

Lake Region Electric

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

March 2020 Vol. 20 No. 11

Cooperative Connections

United States®
**Census
2020**

**Census 2020:
Be Counted.
It Matters.**

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**Safety Shines
at Stock Show**

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Communication During Power Outages



Laura London

LLondon@lakeregion.coop

**Don't assume
that an outage
or downed
power line has
been reported.**

The frost in the trees looks so pretty; however, it can be bad news when it comes to power lines. We experienced a bit of this in December when the frost build-up, combined with high winds, led to some power-line trouble! Lake Region Electric Association experienced a couple of large outages that left hundreds of our members without power for several hours. The outages experienced near the end of December were due to complications from frost and ice on the lines, along with very high winds. A good portion of the trouble occurred with lines coming into Lake Region substations from our power provider, East River Electric. The blowing snow and icy roads made it very difficult to get crews out safely to make repairs and restore the outages. Restoring power to our members as soon as possible is our priority – just remember that we must do so in a safe manner.

We have made it more than halfway through winter and we have spring in our sights. Unfortunately, the Lake Region Electric territory is often plagued by blizzards and ice storms during the last couple of months of winter into early spring. We, here at Lake Region Electric Association, do our best to avoid outages through planning and continually upgrading our system. Construction season is right around the corner and crews will continue to convert overhead lines to underground. This process was slowed last year by the incredible amount of moisture; however, we still made quite a lot of progress. Currently, just over a third of LREA power lines are underground. While the conversion of lines to underground reduces the number of outages due to winter storms, they still happen and we ask our members to be prepared.

We want to hear from you! Don't assume that an outage or downed power line has been reported. Please call our office if you are experiencing an outage. Our phones are monitored 24/7. If you are unable to get through right away, try again in a couple of minutes. We may experience high call volume, depending on the size of an outage. It is recommended that you save our phone number in your phone contacts to report outages and emergencies.

Lake Region Electric Association has technology that, in certain instances, can notify us if we are not getting signals from some meters. There are some circumstances that don't allow us to gather information remotely or automatically; this is where your input is key. Communication from our members is our best resource. Members can always check the Live Outage Map by clicking the link on our website www.lakeregion.coop. You can also check our Facebook page for updates.

Make sure that we have your current contact information! Lake Region Electric Association is using technology such as Call Capture, which is an automated call, to notify our members of outages. In order for these calls to be successful, we need to have a current contact number for you. If it is more effective to call your cell phone, make sure that we have that listed as your primary phone number so that you are updated in a timely fashion. Email is another useful tool to update our members on outages. Members should make sure that we have an email listed for outage notifications. Call or stop by our office to make sure your information is updated. You can download the SmartHub app on your phone or electronic tablet for easy access to your information! If you have questions about the SmartHub app, please call our office: 605-345-3379 or toll-free 1-800-657-5869.

We want our members to be prepared to stay informed and stay safe during winter storms and outages! Please, reach out to us with any of your electrical concerns.



**Welcome
New LREA
Members**

Landon Anderson
Nick Gronke
Loren Josephson

Troy and Katrina Knecht
Megan Livly
Six Mile Ranch, LLP

Lake Region Electric Ripples

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-904)

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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.

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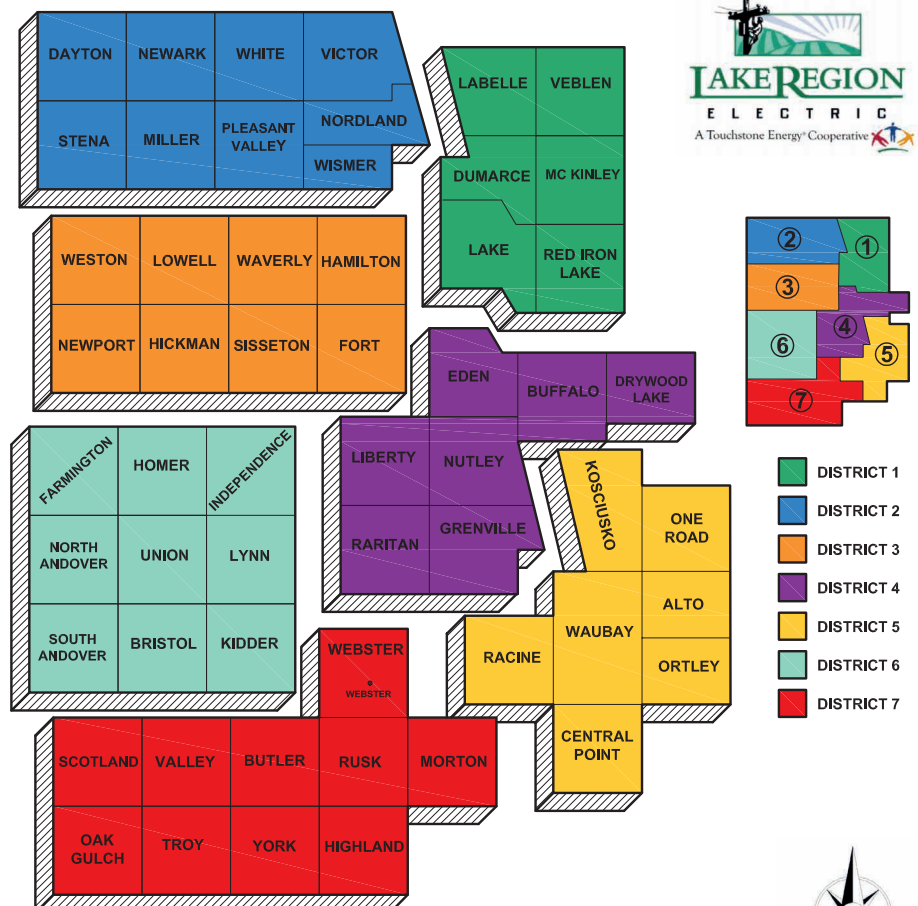
ANNOUNCEMENT:

Two Board of Directors Seats Up for Election

Lake Region Electric Association is governed by an elected board of directors. Serving on the board of directors is a commitment that requires representatives to attend local meetings on a monthly basis as well as state and national meetings. Board members attend trainings and pursue educational opportunities so that they are well-informed on regulations and industry trends in order to best serve the members of Lake Region Electric Association.

Our service area is divided into seven districts, as shown on the Lake Region Electric Director Map below, with each district being represented by an elected official. This year, District 2 and District 4 are up for election. District 2, highlighted in blue, includes the townships of Dayton, Newark, White, Victor, Stena, Miller, Pleasant Valley, Nordland and Wismer. District 4 townships, highlighted in purple, include Eden, Liberty, Raritan, Greenville, Nutley, Buffalo and Drywood Lake. Members living in these districts who are interested in serving on the Lake Region Electric Association board of directors are encouraged to call 605-345-3379, Toll Free: 1-800-657-5869 or stop by our office at 1212 Main Street in Webster for more information.

LAKE REGION ELECTRIC DIRECTOR MAP



MAP NOT DRAWN
 TO SCALE

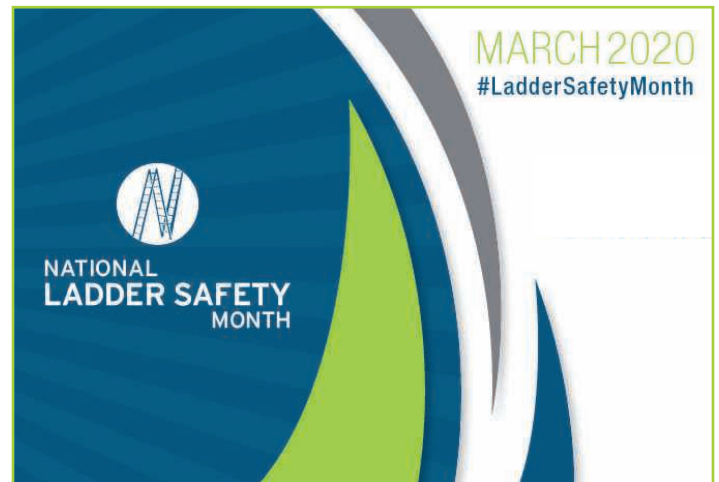
Extension Cord Safety Tips

Not enough cord for your lamp or radio to reach the nearest outlet? Just plowing through the junk drawer for an extension cord? This may not be a good idea. Extension cords can be very helpful in delivering power right where we need it. However, regardless of the gauge or rating of the cord, an extension cord is a temporary solution, and is not meant to be used as a long-term extension of your household's electrical system.

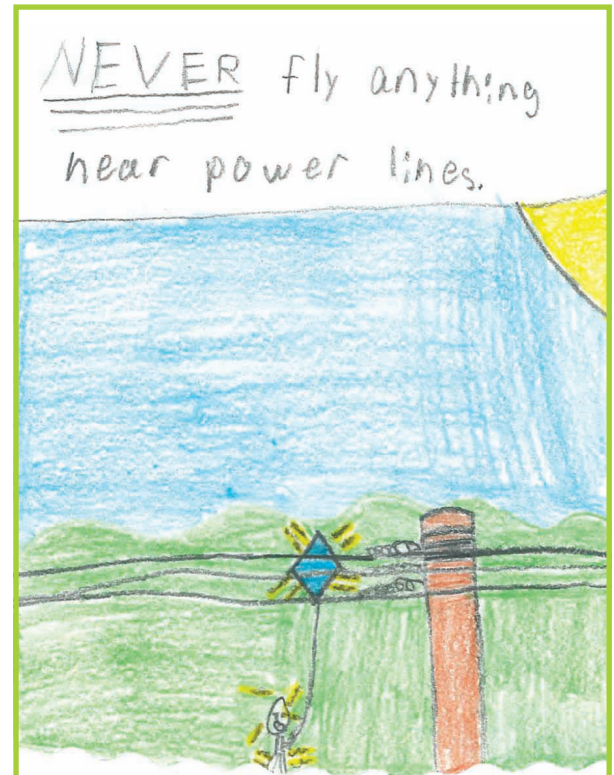
Using extension cords properly is critical to your safety. With continuous use over time, an extension cord can rapidly deteriorate, creating a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips for staying safe from electric shock and electrical fires:

- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.
- Do not substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- Do not run through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a fire hazard.
- Do not use an extension cord for more than one appliance.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.
- Multiple plug outlets must be plugged directly into mounted electrical receptacles; they cannot be chained together.
- Make sure the extension cord or temporary power strip you use is rated for the products to be plugged in and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- The appliance or tool that you are using the cord with will have a wattage rating on it. Match this up with your extension cord and do not use a cord that has a lower rating.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can give you an electric shock or burn.
- Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug. Do not cut off the ground pin to force a fit. This defeats the purpose of a three-prong plug and could lead to an electrical shock. Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- Use extension cords with polarized and/or three-prong plugs.
- Buy only cords approved by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Intertek (ETL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Source: esfi.org



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never fly anything near power lines."

Gage Cumbow, 12 years old

Gage is the son of Ryan and Kiley Cumbow, Pierre, S.D. They are members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Blunt, S.D.

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.

Seafood Sensations

Hot Crab Dip

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 1/2 tsp. ground mustard |
| 1 cup mayonnaise | 1 lb. lump crabmeat |
| 2 tsp. OLD BAY® Seasoning | 1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

Mix cream cheese, mayonnaise, Old Bay Seasoning and ground mustard in medium bowl until well blended. Add crabmeat; toss gently. Spread in shallow 1-1/2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese and additional Old Bay Seasoning, if desired. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serve with assorted crackers or sliced French bread. Makes 28 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 110, Total Fat 10g, Cholesterol 30mg, Sodium 181mg, Protein 5g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Seafood Casserole

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 (6 oz.) pkg. crab, tuna or salmon, drained | 4 eggs, beaten |
| 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese | 1 cup milk |
| Onions, chopped | Salt and pepper, to taste |
| | Paprika |

Spray an 8x8-inch pan or casserole dish. Combine seafood, cheese and onions. Put in pan. Beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over casserole; sprinkle paprika on top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Let stand a few minutes before serving.

Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel, SD

Red Salmon Spread

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 (14 oz.) can red salmon, drained | 1 tsp. liquid smoke |
| 6 oz. cream cheese, softened | 1/2 tsp. garlic salt |
| | Parsley flakes |

Remove skin and bones from salmon; cut into small chunks. Combine cream cheese, liquid smoke and garlic salt. Add salmon. Shape into 2 or 3 balls. Sprinkle with parsley flakes. Refrigerate. Serve with assorted crackers.

June Herke, Watertown, SD

Crab Lasagna

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/4 cup chopped onion | 12 oz. cottage cheese |
| 1 stick butter | 1 egg |
| 1 quart half-and-half | 1 T. parsley |
| 1/2 tsp. minced garlic | 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese |
| 4 T. cream cheese | 12 uncooked lasagna noodles |
| 24 oz. pkg. imitation crab, shredded | 2 cups mozzarella cheese |

Saute onions in butter. Add half-and-half, garlic and cream cheese. Prepare 9x13-inch pan. Assemble layers as follows: 1 cup sauce, top with lasagna noodles, 1/2 of cottage cheese mixture, 1/2 of crab, 1 cup sauce, lasagna noodles and 1 cup mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers. Cover with foil; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour. Remove foil and bake an additional 20 minutes until bubbly and cheese starts to brown. Let set 10 minutes before serving.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

Crab or Shrimp Salad

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 (7-oz.) pkg. ring, shell or spiral pasta | 1 cup diced cucumber |
| 1/2 cup diced celery | 1 cup Miracle Whip |
| 1/4 cup diced onion | 1/2 cup Dorothy Lynch dressing |
| 1 (8 oz.) container mock crab or shrimp | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| | 1/2 tsp. pepper |

Prepare pasta according to package directions. Toss together celery, onions, crab or shrimp and cucumbers. Add Miracle Whip, dressing, salt and pepper. Chill.

Joyce Hermans, Milbank, SD

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage, casserole or 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 June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.



We're Going on an Adventure!

Laura London

llondon@lrea.coop

Every year Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. teams up with other cooperatives and our energy partners to send local students on two exciting trips where they learn about the electric industry and the cooperative community. Sending students on these educational trips is a part of what sets Lake Region Electric Association, and fellow co-ops, apart from other utility providers. We believe that investing in the education of our future leaders is important and we are giving back to our members by teaching students in fun and engaging ways. Both trips are at little to no cost to the students and parents. Travel, transportation, lodging and most meals are provided. Students should bring their own spending money for incidentals and shopping. Qualifying students who would like to participate but do not feel they can afford to go due to the possibility of having to pay for a couple of meals will not be disqualified, they just need to let Laura or Brett at the LREA office know and we will work with you in a confidential manner.

Rural Electric Youth Tour

The Youth Tour is a weeklong tour of Washington, D.C. It has been considered to be the opportunity-of-a-lifetime for some rural students. Any student whose parent or guardian is a current member of LREA can apply for this trip. One student will be chosen to join other youths from Touchstone Energy® Cooperative communities across the nation for a trip to Washington, D.C., June 18-25. This is a wonderful opportunity for area youth to represent the LREA community in Washington, D.C., while learning some history and how the political process that shapes our nation works.

Students must be a sophomore, junior or senior in high school during the 20-21 school year, whose parent or legal guardian is a current member of Lake Region Electric Association. Qualifying students who wish to participate will need to complete the application, found on Page 15 or they can contact the LREA for an application. They must also submit an essay, approximately 500 words on the topic: Describe the Difference Between a Nonprofit Organization and a For Profit Organization and Describe How This Applies to the Electric Industry. The essay must be typed

and should include a cover letter with the student's name, parent/guardian's name, telephone number and year in school during the 2020-2021 school year. Applications and essays must be submitted to Laura London at the Lake Region Electric Association office by March 15, 2020.

SDREA Youth Excursion

The Youth Excursion is a fun-filled trip where dozens of students from South Dakota will travel to Bismarck, N.D., on a "power supply adventure." Each year we partner with the South Dakota Rural Electric Association to send several students from the LREA territory on this four-day, fun and FREE trip! Students will travel with chaperones to Bismarck where they will spend a few days learning about our power supply and how the cooperative works. They will have the rare opportunity to tour the Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Power Plant. While the days spent learning are fun and adventurous, the evenings are full of fun as well; evenings are spent swimming, shopping and cruising the river on the Lewis and Clark Riverboat.

This trip is free to students whose parents or legal guardians are current members of Lake Region Electric Association. Lake Region Electric Association will provide transportation, lodging, meals and sightseeing. Students are encouraged to bring spending money with them for shopping and incidentals.

To participate in this program, students must complete the 2020 Youth Excursion Application and return it to the LREA office, Attention: Laura London, before April 1, 2020.

For more information, please contact Laura London at Lake Region Electric Association.

llondon@lakeregion.coop
Lake Region Electric Association, Inc.,
1212 Main St., Webster, SD 57274
605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869
lakeregion.coop



SHOWCASE YOUR SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Sign up for Lake Region Electric's Renewable Energy Credit (REC) program and power your home or business on renewable energy.

Lake Region Electric has Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for purchase to offset your current usage with 100% renewable energy options.

The electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you have always received from Lake Region but, by participating in this program, your home or business will be supporting current and future renewable projects. By purchasing RECs, your business could add value to your products or services, promote future regional renewable projects and showcase your support for renewable energy sources.

Contact us to learn more!
605.345.3379 OR 1.800.657.5869

bkwasniewski@lakeregion.coop



Scholar of the Week

What does it take to be a Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the Week? It's not just about grades or athletic ability. It takes a well-rounded individual that excels in the classroom and the community. Waubay High School Senior Tate Gaikowski fits that criteria and was recently chosen for this award. The staff who nominated him said, "Tate is a great student and hard-working young man. Tate is always willing to lend a helping hand in and outside of the classroom." He is involved in football, basketball, track, student council, FFA, National Honor Society, South Dakota High School Rodeo, 4-H rodeo and 4-H. Tate also volunteer referees for youth basketball in our area. It has been observed by many that younger children look up to him. "Tate's a really good student. He does things inside and outside the classroom. He's involved in lots of activities. He does well on his grades, he works hard in the classroom and he works hard in his other things like his sports, band and other things outside the classroom," said teacher/coach Joel Eisenbraun.

Tate is the son of Justin and Amy Gaikowski of Waubay. He plans to go to Lake Area Technical Institute to study precision agriculture. "I grew up farming and I like it, so hopefully I will go and further my career and learn some more stuff. Going on to college to keep that work ethic and hopefully push through it," said Tate.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and KSFY Television have joined together to recognize the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. "Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week" has been celebrating the achievements of high school seniors since 2002. This program was founded on the four pillars of Touchstone Energy: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and a Commitment to Community. Lake Region Electric Association's Brett Kwasniewski and Laura London presented Tate with a check for \$250. He will be eligible to receive one of the three scholarships that are given away at the annual Scholar of the Year banquet.



Self-responses to the 2020 census begin March 12 online, by phone or by paper.

GET COUNTED

Census 2020 Will Shape Region's Future

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Census Day is coming April 1 and a push is being made in March to get people counted.

The census counts people where they are at on April 1, 2020.

The process opens March 12 when people can begin the online completion of the census. Most people will have received an invitation to respond to the census. The form will be mailed to USPS mailable addresses. Hand delivery will take place in cases where addresses are a rural/PO Box or non-USPS household unit. The card will have an address-specific code for responders to use, but they can still go online without the card.

"The goal on March 12 is to have as many people as possible go online and complete the census," said Rob Timm, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Timm has been focusing on western South Dakota businesses and government agencies in preparation for Census 2020.

People can also complete the census by phone or complete a paper form.

On May 1, the labor-intensive process of sending enumerators

The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.

We're making sure that **however you choose to respond**—online, by phone, or by mail—that **the census is accessible**. You'll receive an invitation to respond **beginning in mid-March**. You choose how you want to respond.



You can respond **online** in English or in 12 additional languages. The online questionnaire is accessible, following the latest web accessibility guidelines. We'll also have a video in **American Sign Language** available to guide you through responding online.



You can respond by **phone** in English or in 12 additional languages. You can also respond in English by **TDD** at 844-467-2020.



By mid-April, we'll mail a **paper questionnaire** to every household that hasn't already responded. (Some households will receive a paper questionnaire along with the first invitation in March.)

We'll have **braille and large print guides** available online to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire.



If necessary, you can respond **in person** beginning in mid-May. Census takers will visit all households that have not yet responded.

We'll have census takers available who can communicate in **American Sign Language** and additional languages. When the census taker visits to help you respond, you can request that another census taker who communicates in American Sign Language returns, if you prefer.

If you prefer, you may also choose to have another member of your household interact with the census taker.

Responding is important. A complete count helps ensure that services like Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and public transportation can support those who need them.

Responding is safe. All of the information you share with us is protected by law and cannot be used against you.

Responding is accessible. We're doing everything we can to ensure the ways to respond are accessible for everyone.

Any questions? Please visit 2020census.gov. This website is 508 compliant and accessible to people of all abilities.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020

tors door-to-door to count people begins. An estimated 1,200 people will be serving as enumerators through July.

“We know there are tracts with low response areas,” said Timm. Census officials are working to improve those response rates.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on U.S. Census Bureau data. According to the report, “Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds” by the GW Institute of Public Policy, South Dakota was allocated more than \$2.3 billion in 2016. This money represented the allocation of funds from 55 large federal spending programs guided by Census 2010 data. Of that \$2.3 billion, nearly one-quarter was for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs while one-third went to U.S. Health and Human Services programs.

Census Key Dates

March 12:

Self-response begins and continues through July 2020.

April 1: Census Day

Dec. 31: Census Counts Delivered to President

The report, by Andrew Reamer, a research professor at The George Washington University, noted that census-derived datasets help define eligibility criteria for various programs, compute formulas that geographically allocate funds, rank project applications based on priorities and set interest rates for federal loan programs.

Officials in Sioux Falls estimated that the community missed out on nearly \$1,600 per person for every person missed in the 2010 census.

The value of the census goes beyond dollars.

In Minnesota, the fate of the state's 8th Congressional District is at stake. The U.S. House of Representatives is based on population. Minnesota currently has eight seats while Nebraska has three and South Dakota and North Dakota have one seat each.

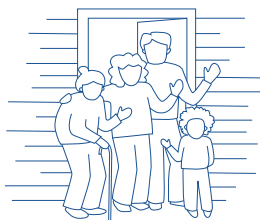
“It's not going to take a ton of your time and it makes a difference for South Dakota,” said Jake Droge, partnership specialist with the Dallas Regional Census Office/Field Division, Denver Region U.S. Census Bureau. Droge has been working with government agencies and businesses in eastern South Dakota.

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

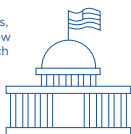
Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.



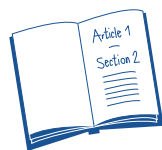
It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



It's in the Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

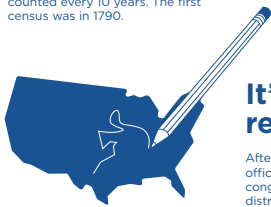


It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.



It's about redistricting.

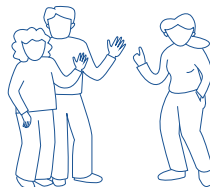
After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



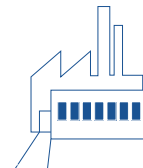
Census data are being used all around you.



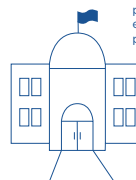
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.



Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs.



Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.



Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



Your privacy is protected.

It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.



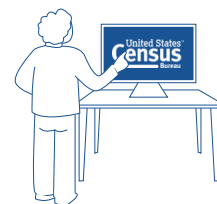
2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.



United States®
Census
Bureau

FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT
2020CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS

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2020



East River Electric Communications Coordinator Jennifer Gross explains how static electricity moves to a girl's hair as the Britton-Hecla student holds onto the Van de Graaf generator.

ENERGY EDUCATION

Co-ops in the Classroom Has Electric Delivery

Laura London

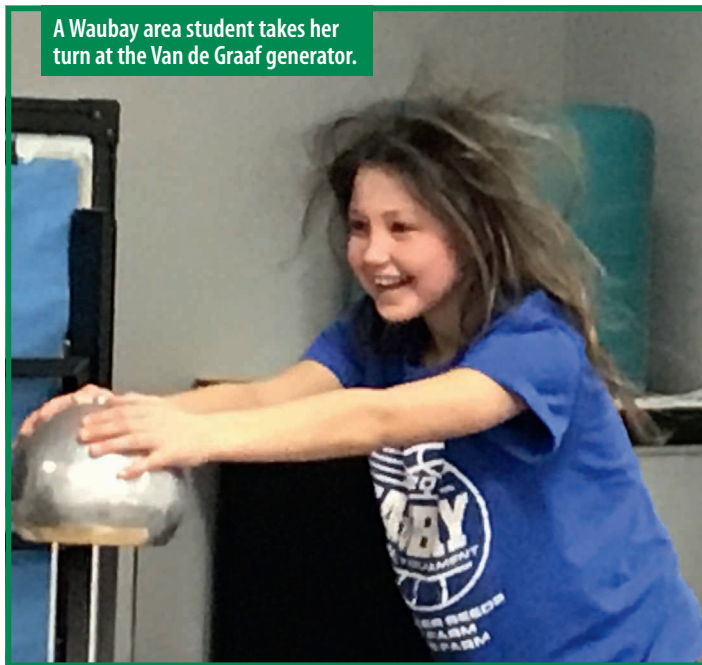
llondon@lrea.coop

"Who has MADE electricity today?" This is the question Jenny Gross poses to students at the beginning of her demonstration for Co-ops in the Classroom. Area students had an exciting opportunity to learn about electricity recently when the Co-ops in the Classroom program visited area schools. Co-ops in the Classroom is a program offered by Lake Region Electric Association's wholesale power provider, East River Electric Power Cooperative. Jenny Gross, communications coordinator for East River, travels throughout East River's service territory in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota to teach children about electrical safety, generation, conservation and economics. In December, I joined Jennifer on a fun, educational adventure through the Lake Region Electric Association service territory to bring energy education to fourth-grade classrooms in Webster, Waubay, Langford and Britton-Hecla and third- and fourth-grade classrooms at Enemy Swim Day School.

As we enter the schools, unloading and hauling in equipment, many students get excited and hopeful that we are heading to their classrooms. Jenny carries with her some pretty fun equipment, the most noticeable is a bicycle. This ordinary bicycle is hooked up to a not-so-ordinary Pedal Power bicycle generator that allows students to become power plants as they provide the energy that produces electricity for lights and small household devices that are connected to a board.

"The Pedal Power turns the concept of electricity from something abstract into something tangible. By providing the energy needed to make a light bulb turn on, the students are able to quantify just

A Waubay area student takes her turn at the Van de Graaf generator.



how much more energy an incandescent light bulb requires than a CFL or LED," said Gross.

As students take turns pedaling, they begin to realize that the more electricity they need to power their devices, the harder their power-house has to work. This exercise not only teaches the children about electrical demand, it teaches them about conservation.

Another fantastic way for children to start thinking about energy

in fun ways goes back to the question that Jenny asked at the beginning of the presentation, "Who has MADE electricity today?"

Some students have the answer right away, "This morning, I rubbed my feet on the carpet, then touched my sister to shock her!" This answer is correct and is an example of one of the simplest forms of electricity. Static electricity is around us all the time, just hanging out, waiting for the opportunity to reach the ground. Jenny brings along a device called a Van de Graaf generator and a plastic stool to demonstrate the movement of electrons with some hair-raising results.

"That one is always a crowd-pleaser," said Gross. "Not only does it provide a visible and audible example of how electricity moves, students also get a kick out of seeing their hair stand up and shocking their friends." This part of the presentation teaches about insulators and conductors and helps the children understand that even though we are having fun with the little bit of electricity being produced by electric current, that electricity is very dangerous and can cause serious harm.

The program lasts roughly an hour for each classroom. The students often start out quietly sitting, studying the equipment and wondering what sort of lesson this will be. I like to start by introducing myself and by briefly explaining who Lake Region Electric

Association is and our relationship with East River Electric, where Jenny works. Jenny takes over and begins to really engage the children from the start. She explains to them why she is in their classroom today: to teach them about something way better than magic, she's going to teach them about SCIENCE!

The learning and the demonstrations commence and the students start moving, hands raise, they lean forward, they giggle and laugh, they cheer each other on. You can almost "feel" the excitement running through the room, as if it were an electric current traveling through a wire. This is an outstanding learning opportunity that really engages all the students. By the end of the presentation, students have developed a new understanding and appreciation for electricity.

I recently received a large envelope filled with Thank You notes from some of the students. One topic that made the biggest impression on Mrs. Block's fourth-grade class from Webster were how much electricity it takes to power an incandescent



A Langford student participates in the demonstration.

light bulb vs. an LED and that LED bulbs can save a lot of electricity and money. Another topic that resonated with our groups was electrical safety and what to do if your vehicle comes into contact with a power line. The topic of safety often leads to a never-ending game of "What if?" which is an excellent type of feedback that shows the children are engaged and thinking about electricity!

The Co-ops in the Classroom program celebrated their 10th year in 2019 and has been partnering with Lake Region Electric to bring the program to our area students for the past five years. We look forward to continuing this relationship with our energy partner and wholesale power provider, East River Electric, as we continue to educate and engage young people.



A Webster Area student pedals on a bicycle to generate enough electricity to power three light bulbs.

Boots, Broncs and Safety

Electric Safety Remains a Tradition at Black Hills Stock Show®

Courtney J. Deinert

courtneyd@centralec.coop

"We're just selling safety."

During the first week of February, people from across the region pull on their boots and gather in Rapid City, S.D., to celebrate the area's deep history of cattle ranching at the Black Hills Stock Show.

The Black Hills Stock Show is the second largest event in the state, after the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

On the vendor floor, you can find anything a cowboy or cowgirl would dream of. Among the leather boots, hides, saddles and hats for sale, you can also find the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota booth.

"We're just selling safety," said Todd Eliason, assistant general manager at Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D. "We've been doing this for more than 20 years."

The booth features a tabletop safety demonstration, also known as "Neon Leon" or "Power Town." The table demonstration features a model farmyard with a barn, house, overhead power lines, ground transformer and props such as tree branches, a ladder, backhoe and line down on a tractor.

With the step of a pedal, the operator can conduct electricity through the lines and produce a shock or arch with the props.



With the step of a pedal, Central Electric's Pat Soukup illustrates the effects of electricity when contacting a power line.

The presentation is designed to educate elementary-aged children about the dangers of electricity, but all ages gather to see the demonstration.

As parents and grandparents pass by the booth, they'll smile and nod, likely remembering the presentation from their earlier days. Parents with young cowboys and cowgirls along will nudge them towards the booth to hear about the importance of respecting electricity on the farm.

Eliason recalls working at the safety booth one year and a young boy pointed at him and yelled, "That's him!"

Eliason admits that his first thought was, "Oh, no. What did I do?"

However, the mother approached him in tears, gave him a big hug and said, "My son hit a power line with a tractor, and



"Neon Leon" and "Lightning Liz" illustrate how electrocution can occur when approaching a tractor with a downed power line on it.



The demonstration is designed for elementary-aged children but draws crowds of all ages.

because he saw your presentation, he knew to stay in the tractor. He is here today because of you.”

Many cooperative representatives across the state can share similar stories where children, farm wives and equipment operators knew exactly what to do in a dangerous situation involving electricity because they saw one of the cooperative’s electric safety presentations.

“When watching the demonstration, the kids probably don’t understand everything right away,” says Patrick Soukup, manager of member services/marketing at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D. “But it might get them asking questions about electricity and they’ll go look it up or bring it up in conversation.”

Kids rarely leave the booth empty-handed. Attendees can count on taking home a souvenir including pencils, rulers, band-aids, plastic hardhats, stickers and a variety of different hand-outs to remind them about the presentation.

Representatives from the electric cooperatives from across South Dakota take turns operating the demonstration at the booth.

During the Stock Show, the electric cooperatives also facilitate the high voltage

trailer demonstration held Thursday evening in conjunction with the sheep dog trials and mutton busting.

In addition to the Stock Show, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South

Dakota provide energy efficiency and safety education at other events across the state, including the South Dakota State Fair and Dakotafest. You can also likely find them at your local home and farm shows, town festival, school

events and more.

To request a safety demonstration in your community, contact your local electric cooperative.



A young girl at the booth gets a closer look at overhead and underground conductor samples.



Ranch Rodeo Events

One of the most popular events at the Black Hills Stock Show is the Ranch Rodeo. Teams from a five-state region compete for more than \$21,000 in cash and prizes.

Preliminary and final events represent real-life chores on the ranch and provide unique entertainment.

- **Steer Loadin’**
Teams must sort and load a steer into the trailer and shut and latch the trailer.
- **Range Doctorin’**
Teams must head and heel a cow, lay it on its rib cage, “doctor it” on the neck with medicine on a paint stick and remove the ropes.
- **Stray Gatherin’**
Teams must head and heel a steer and tie any three legs.
- **Blake’s Trailer Loading**
Teams will have trailers loaded with horses in the arena. They must unload their horses, rope two steers and load them into the trailer.
- **Rope, Mug and Tie**
Teams must lay and tie down a designated steer.
- **Head, Heel and Brand**
Teams must head and heel two steers, lay each on its side, and brand them.
- **Pendleton Ranch Bronc Ride**
A team member must ride a bronc for 8-seconds and can hang on with both hands if desired.

Join the fun! #YE2020



South Dakota Rural Electric
YOUTH

EXCURSION
July 27-30, 2020



The Youth Excursion Tour will be held July 27-30, 2020, and is headquartered in Bismarck, N.D.

All area high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., 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, Inc., will provide for transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment and sightseeing events. Students are required to supply their own personal/shopping money.

For More
Information
Contact:

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facebook.com/Lake-Region-Electric-Association-Inc
Application Deadline: April 1, 2020



Join the FUN!
#YTDCSD2020

June 18-25, 2020

*(Best of all, it's free thanks
to your local electric
cooperative!)*

TEENS:

Head to D.C. This Summer for **FREE!**

Attention all area high school students and whose parents or guardians are members of Lake Region Electric Association:

Here is your chance of a lifetime to experience an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 18-25.

What makes electric cooperatives different from other utilities is that “giving something back to the community” is part of their business plan. Why do electric cooperatives bring high school students to Washington? Because it is important to learn about the political process to interact with your government. The student who wins this trip will walk away from this week as a better leader and a sense that they can make a difference.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C., every June since the late 1950s. Students compete for slots for this unique opportunity and are selected for this program by their local electric cooperative.

The featured speakers during National Youth Day provide insight to the important roles electric cooperatives play in their community. Students gain a personal understanding of American history and their role as a citizen by meeting their representative and senators and explore the sights around the nation's capitol.

During the trip, you'll see tons of sites, meet teens from across the country and gain perspective on community and cooperatives.

If you want to be part of the fun...

Complete the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., application form below and submit the completed application along with your 500-word essay on the topic: Describe the Difference Between a Nonprofit Organization and a For-Profit Organization and Describe How This Applies to the Electric Industry to Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., before the March 15, 2020, deadline.

How the Participant is Chosen...

Lake Region Electric's Selection Committee will review and evaluate all applications received. Students may be asked to participate in an interview. The committee will select one student to represent Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., at this year's event.

Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., Application Form

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Student's Cell Phone Number: _____ Student's Email: _____
Parent/Guardian's Names: _____
Parent's Phone Number: _____ Parent's Email: _____
School: _____ Year in School in 2020-2021 School Year: _____
Male or Female: _____ T-shirt Size: _____

For More Information Contact:
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www.facebook.com/Lake-Region-Electric-Association-Inc

Application Deadline:
March 15, 2020

December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

February 21

KORN and Breaking Benjamin, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 21-22

Mardi Gras Weekend, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

February 22

Cabin Fever Games, Yankton, SD, 605-665-8994

February 22-23

48th Annual Farm, Home & Sports Show, Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD 605-224-1240

February 26

The Harlem Globetrotters, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 27-29

SD High School State Wrestling Tournament, All Classes, Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

February 27-March 1

35th Annual SD State Dart Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

March 12-14

SD State B High School Girls Basketball Tournament, Donald E. Young Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-224-9261

March 14

28 Below Fatbike Race, Ride and Tour, Lead, SD, 605-641-4963

March 14-15

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Davison County Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD, 701-361-9215



March 18, June 11, August 13 and October 8

Kids Mystery Dinner Theater, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

March 19-21

SD State A High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-224-9261

March 19-21

SD State AA High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

March 19-21

SD State B High School Boys Basketball Tournament, Barnett Center, Aberdeen, SD, 605-224-9261

March 20-21, 27-28

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 21-22

Gun Show, Codington County Ag Building, Watertown, SD, 701-361-9215

March 28

Annual Ag Day at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

March 28

SD High School All-State Band Concert, Mitchell Fine Arts Center, Mitchell, SD, 605-224-9261

April 3-4

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876 or 800-999-1876

April 4-5

Annual USD Wacipi, Vermillion, SD

April 11

Eggstravaganza, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

April 17-19

First Dakota Classic Archery Tournament, Yankton, SD, 605-260-9282

April 18

Black Hills Gold & Treasure Show, Rapid City, SD

April 18

Design Challenge, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-731-2348

April 25

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

July 14

Rock Nobles Cattlemen 2020 Summer Beef Tour, Nobles County Fairgrounds, Register Before June 1: \$20, After June 1: \$40, Worthington, MN, 507-967-2380, www.mnsca.org

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.