

Cooperative Connections



Ione Fejfar welcomes veterans to Operation Black Hills Cabin in Custer as a place of healing and restoration

**A Healing Place
for Veterans**

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**Co-ops and the
S.D. National
Guard**

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Harvesting Our Cooperative Benefits



Tim McIntyre

General Manager
tmcintyre@lakeregion.coop

I am grateful to be managing a cooperative that is as financially strong as we are.

The colors of autumn are here! Driving through the Lake Region Electric service territory I see fields of gold being harvested by green and red combines and machinery. The varied colors of yellow and gold grains are being hauled from fields in carts and semis to bins for drying and storage, or right to local elevators for sale. Much like the farmers, their families and local communities are reaping the benefits of the hard work and diligence they put into their crops; so too do the members of Lake Region Electric reap the benefits of the people who work tirelessly for your electric cooperative.

Our construction season saw a few setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as contractors had difficulty getting to the area. There were minor challenges getting supplies; these challenges were overcome, and our vendors came through for Lake Region Electric. Lake Region crews are busy working on completing and energizing the new underground lines around Pickerel Lake. Lines at Clear Lake and in the Britton area are installed but not yet ready to go live. K&H Electric is a contractor from Linton, ND, who has done underground work for Lake Region for many years. They began working in the Pickerel Lake area and now have completed work north of Britton; this will be the last plowing job for them this year. Moore Agency out of Ipswich, SD, has been contracted to come in and retire overhead lines; and will be in the area soon to start that process. We have been very fortunate that the crews have been able to get out there and work hard this construction season in order to improve reliability and capacity for our members.

I am grateful to be managing a cooperative that is as financially strong as we are. The management and staff at Lake Region Electric spend about three months every year in the budget process. We look at past expenditures and upcoming expenses in order to plan for the next year. As staff works through the cooperative needs from a financial aspect, we do so in a way that reflects being prudent with the money that comes from our members. The Board of Directors reviews the budget proposals carefully, asks questions and has many discussions before approving the budget. Through careful budgeting and prudent measures of the staff and board of directors, the rates for the members of Lake Region Electric should remain stable for the next year.

I am thankful to be working with such a dedicated group of employees. The members of Lake Region Electric Association could not ask for a more hard-working crew to keep the power on, especially in tough times. From the one climbing to the top of a pole when the wind is gusting 30 miles per hour, the one digging through mud and muck, to those answering the phones when the power is out: we are fortunate to have each one there to answer the call.

Whether you are a business, a farmer, a rancher or a household consumer, you can take comfort knowing that you are harvesting the benefits of your cooperative membership.

Thank you & God Bless,

Timothy McIntyre

General Manager/CEO



**Welcome
New LREA
Members**

CAAKE LLC

David Ricks

Daryl Ann Kappenman

Ryan Wilhelm

Kristen Pfeifer/Howard
Hadding

Jake Zimmerman

Happy Thanksgiving!

Lake Region Electric's office
will be closed Nov. 26 -27 for
Thanksgiving.



Lake Region Electric Ripples

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-904)

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Lake Region Electric Association Inc.

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PROPERLY SIZING YOUR HVAC UNIT

An improperly sized HVAC unit can wreak havoc on your home. An oversized unit can cause your system to "short cycle" – constantly turning off and on. An undersized unit will run constantly to keep up with demand. Consider the factors below and choose an HVAC system that works best for your home.

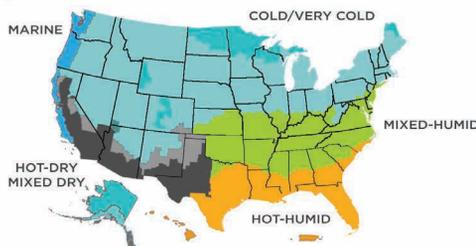
SIZE MATTERS

The square footage of your home can help determine the load capacity of your HVAC unit, but it should not be the only factor considered when reviewing unit sizes. Enlist the help of a licensed professional to determine the best HVAC unit for your home.



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The region in which your home is located will factor into how much capacity you need per square foot.



HOME'S ORIENTATION

How sunlight hits your home during different times of the day impacts the load capacity required to properly heat or cool your home.



INSULATION EFFECTIVENESS

The better insulated your home is, the fewer BTUs (British Thermal Units) per square foot your home will need to stay at the desired temperature.



A reliable energy partner will help you determine how each of these factors affect your system's load capacity. Contact your electric co-op for more information.

Source: Dept. of Energy

HONORING
 THOSE
 WHO
 SERVED

Lake Region Electric
 Association will be closed

VETERANS DAY
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020

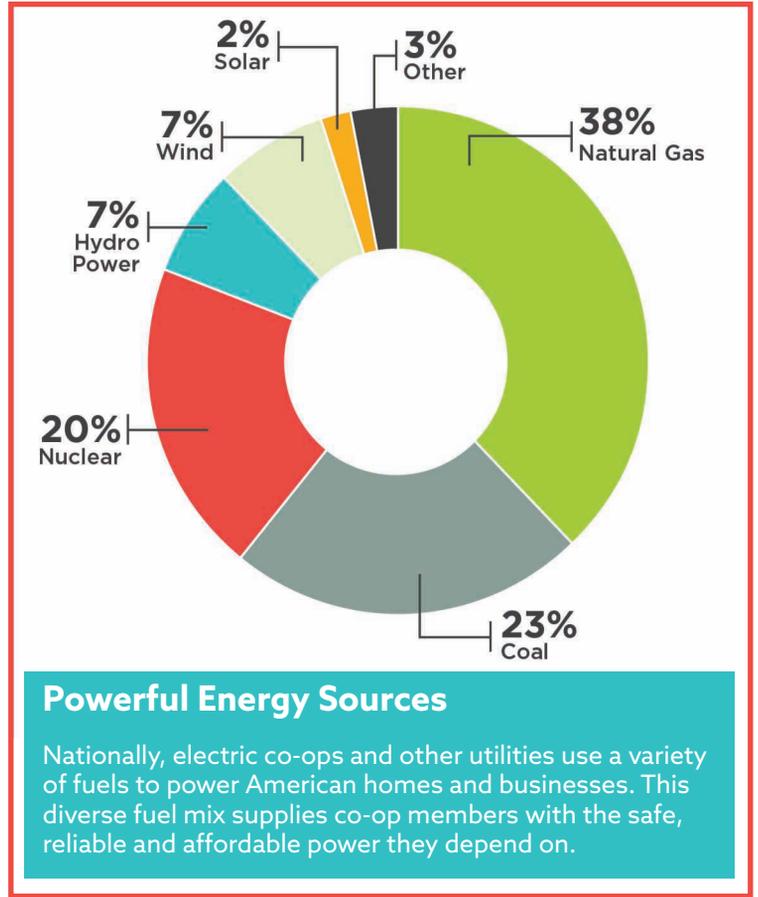
Enjoy an energy-efficient feast this Thanksgiving

New electrical appliances use far less energy in your home than older ones, but that doesn't mean you should skimp on energy-efficient behavior in the kitchen.

During the frantic holiday season, making the simplest changes while cooking can save plenty of energy and money.

- There's usually no need to preheat the oven, especially if the food you're cooking - like a turkey or a ham - will be in it for a long time.
- Avoid opening the oven door to check on food. Instead, turn on the oven light and peer through the window to make sure your pumpkin pie or turkey isn't burning to a crisp. Opening the oven door - even for just a second or two - can drop the temperature inside the oven by 25 degrees.
- Place several items in the oven at once. All food will cook thoroughly if you leave enough room around pies or casseroles for air to flow.
- Electric ovens retain heat even after you turn them off, so it's safe to turn them off several minutes before a recipe's time is up. Electric stovetops work the same way: The metal element will keep cooking for several minutes after you turn it off.
- Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They let you set the temperature 25 degrees lower than metal pans do.
- Match the pan size to the size of the stovetop burner so you don't waste heat. Just a 2-inch difference between pan and burner can waste 40 percent of the generated heat.
- Zap baked potatoes and vegetables in the microwave instead of simmering them on the stovetop. Microwaves use significantly less electricity than a stove or oven.
- Involve everyone in cooking. Leave the electric mixer in the cupboard and let the kids stir the cake batter by hand and recruit someone to chop the veggies instead of tossing them into a food processor. The experience might save some electricity and make everyone proud of contributing to the meal.

Keep these handy and helpful tips in mind as you prepare to entertain family and friends in your home this holiday season.



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Keep Indoors!"

Grace Austin, 7 years old

Grace is a member of West River Electric Association based in Rapid City. She encourages readers, "During a storm, all kids and pets should be inside. So, don't go outside. It's dangerous."

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.

Savory Slow-Cook Selections

Slow-Cooker Zucchini Soup

1 ½ lbs. sweet Italian sausage	2 tsp. salt
2 c. ½-inch celery pieces	1 tsp. white sugar
2 lbs. zucchini, cut into ½-inch slices	1 tsp. dried oregano
2 (28 oz.) cans diced tomatoes (or fresh)	1 tsp. Italian seasoning
2 green peppers, cut into ½-inch slices	1 tsp. dried basil
1 c. chopped onion	¼ tsp. garlic powder
	6 T. grated Parmesan cheese, or to taste

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir sausage in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5-7 minutes; drain and discard grease. Mix celery into cooked sausage; cook and stir until celery is softened, about 10 minutes. Combine sausage mixture, zucchini, tomatoes, bell peppers, onion, salt, sugar, oregano, Italian seasoning, basil and garlic powder in a slow cooker. Cook on low for 4-6 hours. Garnish each serving with 1 T. Parmesan cheese. Note: Water is not needed in this recipe.

Shelly Goetz, Sioux Falls, SD

Crock Pot Corn

2 (16 oz.) bags frozen corn	6 T. sugar
8 oz. cream cheese (but in chunks)	6 T. water
	½ cup butter or margarine

Put in crockpot on high for two hours or low for four. Stir every once in a while. Salt and pepper to taste.

Helen Gregory, Lemmon, SD

Spaghetti Corn

1 can cream style corn	1 onion, diced
1 can whole corn	1 cup shredded cheddar
2 cups spaghetti, broken	1 stick butter, melted

Break spaghetti into 2-inch pieces. Do not drain whole corn. Combine all ingredients. Pour into buttered casserole dish. Bake uncovered for 30 mins. at 350. Cover and put back in oven for 20 mins. OR place in crock pot for 2 hours. OR Cook on stove for 50 mins. on lowest heat, removing for 10 minute intervals.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

BBQ Steakhouse Chili

2 T. oil	beans, rinsed
1 lb. beef top round steak, cut into 1/2-inch pieces	2-1/2 cups undrained canned no-salt-added diced tomatoes
1 lb. extra-lean ground beef	1 bottle (18 oz.) KRAFT Hickory Smoke Barbecue Sauce
1 onion, finely chopped	3/4 cup KRAFT Shredded Cheddar Cheese
1/4 cup A1 Dry Rub Bold Original	
3 cloves garlic, minced	
2 cans (16 oz. each) kidney	

Heat oil in large skillet on medium. Add next five ingredients; stir. Cook 10 min. or until meat is evenly browned, stirring frequently. Spoon into slow cooker sprayed with cooking spray. Add all remaining ingredients except cheese; stir. Cover with lid. Cook on low 7 to 8 hours (or on high 4 to 5 hours). Serve topped with cheese.

Provided by Kraft Heinz

Chicken Cacciatore

1/2 cup KRAFT Zesty Italian	1 green pepper, cut in strips
1 tsp. dried oregano leaves	1/2 lb. sliced mushrooms
2 lbs. mixed boneless skinless chicken breasts and thighs	1-1/2 c. CLASSICO Tomato and Basil Pasta Sauce
	3 c. rotini pasta, uncooked

Mix dressing/oregano in pot sprayed with cooking spray. Add chicken; coat both sides of each piece with dressing mixture. Top with vegetables and pasta sauce; cover with lid. Cook on low 6-8 hours (or high 4-6 hours). About 15 min. before serving, cook pasta, no salt. Drain. Serve topped with chicken and vegetables.

Provided by Kraft Heinz

Please send your favorite holiday 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

GIVING THANKS

THANKFUL, GRATEFUL & SO VERY BLESSED

It has been a tough year for many. We are beginning to despise the terms "cancelled due to Covid," "social distancing" and "new normal." Lake Region has remained strong during all of this. Despite the challenges that the past year has brought to our doors, those of us at Lake Region Electric are thankful, grateful, and so very blessed.

If you ask the employees of Lake Region what they are thankful for, the most popular answer is "family."

"I am thankful for my health and my family."

Vinson Dargatz, Apprentice Electrician, is an avid outdoorsman and dedicated family man. He and his wife Stephanie are thankful for the opportunity to share their passion of the outdoors with their children.

GRATEFUL

Brett Kwasniewski, Manager of Member Services, is grateful for his family.

Brett knows that he can count on his Dad and his brothers Jamie & Derek for anything, and they can count on him. "Whenever we need something, we know that we can just give each other a call." Brett and his brothers spend a lot of time together, mostly working on cars. "We do everything together. I'm very grateful for my family."

SO VERY BLESSED

Justin McClurg, Accountant at Lake Region and his wife Tarah count their blessings and are expecting another boy to their family in January. While daughter Presley may not seem grateful to have another brother, she is thankful to have another baby to hold!

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Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Laura London Lake Region Electric Association Inc.
PO Box 341
1212 Main St
Webster, SD 57274

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Lake Region Electric Salutes Our Veterans



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE ROGER KULESA!

Roger Kulesa, Treasurer of the Lake Region Board of Directors, served in the Army National Guard from 1966 until 1972 where he earned Sharpshooter status in the 147th Artillery Unit. Roger completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He went to Utah for advanced training and had summer camps all over the place. During his service some of the most prominent memories are that of the Rapid City Flood. Though his unit was called up, he was away at camp during that time and Roger didn't have to go. They lost their first Sargent during the flooding. He also recalls having to do riot control training and formations because of the riots over the Vietnam War. Roger can be seen using one of the skills he learned while on the dreaded soldier "KP Duty," peeling potatoes, at the annual fish-fry in Grenville.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE ZAC!

Zachary Bremmon is a Journeyman Electrician at Lake Region Electric Association. He served in the United States Air Force, South Dakota Air National Guard 114th, Fighter Wing out of Sioux Falls, SD from 2009-2015. While enlisted, Zac worked in Aerospace Propulsion; providing maintenance support for the F-16 aircraft.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE DAVE HEGGE!

Dave Hegge is a member of Lake Region Electric Association who served as a Code Breaker for the US Navy, Military Intelligence. Dave was stationed in Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He also spent some time in Vietnam and a lot of places in between. After returning home from military service, Dave bought the lumber yard at Big Stone City, ran a construction business and has since retired.





Operation Black Hills Cabin is a healing place for U.S. military veterans in Custer.

HEALING PLACES

Organizations cater to military veterans in need

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

“After 21 years of learning to live with the scars, the limitations, the tremors and the nightmares...I can honestly say this experience has filled my heart with fresh hope.” - Veteran Jason Cooper

U.S. military veteran Jason Cooper needed some peace. He needed some quiet. He needed a reprieve from the rigors and stress of everyday life. So, Cooper gathered up his family and made the trip from his home in Kentucky to the Black Hills where he would find rest, relaxation and time for thoughtful contemplation.

Cooper and his crew spent a week-long vacation in a comfortable, cozy cabin in Custer as part of a project called Operation Black Hills Cabin (OBHC). Over the past 10 years, he and dozens of other wounded veterans have discovered a tranquil site to unwind and to enjoy the wide range of outdoor activities available in the area – all free of charge.

The program began as a service to provide veterans and their families with a free getaway and also as a means for organizers to express gratitude for the sacrifices made to protect freedom.

One of those founding organizers is Col. Marty Mahrt, a former Air Force pilot who joined the military in 1955 and flew 88 missions through two tours of duty in Vietnam. During his first tour, Mahrt was assigned to attack a munitions arsenal at Yen Bai Province. After releasing his ordnance and pulling away, Mahrt's F105 Thunderchief was hit in the right wing by enemy fire. The



Air Force veteran Col. Marty Mahrt is a founding board member of OBHC.

aircraft began a downward spiral, but Mahrt was able to eject and was soon rescued by a helicopter squadron and flown back to the U.S. for surgical treatment of a severe shoulder wound.

While Mahrt and his wife Colleen are usually on hand to greet the veteran visitors to OBHC, the guests rarely get to hear of Mahrt's combat experience. As he puts it, “They don't need to hear anything from me. They have their own problems. I just listen to them and let them know that we're here to help them.”

Mahrt said that he was eager to join Pat and Jeff Baird when they began gathering local support for OBHC back in 2011.

“Just knowing a lot of people who didn't make it back, and seeing the wounded warriors coming back from Iraq, that was something that motivated us to get involved. You see these families, the whole structure of the family changes when a soldier

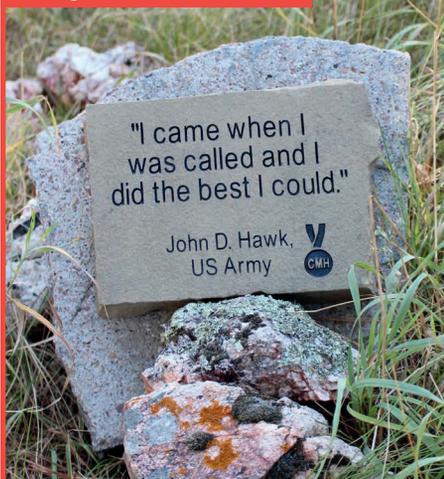


The Ranch Ministries in Blunt gives veterans an opportunity to hunt in one of the country's most prized pheasant harvesting territories.

and breadwinner is wounded and the wife has to take over," he said.

Mahrt points out that while the project isn't necessarily about providing psychological therapy for the veterans, there are emotional connections made in the process. He said a significant part of the program is the local community's participation. Business leaders and individuals provide free services or deep discounts for meals, entertainment, local tourist attractions and outdoor activities. The veterans also receive a gift card loaded with "Custer Cash" to help offset travel costs.

The Trail of Healing at Operation Black Hills Cabin has a series of messages etched in stone.



"We meet the families and welcome them," Mahrt said. "Sometimes the emotions get the best of me when I present them with their Visa card and they start crying and give me a hug. Sometimes you get emotional."

OBHC Board Secretary Ione Fejfar said the support of the community and way the residents of Custer treat the veterans and their families is part of the strength of the program.

"The people of Custer are absolutely wonderful," she said. "They really roll out the red carpet for them and everywhere our veterans go, they are treated with respect and honor and friendship. Between the cabin and the town, this is a very healing place."

She said every veteran who visits the cabin is asked to compose a brief letter of gratitude to the community that's published in the local newspaper.

Oahe Electric Lends a Hand

The Ranch Ministries was founded by Marine veteran Ken Korkow on 540 acres in Blunt, roughly 20 miles east of Pierre. It's a faith-based retreat center he created to offer military veterans an open space to take part in team-building exercises, outdoor hunting and shooting sports, dirt track racing, firearms safety training, horseback riding and more.

According to Korkow, there's also a lot of bonding among brothers and spiritual growth that takes place along with all of the fun and games.

"We share the story of Christ, the one who heals and gives us purpose," said Korkow, who received citations for the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart.

Korkow explained the center is not only

open to veterans but to surrounding communities as well. Youth groups and adults have visited to participate in firearm safety and team-building exercises.

"A lot of people come here to get away from their everyday lives," he said. "We take care of the needs of our veterans, but we also depend on support and volunteers from the community for our success and we open our doors to those who want to come here and find fulfillment."



Liz and Ken Korkow provide a place where veterans can go to seek spiritual healing.

One of those supporting organizations is Oahe Electric, which has responded to requests to provide material and manpower to meet the ministry's needs.

According to Oahe Electric Member Services Manager Russ Hohn, "The Ranch has had a meaningful impact in our community and we've been able to give back through our Operation Round Up program, which is funded by our members. It's a prime example of our cooperative and our members demonstrating one of the seven cooperative principles: Concern for Community."

Consumption, Demand, Load Management

What Does This All Mean to Members of LREA?

Laura London

Administrative Assistant

We all use electricity, however the amount of energy used or consumed depends on many different things. In the fall, many members of Lake Region Electric will see a decline in their household power bill due to the end of summer when air conditioning units are being turned off and prior to the cold temperatures beginning, prompting the use of heaters. We know that this is a short window in Lake Region territory, but one we all take advantage of. Despite some households with lowered energy cost in the fall, there are quite a few members of Lake Region who see an increase in electrical bills this time of year. This increase in consumption, for many, is due to the use of grain dryers at harvest time.

Your consumption, or energy consumed, is reflected on your bill in kilowatt hours (kWh). This is the total amount of electricity you use per month. Members who use load management, or have demand meters, for water heaters, dual heat, air conditioning, irrigation and grain dryers, have a discounted rate for their consumption. Lake Region does not have a load management program for grain drying but many members who use grain dryers have demand meters which they self-manage.

So, what is demand? Demand is the maximum amount of energy being used at a given time, or the immediate rate of energy consumption. A simple analogy is a pile of rocks of various sizes and weights. Let's say that you were moving the pile. The total weight of the rocks is similar to the consumption because it represents the total energy you would expend. The weight of the largest rock is similar to the demand because it represents how much power you would need to have "available" to move that one rock at that instant in time. This means that you can move the rock pile more slowly using the same amount of energy over a longer period of time, or you can move it quickly using all

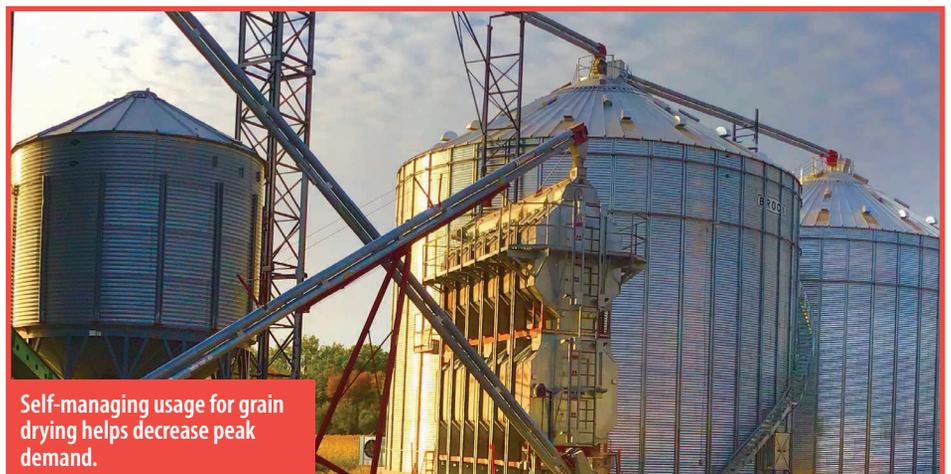
of the energy at once. The latter option of moving the rock pile quickly will increase the demand.

Dawson Public Power out of Lexington, Nebraska uses a fun football analogy to explain consumption and demand:

Sports stadiums are built to hold thousands of fans for a few hours. The rest of the year, they are largely vacant. However, the seats, restrooms, concession stands, and parking spots remain. In this comparison, the people in the stadium are like the demand or kW. The electric grid

irrigation and grain dryers. We also have quite a few members who have lake cabins that aren't used a good part of the year. Those members are still responsible for their base charge the entire year because Lake Region still needs to maintain the infrastructure and capacity to provide power to those meters when the time comes.

One of the ways that Lake Region tries to help decrease the cost of energy for our members, and the cooperative as a whole, is by implementing load management.



is like a stadium because the cooperative has to build the system to accommodate the maximum amount of electricity needed, even if the customer doesn't use the maximum capacity all day, every day of the year. You could compare this sports stadium analogy to a grain drying service. It has to be built to serve a substantial load, but it is only used a few weeks each year. A grain dryer service may have a high demand for three weeks of the year and a demand of zero during the rest of the year.

Here in Lake Region territory, we don't have many football stadiums, however we have a growing number of members using

Load management, sometimes referred to as load control, was first implemented systemwide by our energy wholesaler, East River Electric in 1989 as a way to decrease energy demand and help keep the cost down for cooperative members. This concept puts the power in the hands of the consumer by giving them an option to decrease the cost of their electricity by giving some control of their consumption to the energy provider. Implementing load management was a bit of a slow process in the beginning but has grown in popularity as people become more reliant on electricity and have a higher demand. The programs first began with irrigation, then water heaters, dual heat & air

Consumption, continued

conditioning. The programs have not only increased in popularity but have improved in reliability. They operate so efficiently that members do not generally notice the difference.

Manager of Member Services at Lake Region Electric, Brett Kwasniewski, explains “the main goal of load management is to reduce East River’s demand peak; that’s how we save our end-users money. Similar to the members who self-manage their grain drying operations and turn off equipment to reduce their demand, East River will manually turn off irrigation units, air conditioners and water heaters in order to decrease demand.” The management of devices such as water heaters and air conditioning units is very efficient and members don’t generally notice any difference, other than savings on their bill.

Aaron Frerichs is a Lake Region member who farms near Ortle. Aaron uses load management for irrigation purposes. He says that he joined the program for the obvious reason of cost savings but there are a few other benefits of the program that help him run his farming operation more efficiently. “I can monitor things remotely with my cell phone. If I’m 20 miles from that pivot, I can turn it on or off with my phone. It saves a lot of time and money.” Aaron likes getting the text notifications from East River notifying him when the load control is turned on and off, “If I get a notification that the control is on at 1 in the afternoon, then off at 8 or 9 p.m., then I know that I can go ahead and water at that time.” He says that the worst-case scenario would be a particularly dry area where he would have to over-ride the load control and he would just have to pay the higher rate, but that is something he would manage and prepare for.

Self-managing usage for grain drying helps decrease peak demand, which results in savings for the cooperative as a whole. Hayenga Partnership, near Andover, S.D., added three-phase power in 2017 to meet the increasing demand for electricity in their farming operation. Like many area



Members who use load management, or have demand meters, for irrigation systems have a discounted rate for their consumption

Reduce Demand + Conserve Consumption = Save Money

There are two main ways customers can reduce electrical demand: energy efficiency and timing of large electrical loads.

- Upgrade equipment: spending a little now may save you a lot down the road.
- Motor controllers and variable frequency drives are a good investment.
- Maintain equipment: doing regular maintenance helps equipment run more efficiently for longer periods of time.
- Dual Heat Meters are available for heating and air conditioning units.
- Install energy efficient appliances.
- Water heaters on load control can lead to huge savings.

farmers using grain-dryers, they self-manage their power usage. Travis Hughes with Hayenga Partnership said that after they installed a large grain dryer, they had to make some power changes around the farm. “I really like having the three-phase power.” Travis said, but he definitely pays a lot closer attention to where he uses electricity and when. “I pay a lot closer attention when I am setting up my drying schedule.”

Members frequently ask why their bill is so high or what they can do to decrease it. There are a few things that we, as a cooper-

ative, have no control over. Lake Region is over 79 years old and our aging infrastructure is needing repairs and replacement. The weather sometimes wreaks havoc with our equipment, and this can get quite costly. The staff and board of directors work diligently to keep costs down by planning and budgeting appropriately. There are things that members can do in order to keep costs down for the cooperative and those savings will be reflected on their bill as well as in the patronage that is returned in the form of Capital Credit Returns annually.



The South Dakota National Guard has been responsive in helping co-ops restore power to their members after natural disasters.

S.D. NATIONAL GUARD

Co-ops, SDNG work together to meet challenges

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The South Dakota National Guard and the state's rural electric cooperatives share a synergistic relationship that goes back for decades. Both the Guard and the co-ops are highly skilled, highly motivated and highly prepared to respond in an emergency situation and to deliver help when and where it's needed.

For cooperatives, the response typically centers around restoring power after a natural disaster so that members can return their lives and their business operations back to normal as soon as possible. The state's 28 electric co-ops are part of a state, regional and national mutual assistance agreement that assures help will arrive when needed, and that, in turn, help will be dispatched upon request.

Cooperative operations personnel throughout the state work in conjunction with the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) in Pierre to formulate and maintain an emergency work plan designed to help expedite the process of responding to a natural disaster.

According to SDREA Manager of Loss Control Services Mark Patterson, the more than 125,000 electric co-op consumers across South Dakota can rest assured their local power provider has the resources available to meet any and all challenges.

"We have a well-connected professional network of electric co-ops in South Dakota that's made up of exceptionally skilled linemen and supervisors who are absolutely the best in the business," Patterson said. "They have the experience they need to do the job as quickly and safely as possible, and they also have the resources at their disposal to rebuild the system and get the

power back on for our members who desperately need it."

Similarly, emergency preparedness is the South Dakota National Guard's stock in trade; although the Guard's scope of emergency response is quite broader. Not only do soldiers stand ready to be deployed to just about anywhere across the globe at a moment's notice, they also are trained to assist in a variety of stateside tasks.

The Guard's heroic work after the Rapid City Flood, The Spencer Tornado, the 1997 blizzards and the 2011 mass flooding are just a few active duty missions where the Guard came to the rescue to help save and protect life and property.

Most recently and most prominently, the Guard has been summoned to help contain and control politically-motivated



Co-op crews have relied on the National Guard to assist in power restoration efforts.



The National Guard and electric cooperatives share a commitment to serve the citizens of South Dakota, especially in stressful times.

violence and also deal with problems brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a coronavirus outbreak at Smithfield Farms in Sioux Falls made national headlines, the Guard deployed 25 ambulance teams - including four air support teams - and was recruited to conduct contact tracing in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Roughly 2,600 Smithfield Farms employees and their family members were tested for the virus with the assistance of National Guard personnel.

Gov. Kristi Noem expressed her appreciation for the work of the National Guard soldiers. “We knew they would be ready, they always are, but I don’t want anyone to take for granted how blessed we are to have men and women in our South Dakota National Guard that continue to step up.”

Lt. Col. Anthony Deiss, Director of Public Affairs for the South Dakota National Guard, recalls being personally involved in previous missions to help electric cooperative crews transport poles and other equipment, control work zones along roadways and pull vehicles out of wet, muddy ditches.

He said the soldiers take a great deal of pride in their work and approach their respective missions with the same commitment to serve as cooperative line crews demonstrate on a daily basis.

“We’ve had a tremendous partnership with the electric cooperatives when working alongside them to help respond to winter storms over the years. Our co-ops are on the front lines when providing power restoration during and after natural disasters, and they serve a critically important role in public health and safety. Anytime the SDNG is called up by the state to assist our co-ops in their mission, we look forward to the opportunity to support them.”

“It’s important for different state agencies and organizations to coordinate and work together during emergencies. These

relationships are vital to our state and communities to help quickly mitigate, respond and recover from these disasters. We provide a variety of resources to assist civil authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens.”

Patterson of SDREA concluded: “I think this is one of the things that makes our state very unique, the sense that we all need to pull together, especially in a crisis. Neighbors helping neighbors...that’s what our National Guard and our co-ops are all about.”



The National Guard takes pride in helping electric co-ops reconstruct downed power lines and poles.



PHEASANT SEASON

GFP Commission reminds hunters of new rules for 2020

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Pheasant hunters, field guides and other service providers received some welcomed news from the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission in September. The Commission approved new rules that are sure to make hunters happy, even as reports indicate that resident combination licenses are up 25 percent year-to-date compared to September of 2019.

The Commission approved the following rule changes:

- Extending the state's pheasant hunting season through Jan. 31
- Modifying shooting hours for the first week of the season from noon to 10 a.m. CT beginning Oct. 17
- Increasing the daily bag limit from three to four roosters beginning Dec. 1, 2021.

Commissioners noted that while the new rules may please hunters, increasing the bag limit will not have a negative effect on the overall pheasant population as field research indicates a rooster can breed with up to 10 hens during the annual breeding cycle.

According to Heather Villa, wildlife administration chief, pheasant hunting enthusiasts and others involved in the industry can expect a robust season this year.

“Our information shows that license holders are purchasing their licenses earlier in the year. This is to be expected with having better weather compared to last year's extended winter,” Villa said. “We are showing the highest resident annual fishing and resident combination license sales in five years. Nonresident annual fishing licenses are up 32 percent and are trending similarly to



Due to sound conservation and habitat management practices, South Dakota remains a prime destination for pheasant hunters across the nation.

2018, but are still lower than 2016 and 2017.”

Villa added that hunters can expect even more abundant opportunities to pursue their passion for the sport in the future thanks to the Habitat Stamp initiative, which was signed into law this summer and is part of Gov. Kristi Noem's Second Century Initiative designed to improve the habitat and ensure future generations are able to enjoy the thrills and excitement of pheasant hunting. Just weeks after the law took effect on July 1, more than \$600,000 in revenue was produced from the sale of over 8,000 resident licenses and 15,000 non-resident licenses.

Revenue from the Habitat Stamp program can only be used to

develop habitat on public land and waters or to provide public access to private land. The stamp is required for anyone 18 or older when purchasing or applying for a hunting, fishing or furbearer license. The annual fee is \$10 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. The fee is not required for a one-day hunting or fishing license, youth hunting license, private shooting preserve license and other exempted categories.

The program was instituted as a means of not only preserving and expanding prime pheasant habitat but also as a way to make sure South Dakota maintains top billing as a pheasant hunting destination – and the economic activity and development that comes along with it. State officials describe it as a “win-win” for not only hunters but photographers, birders, kayakers, anglers and anyone who loves the outdoors.

Supporters of the new legislation say it's the state's sound habitat conservation and management practices that make South Dakota a prime destination for hunters throughout the country.

Supporters of the new legislation say it's the state's sound habitat conservation and management practices, in conjunction with the willingness of the outdoors community to see the big picture, that make South Dakota a prime destination for hunters

throughout the country. With a pheasant population that exceeds 7 million, the state is consistently best in the country for bird counts and harvests. Last year, hunters bagged nearly 900,000 birds during pheasant season.

Here are some helpful tips for a successful hunt:

- Don't under-gun. Use a 1-1/4 ounce load of #4 lead shot or 1-1/8 ounce of #2 steel shot.
- Use a dog. Crippled birds can be hard to find without a dog. Concentrate on cover that complements the hunting style of your dog.
- Hunt remote pockets. Search for secluded pockets that may have escaped the hunting pressure of large groups. Small sloughs, plum thickets and fence vegetation hold pheasants.

Bacon Stuffed Pheasant



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2 pheasant breasts, boned and pounded | 2 tablespoon sour cream |
| 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs | 1/3 cup smoked almond, chopped |
| 1/2 teaspoon seasoning salt | 1/4 cup Brooster's Original Pheasant Nuggets finely chopped |
| 1/2 teaspoon pepper | 4 strips double smoked bacon |
| 2 teaspoons butter | 1/2 cup chicken broth or water |
| 1/2 cup onion, finely chopped | |
| 4 oz. pepper jack cheese | |

Preheat oven to 350-375 degrees. Gently pound raw pheasant breasts on both sides. Heat oil in pan, brown onions on medium. Stir in pheasant nuggets and smoked almonds, heat for one minute to combine flavors. In a mixing bowl, combine sour cream, seasonings, breadcrumbs, browned onions and pheasant nuggets. Melt butter and stir into stuffing mixture. Spoon the stuffing mixture equally in the center of each breast and place pepper jack cheese on stuffing and roll it up. Wrap a slice of bacon around each rolled up stuffed breast. The back will hold it together. Place in baking pan and bake for 50 minutes, or until the meat is tender.

South Dakota Tourism/Broosters

- Aim for the front half. Pheasants are not particularly fast, but many hunters shoot behind them. Lead the head, not the body, for a clean kill.
- Prepare for the weather. Fall can be a time of wide-ranging conditions. Plan to hunt in weather from sunny and 70 degrees to snow and below-zero wind chills.

More information can be found at <https://gfp.sd.gov>.

Visit Co-op Connections Plus

Take a moment to visit our new online companion to Cooperative Connections. Co-op Connections Plus is a YouTube channel that features a more in-depth treatment of stories appearing in this publication as well as other subjects of interest to rural South Dakotans.

Search for “Co-op Connections Plus” and you’ll find videos on human trafficking, the State High School Rodeo finals, grain bin safety, the Co-ops Vote campaign and more. Be sure to “like” and “subscribe.”



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

October 22

Butte County CFEL Annual Christmas Fair, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 605-456-9837

October 24

Ladies Day Shopping Extravaganza, The Crossing Bar, Mina, SD, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

October 29-30

Helping with Horsepower's Phobia - A Haunted Trail, Reclamation Ranch, 40789 259th St., Mitchell, SD, 7-11 p.m. 605-770-2867

October 31-November 1

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Assn. Sioux Falls Classic Gun Show, 3200 W Maple St. Sioux Falls, SD, 605-630-2199

November 1 and 15

VFW Bingo, Wall Community Center, Wall, SD, 605-279-2663

November 6-8

YFS Kids Fair, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

November 7

Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Fair, Dakota Christian School, Corsica, SD, 605-366-7940

November 7

Fairburn Community Center Bazaar, Fairburn, SD, 5:30 p.m., 605-255-4807

November 7

Silver Star Bazaar, Lake Norden Community Center, Lake Norden, SD, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



November 7

BH Meat Fest, Fundraiser for Shriner Patient Camps, BH Harley Davidson, Rapid City, SD, 605-415-3577

November 7

Helping with Horsepower's RibFest, 4 p.m., Reclamation Ranch, Mitchell, SD, Contact mattcarter1421@gmail.com to register your team

November 11

MasterChef Junior Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

November 12

Zonta Club of the BH Expo, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

November 14

Winter Marketplace Pop Up, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

November 14

Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

November 17

Baby Shark Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

November 20-21

Holiday Arts Christmas Show, 112 E. 5th St. Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

November 21-22

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, 203 S. Washington St., Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

November 27

Black Friday Trap Shoot, Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League, 10:30 a.m., Lunch Available, 5000 North Oakview Place, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-332-9527

December 5

Rapid City Garden Club's 59th Annual Wreath and Center-piece Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lions' and Bridger Buildings, Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-0710

December 5

Festival of Trees, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, Admission: Two Cans of Non-Perishable Food Items Per Person, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.