

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Great Goats

**Goats gaining
in popularity**
Pages 8-9

**Irrigators benefit
from load control**
Pages 12-13

Bennett and Matea Gordon
of Whitewood are part of a
rising trend in teens choosing
to show goats at youth
exhibits and competitions

Participate in the governance of your electric cooperative



Tim McIntyre
General Manager

Are you busy? With technology and all its devices, we find ourselves multi-tasking all day, every day. We often find that there is someone or something trying to get a small time slot of our day. Our lives are busy. How do we sort through all of this and focus on the important things?

I would like to take a portion of your day on the second of June for Lake Region's 81st Annual Meeting. As I said, I know you are getting pulled in multiple directions and prioritizing may be difficult. Let me share with you why attending your electric cooperative's Annual Meeting should be one of the things that you take time for.

Our cooperative is governed by the members who we serve. Local governance is something that you may have heard of before but maybe you aren't sure what it means or why it's important. You elect representatives to the Board of Directors to govern Lake Region in a manner that reflects our mission.

My goal as your General Manager, and that of your directors, is to serve you, the member-owners of Lake Region. In order to do this effectively, we like to hear from you. It is important to have face-to-face conversations, to discuss what we are doing in order to provide you that reliable power that you have come to expect.

I occasionally have the opportunity to visit with our members at work and out in the community in general, but this is a different type of interaction. This is your time to meet the employees, managers, and directors of Lake Region Electric. This is your time to learn what we have been up to. This is your time to share your cooperative story. This is your time to participate in the governance of your cooperative!

I would like to invite you to Webster for your Annual Meeting to celebrate 81 years of providing affordable and reliable electricity!

Thank you & God bless,
Timothy McIntyre

LREA's 81st ANNUAL MEETING

COOPERATIVES: THE POWER OF WORKING TOGETHER

JOIN US!

Thursday, June 2nd

Registration to begin at 5:00 PM
Business Meeting will be called to order at 7:00 PM.

Webster Armory
120 W 11th Ave
Webster, SD

Meal Provided

One lucky member will win a
\$500 CASH PRIZE

Drawings for:

Gift Certificates – Door Prizes
Plus – A Registration Gift!

Bring canned goods for the Food Pantry!
Each Food Pantry Item Donated = one entry in the drawing for a \$50 Gift Card!

Watch the mail for your official Annual Meeting Notice and Capital Credit Information!

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES

(USPS 018-904)

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Rodney Tobin, Vice President
Thomas Steiner, Secretary
Roger Kulesa, Treasurer

Andrea Kilker

Amy Kuecker

Mark Wismer

Danny Smeins, LREA Attorney

General Manager

Tim McIntyre

Staff

Donna Sattler, Director of
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Manager of Operations

Brett Kwasniewski,

Manager of Member Services

Tim Gaikowski,

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LAKE REGION RIPPLES COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 341, 1212 N Main St., Webster, SD 57274. Lake Region Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, Lake Region Electric members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. (USPS 018-904) Periodicals Postage Paid at Webster, SD 57274 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lake Region Ripples Cooperative Connections, PO Box 341, Webster, SD 57274. Telephone 605-345-3379; Toll Free 1-800-657-5869; Fax 605-345-4442 E-mail: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

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HOURS: MONDAY - SATURDAY / 8AM. - 8PM.
QUESTIONS? 605.290.9035

Memorial Day Notice

Lake Region Electric will be closed on May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Rob & Kelsey Kading
Elizabeth Houck
Robert Kittredge II

Jay & Jennifer Harris
Kenneth Bierschbach
Arlette McGregor

Budget-friendly efficiency upgrades

There are two ways to measure energy efficiency improvements.

There's the payback period - the amount of time it will take for the improvement to pay for itself. Then there's comfort.

Improvements can often increase the comfort level of a home - not easy to measure but one of the driving forces behind home weatherization efforts. There are several areas of the home that can be improved easily, without breaking your budget.

LIGHTING - There has been a steady decline in the price of LED bulbs for residential consumers. Nowadays, 60-watt-replacement LEDs can be purchased for \$5 or less. LEDs should save 60 percent or more on power costs compared to incandescent bulbs and last for many years. New LED fixtures are also an affordable option. They come with LED bulbs built in so you never need to change the bulbs.

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING - The Energy Information Administration estimates that heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems account for 22 percent of a typical home's annual electric bill. While newer systems can be 20-45 percent more efficient than older ones, the upfront cost is often a barrier to adoption.

But there are still ways to save. Simple solutions such as changing air filters at least every three months will increase airflow to rooms, increase the life of the HVAC unit's motor and improve air quality in the home. Sealing and insulating ductwork can be done in a weekend and results in energy savings of up to 20 percent.

To lessen the amount of work that heating and cooling systems need to do, it is important to find and seal air leaks. Look for leaks around exterior doors and windows, electric outlets, and entrance points for TV and phone cables. Also check dryer vents and any place with an opening in the wall. To seal leaks, apply caulk, spray foam or weather-stripping to these areas.

Simple acts such as cooking outdoors on a hot summer day or keeping curtains closed to keep out the summer sun will keep the interior of your home cooler and reduce the amount of time AC units need to operate.

EV REGISTRATIONS SEE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE



According to the South Dakota Dept. of Revenue, the state experienced a boom in electric vehicle registrations in 2021.

At year-end, there were 1,313 electric vehicles registered in the state. That compares to just 242 from the year before. EV registrations saw a slight jump from 227 in 2015 to 236 in 2019.

Minnehaha County led the state with 406 registered EVs, followed by Pennington County with 228 and Lincoln with 151. Nine counties had no EVs registered.



Stay away from power lines

Naomi Goldade

Naomi Goldade likes to have outdoor fun in the spring and summer but reminds co-op members to stay away from power lines. Naomi is the daughter of Alex and Rachael Goldade of Timber Lake. They are members of Moreau-Grand 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.

SUPER CASSEROLES

CHICKEN AND CHEESE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

2 cups uncooked elbow
macaroni
2 5-oz. cans of chicken chunks
2 cups shredded cheddar
cheese
2 cups milk
2 cans cream of chicken soup
4 oz. sliced mushrooms
1/4 cup chopped onion

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
In a large bowl, mix all seven
ingredients together. Pour into a
9x13 baking pan. Bake at 350 for
45 minutes or until bubbly and
golden brown.

**Jeanette Kleinsasser,
Iroquois**

ONE DISH CHICKEN AND RICE

Ingredients:

1/2 to 1 cup onion, chopped
1/4 to 1/2 cup green and/or red bell
pepper
1 can cream of chicken soup (or
cream soup of your choice)
1/2 cup milk
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 cups chicken, cooked and chopped
1 cup peas (frozen)
2 cups cooked white rice
1 cup shredded cheddar, divided

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly
grease a 9-inch x 13-inch baking dish
and set aside. Sauté onion and bell
pepper in olive oil or butter. Blend
soup, milk, salt, pepper, and mayo in
a bowl. Add chicken, peas, sauteed
onions and peppers, and rice to the
prepared baking dish. Mix gently.
Pour soup over chicken mixture. Mix
gently. Fold in half of the cheddar.
Top with remaining cheese. Bake
until top is golden brown, about 25
minutes.

Becky Walker, Sioux Falls

TUNA PASTA CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

4 oz. dried whole-wheat rotini
pasta (about 1-1/2 cups)
Nonstick cooking spray
16 oz. frozen mixed vegetables,
thawed
1 pouch (11 ounces) low-sodium
chunk light tuna
1 can (10-3/4 oz.) low-fat, low
sodium condensed cream of
chicken soup
1/2 cup chopped roasted red bell
peppers
1/2 cup fat-free half-and-half
1 tsp. all-purpose, salt-free sea-
soning blend
3/4 cup crushed low-sodium,
whole-grain crackers
1/4 cup shredded or grated
Parmesan cheese

METHOD

Prepare pasta according to
package directions, omitting
salt. Using colander, drain well.
Transfer to large bowl. Preheat
oven to 350 F. Lightly spray
2-quart glass baking dish with
nonstick cooking spray. Stir
mixed vegetables, tuna, soup,
roasted peppers, half-and-half
and seasoning blend into pasta
until combined. Transfer to
baking dish. Top with crackers
and Parmesan cheese. Bake,
uncovered, 25-30 minutes, or
until casserole is warmed through
and topping is golden brown.

familyfeatures.com

Please send your favorite dairy recipes
to your local electric cooperative
(address found on Page 3). Each
recipe printed will be entered into a
drawing for a prize in December 2022.
All entries must include your name,
mailing address, phone number and
cooperative name.

LREA 2022 Annual Meeting Notice



Lake Region Electric Association will host our 81st Annual Meeting in Webster, SD at the Webster Armory. This will be a traditional meeting with a meal served. Registration will begin at 5:00 PM. The Business Meeting will be called to order at 7:00 PM where member-owners will hear from our leaders about what has been happening around our service area, discuss future planning and present awards. There will be an election for director seats for District 3, District 5 and District 6.

Members attending the meeting

will receive a gift, as well as be entered to win Gift Certificates, door prizes and a \$500 cash prize. Everyone is encouraged to bring canned goods to donate to the local food pantry. Every item donated gets you an entry into a drawing for a \$50 gift card!

The Annual Meeting Notice will be sent to member-owners as a full letter. The letter should be brought to the annual meeting as your registration and door prize entrance. Active members will receive the letter in an envelope marked Annual Meeting Notice. The letter

will have pertinent information regarding your LREA capital credits, annual meeting details, and a contact update form. Registration is quick and easy with the annual meeting letter notice. A simple scan automatically marks the member as present and entitles the member to vote. This process will also assist LREA in tracking attendance numbers, district representation, and other valid information.

We are here to serve you! Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns: 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869.

LREA Annual Meeting bylaws

ANNUAL MEETING: ARTICLE 3, SECTION 1

The annual meeting of the members shall be held at such time and place within a county served by the Cooperative, as selected by the Board of Directors and which shall be designated in the notice of the meeting, for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting.

Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not result in a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MEETINGS: ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting or an annual meeting at which business requiring special notice is to be transacted, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten days nor more than sixty days before the date of the meeting,

either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting, to each member. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be given when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his/her address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

Three director seats up for election at LREA Annual Meeting

There are three seats up for election at this year's annual meeting: District 3, District 5 and District 6. District 3, currently represented by Kermit Pearson, consists of Weston, Newport, Lowell, Waverly, Hamilton, Hickman, Sisseton and Fort. District 5, currently represented by Roger Kulesa, consists of Kosciusko, One Road, Waubay, Alto, Ortley, Racine and Central Point. District 6, currently represented by Rodney Tobin, consists of Farmington, North Andover, South Andover, Homer, Union, Independence, Kidder, Lynn, and Bristol.

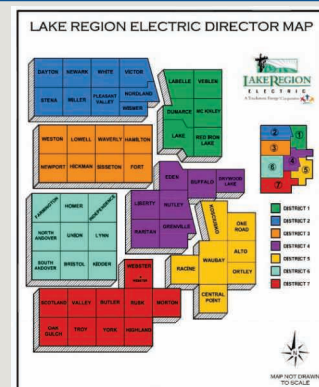
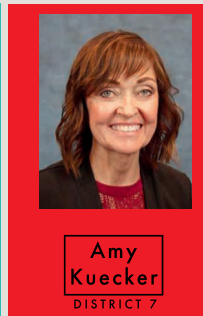
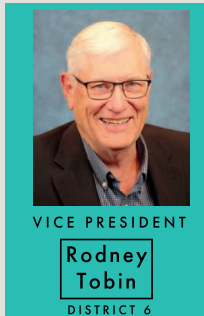
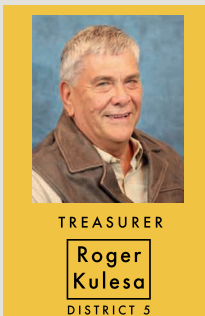
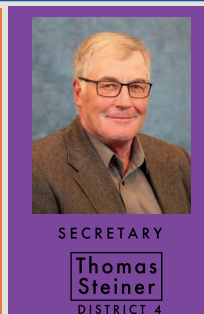
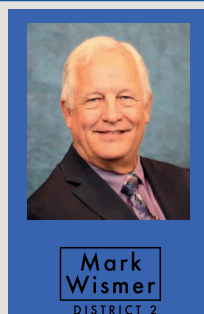
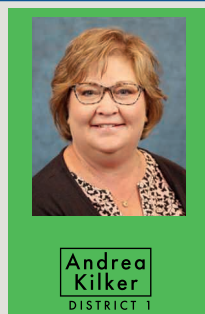
Incumbent Directors Kermit Pearson and Rodney Tobin have submitted petitions for re-election. District 5 Director Roger Kulesa has decided to retire his position on the board and will not seek re-election this year. Cody Paszek has submitted a petition for that seat.

Paszek Seeks District 5 Seat

Cody Paszek will be on the ballot at Lake Region Electric Association's 81st Annual Meeting in Webster, June 2. Cody is following in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late Edwin Paszek, both in his love for farming and his desire to serve his fellow members as director on the Lake Region board.

Paszek is a 5th generation farmer in the Grenville area. He grew up on the farm, the original family homestead northwest of Pickerel Lake. Cody and his wife Amanda have bought the farmstead and have built a new home there. Besides farming, Cody enjoys all things outdoors spending time hunting, fishing and hanging out at the lake with family and friends. He is active in his community, as a member of St. Joseph Church in Grenville, and is the Kosciusko Township Treasurer.

Cody turned in his petition in accordance with Lake Region Electric Association Bylaws.



VOTING DISTRICTS

District 1: LaBelle, Dumarce, Lake, Red Iron Lake, McKinley and Veblen.
District 2: White, Victor, Pleasant Valley, Nordland, Miller, Wismer, Newark, Stena and Dayton.
District 3: Weston, Newport, Lowell, Waverly, Hamilton, Hickman, Sisseton and Fort.
District 4: Eden, Buffalo, Drywood Lake, Nutley, Grenville, Raritan, and Liberty.
District 5: Kosciusko, One Road, Waubay, Alto, Ortley, Racine and Central Point.
District 6: Farmington, North Andover, South Andover, Homer, Union, Independence, Kidder, Lynn, and Bristol
District 7: Scotland, Oak Gulch, Valley, Troy, Butler, York, Webster, Rusk, Highland, and Morton.

GOATS STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT



Anna Johnson and Jessemy Sharp groom at the 2021 Brown County Fair. Photo by Donna Sharp

Ag students show a fondness for working with goats at youth exhibitions and competitions

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Matea Gordon's goats always keep her guessing.

The 17-year-old is one of four Gordon siblings from Whitewood who have been highly active - and highly successful - on the 4-H and FFA competition scenes over the past decade.

She prefers to work with market goats because the animals force her to stay on her toes. She never knows what she's going to get.

"They tend to have big personalities. Sometimes they're shy and cute. Other times they can be pretty stubborn. You just never know," she said. "Plus, it's fun to see how much progress you can make with them throughout the year."

Her younger brother, Bennett, enjoys raising and feeding the goats daily.

"I've learned about genetics, animal health and feed nutrition. The goats kind of become your friend as you bring them up and take care of them."

The brother-sister duo are part of a

trend in ag exhibition circles that finds eager competitors opting to work with goats. Their mom, Kindra Gordon, said all four of her children have been fond of tending to goats.

She said the family started with two goats a decade ago, and their involvement grew from there. Today, they travel and compete at nearly a dozen shows throughout the year. Likewise, she has seen youth participation in goat exhibitions double over the past few years.

"When the kids joined 4-H, they wanted to do a project and the goats just seemed to fit our lifestyle," she said.

Regardless of what animals her children choose, she has found there's much to be gained in participating in the competitions and other opportunities that youth ag programs provide.

"The kids have learned about responsibility, life skills and the agriculture industry. They learn about sportsmanship and how to manage stress. We tell them to be happy for their friends when it's their time to win, and

they'll be happy for you when you win. We've met a lot of people and made a lot of friends along the way."

One of those friends is Tessa Erdmann, a freshman at SDSU from Groton who serves as president of the state FFA. She is long-time friends with Matea and her older sister, Danika, both of them winners of Butte Electric Cooperative's college scholarship program.

Tessa said her choice to work with goats mostly came down to a practical matter. She cites her smallish physical stature as one reason for channeling her focus on the species.

"I'm 5 feet tall and I came to the conclusion that I didn't want to hold on to something way bigger than me," she said.

At age 12, Tessa went with her father, Darrin, to an auction and brought home her first three animals: Buttercup, Sassy and Thunderbolt. She describes the event as "love at first sight." In her first year to show at the Brown County Fair, Tessa won ribbons in the breeding and showmanship divisions and has placed many times since then.

A former gymnast and a member of Northern Electric based in Aberdeen,

Moorse sees goat-breeding as a gift



Clockwise from top/left: FFA President Tessa Erdmann; Kylee Ellerton of Custer; Taylor, Tate and Tye McGraw of Raymond.



Tessa said she has also experienced a large measure of mutual support within the animal exhibition community.

"Everybody is always so nice and you can count on everyone to help one another," she said. "We're competitive inside the ring, but outside we're family and we don't hate each other. One year, someone's father was hurt and couldn't make it to the competition. Everyone chipped in to help the family out."

Becca Tullar is a 4-H advisor in Brown County. She explained what she believes is the reason for the rising interest in goats.

"They're a good starter animal and youngsters get used to them and many of the students stick with them. They kind of grow up together," she said.

"They're easy to handle. Once you get them halter-broke they'll go wherever you want. They're fun animals to show.

They're almost like pets and they build easy bonds."

One competitor who has a way with his goats is Tate McGraw, a 17-year-old from Raymond who has Down syndrome. His father, Wade, said Tate has been showing since he was 8.

"It's been a real blessing. He's easy-going and just has a way with the animals. He can get them to do things that other handlers can't," he said.

His other son Tye, 14, and daughter Taylor, 13, also show goats and other animals and McGraw said they each have their individual strengths.

"The best thing as a father is to see the network of friends they've developed across the state. They all support each other and they've learned to respect one another because they know one day they could be on top and the next day they could be on the bottom."



Garret Moorse isn't sure if he chose goats or goats chose him. In 2004, Moorse received twin Nubian kids – a buck and a doe – as a birthday gift. That gift sparked an interest in goats that has led him to building a top breeding operation in southwest Minnesota.

By 2011, Moorse was ready to hit the show circuit with only marginal success in the early stages. It would take a couple of years to make it to the American Dairy Goat Association. National Show in St. Paul where Moorse-G Foxy was named Reserve Junior National Champion Recorded Grade. He saw it all as a learning process.

"When I started out I didn't win anything but I learned a lot, and not to mention I met so many great people that I now call close friends," he said. "When Foxy won, that's what really got us excited and dedicated to continue on this path with dairy goats."

Moorse raises and markets Alpines, Lamanchas, Saanens, Toggenburgs and Recorded Grade Seniors and Juniors.

He said he enjoys working with the animals and is especially appreciative of his "goat family."

"It's a tight community and we're always seeing each other at shows, exchanging information and sharing ideas," he said. "I couldn't do what I do without my family and friends."

For more information, Moorse can be contacted at 507.530.3175.

Raising money and awareness for a worthy cause

Laura London

Local Editor

I recently had the opportunity to get together with two amazing ladies to talk cancer, fundraising, golf, pastures and fun. Sounds like an odd combination, I know, but here in northeast South Dakota, those things go hand-in-hand at least one weekend a year.

Judi Schultz and Peggy Pearson are members of the Lake City Leading Ladies, a branch of the Marshall County Relay For Life organization. Relay For Life is a community-based fundraising event for the American Cancer Society and other cancer related institutions, societies, and associations.

According to the American Cancer Society, money raised through Relay for Life events goes toward many efforts such as research, prevention, detection & treatment, as well as community and patient support programs, including transportation and lodging for treatment.

GETTING CREATIVE

These days you need to get creative in order to put on a great fundraiser that people will remember and want to attend year after year. The Lake City Leading Ladies have been doing just that for the past 15 years. What started out as a basic golf tournament quickly turned into a fun-filled event in the Schultz Family's pasture.

In 2007, the Ladies were trying to come up with fundraising ideas. Linda Flanery and Cathy Wegleitner led the charge to host a traditional golf tournament. The first two years the tournament was held at the Roy View Golf Course. The golf tournament started off all right, but they wanted to make things more fun, so they started brainstorming ideas to draw a bigger crowd and raise more money. Judi's



Players may find themselves bowling, swatting golf balls or tossing bean bags during the Puttin' in the Pasture fundraising event.

husband, Bruce Schultz, proposed the idea of hosting a "golf" tournament right there in the pasture and the adventure started!

GPS tracking has come a long way in the past decade but at the time, Judi used a GPS unit, walked around mapping out the coordinates to set up a golf course in the pasture at their home just 4 miles west of Lake City on Hwy 10. Keep in mind, this is a pasture for cattle. It was, and still is, used for grazing animals. It is not flat, nor smooth. The "green" is nothing like you will see on the golf circuit so adjustments and adaptations must be made.

BRING YOUR OWN STUFF

Golfers bring their own set of clubs, but your best Taylormade Stealth Iron may not be your first choice on this course. Some people don't even use a traditional golf club; croquet mallets and pool cues may get the job done just as well. Some of the holes are not holes at all because of the terrain. Hole 6, for instance, begins by teeing off with a pitching wedge and ends with tossing a frisbee into a soccer net. You may need to use a bowling ball on Hole 2, or bean bags for a cornhole toss on 4.

One hole challenges players to a "shot," where non-alcoholic options, in addition to adult beverages that may

Raising money, *continued*



help ease the pain of the previous hole are taken.

Golfers bring their own beverages and are encouraged to stay hydrated. Staying hydrated requires facilities, but fear not, you won't have to hunker down behind a large cow patty or hay bale, Simon Auction donated a Port-a-Potty a few years back, so you can maintain classy standards required of such a prestigious game. Golf "carts" range in variety from a traditional cart, ATV, horse & buggy, to some "hoofing it" quite literally by riding horses. Pretty much anything goes. Donated prizes are awarded for specific challenges per hole, as well as door prizes given at the meal following. Wait, there's food too? You bet. These ladies aren't going to let anyone go hungry! The Ladies put on a meal at the Lake City Municipal Bar following the event.

RAISING AWARENESS

As you may have gathered, this event is not for serious golfing. No score is kept. The focus of this event is to raise money and awareness and to have fun in the process. As one participant and sponsor, Art Steiner of Steiner Farms, explained, "I'm a bad enough golfer that I even rough up a pasture. This is just a

great, fun day for a good cause!"

So, how is money raised at such an event? There is a small "greens fee" of roughly \$25. The time organizing and putting on the event is donated by volunteers. The Schultz family donates the use of the pasture, and their family puts in a lot of work organizing the event. Sponsors make a donation to have their name on a hole. It takes 15-20 people to put on this event.

With only about 12 members in the Lake City Leading Ladies organization, family and friends help out. The largest number of participants was 84 golfers. The amount of money raised per event has fluctuated year to year; the most raised at a single event was around \$5,000. All of Marshall County's Relay for Life events together ranks Marshall County nationally in the Top Ten per capita for raising funds!

Participation in this organization, like many other volunteer groups, has declined. Peggy and Judi speculate part of the reason younger people aren't as willing to volunteer is because they have not been as traumatically affected by cancer. Thanks to funds raised by organizations such as theirs, education and awareness have led to early detection which often means higher

survival rates. Research has led to better treatment options, less illness from therapies, and again, higher survival rates. That is why these organizations and their fundraising efforts are important, and why they need younger members to step in and carry on the legacy.

I asked Judi and Peggy why they invest their time and effort into this organization in particular. Both of them answered that they have lost a loved one to cancer; Judi lost her mother and Peggy lost her sister. Something else that makes these women amazing is that they are both cancer survivors. Both having had breast cancer at the same time. It was interesting to see the deep connection when they recall meeting up at the oncologist office, seeing one another and saying, "What are YOU doing here?" Due to education made available through these events, both of these women are still here, meeting for lunch and sharing some laughs and the important story of their organization.

Stay tuned this summer for the official date of Puttin' in The Pasture, but you can guesstimate it to be the second Saturday in August. The Lake City Leading Ladies would love to see you there!



THE POWER OF LOAD MANAGEMENT

Chris Danielski monitors an irrigation pivot control panel from his phone app. Photos by Billy Gibson

Load control program reaps big rewards for both residents and large energy users

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Danielski Farms didn't become a blue chip producer over the past four decades by making boneheaded business decisions.

In 2013, the company was invited by Cherry-Todd Electric to participate in the cooperative's irrigation load management program. Load management is a term used to describe a co-op's ability to balance the system's electrical load by adjusting or controlling network demand.

Better balance brings greater efficiency and lower costs for all consumers on the system.

Len Danielski recalls pulling the leadership team together and weighing the pros and cons. The proposal included installing specialized equipment that would allow Cherry-Todd to temporarily interrupt power - when warranted - to any of roughly 200 irrigation pivots across 18,000 acres.

While different electric co-ops have their own load management policies, Cherry-Todd's guidelines call for a lower irrigation rate for participants and the right of the consumer to withdraw and return to the regular rate at any time.

The deliberation process was helped along by the fact that Danielski's General Manager Gary Garvin previously served as a board member at Cherry-Todd. He was aware the cooperative business model was designed and intended to produce "win-win" situations for both the co-op and its owner-members.

Danielski Farms ultimately decided to place all of its irrigation system under load management and Len Danielski reports the results have exceeded expectations.

"We found it was a winner all the way around. We have the choice to place one pivot, two pivots, or all pivots on the load control program, or none," he said. "We've analyzed the benefits over time and found that the company wins,

the cooperative wins and the co-op members win. It's a great partnership."

Chris Rahn, Cherry-Todd's primary key account contact, said load management is a tremendous benefit for members because it allows the cooperative - working in concert with both the member and the co-op's wholesale supplier Rushmore Electric - to distribute power more efficiently.

Rahn explained that one of the best ways to deliver power at the lowest possible cost is to "shave the peak" or to make sure supply and demand stay in a constant state of equilibrium as conditions such as weather, member consumption and market forces change constantly. Utilities are able to control supply but can find it challenging to project what consumer demand will be at any point in time.

Educated projections are important, but there are occasions when it helps for the co-op to have some control over demand. In the end, everyone benefits.

"We've had a residential water heater load control program for quite a while and it's been well-received by our

members,” Rahn said. “It enables us to get a better handle on the demand side and that’s a benefit for all the members on our lines.”

Garvin said another mitigating consideration for Danielski Farms is the fact that Cherry-Todd has done its part by making significant improvements to its infrastructure over time.

“We used to joke that we were always under load management because the power would go out a lot, but things have changed dramatically for the better and we hardly ever get bumped these days,” Garvin said. “I’ve also got load management on my water heater at home and it works for us.”

Len Danielski said that under the load control program power to his pivots rarely gets disrupted and typically only for a few hours when it does. He said the company is pleased to participate in a program that will ultimately benefit all co-op members across the system.



From left, Gary Garvin, Len Danielski, Chris Danielski and Chris Rahn discuss Cherry-Todd Electric’s load management program.

“We’ve found interruptions are usually during times when we don’t need to be irrigating anyway, like in the heat of the day when a lot of the water will only get evaporated,” he said. “And if it helps the cooperative and saves every member on the system some money, that’s great.”

Another element that makes the program work for Danielski Farms is the installation of a remote irrigation control system. All of Danielski’s pivots



All of the roughly 200 irrigation pivots at Danielski Farms are under Cherry-Todd Electric’s load management program.

are connected to the Ag Sense phone app that enables a user to turn the pivots on or off individually or in groups, and receive an abundance of electronic data.

Chris Danielski manages the app and said the telemetry allows him to track exactly when load control is being implemented, though he usually receives information from the co-op as well. He said efficiencies gained through both programs have resulted in net savings.

“If we have an hour or two of load management, once we get the notice that we’re back on I can restart the pivot from inside the office,” he said. “It used to take several hours to get someone to go out and restart the system.”

East River Electric, based in Madison, is a power supply cooperative that delivers wholesale electricity to 24 distribution co-ops in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. East River has offered its co-ops a load management option since 1985 and has saved members roughly \$260 million in avoided wholesale power costs.

More than 75,000 different electric loads in homes, farms and businesses are connected to the system, including water heaters, air conditioners, irrigation systems and other big energy users.

Chris Larson, general manager of Clay-Union Electric, said the co-op based in Vermillion offers end-use consumers a load control program for

water heaters, irrigation systems, grain bins and other commercial processing equipment.

The cooperative has 320 irrigation systems under load management with requests for 10 more in the near future as drought conditions show no signs of abating.

Larson emphasized that every cooperative has its own unique rate structure and load management policies when it comes to discounts, demand charges, time-of-use, system peaks and other variables. He said it’s important for consumers to contact their local co-op for details and to work closely with staff to find the best solutions for the member.

He said co-ops are obligated to capture their costs of providing power but are also responsible for finding ways to accommodate their member-owners and helping them achieve their individual goals.

“Load management really is essential to maximizing system efficiency,” Larson said. “It’s a sophisticated process that ultimately leaves the member with plenty of choices. If we’re controlling irrigation or commercial operations at a time that’s not good for them or complicates their workflow, they need the ability to override the control system so they can make a good business decision that’s best for them.”

Paige Williams Recognized as Scholar of The Week

LREA and Webster Area High School are pleased to announce Paige Williams as a Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the Week winner for the week of April 16-22, 2022. The scholar of the week program is a partnership between Dakota News Now, LREA and other local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives that honors accomplished high school students.

Nominations for the weekly awards are submitted by area principals and faculty, whose selections were based on excellence in the classroom and service in the community. Paige is a member of National Honor Society and is active in school activities such as band and sports statistician. Paige stays busy outside of school with work, softball and Girl Scouts. She plans to attend Mitchell Technical Institute this fall.

As a Scholar of the Week, Paige will be featured in a weekly segment on Dakota News Now and will receive a scholarship from LREA. Paige is also eligible to receive a \$1,000 scholarship or one of two \$500 scholarships to be given away this spring at the annual Scholar of the Year banquet.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are local, active members of their communities, dedicated to building our communities and improving our way of life. Since the Scholar of the Week program began, more than \$80,000 in scholarships has been awarded to more than 530 students. The program truly captures the commitment electric co-ops have to the communities they serve.

For more information about LREA or Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, contact Laura London at 605-345-3379.



Pictured above are Brett Kwasniewski, Paige Williams and Tammy Block.

“Lake Region Electric salutes Paige and all students who set an example of hard work and high academic standards,” said Laura London with LREA.

Lake Region Awards Scholarships to Area Students

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE/LAKE REGION ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO SETH JOHNSON

Seth Johnson of Bristol has been awarded the Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Lake Region Electric Scholarship. Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Lake Region Electric take great pride in our ability to assist in developing rural leadership in our region through our scholarship program. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to the dependent child of member-owners of Lake Region Electric Association. Since the scholarship program began, more than 5,300 young people in the Basin Electric system have benefited from this program. Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal.

Seth is the son of LREA members Greg and Mary Johnson of Bristol. He is a senior at Groton High School, ranking in the top 5 of his class. His future plans are to study Agricultural Systems Technology at South Dakota State University in order to pursue a career in agriculture. Seth's Senior Class Advisor, Brenda Madsen, had no reservations about recommending Seth for this scholarship, “He is able to balance school and part time work and I have no doubt that he will uphold the standards you expect from a scholarship candidate.”



DUANE SNAZA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO SETH GAIKOWSKI

Waubay High School student, Seth Gaikowski, has been chosen as this year's recipient of the Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship. This Scholarship is named in memory of a former Lake Region Electric Employee. It is awarded to the dependent child of a Lake Region Electric member, based on the following criteria: participation in school and community activities, grade-point average, work experience, SAT/ACT scores, statement by student explaining his/her educational and career goals, a written recommendation by a third party and presentation of the application.

Seth is the son of Justin and Amy Gaikowski. He is involved in many school and community activities, earning recognition and awards in academics as well as extracurriculars. Waubay Student Services Advisor, Abby Kwasniewski describes Seth as “a hardworking, dedicated and determined young man. He has a very strong work ethic and holds himself to high standards and expectations.”

Seth plans to attend South Dakota State University with a major in Agricultural Business. “I am very intrigued by all aspects of farming and business, and I am excited to learn more about the profession. My long-term goals are to stay in rural South Dakota and make a future for myself here.”





The 2022 Youth Excursion will be held July 25-28, in Bismarck, N.D.

All area high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Lake Region Electric Association are eligible to apply. Teens attending this event will:

- Have the opportunity to sightsee and to meet new friends from other participating cooperatives.
- Learn about "The Story Behind the Switch" and see where South Dakota's electricity generates.
- Tour the Great Plains Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Station Power Plant.
- Spend their evenings swimming, shopping and cruising on the Lewis and Clark Riverboat.

Lake Region Electric Association will provide transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment and sightseeing events. Students are encouraged to supply their own personal/shopping money.

For more information contact
Laura London at llondon@lakeregion.coop
LREA, Inc., PO Box 341, 1212 Main St.,
Webster, SD 57274, 605-345-3379, www.lakeregion.coop
facebook.com/Lake-Region-Electric-Association-Inc
Application Deadline: June 1, 2022

To apply for the Youth Excursion, complete the form below and return it to: Lake Region Electric, PO Box 341, Webster, SD 57274 or email: Lakeregion@lakeregion.coop. The deadline to apply is **June 1, 2022**. If you have any questions, call Laura London 605-345-3379.

2022 Youth Excursion Application

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Parent/Guardian's Names: _____
School: _____ Year in School in 2022-2023 School Year: _____
Gender: _____ T-shirt Size: _____

Capital Credit Refunds Approved for 2022

The Lake Region Electric Association Board of Directors approved more than \$710,000.00 in capital credit retirements at their regular meeting in March. Active Members will see the credit on their May billing that is sent out at the beginning of June.

The bill will clearly show the capital credit refund as a deduction (credit) and should be kept for tax purposes. Inactive members will be mailed a check in June.

LREA allocates any excess margins to our member-owners (consumers) after paying all the bills, reinvesting in infrastructure, and meeting our financial obligation. Lake



Region tracks the allocations and refunds the money as cash positions allow, back to you, our member-owners. The amount retired in 2022 consists of the remaining 100% of years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 28% of 2004, 3% of 2005 as well as 25% of excess margins from 2021. The total amount to be refunded includes the retirement pass through of East River and Basin's capital

credits. The amount that each member is refunded is based on the electricity purchased during the years for which capital credits are being paid.

A complete explanation of the cooperative's capital credits, patronage capital, can be found in the LREA Bylaws. A copy of the Bylaws is available in digital format on our website: www.lakeregion.coop. Anyone who needs a new, paper copy, of the Bylaws can contact our office by calling 605-345-3379 or toll free 1-800-657-85669 or by emailing your request to lakeregion@lakeregion.coop.



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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

APRIL 27-30
45th Annual Kingswood Rummage Sales
 Southwest Sioux Falls, SD,
kingswoodrummage.com

APRIL 28
MercyMe: The Inhale (Exhale) Tour
 Denny Sanford Premier Center,
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

APRIL 28-30
26th Annual Black Hills Dance Festival
 The Monument, Rapid City, SD,
blackhillsdancefestival.com

APRIL 29-MAY 1
State USBC Women's Bowling Tournament
 Village Bowl, Mitchell, SD,
 605-336-5583

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 5-7
Ordinary Days
 Grand Opera House, Pierre,
 SD, pierreplayers.com

MAY 1
Sunset Greenhouse Opens
 Sunset Colony, Britton, SD,
 605-290-9035

MAY 3-8
Come From Away
 Washington Pavilion, Sioux
 Falls, SD, www.washingtonpavilion.org/event/come-away

MAY 7
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
 131 E Falls Park Drive, Sioux
 Falls, SD, 605-274-3735

MAY 8
Mother's Day Tours
 Historic Adams House and
 Days of '76 Museum,
 Deadwood, SD, 605-578-3724

MAY 14-15
AMA Coins and Sports Cards Show
 Denny Sanford Premier
 Center, Sioux Falls, SD,
 605-321-9195

MAY 14-15
Ellsworth Air and Space Show
 1940 EP Howe Drive, Ellsworth
 AFB, SD, ellsworthairshow.com

MAY 15
PAW Patrol Live!
 Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD,
www.swiftelcenter.com

MAY 17
Norwegian Independence Day
 Main Street, Vivian, SD,
 605-222-3296

MAY 20-22
Annual Sound of Silence Tesla Rally
 615 Washington Street, Custer,
 SD, 605-673-2244

MAY 20-22
Open House and Free Fishing Weekend
 Statewide, SD, 605-223-7660

MAY 21
Booth Day
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery,
 Spearfish, SD, dcboothfishhatchery.org

MAY 21
Frühlingsfest & Spring Market
 Main Street, Rapid City, SD,
 605-716-7979

MAY 28
Deadwood Live: Hank Williams Jr.
 Outlaw Square, Deadwood, SD,
www.deadwoodlive.com

MAY 28
Memorial Weekend in Mitchell
 Main Street, Mitchell, SD,
 605-292-4444

MAY 28-29
Black Hills Renaissance Faire
 Manuel Brothers Park, Lead,
 SD, www.blackhillsrenfest.com

MAY 29-30
Back When They Bucked Rodeo
 Days of '76 Arena, Deadwood,
 SD, 605-718-0810

MAY 30
Prairie Points Quilt Guild Show
 Harding County Memorial Rec
 Center, Buffalo, SD,
 605-641-5591

JUNE 2-5
Wheel Jam
 South Dakota State
 Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,
www.wheeljam.com

JUNE 3-5
Lake Andes Fish Days
 Citywide, Lake Andes, SD,
 605-487-7694

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