



# Cooperative Connections



**Joy Ride? A Look  
at Electric Vehicles**

Page 8

**Tractor of Tomorrow?**

Page 12





## Where is Your Account Number?

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your number, call the office before May 30 and you will receive a \$10 credit on your next month's billing. If no one finds the account number, the credit will be \$20 in the next issue. Happy searching!

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

#### Laundry Tip:

Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.

Source: energy.gov



# Invested in Our Youth

## Jager Selected for D.C. Youth Tour

Gage Jager is the winner of the 2018 Washington, D.C., trip. Gage is the son of Mike and Jessica Jager. Gage, along with other participants from South Dakota, will meet for an orientation meeting in Sioux Falls, S.D. The group will then fly to Washington, D.C. Gage will learn about government, the cooperative philosophy and rural electrification. He will also participate in touring several historical places in the area. Gage qualified for this trip by simply filling out a "Data Sheet" and taking an "Open Book" test on the history and organization of rural electrification.

Lacreek would like to congratulate Gage and hope that he not only has a great learning experience, but a wonderful time as well.



**Gage Jager**  
Martin

## Basin Electric Youth Trip Winners

Lacreek Electric sponsors two area students for the South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion. The excursion will be July 24-26, 2018. Gage Jager and Katie McDonnell were selected for this trip. Congratulations Gage and Katie, on behalf of the Lacreek Electric board of directors, staff and employees we hope you both have a great time.



**Katie McDonnell**  
Martin

## Trio Earn Scholarships

Lacreek Electric Association, along with its power suppliers Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D., and Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D., award scholarships each year.



**Barbara Antonsen**  
Wanblee



**Tate Risse**  
Martin



**Emalynn Larvie**  
Parmelee

Basin Electric/Lacreek Scholarship winner is

Barbara Antonsen. She is the daughter of Michael and Rhonda Antonsen. The two Lacreek Electric scholarship recipients are Tate Risse, son of Wade and Bonnie Risse, and Emalynn M. Larvie, daughter of Joseph and Eleanor Larvie.

# Know what's below Call 811 before you dig.



# Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-912)

## Board of Directors

Tom Schlack – President  
Jerry Sharp – Vice President  
Troy Kuxhaus – Secretary  
Clarence Allen – Treasurer  
Melvin Cummings – Ellis Rae Hicks –  
Brent Ireland – Neal Livermont –  
Dean O'Neill – Wade Risse – Marion  
Schultz – Connie Whirlwind Horse –  
Donovon Young Man

## Management Staff

Derek Sorley – General Manager  
Sherry Bakley – Executive Assistant  
Josh Fanning – Member Services  
and Procurement Manager  
Anna Haynes – Finance and  
Administration Manager  
Mike Pisha – Operations Manager

## Office Personnel

Tracie Hahn – Accountant II  
Stacey Robinson – Administration  
Assistant and Editor  
Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist  
Kasi Harris – Benefits Specialist  
Terri Gregg – Billing Specialist  
Jessica Cook – Billing Specialist  
Lisa Jensen –  
Member Service Representative  
Ashley Turgeon –  
Member Service Representative

## Operations Personnel

Line Foreman: Jesse Byerley  
Journeyman Linemen:  
Dane Claussen – Ryan Pettit – Aaron  
Risse – Lonny Lesmeister  
Apprentice Linemen:  
Aarin Ainsworth – Jordon Bakley –  
Tyler Brown – Alex Christensen –  
Garrett Metzinger – Brad Hahn  
Glenn Smith – Maintenance Man  
Cody Larson – Warehouse Man

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

This publication is mailed the 15th of the month prior to the issue date. Layout is at least three weeks prior to mailing. LACREEK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551 for its members. Families subscribe to Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Martin, SD and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551; telephone (605) 685-6581; fax (605) 685-6957

## LEA Employees Capture First at Charity Ride Bowling Tournament Held

Central Electric hosted the third annual Charity Ride Bowling Tournament on March 3 at the Village Bowl in Mitchell. About 80 participants competed in the event, making a total of 19 teams from 11 South Dakota electric cooperatives. More than \$3,000 was raised to be donated to the Line Patrol Fund at the Charity Ride this September.

Lacreek Electric was the top scoring team and took home the traveling trophy. The two raffle winners were Wade Klinkhammer of Southeastern Electric, who won the custom flag made by Ken Schlinggen, general manager at Central Electric, and Zach Hewitt from Rushmore Electric, who won a case of trap shells. #2402505407

Every team bowled three games and scores were flighted into divisions. The top scores in each flight were declared winners. The following teams were flight winners: Flight 1, Lacreek Ball Busters from Lacreek Electric; Flight 2, Central Electric; Flight 3, Stray Voltage from Charles Mix Electric and Bon Homme Yankton Electric; and Flight 4, Grim Reapers from Charles Mix Electric and Irby Co.

Courtney Deinert, manager of communications at Central Electric, said, "Hosting the co-op network in our town makes me extremely proud – what an awesome group of people! The fellowship alone is worthwhile, but the funds raised will make more of an impact than we know."



Lacreek Electric employee Lisa Jensen and her husband, Tony, and Tanner Jons won first place in the bowling tourney.

## IN CASE OF OUTAGE

**1ST:** Check the fuses or breakers in your home or building in which you do not have power.

**2ND:** Check meter for display and readings. If the meter is blank, you are probably experiencing an outage and need to call our office immediately.

**3RD:** If your meter has a display, check your breaker below your meter on the yard pole.

**4TH:** Please contact your neighbor to see if they are experiencing a power outage because it would be helpful to know if other members in the area are also out of power.

**5TH:** Make sure you have the name the bill is in, the meter number and/or the account number.

**6TH:** Call Lacreek Electric at 605-685-6581 or if you are calling long distance dial 1-800-655-9324. We now have a 24 hour answering service. First, you will hear an automated message, "Thank you for calling Lacreek Electric. Your call may be recorded or monitored for quality assurance." You will then hear the following menu:

If you're calling to report an electrical outage, press 1.  
If you have a billing question, press 2.  
If you're calling to report a meter reading, press 3.  
For all other calls, press 0.

Office Hours: 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MDT.  
Open over noon hour  
Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

## Electrical Safety on the Farm

Farming is among the more dangerous occupations for several reasons, including potential for encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, the Safe Electricity program urges farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

Safe Electricity encourages farm managers to share this information with their families and workers to keep them safe from electrical accidents.

- Start each morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.
- Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.
- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay, will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

Electrical work around the farm can also pose hazards. Often, the need for an electrical repair comes when a farmer has been working long hours and is fatigued. At such times, it's best to step back and wait until you've rested.

Source: [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org)

## Primary Elections Near

Voters in South Dakota head to the polls in June for the primary election while voters in Minnesota follow suit Aug. 14.

A primary election determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election.

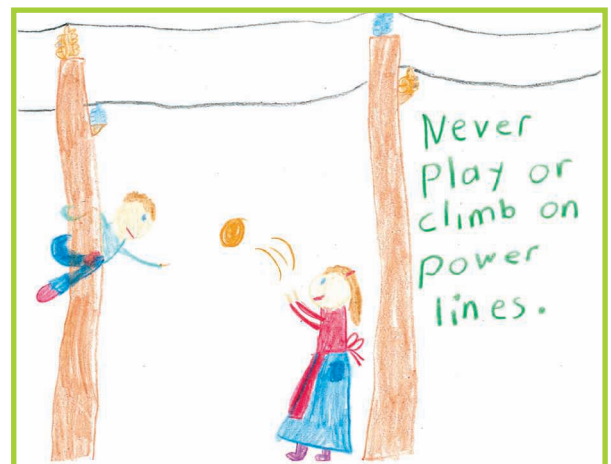
In South Dakota, there are 24 House and Senate races with primary elections that will be decided on June 5. Those wishing to vote in the primary election have until May 21 to register to vote. Absentee voting began on April 20.

Minnesota's Primary Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 14. Minnesotans can vote by mail or in person from June 29 through Aug. 13.

As part of the election cycle, co-ops across the county are engaging in Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. The Co-ops Vote campaign seeks to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and their communities into the public discussion.



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Never play or climb on power lines."**

**Caroline Ekberg, 9 years old**

Caroline is the daughter of Lance and Doris Ekberg, Hamill, S.D. They are members of Rosebud Electric Cooperative, Gregory, 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.





# Dairy Delicious

## Cream Cheese Chicken Taquitos

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 boneless chicken breasts | 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese |
| 1 tsp. chili powder        | 1/3 cup water               |
| 1 tsp. garlic powder       | 1/2 cup shredded cheese     |
| 1 tsp. cumin               | 12 6-inch flour tortillas   |

Place chicken, chili powder, garlic powder, cumin, cream cheese and water in crock pot. Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours or 4 hours on HIGH. Place 1/4 cup of the chicken mixture into each tortilla. Top with 1 to 2 T. shredded cheese. Roll tightly and place in a single layer on greased baking sheet. Bake at 400°F. for 10 minutes or until tortillas are slightly browned and cheese is melted.

**Cortney Reedy, Tea, S.D.**

## Crunchy Ice Cream Bars

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup light corn syrup                | 4 cup Kellogg's Cocoa Krispies |
| 1/2 cup peanut butter, creamy or chunky | 1 pint ice cream               |

Mix corn syrup thoroughly with peanut butter. Pour over Cocoa Krispies and stir until well coated. Press mixture into a 9x13-inch buttered pan. Place in freezer to firm up. Cut into 12 3-inch squares. Place a slice of ice cream between 2 squares. Cut each square into 2 bars. Wrap individually in foil and keep in freezer until needed.

**Cindy Reu, Luverne, Minn.**

## Strawberry Cheesecake Pie

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 2 cups sliced fresh strawberries | 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened   |
| 1/4 cup chopped almonds          | 2 cups cold milk, divided               |
| 1 T. sugar                       | 1 (3.4 oz) pkg. instant vanilla pudding |
| 1 9-inch graham cracker crust    |   |

In a bowl, combine strawberries, almonds and sugar. Pour into crust. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth; gradually add 1/2 cup milk. Add pudding mix and remaining milk. Beat for 1 minute or until blended; pour over strawberries. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or until set.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, S.D.**

## Lemon Ginger Blueberry Muffins

|                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 cups flour                    | 1/4 cup milk                         |
| 2/3 cup sugar                   | 1/4 cup vegetable oil                |
| 1-1/2 tsp. baking powder        | 1 egg, lightly beaten                |
| 1 tsp. McCormick® ground ginger | 1 tsp. McCormick® pure lemon extract |
| 1/2 tsp. baking soda            | 1 cup blueberries                    |
| 1 cup sour cream                |                                      |

Lightly grease 12 muffin cups or line with paper baking cups. Set aside. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, ginger and baking soda in large bowl. Mix sour cream, milk, oil, egg and lemon extract in medium bowl. Add to flour mixture; stir just until dry ingredients are moistened. (Batter will be thick and slightly lumpy.) Gently stir in blueberries. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3 full. Bake at 400°F. 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of muffins comes out clean. Serve warm. Makes 12 (1 muffin) servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 213, Total Fat 9g, Sodium 122mg, Cholesterol 29mg, Carbohydrates 30g, Protein 3g, Dietary Fiber 14g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Cowboy Caviar

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2 cans Mexicorn                | 1 can diced tomatoes and green chilies |
| 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese | 6 green onions, chopped                |
| 1 cup Miracle Whip             | Fritos Scoops corn chips               |
| 1 cup sour cream               |  |

Mix together all ingredients; serve with corn chips.

**Jane Ham, Rapid City, S.D.**

Please send your favorite dessert, salad and garden produce 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# February Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., was held in the office of the Cooperative, located in the Town of Martin, South Dakota, Feb. 21, 2018, beginning at 1 p.m.

Also present were General Manager Derek Sorley, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Finance and Administration Manager Anna Haynes, Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning, Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley and Administration Assistant Stacey Robinson.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as mailed.

Additions to the agenda were asked for by President Schlack.

The following additions were made:

- Executive Session
- Corporate Certificate and Financial Resolution

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the additional agenda items.

The Operating Report for December and the List of Disbursements and Investments for January were presented by Office Manager Anna Haynes and reviewed by the board.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Check Audit Committee's review of the list of January checks and disbursements. (Marion "chairman", Wade and Dean). The March check audit committee will be (Neal "chairman", Brent and ER). Anna suggested that the check audit committee rotate every six months; however, the board wanted to keep it as is with monthly rotation.

Anna discussed financial questions asked at the January board meeting and said will need to do a loan draw down in March and Tom Jones with RUS will be here April 9-13.

Anna presented the Analysis of Investments. The investments were reviewed by the board.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the list of new members, attached hereto.

Anna reported that the audit went well; about Earl's retirement party on March 2<sup>nd</sup>; that we passed our credit card security scan last week; that document vault will be ready

soon and working on the new work plan loan documents.

Mike reported on work in progress; that the contractor has started on the distribution side of the Wanblee Tap and Substation; on the new work plan; planning-Wanblee East Circuit Easements, about the Wanblee East Reinsulate, that there is a possibility of putting in tie lines west; on the Little Wound School Handicap Ramp, Farmers Co-op Grain Elevator and Wolf Creek School Additional Load; discussed equipment; that Jesse Byerley has been hired as the new line foreman and advertising for an additional lineman.

The Board Safety Committee gave a report on the safety meeting they attended in the office.

The safety report was presented by Mike.

Josh reported on the upcoming annual meeting and the costs; that the stock show was slower than usual, Scholarships and Youth Tour applications are due March 2; the warehouse is running smoothly and did a small count for the audit which came out good; will begin doing weekly material counts; starting to enter assembly units for Stake Out and the Blanket PO's are working great.

Discussed mailing out the Capital Credit checks before the April annual meeting; however, the board wants the checks to be handed out at the meeting and any remaining checks be mailed after the annual meeting.

Derek reported on Stake Out which should be live in March; gave an update on the RUS Construction Work Plan and RUS named a new administrator Ken Johnson; he gave a presentation to the Wakpamni District Business Development group at Prairie Wind Casino; had a conference call on Load Management and Solar Survey with Rushmore; on the Rushmore MAC meeting he attended; about the SDREA MAC meeting he attended and on the Board of Director Committee meetings he attended-"Transportation & Equipment," "Safety" and "Policy." He is also now the Statewide and Education Chairman for SDREA.

General Manager Derek Sorley presented a Solar Survey from Power System Engi-

neering, Inc. "PSE" which he received from Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative. Rushmore was going to vote on this item on Feb. 22 and is seeking a decision from each co-op if they wanted to participate. The board decided they needed more information plus consult with Lacreek's lawyer before they could commit at this time.

Josh discussed a member's rate that was determined years ago; however, based on the changing of times with DRU/Demand, the rate is not conducive and will no longer be in effect. The board was in agreement with no more special rates.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the RD Apply Authorized Representative Resolution.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Capital Credit Resolution to allocate operating margins.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the retirement of Capital Credits in the amount of \$374,141.

Discussion was held on the Policy's #9A #12, #29, which have been updated. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Policy changes. Employee Policy #24 is still being reviewed.

Went over Policy #19 due to a member's concern regarding Line Build charges, which the board deemed our rates are competitive with other coops in the area and no additional action is required. The member was contacted by board of director Wade Risse.

Anna went over the write off history along with the current write off list.

Discussion was held on the Rushmore Electric Annual Meeting being held on April 4 at the Lodge in Deadwood with Clarence Allen being the delegate and Donovan Young Man being the alternate. Marion, Derek, Mike and Josh also plan to attend.

The Legislation Conference in Washington D.C., is being held April 8-10 with no one planning to attend at this time.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Corporate Certificate and Financial resolution.

**Next Board Meeting** – March 20, 2018 at 1 p.m.

# March Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. was held in the office of the Cooperative, located in the Town of Martin, South Dakota, March 20, 2018, beginning at 1 p.m.

Also present were General Manager Derek Sorley, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Finance and Administration Manager Anna Haynes, Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning, Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley, Administration Assistant Stacey Robinson and Derrick Larson with Eide Bailly via Web Cam Conference call.

Derrick Larson with Eide Bailly presented the 2017 audit. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the 2017 audit report.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as mailed after a correction was made to add Wade Risse as present for the February meeting.

Additions to the agenda were asked for by President Schlack.

The following additions were made:

- Board Evaluations, which President Schlack asked for the completed Board Evaluations from the board members at that time.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the additional agenda items.

The Operating Report for January and the List of Disbursements and Investments for February were presented by Office Manager Anna Haynes and reviewed by the board.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the check audit committee's review of the list of February checks and disbursements as listed in your book. (Neal "chairman", Brent and ER). The April check audit committee will be (Melvin "chairman", Clarence and Troy).

Anna presented the Analysis of Investments. The investments were reviewed by the board.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the list of new members, attached hereto.

Anna reported that we passed our credit card security scan last week; has been working with Eide Bailly on the 990 form; that Doc Vault is scheduled for July and Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley is working on new RUS loan documents which Derek confirmed that Tom Jones with RUS will be here in April to sign the loan documents.

Mike reported on work in progress; about the Wanblee Tap and Substation; on storm outages; that will begin interviewing for the lineman job; about equipment; that RAM Utilities has been hired to do pole testing; Electro-Test & Maintenance scheduling substation transformer oil testing and Peters Excavation hired to do the road bores; the Ditch Witch cable locator has been ordered; taking quotes for the 12-ton compression crimper and about training and showed the board three comparative bids for the 4-wheel drive bucket truck.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Altec bid for the 4-wheel drive bucket truck.

The safety report was presented by Mike, which included pictures of accidents on the same day where a pole and transformer were run over at two different locations.

Josh gave an update on the upcoming Annual Meeting; that will be drawing for scholarships; Gage Jager was the Youth Tour winner; the Rushmore Member Service spring meeting will be at held at Lacreek April 19 and 20; the warehouse has been helping with office moves and the NRECA annual meeting he attended was very informative.

Troy and Tom reported on the NRECA Annual Meeting they attended in Nashville, Tenn.

Derek reported he attended the NRECA Annual Meeting and Rushmore Electric FCU Annual Meeting; had a startup meeting with GeoDigital for Stakeout Engineering Software; on Employee and Equipment Committee meetings for the Large Bucket Truck; on the competitive bidding for a Cable Locator; that will be getting

competitive bidding on new truck #9; has begun the first phase of NRECA RESAP program (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program); about the Rushmore MAC Members Solar Survey; about the storm damage; on Besler's request for payment; preparing for the upcoming Annual Meeting and upcoming events he will be attending.

Derek approached the board about the Management Internship Program (MIP) in

which the cost is very substantial and questioned if that was in the best interest for the coop to take these courses. The board was in agreement to not take the MIP classes and instead advised him to look into accounting and finance courses to strengthen his finance knowledge.

Derek approached the board about being nominated to serve on the NRECA Annual Meeting and TechAdvantage Advisory Board. The board thought this would be positive for Lacreek plus networking with other cooperatives. The board voted to approve this nomination.

Discussion was held on the Solar Survey to participate with Rushmore which was tabled due to a lack of a motion; however, a motion was made, seconded and carried to do an in house survey with further discussion about this in the future.

President Schlack reviewed the board evaluation questions and passed them out to the board. Discussion was held on the evaluations. The board asked General Manager Derek Sorley to obtain a new report form to use in the future.

A drawing was held for the \$1,000 scholarships with Tate Risse and Emalynn Larvie being the winner.

Josh gave an update on the upcoming annual meeting.

Next Board Meeting – April 17, 2018 at 1 p.m.



**Lacreek Electric Association**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 





The 2017 Ford Focus, with a price tag in the \$35,000 dollar range, can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, which is about average for all U.S. cars.

## What You Don't Know about Electric Cars Could

# THRILL YOU

## Electric Vehicles Aren't Just for City Driving.

**Paul Wesslund**

NRECA Contributing Writer

If you want a really powerful car, maybe one that can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in less than 3 seconds, consider an electric vehicle like the NIO EP9.

You're right, that's too powerful. The NIO EP9 would also cost you more than a million dollars. But even more modest versions offer a respectable kick. The Chevy Bolt and Ford Focus, with price tags in the \$35,000 dollar range, make the jump to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, which is about average for all U.S. cars.

There's a built-in reason electric cars hold their own in performance, says Brian Sloboda, a program and product manager at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"In an electric car, all of the power is going into the wheels. With a gas-powered car, a lot of power is lost inside the mechanical engine," says Sloboda. "If you sit in an electric car and the driver smashes down on the accelerator, you are going to be thrown into the back of your seat, much more so than many gasoline cars."

In March, Goodyear announced a new tire that would hold up better under the "instant torque from electric motors."

Photo Caption



**But wait, there's more.**

"The battery is at the bottom of the car, so you have a lower center of gravity, which means you can take the corners crisper," says Sloboda. "If you do a lot of driving in the hills or mountains, they are fun."

Electric vehicles hold a lot of other surprises compared to the



traditional view of them as a glorified golf cart. Even electric co-op in rural parts of the country are hearing interest from their members.

About 700,000 electric vehicles drive on U.S. roads today, according to an analysis by CoBank, a financier for electric co-ops. That number could jump to 3 million in the next five years, says CoBank. The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration projects electric vehicle sales growing from about 1 percent of the market today, to 12 percent by 2050.

Car makers are pushing those trends. In October, General Motors said it would launch 20 new electric vehicles by 2023. In January, Ford announced plans to invest \$11 billion in a lineup of 40 hybrid and electric vehicles by 2022. In March, Volkswagen said it had secured \$25 billion in electric car batteries and technology and plans to scale that up to \$60 billion.

One of the most radical new notions about electric vehicles, advises Sloboda, is to think of them not as cars or trucks, but as consumer electronics.

"The internal combustion engine is a perfected technology, so those cars aren't improving at a very rapid pace," says Sloboda. "But electric vehicles are evolving at a very rapid pace, so you're really kind of comparing it to a cell phone or a computer."

What that means for consumers, says Sloboda, is that they might consider leasing an electric car rather than buying one, to make it easier to trade in the car to take advantage of the annual improvements in battery life, and other features.

Other unexpected benefits of electric vehicles that could speed their acceptance, says Sloboda, include range, maintenance and more competitive costs.

## Will I run out of juice?

The electric vehicle industry has a term for the biggest roadblock to its growth—range anxiety. But Sloboda says the fear of getting stranded far from home with no way to refuel may be overblown, and getting less concerning.

"The range on the electric cars you can buy today is perfectly sufficient to cover almost everyone's daily commute," he says. Sloboda says that while electric cars won't work for someone regularly commuting 100 miles a day, "For most people, even in rural areas, that number is under 40 miles a day. Most electric cars on the market today have between a 120 mile range and some of them are getting close to a 200 miles."

The Federal Highway Administration reports the average American drives 37 miles a day.

## Less hassle

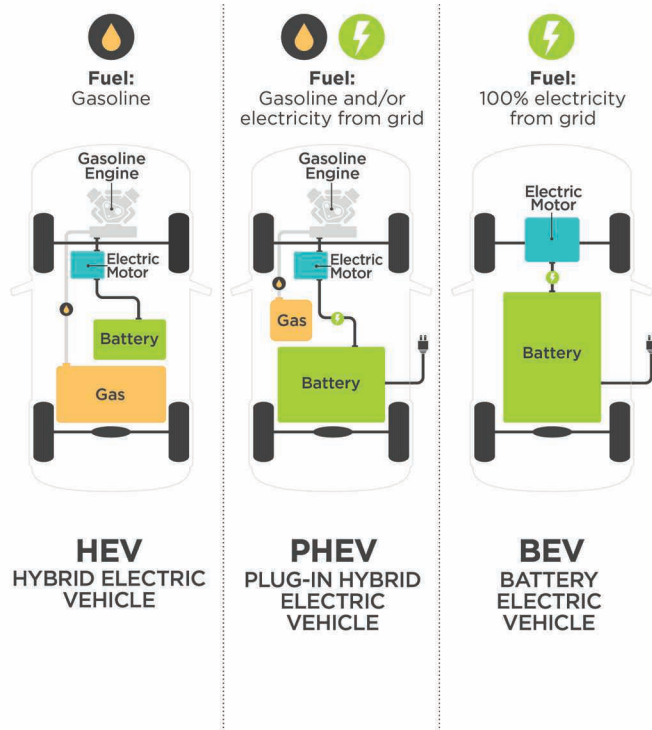
Electric car acceptance doesn't need to wait for a network or charging stations to appear around the country, says Sloboda. He sees refueling more like this: you plug your car into an outlet in your garage at the end of each day, and by morning it's fully charged.

"No more having to stop and fill your tank up once or twice a week," he says. "You can charge it at home while you're sleeping and wake up to a full tank every single day."

Electric cars can also save on maintenance, says Sloboda.

## Types of Electric Vehicles

If you're looking to purchase an electric vehicle, use this cheat sheet to help determine the various options. Drivers can choose between three types of electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are classed by the amount of electricity that is used as their energy source.



Source: Electric Power Research Institute

"With an electric vehicle, you don't have oil changes, and you don't really have transmission fluid changes," he says.

And regenerative braking in electric cars uses the electric motor to slow the car rather than relying only on brake pad friction. Sloboda says, "A lot of electric vehicle owners are saying they've never replaced their brakes because you just don't have the physical wear and tear on the brake pad."

## Costs are coming down.

Sloboda says electric car costs today make them a luxury car, but that's changing. As electric car research, development and production increases, costs will be coming down. Tax breaks for electric cars at the federal level and in some states can reduce costs by several thousand dollars. And Sloboda notes that electric costs less per mile than gasoline.

But one of the main reasons drivers buy electric cars is for environmental reasons.

Sloboda says an electric car "is cleaner than a gas-powered car, no doubt about it."

Another advantage of an electric car, he adds, is that "you're powering it with electricity from your local electric co-op."

*Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



LEA President Tom Schlack congratulates Julia Garnier on being the \$300 grand prize winner at the annual meeting.

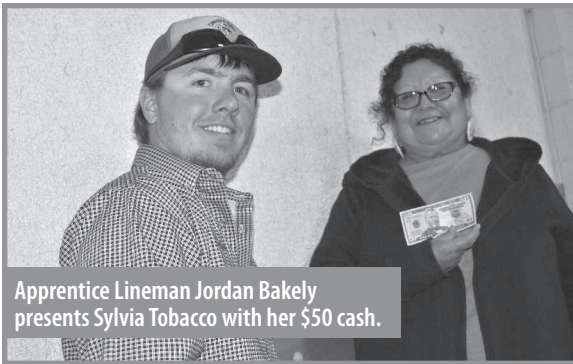
# LEA HOLDS 70TH ANNUAL MEETING

Lacreek Electric held its 70th annual meeting in Martin, S.D., at the Old American Legion Auditorium on April 26, 2018, at 7 p.m. Lacreek served 540 members for a sit down meal. The kids at the meeting were treated to a movie, "Peter Rabbit," at the local theater. There were 261 registered members at the meeting. There were four zones up for election, which ran unopposed. Zone 2: East Bennett County – Brent Ireland incumbent; Zone 4: East Oglala Lakota County – Marion Schultz incumbent; Zone 7: Cherry County, Neb. – Tom Schlack incumbent; and Zone 9: West Oglala Lakota County – Donovan Young Man incumbent. General Manager Derek Sorley recognized all employees and President Tom Schlack recognized the board of directors. At the conclusion of the meeting, there were several prizes handed out and the \$300 grand prize winner was Julia Garnier.



Melanie Janis, left, won an emergency kit, which was delivered to her by LEA's Lisa Jensen.

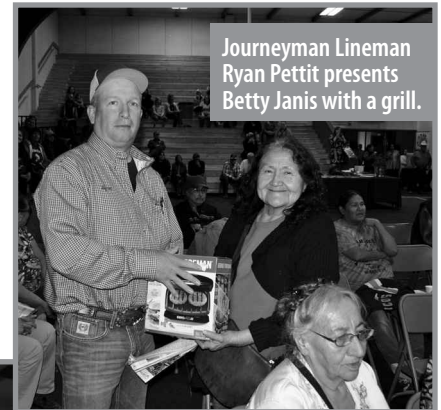




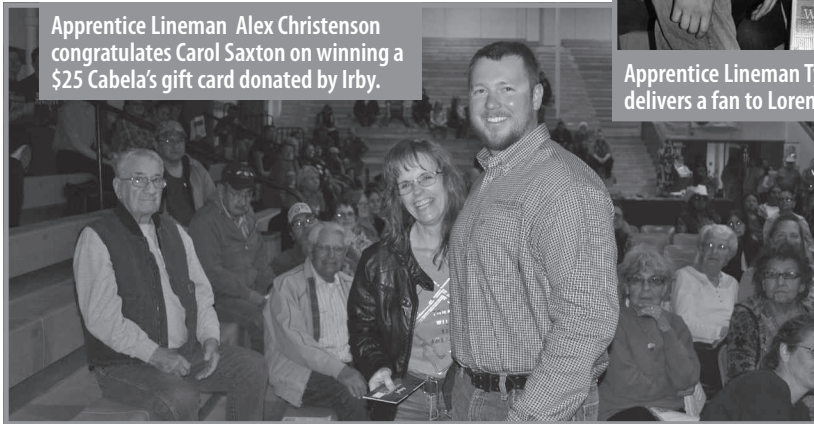
Apprentice Lineman Jordan Bakely presents Sylvia Tobacco with her \$50 cash.



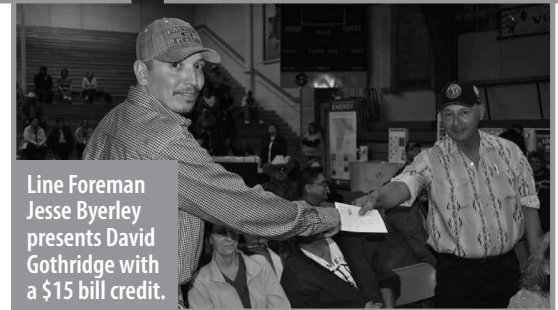
Apprentice Lineman Tyler Brown delivers a fan to Lorena Brave Hawk.



Journeyman Lineman Ryan Pettit presents Betty Janis with a grill.



Apprentice Lineman Alex Christenson congratulates Carol Saxton on winning a \$25 Cabela's gift card donated by Irby.



Line Foreman Jesse Byerley presents David Gothridge with a \$15 bill credit.

## 2018 Annual Meeting Prizes

| PRIZE  | Recipient            |
|--|----------------------|
| EARLY BIRD PRIZE: Mr Coffee Gourmet Coffee/Coffee Mug donated by LEA | Doris Hicks          |
| 12-inch Table Fan - LEA  | Lorraine New         |
| Emergency Roadside Kit donated by Border States                      | Melanie Janis        |
| Leather Work Gloves donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA     | Seymour Young Dog    |
| 14-inch High Velocity Fan - LEA                                      | Lorena Brave Hawk    |
| Heavy Duty Extension Cord-True Value                                 | Julia Garnier        |
| \$15 Bill Credit - LEA   | David Gothridge      |
| Black & Decker Four-Quart Slow Cooker - donated by LEA               | Dwight Deaver        |
| Leather Work Gloves donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA     | Duane Reddest        |
| \$15 Bill Credit - donated by LEA                                    | Madeline Terry       |
| Hamilton Beach Blender - LEA   | Rueben & Janice Ring |
| Leather Work Gloves donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA     | Wahackkaka Whipple   |
| Electric Can Opener - donated by LEA                                 | Iva Jo Ruff          |
| 16-Quart Cooler donated by RESCO                                     | Sandra Locke         |
| Food Chopper - donated by LEA  | Rhonda Antonsen      |
| Leather Work Gloves donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA     | Dorothy Petrik       |
| \$25 Cabela's Gift Card - donated by IRBY                            | Carol Saxton         |
| \$15 Bill Credit - donated by LEA                                    | Viola Clifford       |
| Sun Beam Hot Water Dispenser - LEA                                   | Carol Moreland       |
| 11-Inch Electric Skillet - LEA                                       | Nadine Reddy         |
| Leather Work Gloves donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA     | Danielle McDonnell   |
| \$25 LEA bill credit - donated by Stella Jones                       | Donna Turning Hawk   |
| George Foreman Grill - LEA   | Betty Janis          |

| PRIZE  | Recipient             |
|--|-----------------------|
| Levels - donated by Basin Electric   | Judy Livermont        |
| Electric Can Opener - donated by LEA                                       | Gwen Yellow Eyes      |
| Leather Work Gloves donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA           | Bonita Ghost Dog      |
| \$15 Bill Credit - LEA   | Adam White Eyes JR    |
| Leather Work Gloves donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA           | Randy Kocourek        |
| \$25 Cabela's Gift Card - donated by IRBY                                  | Vlasta Kirk           |
| All in One Tote donated by RESCO   | Linda Loudon          |
| Kevlar Gloves - donated by IRBY & Coffee Mug - donated by LEA              | Nancy Rouillard       |
| Stanley Fatmax 1,000 peak Amp Power Station - donated by Rushmore Electric | Louis McBride         |
| Leather Work Gloves donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA           | Martha American Horse |
| \$25 LEA bill credit - donated by Stella Jones                             | Ramona Janis          |
| Leather Work Gloves donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA           | Marilyn Puckett       |
| Table Top Grill - donated by LEA   | Jennifer Crazy Bear   |
| Leather Work Gloves - donated by WESCO & Coffee Mug donated by LEA         | Susan Two Eagle       |
| \$50 Cash  | Cynthia Little Moon   |
| \$50 Cash  | Marilyn Rodriguez     |
| \$50 Cash  | Betty Cook            |
| \$50 Cash  | Sylvia Tobacco        |
| \$50 Cash  | Wayne Sterkel         |
| \$50 Cash  | Mary Ziegler          |
| \$50 Cash  | Juanita Scherich      |
| \$50 Cash  | Jerene Heesacker      |
| <b>\$300 Cash GRAND PRIZE</b>  | Julia Garnier         |

# Meet the Electric John Deere

## Battery-run Tractor Showcased in Paris

Kaley Lockwood

editor@sdrea.coop

**In order for the SESAM to take off, the battery capacity will need to expand to support the sun-up to sun-down longevity of farm work.**

Green and yellow are arguably the second-most American set of colors, behind red, white and blue of course. This rings true particularly for those who operate John Deere machinery on a daily basis, as the growth of our nation is supremely dependent on the country's agriculture industry, including the good folks who support it.

Technology in recent years has been the catalyst for the boom and bust of many industries. In the past decade or so, advancements in farming technology have primarily been focused on automation and precision, but with the automobile industry moving towards electric vehicles, the ag-industry is following suit.

John Deere showcased the first, fully battery-powered tractor in 2017 at SIMA, an international agribusiness tradeshow in Paris. This technological innovation was given a 'special mention' as it truly the first of its kind. Nicknamed SESAM, for Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery, this all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6R series tractors.



A peak under the hood of John Deere's first, fully battery-powered tractor. The all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6R series tractors.

In a press release by John Deere, SESAM is said to have all of the same "features and functionality of a 'conventional' tractor while offering the benefits of electric power." This emissions-free tractor runs at a lower noise level than other traditional tractors and is operated using two independent electric motors. The electrification of this tractor simplifies the moving parts and thus, greatly reduces the need for maintenance.

These two motors power an adapted DirectDrive transmission, producing 130 kilowatts of continuous power with a peak output of 400 horsepower, according to Farm-Equipment.com. The website also affirms that the tractor takes three hours to fully charge and can run up to four hours in the field with speeds ranging from 2 mph to 30 mph. As a comparison, the Tesla model 3 may have a capacity of up to 75 kilowatt hours of battery storage (kWh), providing a range of about 310 miles. The SESAM has a capacity of 130 kWh with a range of about 34 miles, which



means that this tractor uses a lot more electricity in a shorter period of time.

In order for the SESAM to take off, the battery capacity will need to expand to support the sun-up to sun-down longevity of farm work. In fact, the President and CEO of Autonomous Tractor Corporation, Kraig Schulz, purported that a 200 horsepower electric tractor would hypothetically need about 1,500 kWh of batteries to complete a full day's work. As energy storage technology continues to advance, it's only a matter of time before John Deere manufactures a tractor that can meet this need.

Although SESAM's battery technology may not yet be practical for a full day of farming, the all-electric tractor is a very exciting development for the agriculture industry. This is one of many future steps in the direction of electrifying agricultural machinery and integrating this equipment with renewables. As the press release

stated, "The SESAM tractor is a major part of John Deere's vision of the energy-independent farm of the future."

This push towards electrification of farm machinery in lieu of using fossil fuels directly supports the beneficial electrification movement. This concept, known fully as "environmentally beneficial electrification," is gaining traction among a growing number of groups in the U.S. including local electric cooperatives. Frequently promoted as a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping the environment, beneficial electrification also helps consumers by providing products that are cleaner, quieter and easier to maintain. John Deere's SESAM tractor does just that.

*Kaley Lockwood writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

**The tractor takes three hours to fully charge and can run up to four hours in the field with speeds ranging from 2 mph to 30 mph.**

In 2017, John Deere showcased the first, fully battery-powered tractor. This technological innovation is truly the first of its kind. Nicknamed SESAM, for Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery, this all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6R series tractors.





Matt Greek, Basin Electric senior vice president of Research, Development, and Technology (second from left); and Doug Hardy, general manager of Basin Electric Class A member Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative (third from left), were among witnesses testifying before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources April 19 in Washington, D.C.

## Basin Electric, Member Co-op Staff Testify on **CAPITOL HILL**

### Basin Electric Power Cooperative

April 24, 2018

Matt Greek, Basin Electric senior vice president of Research, Development, and Technology; and Doug Hardy, general manager of Basin Electric Class A member Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources April 19 in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the hearing was to examine energy-related challenges and opportunities in remote and rural areas of the United States.

“We have rural and remote communities all over the United States,” said U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), committee chairman. “We’re here today to focus on their energy challenges and opportunities, in hopes of moving the ball forward on more affordable, more reliable, and increasingly clean energy for all of them.”

Greek shared the challenges Basin Electric and its members are facing in order to continue providing reliable and affordable energy in a carbon-constrained future.

“Basin Electric has a fiduciary responsibility to its members to provide electric generation at the least cost,” Greek said. “The cooperative has worked to achieve this goal by diversifying its portfolio with wind and market purchases.”

According to Greek, Basin Electric is also investing in the development of carbon capture solutions to help “crack the code” with respect to cost-effective technologies that capture, utilize, and sequester carbon dioxide, such as the Integrated Test Center and Allam Cycle.



Matt Greek, Basin Electric senior vice president of Research, Development, and Technology, shares about Basin Electric’s efforts to reliably and economically serve its members-consumers in a carbon-constrained environment. Dale Niezwaag, Basin Electric vice president of government relations, is pictured back left.

Hardy discussed challenges of serving the rural areas in Montana, as well as the importance of federal power marketing administrations, and the cooperative’s hydropower purchased from Western Area Power Administration.

“The challenges of serving these rural areas are great,” Hardy said. “These challenges include high, fixed costs of the power lines and the associated power system infrastructure, across vast distances, with fewer customers per mile of line to pay those costs.”

Find video of the full committee hearing and transcripts of Greek’s and Hardy’s testimony on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources webpage at <https://www.energy.senate.gov>.



# UREA Production Facility Reaches Milestone

The first unit train carrying urea fertilizer pulled away from Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant at about 10 p.m. April 5, marking another significant milestone regarding the new urea production facility.

Urea is one of 12 products and one of three fertilizers produced at the Synfuels Plant. The 65-railcar unit train carried 6,523 tons of urea, or about 100 tons per railcar.

Spencer Wagner, Dakota Gas fertilizer production executive sales account manager, said unit trains will generally move throughout the year to the large terminals around the state.

"Our heaviest unit train traffic is expected to be in the winter and spring when our customers will need to get product in place for farmers," he said. "There are several unit-train capable facilities in North Dakota that will be potential locations where we will sell urea unit trains."

Wagner said the current advantage of moving urea by train includes lower freight costs.

"It is a cost-effective way to move a lot of product fast," he said. "It is a quick way to fill up storage facilities across the region, allowing farmers quick access to product when they are ready to apply it."

Another milestone was accomplished in early April when the first batch of diesel exhaust fluid was produced. Commissioning also continues on the carbon dioxide liquefaction unit, with startup planned for late April.

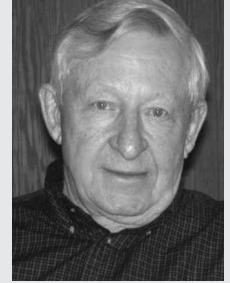


BNSF Railway Conductor Dan Bitner, left, and Bruce Banks, Dakota Gas fertilizer shift supervisor, shake hands at the exchange of the first unit train carrying urea fertilizer from the urea production facility.

## Last Remaining Original Incorporator Says Basin Electric Today Is

## 'Beyond His Wildest Imagination'

Leroy Schecher was just 29 years old, and a newly hired manager for Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, South Dakota, when he signed his name on May 5, 1961, to incorporate Basin Electric, a cooperative that today serves a 550,000 square mile territory in nine states and provides electricity to 3 million consumers.



**Leroy Schecher**  
Original  
Incorporator,  
Basin Electric  
Power Cooperative

Schecher says he remembers that day well. He and four board members drove to Bismarck, N.D., because something needed to be done about power supply. Shortly before that, Fred Aandahl, assistant secretary of Interior during the Eisenhower administration, had been telling cooperatives that all the power that could be generated from the Missouri River dams had been allocated, so it was up to them to find a way to generate their own power.

"There were a lot of people there, but not a soul present on incorporation day would have ever dreamed Basin Electric would become what it is today," Schecher says. "Forming it was just something we felt we needed to do to provide for ourselves."

Schecher says he remembers many milestones throughout the years, including when it was just Jim Grahl, Basin Electric's first general manager, and the day the co-op bought Dakota Gasification Company for \$85 million.

Today, 57 years after signing those papers that brought Basin Electric into being, Schecher is the last remaining original incorporator. And while he has been retired from his nearly five decades of service to the electric co-op industry for 22 years, he still is genuinely interested in what is going on with the co-op he helped form, still receiving every year's annual report, reading every issue of "Basin Today" magazine, and even attending special events, such as Basin Electric's 50th anniversary celebration.

"It feels funny," he says. "When you do something, you don't typically look ahead and think about what consequences that action is going to have in 50 or 60 years. What Basin Electric is today was beyond my wildest imagination."

## May 19-20, May 26-27

Northeast Area Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing, Aberdeen, SD, 605-715-9580

## May 25-September 30

Legends in Light® Laser Light Show at Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

## May 25-27

South Dakota Kayak Challenge, Yankton, SD, 605-864-9011

## May 26-27

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

## June 1-2

South Dakota BBQ Championships, Huron, SD, 605-353-7354

## June 1-3

Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

## June 1-3

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

## June 1-3

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

## June 1-3

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD, 605-487-7694

## June 2

Annual Casey Tibbs Match of Champions, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-494-1094

## June 2

Dairy Fest, Brookings, SD, 605-692-7539



June 15-16: Czech Days, Tabor, SD, [www.taborczechdays.com](http://www.taborczechdays.com), [taborczechdays@yahoo.com](mailto:taborczechdays@yahoo.com)

## June 2-3

Spring Volksmarch at Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

## June 2, 16, July 7, 21, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, 22

Lawn Mower Races, Pukwana, SD, 605-680-1718 or 605-682-9781

## June 7-9

Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nick at 605-978-6924

## June 7-10

South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Vermillion, SD, 605-622-0423

## June 8-9

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD, Contact Brett Rauterhaus at 605-772-1430

## June 9-10

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 866-489-9241

## June 14-17

Jamboree Days, Hartford, SD, 605-359-4929

## June 15-16

Wild Bill Days, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

## June 15-17

Black Hills Fat Tire Festival, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-5223

## June 16

Vinegar Festival, Roslyn, SD, 605-486-0075

## June 16-17

South Dakota Peach Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-789-4098

## June 21-23

Crystal Springs Rodeo, Clear Lake, SD, 605-874-2996

## June 21-23

Senior Games, Mitchell, SD, Contact Howard Bich at 605-491-0635

## June 22-23

Oahe Days Arts & Music Festival, Pierre, SD, [oaheinfo@gmail.com](mailto:oaheinfo@gmail.com)

## June 22-24

Annual Main Street Arts and Crafts Festival, Hot Springs, SD, 605-440-2738

## June 29

Naja Shrine Circus, Wall, SD, 605-342-3402

## June 30

Naja Shrine Circus, Deadwood, SD, 605-342-3402

## July 1

Naja Shrine Circus, Lemmon, SD, 605-342-3402

## July 10-15

4th Annual 3 Wheeler Rally, Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7174, [www.d3wr.com](http://www.d3wr.com)

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.