. “I love the challenge.”

In 2024, more than 1,600 participants competed in various disciplines at the spring state shooting event. These disciplines

are pistol, archery, rifle, hunting and western heritage. An additional 270 participants competed in the fall state shooting event for shotgun and muzzleloading. Each year, the top five shooters win trophies and this year’s winners may be chosen to represent at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships in Grand Island, Neb., on June 22-27. Last year, South Dakota tied for 2nd place with Missouri at the national event.

John Keimig, South Dakota State University Extension Youth Safety Field Specialist, emphasized that the shooting program is made great by the people who volunteer.

“One of the great things about small communities in South Dakota is people who give their time to volunteer,” said Keimig. “If it wasn’t for people who volunteer, we wouldn’t have this successful program – whether it be volunteers who work full-time for an electric cooperative or farmers and ranchers. They are the backbone of this program.”



Archers stand on the line at South Dakota’s spring state competition.

# What Is 1 MW?

## First in a series

Exploding demand for electricity, lingering supply chain challenges and short-sighted public policy aimed at rapidly eliminating fossil fuels from power generation have forced large portions of the United States to confront unprecedented power shortages and soaring costs. This series of infographics will look at the most critical elements at play in this time of transition for our industry and our society. This month, we examine the familiar measurement of 1 megawatt and how much power is needed to supply common facilities in our communities.

### Factory

Facilities with heavy machinery can draw 1 MW of power.

### Big Box Stores

1 MW will power a typical large retail store.

### Office Building

1 MW can power several medium-sized office buildings.

### Hospital

1 MW will power a small hospital.

### Power Plant

#### Typical outputs:

Coal: 500 MW to 1 GW

Gas: 50 MW to 1 GW

Nuclear: 500 MW to 1.5 GW

**1 MW is 1 million watts of power.**

### School

0.5 MW will power a medium-size public school.

### EV Charging

1 MW can power four Tesla Supercharger V3s simultaneously.

### Data Center

1 MW will power one small data center.

#### Other facilities that can draw up to 1 MW of power:

- High-speed rail
- Large farms
- Wastewater treatment
- Stadiums

### Residential

1 MW can power 750 to 1,000 homes.

Source: NRECA; Design: Jerry Mosemak

# Washington Changes Signal Positive Energy Impacts

Scott Flood  
NRECA

The 2024 election centered on widespread frustration with America's economy and immigration. While energy policy didn't receive as much time in the campaigning spotlight, the second Trump presidency is likely to result in significant changes in how our nation approaches its ever-growing demand for electric power. For electric cooperatives, it appears those changes will be positive.

"America is at an energy crossroads, and the reliability of the electric grid hangs in the balance," NRECA CEO Jim Matheson explained in a message expressing the association's desire to work closely with President Trump and Congress to protect energy affordability and reliability. "Critical generation resources are being retired faster than they can be reliably replaced. At the same time, electricity demand is skyrocketing as power-hungry data centers and new manufacturing facilities come online. Smart energy policies that keep the lights on are more important than ever."

Shortly after the election, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) warned that many regions face an elevated risk of electricity shortfalls in the face of extreme weather such as prolonged cold snaps. NERC, the nation's grid watchdog, reiterated that older power plants are being retired at the same time Americans are using more electricity. While solar and wind farms have been sprouting up, they can't deliver the always-available electricity that coal- and gas-fired plants have long provided. Hurricanes Helene and Milton compounded the problem by damaging critical grid infrastructure.

The first Trump administration scaled back many of President Obama's initiatives to replace fossil fuels with "clean power," so observers expect President Trump's team to overturn many of the Biden administration's energy-related policies. NRECA has been urging officials to eliminate regulatory burdens such as the EPA's power plant rule – which many believe exceeds the EPA's legal authority – and

to encourage the Department of Energy and other agencies to take steps that will eliminate bureaucratic roadblocks and bolster the long-term reliability of the nation's grid.

Electric cooperatives' vision for America's energy future calls for a durable plan to ensure our consumer-members and the largely rural communities they call home will have reliable and affordable access to electricity in the face of the nation's skyrocketing demand.

South Dakota's electric cooperatives are comfortable taking a leadership role in this effort because we have worked hard with elected officials and their staffs to advocate for our members. Policymakers from both parties have consistently commended electric cooperatives as reputable energy providers and engines of economic development that play a vital role in transforming the local communities they proudly serve.

Solidifying a positive and resilient energy future for co-op communities involves a long list of issues and elements. For example, we're pressing Congress and the Trump administration to take concrete steps to overhaul outdated permitting laws that delay or frustrate efforts to build the new infrastructure tomorrow's energy needs demand. We need to address public lands and conservation regulations that make it challenging to operate powerlines, maintain rights of way, and reduce potential wildfire threats. Electric cooperatives are also working to support their consumer-members by maintaining federal programs and tax credits that bolster electric reliability and affordability.

While President Trump has earned a reputation for demanding swift action on his priorities, we need to remember that change doesn't happen quickly in Washington. For example, undoing the EPA power plant rule will require a robust regulatory process, that will take some time to ensure this repeal can withstand expected legal challenges. While the exact path we'll take is still coming into focus, our top priority is the interest of the local communities we serve and the everyday Americans who call them home.

We will continue to strengthen our voice by making sure our representatives at the federal and state level are aware of our concerns and the importance of ensuring reliable, affordable electricity for all Americans.

The strength of the electric cooperative movement and the clout we have when we work together are unsurpassed, positioning us for continued success as we work with the new administration.



# RUNNING FREE

Photos by Alvis Uptis

## Wild Horses Roam at Black Hills Sanctuary

**Jacob Boyko**

[jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop](mailto:jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop)

In the southern Black Hills, a watchful eye will catch a rare and breathtaking sight: a herd of wild mustangs galloping freely across thousands of acres of grassland in the Cheyenne River Valley.

For the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary staff and the hundreds of rescued horses they care for, it's just another day on the ranch.

The sanctuary operates like most working ranches, says Susan Watt, the president and CEO of the Institute of Range and the American Mustang. Staff regularly travel over 15 miles across the 10,000 acre ranch to fill water troughs and set out hay, mineral blocks and horse cake. It's a trek that takes them across picturesque grasslands, hills, bluffs and the muddy banks of the Cheyenne River. A bulwark against suburban sprawl, the land remains as nature intended.

"Wild horses have been part of North America since time immemorial," Watt explained. "We have a large population of American mustangs, Spanish mustangs, horses with blood lines that trace back to Spain and Portugal, and a small herd of Choctaw Indian ponies that were part of the Trail of Tears

– They are a very important part of American history we need to preserve."

The story of the sanctuary begins in the late 1930s with a young man named Dayton Hyde. At 13 years old, Hyde left his home in Michigan for his uncle's cattle ranch in Oregon after hearing captivating tales of the wild west's excitement and beauty.

Once he arrived, Hyde was completely enthralled by the western lifestyle. With each passing year, his connection to the land and the wildlife strengthened, shaping his identity as a cowboy, conservationist and writer.

Decades later in 1987, while on a trip to Nevada to purchase cattle, Hyde came across corrals of wild horses the federal government had rounded up using low-flying helicopters. Devastated by the idea of the free-roaming herds confined to pens, Hyde was inspired to create a refuge for wild horses where they could run free.

Hyde petitioned congress to allow him to take some of the captured horses and create a sanctuary. South Dakota Governor George Mickelson, who had learned of Hyde's ambitions and was supportive, invited Hyde to inspect a piece of land known as Chilson Canyon near Hot Springs, S.D.

For nearly 40 years now, that piece of land plus Hyde's hard work has given hundreds of wild horses another chance to roam wild. However, it's a luxury very few wild horses receive.

Since 2020, the Bureau of Land Management has reported

# WILD HORSE SANCTUARY

rounding up over 40,000 wild horses to control herd populations, which can grow rapidly in the wild. Their fates vary; At government holding pens, they await auction where if sold they'll be rehomed with owners who agree not to sell them for slaughter outside of the U.S.

According to Watt and other wild horse advocacy groups, those assurances don't always matter.

"The horses are supposed to be protected from slaughter," she continued, "But unfortunately, you put them in a trailer and cross the border into Canada or Mexico and they don't always check to see what's in the trailer."

The horses that come to the sanctuary are generally in "emergency situations," Watt said, which means the horses are being sent to slaughter or their previous caretaker died or is unable to take care of the horses.

In addition to preserving the herds of wild horses, Hyde envisioned the sanctuary as a means to protect and preserve the land's natural beauty and rich historical legacy, which includes long-ago remnants of human activity.

"This particular tract of land was the location for ancient petroglyph writings that ancient man did on cliff walls," Watt explained. "And we're protecting the pioneer history of this land; Our buildings that we use are pioneer homesteads."

Though Dayton Hyde passed away in 2018, his legacy lives on. Today the sanctuary is home to several hundred wild horses, a herd of cattle, thousands of acres of pristine prairie

and the inextinguishable spirit of the wild west.

"He used to say every ache and pain he ever had was from a horse," Watt laughed. "What Dayton Hyde really wanted was to protect this land from subdivision, to let it be for wildlife and wild horses, and keep it safe and protected. I think South Dakota should be immensely proud of what Dayton Hyde has done."

For more information about the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary, visit [www.wildmustangs.com](http://www.wildmustangs.com).



(Above) Dayton Hyde, founder of the sanctuary.  
(Below) The sanctuary encompasses more than 10,000 acres of land along the Cheyenne River near Hot Springs, S.D.  
*Photos by Alvis Uptis*



# 'Who Powers You' Contest Nominations Now Being Accepted

Nominations are now open for "Who Powers You," a contest being hosted by Lake Region Electric and the region's other Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives throughout East River's territory. The Who Powers You contest seeks to highlight local figures who are making a difference in their communities.

"No one succeeds alone, and that is especially true in rural areas, where friends and neighbors in tight-knit communities support, encourage and inspire each other," said Laura London of Lake Region Electric Association. "Those people don't do it for the recognition, but they deserve to be recognized, and we'd like to help make that happen."

Member-owners, employees, and residents who live or work within the service territory of the region's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are eligible to be nominated. Nominations will be accepted February 3 through April 11, 2025. Three final winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact that they have on the community. Weekly finalists will be announced and featured on Keloland Living starting March 13, 2025, and the three contest winners will be announced on Keloland Living on May 22, 2025.

The Who Powers You contest grand prize winner will receive a \$3,000 prize. A second place winner will receive \$1,500 and the contest's third place winner will receive \$500.

"As an electric cooperative, our services extend beyond delivering safe, affordable and reliable power to our member-owners," said CEO Jeremy Lindemann. "The Who Powers You contest highlights the commitment of our co-op to the communities and member-owners that we serve. We know that our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let's celebrate them!"

To learn more about the Who Powers You contest and to nominate someone in your community, visit [WhopowersYouContest.com](http://WhopowersYouContest.com).



**TELL US WHO POWERS YOU!**

We know our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let's celebrate them! Nominate a member or employee of your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative who goes above and beyond. They could win up to \$3,000!

**Nominate Your Local Hero Now!**

[whopowersyoucontest.com](http://whopowersyoucontest.com)

Call our office for more information: 605-345-3379



**COOPERATIVES**  
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Save the Date  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
6/05/24  
Webster, SD



# Join us for a VIP Member **TOUR**

See first hand where your power comes from as we guide you on a tour of Basin Electric Power Cooperative and generation facilities.



**August  
19-20  
2025**

**\$25 fee  
per member  
+ 1 free guest**



## **Charter Bus Tour to Bismarck**

Travel, tours, hotel accommodations, meals and evening entertainment are provided for you by your cooperative.

**TO GET ON THE LIST or FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Contact: Laura London or Brett Kwasniewski**

**Call: (605) 345-3379**

**Email: [lakeregion@lakeregion.coop](mailto:lakeregion@lakeregion.coop)**

**Visit our website:**

**[www.lakeregion.coop](http://www.lakeregion.coop)**





**MARCH 14-15**  
**St. Patrick's Day**  
**Weekened**  
 Fri. 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-578-1876

*Photo courtesy of  
 Travel South Dakota*

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.

**FEB. 28-MARCH 1**  
**Mardi Gras Weekend**  
 8 p.m. Fri.-10 p.m. Sat.  
 Main Street  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-578-1876

**MARCH 6**  
**SD Jazz Festival Concert**  
 Aberdeen Community Concert  
 Association  
 7:30 p.m.  
 NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center  
 Aberdeen, SD  
 Tickets Available at Concert

**MARCH 8-9**  
**Philip Area Annual Gun Show**  
 Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 American Legion Hall  
 Philip, SD  
 605-859-2135

**MARCH 8**  
**Epiphany Sausage Sale**  
 10 a.m. until gone  
 Parish Hall  
 Epiphany, SD

**MARCH 8**  
**Minnehaha County**  
**Pheasants Forever Banquet**  
 5 p.m.  
 El Riad Shrine  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-376-8219

**MARCH 14-15**  
**Badlands Quilter Weekend**  
**Getaway**  
 Fri. 5 p.m.  
 Sat. 8 a.m.  
 Community Center  
 Wall, SD  
 605-685-5718

**MARCH 15**  
**VFW Teener Baseball Bingo**  
**Benefit**  
 5 p.m.  
 Tyndall Auditorium  
 Tyndall, SD

**MARCH 22**  
**Annual Banquet & Bash**  
 Britton Area Chamber of  
 Commerce  
 5:30 p.m.  
 Britton, SD  
 605-448-8130

**MARCH 26**  
**Hill City Garden Club**  
**Trip to Central Asia**  
 1 p.m.  
 Kathryn Cleveland  
 Hill City Super 8  
 Hill City, SD

**MARCH 29**  
**Ready. Set. Grow!**  
 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
 Couteau Prairie Master Gardeners  
 Codrington CTY Extension Complex  
 Watertown, SD  
 605-838-7098

**APRIL 4**  
**Mitchell Technical College**  
**2025 Alumni Gathering**  
**Cornhole Tournament**  
 5 p.m. Social  
 6:30 p.m. Tournament  
 The World's Only Corn Palace  
 Mitchell, SD  
 605-995-7342

**APRIL 4-5**  
**Annual Schmeckfest**  
 German Heritage Celebration  
 748 S Main St.  
 Freeman, SD  
 605-925-4237

**APRIL 4-6, 11-13**  
**Women Playing Hamlet**  
 April 4-5, 11-12: 7:30 p.m.  
 April 6, 13: 2:30 p.m.  
 Mighty Corson Art Players  
 Corson, SD  
 www.mightycorson.com

**APRIL 5-6**  
**Youth & Family Kids Fair**  
 Sat. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Sun. 12-4p.m.  
 The Monument  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-342-4195

**APRIL 11-12**  
**Junkin' Market Days Spring**  
**Market**  
 Fri. 4-7 p.m.  
 Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 www.junkinmarketdays.com

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