



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**DAKOTA ENERGY**  
DECEMBER 2023 VOL. 24 NO. 8

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Bringing the Light

Electric Cooperatives  
Spread Holiday Cheer  
Pages 8-9

REED Fund: Powering  
Your Community  
Pages 12-13







**COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS**  
**DAKOTA ENERGY**

(USPS No. 018-949)

**Board President:** Darrell Raschke, Huron

**Board of Directors**

- Nick Nemec, Holabird - Vice President
- Tommy Baruth, Alpena - Secretary
- Brian Bonebright, Wessington - Treasurer
- Brian Baum, Alpena
- Chase Binger, Hitchcock
- Todd Bushong, Tulare
- Chad Dearborn, Miller
- Doug Schaefer, Orient

**CEO/General Manager:** Chad Felderman

**Manager of Operations:** Matt Zomer

**Manager of Finance & Administration:**  
Mike Moncur

**Manager of Human Resources & Communications:** Jodene Decker

Dakota Energy Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Dakota Energy Cooperative, PO Box 830, 40294 US Hwy 14, Huron, SD 57350. Members subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Dakota Energy Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

**Subscription information:** Dakota Energy Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. USPS No. 0819-949 Periodicals Postage Paid at Huron, SD 57350. Postmaster: Please send address changes to Dakota Energy Cooperative Connections, PO Box 830, Huron, SD 57350; telephone (605) 352-8591; fax (605) 524-7064; email dakotaenergy@dakotaenergy.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

[www.dakotaenergy.com](http://www.dakotaenergy.com)  
Facebook @dakotaenergy  
Twitter @DakotaEC



# REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



## STEALING COPPER HAS A HUGE COST

Thieves like to steal and sell the soft, reddish orange metal to make some quick cash. However, they may sacrifice more than they gain, since stealing copper can cause serious injuries or death. Copper thieves could also face hefty fines and prison time.

The FBI attributes copper theft to disruptions in the flow of the following: electricity, telecommunications, transportation, water supply, heating, security and emergency services. It presents a risk to both public safety and national security.

Common targets for copper theft include farm equipment, air conditioners, abandoned buildings, construction sites and electric utility equipment, including substations and power poles.

The majority of copper theft occurs at night or on the weekends. Detecting and reporting suspicious and illegal activity could help save a life.

Learn more:



# Be Prepared for Winter Driving

### Prepare Your Car for Winter

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze

Remember to keep your car's emergency preparedness kit fully stocked, too.

### Before You Start Out

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side mirrors
- Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features, like automatic emergency braking, to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

### How to Avoid a Crash

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill

If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve.

Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

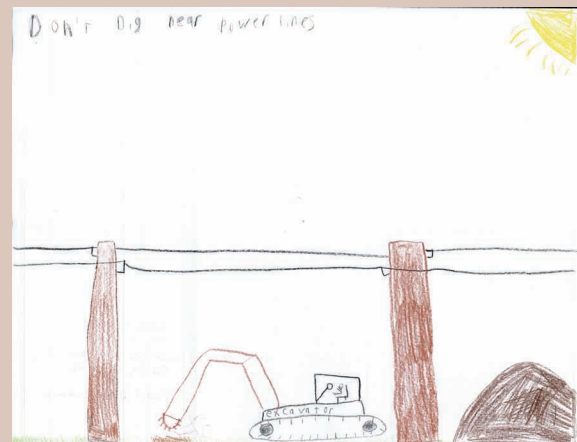
### Know Your Car's Capabilities

**My Car Does What?** is a national campaign to help educate drivers about the safety features built into vehicles. Search for your car and find out what safety features are already built in.

Traction control is now standard on most new vehicles. This function helps your vehicle gain traction on snowy, icy or wet surfaces, particularly when accelerating from a stopped or slowed position, or when trying to make it up a slippery hill.

Anti-lock braking system (ABS) helps you steer in emergencies by restoring traction to your tires and is standard on most new vehicles. ABS may vibrate or pulse when engaged. This is normal. Continue to press and hold pressure to the brake pedal.

Remember, you are your car's best safety feature. Take precautions to ensure you arrive safely at your destination. If you become stranded in an unfamiliar area, do not leave your car. Light flares in front and behind the car and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, mud or objects.



### Don't Dig Near Power Lines

#### Hayes Schomp, Age 10

Hayes Schomp cautions people to be careful where they dig. Hayes is the son of Thad and Devan Schomp from Eklton, S.D., members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.



# HOLIDAY FAVORITES

## OYSTER STEW

### Ingredients:

- 1 qt. medium/large oysters
- 1 medium onion (diced)
- 2 qts. half and half
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 lb. real butter (no cheating here)
- 3 tbsps. Worcestershire Sauce

### Method

Before you know it, Christmas Eve will be here so get ready the traditional Oyster Stew. In a saucepan, saute onions and oysters with the butter. Simmer untill the oysters crinkle. In a crock pot, add half and half, cream of mushroom soup, and Worcestershire Sauce. Then, add the oysters, onion and butter. Season to taste with fresh ground black pepper and salt. Simmer for six hours on low heat (high heat will curdle the milk). Serve with oyster crackers.

Kari Larson- Reder  
Warner, S.D.

## BETTER THAN CANDY PIE

### Ingredients:

- 1 nine in. chocolate ready crust
- 1 cup sliced bananas
- 1/4 cup chopped, dry roasted peanuts
- 1 small pkg. instant butterscotch pudding
- 2/3 cup dry milk
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 2 tbsps. peanut butter
- 3/4 cup whipped topping
- 2 chocolate graham crackers, chopped

### Method

Mix together dry milk, pudding, and water with wire whisk. Add peanut butter. Cover bottom of pie crust with bananas. Spread pudding mixture over bananas. Spread whipped topping next. Sprinkle with chopped peanuts and chopped graham crackers.

Janet Ochsner  
Box Elder, S.D.

## CHRISTMAS CRACK BARK

### Ingredients:

- 1 sleeve saltine crackers, (about 35 crackers)
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/8 tsp. sea salt
- 1 1/2 tpsps. pure vanilla extract
- 1 pkg. (10 - 12 oz.) chocolate chips, semi-sweet, milk or dark chocolate

### Method

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or foil. Spray lightly with no-stick cooking spray. Arrange crackers on baking sheet in single layer so that the edges almost touch. Heat butter and brown sugar in two-quart saucepan on medium heat. Bring mixture to a boil, stirring frequently. Simmer two to three minutes. Remove from heat; stir in salt and vanilla. Pour caramel sauce over crackers and spread to evenly coat crackers. Bake six minutes. Remove pan from oven. Sprinkle chocolate chips over caramel layer. Let stand five minutes. Spread chocolate chips into an even layer on top of caramel. Refrigerate 2 hours or freeze 30 to 45 minutes or until firm. Break or cut into pieces to serve. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator up to one week.

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

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.





## Tre Henderson

Q&A W/ DAKOTA ENERGY'S JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN

**How long have you been working with Dakota Energy?**

I have worked for Dakota Energy for one year and six months.

**What do you love most about Dakota Energy?**

The people I work with.

**What's the most interesting thing you've learned since starting work at Dakota Energy?**

Wiring heat meters and load controls. Just stuff I did not work with at another job.

**What does your job entail?**

Troubleshooting secondary wires and wiring miscellaneous things for the customer.

**How would you describe Dakota Energy in three words?**

Awesome, Great, Fun!

**What activities do you volunteer for in the community?**

Pheasant Forever Board

**What motivates you to get up and go to work every day?**

To provide for my two dogs.

# BE ON THE HUNT FOR SAFETY



Wearing a bright orange vest, keeping your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot, and only pointing at your target are some of the safety measures associated with hunting. Electrical safety should be added to the list.

Never shoot near or toward power lines, power poles, transformers or substations. A stray bullet could not only damage equipment, potentially interrupting electric service, but could be deadly to the shooter. Damage to the conductor could drop the line to the ground, causing a possibility of electrocution to those nearby.

Safety tips to follow while hunting:

Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.

Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.

Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.

Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them.

Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole, except for utility equipment is an obstruction and poses a serious hazard to utility workers.

Sometimes damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, or unless an outage occurs. Keep yourself and your utility safe this hunting season.



# SEPTEMBER 2023

The Board of Directors met on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, with Directors Baruth, Baum, Binger, Bonebright, Bushong, Dearborn, Nemec, Raschke and Schaefer present. Manager Felderman and Employees Decker, Hasart, Moncur, Picek and Zomer were present.

## REORGANIZATION - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Attorney Wheeler presided over the election of officers. The results are:

- President - Darrell Raschke
- Vice-President - Nick Nemec
- Treasurer - Brian Bonebright
- Secretary - Tom Baruth

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Felderman reported on the following items:

- Monthly energy sales and revenue
- CRC dispatch
- East River Manager's meeting
- Basin Electric
- Greater Huron Development Corporation
- SDREA Mutual Aid Agreement
- Carbon Solutions
- Annual Meeting Survey results
- Rate review presentation by Power Systems Engineering

## OFFICE SERVICES REPORT

Manager of Finance and Administration Moncur and Hasart reported on the following items:

- Financial reports for August
- NISC Member Information Conference
- CFC Capital Credit Retirement
- KRTA Ratio review

- 2024 Budget presentation

## OPERATIONS REPORT

Manager of Operations Zomer reported on the following items:

- Construction, maintenance, and retirement activities
- Main meter changes
- Changing rejected poles
- Overhead line repair
- New feed to Huron Energy
- Outages

## MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Manager Felderman reported on the following items:

- Wiring department workload
- Potential hazards
- Load control program
- Sub-meter changes

## HUMAN RESOURCES/ COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Manager of HR/Communications Decker reported on the following items:

- DEX ribbon cutting ceremony
- New director orientation
- Annual employee performance reviews completed
- 2024 Benefits enrollment
- RESAP online training completed
- Participation in area homecoming parades

- The bylaws have been updated as amended at the 2023 Annual Meeting
- Cybersecurity update

## BOARD ACTION

The following items were acted upon:

- Accepted the reports presented
- Approved 2024 compensation plan
- Approved Board policies and donations

## BOARD REPORTS

Attending Directors reported on the East River Annual Meeting.

Director Raschke reported on East River's Sept. 2023 regular board meeting.

Next monthly board meeting is Nov. 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Huron office.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

*Source: Dept. of Energy*

### Year-to-Date Financial Report

|                          | Sept-23     | Year-to-Date |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Total Revenue .....      | \$1,923,587 | \$18,680,989 |
| Cost of Power .....      | \$1,426,281 | \$13,322,841 |
| Operating Expenses ..... | \$561,483   | \$5,338,329  |
| Total Margins .....      | \$188,821   | \$1,619,759  |
| KwH's Purchased.....     | 19,636,270  | 185,984,355  |
| Services in Place .....  |             | 3,611        |
| Miles of Line .....      |             | 2,531        |
| Members per Mile .....   |             | 1.43         |



## LIGHT PARADE



# BRINGING THE LIGHT

## Electric Cooperatives Spread Holiday Cheer

**Frank Turner**

[frank.turner@sdrea.coop](mailto:frank.turner@sdrea.coop)

While Santa's elves are hard at work at the North Pole, South Dakota's electric cooperatives are working to bring their own magic to their local neighborhoods, illuminating local parades with festive lights. Black Hills Electric Cooperative is just one of many examples of how a co-op can not only bring light but also creativity to their community.

Every December, Black Hills Electric crafts an exceptional float for the annual Custer Parade of Lights. For Bill Brisk, the manager of operations at Black Hills Electric, the parade isn't merely an event – it's a cherished tradition for their co-op.

As the parade approaches, the Black Hills Electric workshop bustles with

activity, mirroring Santa's very own workshop. Guided by a design from Brisk, linemen and staff assemble their unique Christmas float – crafting, welding and fabricating many of their designs from scratch.

“Just a few nights before the parade, we host a family night where we bring out the families of our employees,”





said Brisk. “The co-op provides food and drinks and we all work together to finish the float.”

In just two weeks, the co-op repurposes discarded equipment and scrap parts into creative masterpieces. One year, the co-op created an oversized shopping cart from old pipe laying around the shop. The next, they used retired meter loop pipes, guy wires, and meter covers to create palm trees and coconuts for a beachside Santa scene. Even Willie Wirehand, the co-op’s safety mascot, has been outfitted for a festive float. Despite being fabricated from old parts, the end result is always something worthy of a debut at the North Pole.

“Most everything we do is built in our shop.” said Brisk. “We do all

of the fabrications ourselves, and we haven’t had a flop yet.”

Luckily, the co-op’s efforts haven’t gone unnoticed. Since 2015, they’ve clinched an award every year at the Custer Parade with the only exceptions being 2020 and 2021 when the pandemic halted festivities. Their trophy collection holds a wide range of awards, boasting awards like the Rudolph’s Choice Award, Best Light, Best Music and most recently, the Custer Fruit Cake Award.

Dawn Murray, the executive director of the Custer Chamber of Commerce, expressed her admiration. “They really go all out. Beyond the parade, they even participate in our scarecrow decorating contest. I remember one year they had a scarecrow up in a

bucket truck, which was really cool.”

Yet, for Black Hills Electric, Custer is just the beginning. The co-op has grand visions for a broader festive footprint. With a service area that stretches from just south of Terry Peak to Nebraska, Brisk sees even more opportunities to shower communities with holiday cheer.

“It’s a festive time of year and something that we want to extend out to different towns in our service territory,” said Brisk. “Seeing the kids’ eyes brighten when we light up our float for the first time really makes the whole thing worth it, and if we can spread that to more of our members, all the better.”





# Scholarships Available

Application deadline  
is February 9, 2024



## DAKOTA ENERGY HAS CASH FOR COLLEGE OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Dakota Energy believes strongly in the future of area students and takes pride in helping develop rural leaders. To recognize the achievements of students and future leaders, Dakota Energy is offering \$5,000 of scholarships to qualifying high school seniors.

### COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- \$1,000 for a future line worker attending Mitchell Technical Institute's (MTI) Power Line & Maintenance program
- \$1,000 for a future electrician attending MTI's Electrical Construction and Maintenance program
- \$1,000 Basin Electric/Dakota Energy scholarship
- Four \$500 Dakota Energy scholarships for students attending a South Dakota university or technical school

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To qualify, an applicant's parent(s) must be a member of Dakota Energy Cooperative.

Applicants must be planning to be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or

four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, leadership, school and community involvement, an appraisal from a counselor, advisor or instructor who knows the student well, and an essay.

### HOW DO I APPLY?

Scholarship applications are available at the local high school guidance office or on the cooperative website at [www.dakotaenergy.coop](http://www.dakotaenergy.coop). Applications are also available by emailing [dakotaenergy@dakotaenergy.coop](mailto:dakotaenergy@dakotaenergy.coop) or calling the office at 605-352-8591. Application deadline is Feb. 9, 2024.

### Submit applications to:

Dakota Energy Cooperative  
PO Box 830  
Huron, SD 57350  
Email: [dakotaenergy@dakotaenergy.coop](mailto:dakotaenergy@dakotaenergy.coop)

# Are you ready for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C.?

Dakota Energy Cooperative is sponsoring two high school students who are juniors or seniors from our service area for the Rural Electric Youth Tour. This is an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. from June 15-22, 2024. Students will learn about Washington, D.C., government, cooperative philosophy, and rural electrification.

Some of the sites toured are the Lincoln Memorial, National Cathedral, White House, Air and Space Museum, Washington Monument, U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre, Kennedy Center, Metro, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Smithsonian, Iwo Jima Statue, National Archives, U.S. Supreme Court, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Students also participate in a breakfast briefing with the South Dakota Congressional Delegation.



2023 Youth Tour

- Junior or senior students who attend a public, private or home school are eligible to participate. DEC membership is not required.
- Submit an application and all required attachments by **February 9, 2024** to any DEC office by mail to:

**Dakota Energy Cooperative, Inc.**  
**PO Box 830**  
**Huron, SD 57350**

or email to [dakotaenergy@dakotaenergy.coop](mailto:dakotaenergy@dakotaenergy.coop)



APPLICATIONS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.DAKOTAENERGY.COOP/COMMUNITY/YOUTH-TOUR](https://www.dakotaenergy.coop/community/youth-tour)  
 OR PICKED UP AT A DAKOTA ENERGY OFFICE OR  
 YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR





Garretson Childcare helpers are getting ready to help grow their daycare.

# REED FUND

## Powering Your Community

**Shannon Marvel**

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

The community development financial institution powered by rural electric cooperatives in South Dakota is about to reach a major milestone.

The (Rural Electric Economic Development) Fund's total dollar amount in projects impacted is anticipated to reach \$1 billion by the end of 2023, according to Eric Fosheim, Economic Development Manager for REED.

REED also exceeded 10,000 in jobs impacted (created or retained) since its creation in 1996.

"Currently, we sit at just over \$998 million in total projects impacted," Fosheim said in October.

The REED Fund is a 501(c)3

corporation and operates as a revolving loan fund that provides financing for economic development projects in rural areas.

Those projects that receive REED Fund dollars must promote growth and be a catalyst in creating more business, wealth and job opportunities within the rural community. The projects are also expected to improve infrastructure and economic base in rural areas.

The REED Fund provides financing from the federal government and other lender, in addition to revolving interest payments collected over the years. The REED Fund does not use money generated by electric rate charges.

Fosheim said that as of September 30, REED has issued 401 loans for a total of \$125.26 million.

"This includes \$104,174,418 in loans made using REED dollars and \$21,082,793 from the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program," Fosheim said.



Central Electric General Manager Ken Schlimgen, left, delivers REED funding to Mitchell Technical College.



Fosheim said it isn't entirely surprising that the \$1 billion was hit this year.

"REED has seen steady growth over the years, but typically sees higher than normal application volume in times of rising interest rates. In addition, costs are rising as well, so total project costs for each individual project have been higher as well.

Dakota Energy General Manager Chad Felderman has been on the REED Fund board since 2018.

He said the impact the REED Fund has on local communities is unique, noting that the businesses the fund helps aren't necessarily ones that Dakota Energy provides electricity to, but are ones that help our communities, "which in turn helps our members where they live," he said.

"It is gratifying to help our hospitals, fire departments, and schools purchase equipment so our small communities can provide those essential services," Felderman said.

One of those projects funded by REED is the Huron Regional Medical Center dialysis building.

"We are proud to support HRMC in sustaining and expanding local access to critical medical services right here in our community," Felderman said.

Douglas Electric Cooperative General Manager Jay Spaans echoed Felderman's sentiment, noting that the REED Fund is special because co-ops get to loan money to businesses that they don't always serve.

"For us, it is just about making

improvements in the community. Sure, we would like to serve the load, but even if the new load doesn't reside in our territory, we still will fund the loan," Spaans said.

"It is all about the greater good for our communities."

West River Electric CEO Dick Johnson also serves on the REED Fund board. He's one of the first board members to represent a co-op in the western part of the state. The REED Fund was originally set up by co-ops in eastern South Dakota. After two decades of successful growth and development, the REED Fund decided to allow co-ops in western South Dakota to join in 2017. Johnson said West River Electric was one of the first western co-ops to be accepted into the REED Fund.

"It was one of the best things we could ask for. We were struggling with our own revolving loan fund but we had primarily loaned to government entities, no businesses," Johnson said.

"When we became members of REED that gave us another tool in our toolbox to offer our members who were interested in our area or needed to expand their businesses or infrastructure."

West River Electric hasn't had many loans, but Johnson is still encouraged by what he's seen as a board member.

"Sitting on the Board and seeing the applications and the impact we are having on the economy of small towns all over South Dakota is phenomenal," Johnson said.

Johnson had high praise for the folks at the REED Fund office in Madison, calling

them a "class act" who really understand the region's rural areas.

"They work hard to say yes and somehow make it work. The fact that the local co-op board can help make the decision to move a project forward is unheard of – real boots on the ground who are in the communities we serve and understand what is needed to thrive," Johnson said. "It is a unique model just like the cooperative business model."

## Did You Know

From 2018 to 2022, electric cooperatives in South Dakota spent \$5.7 Billion on capital investment, operations, and maintenance activities and retired \$102.8 Million in capital credits paid to consumer-members.

Through these expenditures, co-ops drive economic benefits in their local communities and throughout the state.

Over the five-year period, electric co-ops in South Dakota are responsible for:

### STATEWIDE IMPACT

- \$4.2 Billion to South Dakota's Gross State Product (GSP)
- An average of 5,848 jobs in South Dakota each year
- \$2 Billion in labor income in South Dakota
- \$194.1 Million in federal taxes
- \$423 Million in state taxes
- \$418.4 Million in local taxes

All of these impacts occur in counties where electric cooperatives operate, showcasing the substantial local economic benefits that co-ops provide in the communities they serve.



Participants celebrate the groundbreaking for the National Music Museum in Vermillion.





Cameras give producers the opportunity to monitor one of the ranch's most valuable assets: cows!

# BOVINE BABY MONITORS

## Local Producers Blend Tradition with Innovation

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sirea.coop

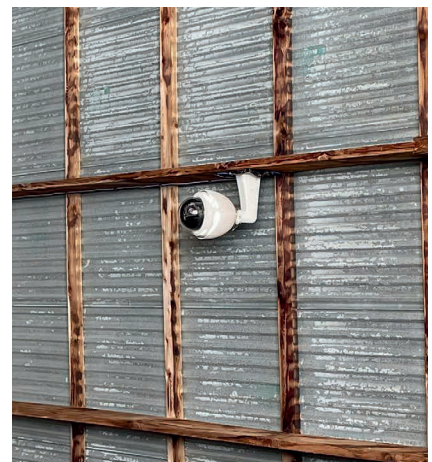
Just as parents rely on baby monitors to keep an eye on their sleeping infants, ranchers across South Dakota are embracing advanced camera systems to protect their prized newborn calves. These bovine baby monitors offer a crucial safeguard, ensuring the safety of one of the ranch's most valuable assets.

Producers Logan and Layton Hendrickson, hailing from Meadow, S.D., represent the sixth generation of their family's operation in farming and ranching in South Dakota. The

surveillance technology utilized by Logan and his family, however, is a far cry from the farming practices of Logan's great-great-great-grandfather, Franz Seidel, who at the unlikely age of 56, established their farmstead in 1907 after fleeing from unsettled times in Russia. Despite a legacy spanning over a century, the Hendrickson and Seidel family operation proves that even a long-standing operation can embrace new technologies and modern solutions.

"Our farm has been passed down through the generations, and we have been building on it ever since, like Lego bricks," said Logan.

Recent winters marked by challenging weather and significant snowfall have emphasized the role of cameras during the calving season. After all, it doesn't matter whether the sun is shining or a blizzard is rolling in, nature persists. Beyond staying warm, these cameras offer producers a less invasive method of observing their cattle, reducing the amount of stress put on cow and calf pairing. Installed in their barn, the Hendrickson's camera system streams live video of the cows straight to



The Hendrickson family uses a camera to keep an eye on their cattle during the calving season.





The Hendrickson-Seidel ranch is a sixth-generation operation in northwest South Dakota.

a cellphone, often without the cows ever knowing.

“We aren’t in their space, disrupting their natural habits,” he said. “All we have to do is pull out our phones and we know what is going on.”

In addition to convenience, cameras can also help producers catch complications that arise following the calving process. For instance, accessible oversight can allow a producer to prevent an unruly cow from unintentionally harming their newborn calf. The result is a better operational efficiency, fostering a more relaxed environment during an otherwise stressful time and creating better outcomes for both the calf and mother.

“It doesn’t take long for these systems to pay for themselves,” said Logan. “And at the end of the day, it creates a more comfortable experience for the cow and calf during a very stressful time.”

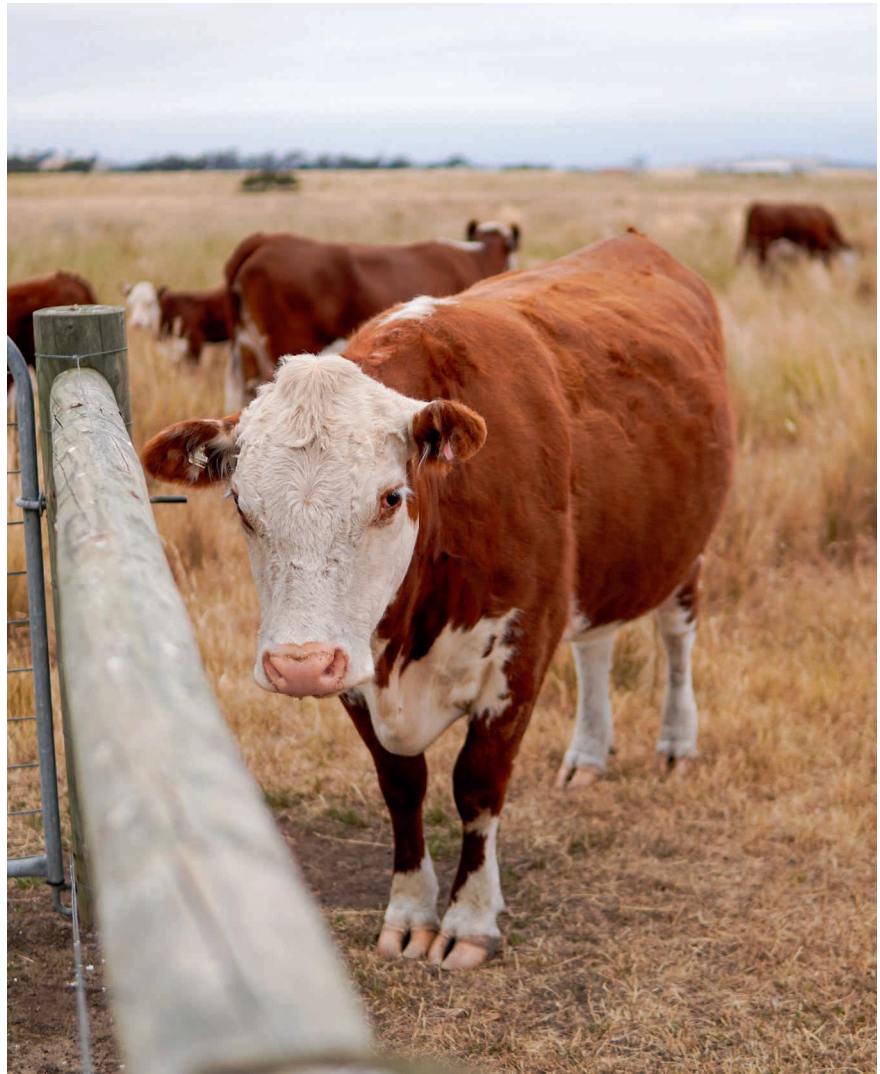
The development of technology on the Hendrickson-Seidel ranch isn’t just limited to cameras. Their family operation like other operations across the state has seen development in nearly every aspect of their operation through the generations.

“It’s not technology in the sense of having the latest electronics but technology in the sense of development,” said Logan. “My great grandfather went from using a 20-horsepower tractor with steel tracks at the beginning of his career

to using a 400-horsepower tractor with auto-steer and air conditioning.”

Whether it’s record-keeping on your cellphone or using advanced technologies like GPS guidance, Logan said his family has utilized new technologies in a way that has kept their operation competitive and relevant for over a hundred years, proving the old myth, “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks,” simply isn’t true.

“One of the first people to adopt a new technology on the farm is my grandfather,” said Logan. “He is the person pushing to new innovations because he sees the economic benefit long before any of us do.”







**Dec. 14-17**  
**Christmas at the Cathedral**  
 521 N Duluth Avenue,  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-988-3765

**DEC. 2**  
**Tabor Parade of Lights**  
 Vendor Fair  
 4 p.m.  
 Parade of Lights  
 5:30 p.m.  
 Ham Drawing  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Tabor, SD

**DEC. 2**  
**Julefest Scandinavian Christmas Festival and Bazaar**  
 8 a.m.  
 Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
 Spearfish, SD

**DEC. 3**  
**Hartford's Hometown Christmas**  
 7:30 a.m.  
 Hartford, SD

**DEC. 8-9**  
**Alexandria's Winter Festival**  
 5 p.m.  
 Alexandria, SD

**DEC. 8-9**  
**Junkin' Market Days**  
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Center  
 Sioux Falls, SD

**DEC. 9**  
**Parade of Lights**  
 5:30 p.m.  
 Wessington, SD

**DEC. 10**  
**Hill City Senior Saturday Breakfast**  
 Hill City Center  
 Hill City, SD

**DEC. 17**  
**Christmas Cantata**  
 3 p.m.  
 Hermosa United Church of Christ  
 Hermosa, SD

**NOV. 24**  
**Parade of Lights**  
 7 p.m.  
 Dakota Avenue  
 Huron, SD

**NOV. 25**  
**Mid-Winter Fair**  
 Gregory Auditorium  
 Gregory, SD  
 605-830-9778

**NOV. 30**  
**Christmas on the Prairie**  
 5 p.m.  
 Miller, SD

**NOV. 30-DEC. 3**  
**Hatchery Holidays**  
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery  
 Spearfish, SD

**DEC. 1-2**  
**Christmas in the Hills**  
 Hot Springs, SD

**DEC. 1-30**  
**Trees and Trains Exhibit**  
 SD State Railroad Museum  
 Hill City, SD

**DEC. 1-30**  
**Holiday Express and Holiday Express Spiked**  
 1880 Train  
 Hill City, SD

**DEC. 2**  
**Rapid City Garden Club's 62nd Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale**  
 8 a.m.  
 Central States Fairgrounds  
 Rapid City, SD

**DEC. 2**  
**6th Annual Holiday Party, Tour of Homes, Silent Auction**  
 4 p.m.  
 Olive Grove Golf Course  
 Groton, SD

**DEC. 2**  
**Parade of Lights**  
 6 p.m.  
 Redfield, SD

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.

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