

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Invasive Species

**Zebra Mussels
on the Missouri**
Pages 8-9

Drone Spraying
Pages 12-13

Empowering Our Community: More Than Just Words



DeeAnne Norris
CEO
320-826-2593 or
800-826-2593

"We're here to serve you." These are familiar words that echo across various industries, often losing their impact through repetition. Yet, when spoken by us – your local electric cooperative – these words carry profound significance. The Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association doesn't just utter these words; we embody them.

Originating from the solidarity of neighbors, our cooperative, rooted in the Renville-Sibley community, emerged to champion the common good. We harken back to a time when collective action birthed member-owned electric cooperatives, illuminating regions previously untouched by electricity. This legacy of purpose is woven into our historical fabric, a constant reminder of our unwavering commitment.

Today, our mission of community empowerment continues. Our unwavering commitment to delivering reliable energy remains steadfast, but the energy landscape has transformed dramatically. Shifting technological trends, evolving needs, and fresh expectations shape our approach. We are dedicated to adapting and progressing in tandem with these changes.

As your trusted energy advisor, we are eager to help you navigate energy efficiency to not only save resources but also cut costs. For valuable insights on saving energy, we invite you to explore touchstoneenergy.com. This platform offers a wealth of practical tips designed to amplify your home's energy efficiency. Additionally, the Touchstone Energy website provides an array of resources tailored to cooperative members, including invaluable information on cutting-edge technologies such as Electric Vehicles (EVs), Smart Homes, and Battery Storage.

Speaking of electric vehicles (EVs), we acknowledge the growing interest in EVs. Electric cooperatives nationwide are spearheading this transformative shift. Recognizing the demand for firsthand knowledge, we're committed to integrating EVs into our daily operations. What's more, we plan to utilize EVs as we travel across the Midwest for

industry related meetings and events. When the time comes for you to explore the realm of EV ownership, rest assured, we're here to provide the guidance you seek.

Moreover, at Renville-Sibley, we're engaged in fostering local partnerships that empower organizations and businesses within our community. Collaborating with local banks and economic development professionals, our cooperative is actively dedicated to supporting ventures that contribute to the growth and vitality of our region. In conjunction with other electric cooperatives spanning western Minnesota and eastern South Dakota, we've established The REED (Rural Electric Economic Development) Fund. This initiative grants us access to zero-percent USDA loans for qualifying non-profit projects and offers low-interest loans for other projects across our service area and local communities. To delve into the specifics, visit reedfund.coop.

Above all, our unwavering focus lies in safety – both for our team and community members. We proudly associate with safeelectricity.org, leveraging their resources to educate our members about safety practices. We champion caution, urging you to "Call Before You Dig" and emphasizing safety through demonstrations at events like Farmfest and local schools. Our dedication to your well-being never falters.

So, the next time you hear the resounding phrase, "we're here to serve you," know that it's not mere rhetoric. Service is our essence, etched into every facet of our identity. As we evolve, we expand our avenues of service, enriching your options to power your life. Whenever you need us, we're here – reachable via phone (320-826-2583; 800-826-2593), email (renville-sibley@RSCPA.coop), or in person at our new facility, 515 Highway 212 W in Danube, just west of Grizzlys. However you choose to connect, your voice guides our commitment to serving you better.

Renville-Sibley to sell two properties

Renville-Sibley has officially moved into our new facility. We will be selling our two properties and they will be listed through Fitzner Real Estate & Land Co. If you are interested in more details on the sale of either property, please reach out to Shane via the contact information below. Shane will also have a booth at our Open House if you have any further questions.

Fitzner Real Estate & Land Co.
 Shane Fitzner, Broker
 Cell: 320-212-8658
 shane@fitznerrealestate.com



FITZNER

Real Estate & Land Co

Notice:

Renville-Sibley's office will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

Board of Directors

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 Whitey Hinderman - Vice Chair
 Wayland Zaske - Secretary/Treasurer
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Web site: www.rscpa.coop

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No One Can Take Your Place

National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 17-23, 2023

The 2019 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 573 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. For this reason, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

This annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. National Farm Safety and Health Week is led by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council.

Did you know?

- Rural roads pose special dangers especially during harvest season. Watch out for slow-moving farm vehicles and be informed, aware, and patient while sharing rural roadways.
- Farm stress is real, and many things like weather events, tragedies, market uncertainty, or diseases can tip us out of our comfort zone.
- Every day, about 33 children are seriously injured in agricultural-related incidents.
- Hazardous gasses on farms can be found in silos, manure storages, grain bins, and other confined spaces. Be in the know about hazardous gasses and where they can be found on farms.

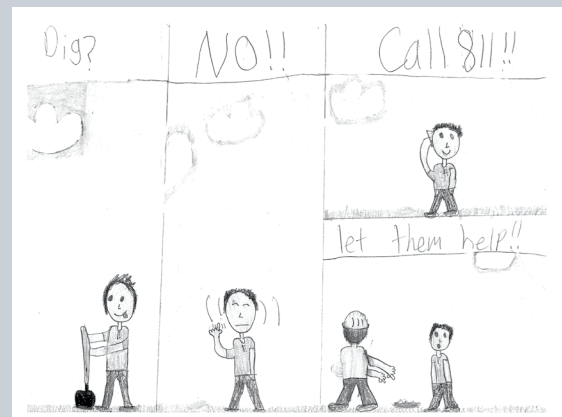
Farm and ranch life can be demanding and stressful. Over the past several years, it has reached a critical stage for the folks who grow America's food with COVID-19 pandemic impacts on top of natural disasters, extreme weather events, financial pressures due to fluctuating commodity prices, labor shortages, trade disruptions and a

long list of other factors. Given these ongoing challenges, it's no surprise that more farmers and farm families are experiencing stress and mental health concerns.

Today, safety professionals still use this promotional week to remind those working in our nation's most dangerous industry to be careful. Agriculture's death rate is why farmers and ranchers must use safe farming practices during harvest and throughout the year.

South Dakota's electric cooperatives urge our agricultural producers to make better safety and health decisions this harvest season and during the next year. Join us in promoting safety during the 80th annual **National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 17-23, 2023**.

During this time, please encourage others to adopt safe practices and behaviors as we prepare to prevent injuries during this harvest season.



Call 811!

Evey Hinrichs, Age 9 3/4

Evey Hinrichs advises people it's not safe to dig before calling 811. Evey is the daughter of Kelby and Carrie Fey from Aberdeen, S.D., members of Northern Electric Cooperative.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

DIPS AND SPREADS

SPINACH DIP

Ingredients:

- 16 oz. sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise (must be mayo)
- 1 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 1 can water chestnuts, chopped
- 1 tbsp. minced onion
- 1 tsp. season salt
- 1/2 tsp. Accent
- Dash of Worcestershire sauce
- 2 dashes of hot sauce

METHOD

Serve with Club or Ritz crackers.

Linda Hubbard
Rapid City, S.D.

CREAMY CINNAMON DIP

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 container (8 oz.) sour cream
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tbsps. milk
- 2 tps. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. all natural pure vanilla extract

METHOD

Beat all ingredients in medium bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Spoon into serving bowl. Cover.

Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serve with fresh fruit slices, cookies or pound cake or angel food cubes.

mccormick.com

CARAWAY CHEESE SPREAD

Ingredients:

- 1 container (12 oz.) Cheddar cheese spread, at room temperature
- 2 tps. minced onions
- 1 1/2 tps. whole caraway seed
- 1/2 tsp. Lawry's® Seasoned Salt

METHOD

Mix cheese spread and seasonings in medium bowl. Cover. Refrigerate at least 2 hours to blend flavors.

Serving Suggestion: Serve with assorted vegetables such as celery sticks, cherry tomatoes, jicama sticks, carrot sticks, endive leaves, and/or assorted crackers.

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.

Preparation and Awareness are Keys for Farm Electrical Safety

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. 697200
- 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.



HARVEST SAFELY

If your equipment comes in contact with a power line or pole, do not exit the cab.

Call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility to cut the power.

Outstanding Capital Credit Checks

Listed below are Renville-Sibley members who were mailed a capital credit check in December of 2016 and have either not cashed the check or the check was returned to our office due to an old address. If you know of the correct address or telephone number for these members, please contact Renville-Sibley Co-op Power at 800-826-2593. If no contact is made with these members, the money is paid out to students through our scholarship program.

LUEDTKE, WARREN	PRIBBLE, RONALD	BLUE, SHANNON
STOMBERG, LOREN	REID, MARY	BERNARDY, DEBRA
GRUNKE, WINNELL	WHITELEY, JAMES J	BRELJE, JERRY
ROEBKE, ALAN	WOLD, NANCY	JAEGER, MIKE
HACKER, CECILIA	ECKLAND, STEVE	LARSEN, DAVID
KNUTSON, ERVIN	HALE, TIM	BOYUM, DWAYNE
RADDATZ, MARJORIE	SWENSON, BRYAN	HELMUTH, WILLIAM JR
BURDICK, MAYNARD	SMITH, MICHAEL	PETERSON, TOM
EVANS, LEAMON JR	LUND, SHAWN	HILLESHEIM, CHRISTINE
SCHULTZ, LEE	SCHWEISS FARM INC	KANNIAINEN, ROBERT
ROBERTSON, DON	GUIMOND, BRENT	JANSSEN, REBECCA
MALLON, MIKE	TREVINO, OSCAR	GARZA, JAVIER
DOSSETH, STEVEN	DECLERCQ, JAMES	REGNIER, TONYA
SCHNEIDER, MARK	JONES, LARRY	DRIGGINS, DUANE
OLIVIA CANNING CO	GOEPFERICH, GREG	RESEMIUS, STEVE
KOHLER, DARWIN	HOLSTAD, JAMES	GNEISS VALLEY AGGREGATES
MARK TWAIN CABLEVISION	MILROY, SALLY	MARTI, JON
BELLIG, RANDY	RUTER, ED	SMITH, ARCHIE
FRIESE, RANDY	COLUMBUS, CLYDE	SOWDER, J B
VICK, SCOTT	CARLSON, DUSTHAN	BLUE, THERESA
SMITH, KORY	CHAPMAN, BRENT	MCGOWAN, DENNIS
MORARIE, MARK	BITKER, JANET	JAHNKE, DEB
SALINAS, ERASTO JR	JENSEN, DORIS M	SJOLIE, KEITH
ALARCON, JOSE	NEUBECK, CHARLES DSR	FLORES, BRYAN
MAHONEY, RITA	COLUMBUS, GLEN	GEER, STEPH
MARXEN, BILL	WURZBURGER, HARV	KEMNITZ, LARRY



State run boat checks and washing stations aim to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species, such as zebra mussels, in South Dakota.

Zebra Mussels and Their Impact on the Missouri River

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdra.coop

The Missouri River in South Dakota, renowned for its outstanding recreational areas, fishing holes and scenic campgrounds, draws a wide swath of tourists from around the world. However, these welcoming public waters have become the home of one unwelcome intruder—the infamous zebra mussel.

Endemic to southeastern Europe, the zebra mussel made its journey to the United States Great Lakes in the '80s as an unlikely stowaway, clinging to the hulls of large ships and barges. Since their arrival, the mussels have proliferated across the Midwest, spreading from one river system to the next.

So how can a mollusk, merely the size of a fingernail, inflict millions of

dollars in economic damage to local recreation, agriculture and hydroelectric power generation? Martin Goding, Gavins Point Dam maintenance and operations manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, explains that one zebra mussel can spawn more than a million eggs in a season, overrunning the local ecosystem. Once established, the mussels latch onto every viable surface in the water—they envelop pipes, ruin beaches and disrupt hydroelectric dams.

In 2015, local governments detected South Dakota's first infestation of zebra mussels in Lewis and Clark Lake. Goding says this discovery ignited a fierce battle against the invasive species.

“We are in the war to eradicate the zebra mussel, but I don't think we're ever going to completely eliminate them,” said Goding. “They are multiplying faster than we can get rid of them.”



Zebra Mussels completely envelop Gavins Point Dam's water gates, adding up to an additional 30 tons of weight.



With few effective treatments at their disposal, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been forced to adjust to operating within a river infested with mussels. The change has significantly

increased the maintenance costs associated with running Gavins Point Dam. Pipes, essential for cooling the dam as it produces electricity, now require routine disassembly and cleaning. Over the course of six months of warm weather, the dam's lakeside gates collect an additional 30 tons of weight from the relentless accumulation of zebra mussel shells and the debris they carry.

"We have spent a million and a half dollars over the last five years just in maintenance to deal with this invasive species—and that's not even counting the cost of materials," said Goding. "Zebra mussels have really impacted the operation and turned maintenance into a nightmare."

Beyond maintenance, zebra mussels have also disrupted power generation. Outbreaks of zebra mussels within

the dam's infrastructure have resulted in unscheduled and forced outages, interrupting an energy source that has been historically reliable.

"One could safely say that Gavin Point Dam has lost a million dollars in power generation over the last five years," said Goding.

Since the initial invasion in 2015, some strategies have emerged to mitigate damage from the invasive species. The introduction of UV lights and the addition of strainers have curbed the presence of zebra mussels within the dam. Even still, the mussels have continued their spread northward through the Missouri River to Lake Sharpe near Pierre, S.D.

According to Goding, the experiences at Gavins Point Dam serve as a stark warning for dams and water systems yet to face infestation.

"Lewis and Clark Lake is beyond prevention," said Goding. "We have crossed that bridge and they are not going away."



2022 Margin Allocated to Renville-Sibley Members

As a member of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, you own a portion of the cooperative. One of the many ownership benefits is receiving an allocation of the cooperative's margin. Generally, cooperatives operate at cost. That means the goal of a cooperative is to collect enough revenue to run and expand the business, without over charging the membership.

Any excess revenue is allocated back to the membership in the form of capital credits. This allocation is based on the amount of electricity each member consumed during the year. The 2022 allocation information will be located on the August statement. Past members who received electricity from Renville-Sibley in 2022 and no longer have an active service with us will receive their allocation notice in the mail.

Please remember, this allocation is not payable now and does not represent cash, but rather your equity in the cooperative. You cannot apply this amount to your electric bill. Renville-Sibley uses the allocated, but unretired capital credits to improve and expand our electric system and meet our other capital needs. This reduces our need to borrow money and helps us provide reliable electric service to the membership.


When the co-op financial condition permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits to members in cash. Allocating and retiring margins to members helps distinguish the difference between cooperatives and other utilities. Renville-Sibley is proud to support our communities by putting money back into the local economy

and into the pockets of those we serve. The best way to ensure you receive this allocation when it is retired is to keep your mailing address up-to-date with the cooperative.

A common question regarding the allocation and retirement of capital

credits is if this amount should be reported to the IRS. Renville-Sibley recommends members visit with their tax advisor on this matter.

NNNN



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power
103 Oak Street
PO Box 68
Danube MN 56230-0068

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Phone: (320) 826-2593 Toll Free (800) 826-2593
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
www.renville-sibley.coop


This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Statement Date	08/04/2023
Account Number	123400
Payment Due	09/03/2023

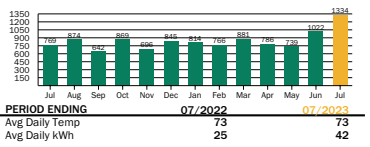
Service Summary	
Previous Balance	\$162.00
Payment Received 08/03/2022 Thank You!	-\$162.00
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Current Charges	\$195.00
Total Amount Due	\$195.00

Message from your Co-op	
August member events include Farmfest and Family-a-Fair night. Remember to bring the coupon from the newsletter with you to Farmfest so you can be registered for a prize drawing. More information on both of these events can be found in the Cooperative Connections newsletter.	

ANY MEMBER
12345 ELECTRIC ROAD
ANYWHERE MN 56565



Map Location: 9876543		Service Location: 12345 ELECTRIC ROAD		Substation: ELECTRIC				
Meter No.	From	To	Days	Previous	Present	Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	Rate Description
8824816	06/30/2023	08/01/2023	32	50365	51699	1	1334	GENERAL SERVICE
1824888	06/30/2023	08/01/2023	32	7988	8262	1	274	CONTROLLED AC

kWh Usage History	
	
PERIOD ENDING	07/2022
Avg Daily Temp	73
Avg Daily kWh	42

Current Service Detail	
Balance Forward \$0.00	
GENERAL SERVICE	
Customer Charge	\$42.00
Energy Charge	1060 kWh@ 0.1202 \$127.41
Water Heater Credit	-\$6.50
CONTROLLED AC	
Sub Meter Charge	\$2.50
Energy Charge	274 kWh@ 0.06 \$16.44
Total Electric Charges	\$181.85
Minnesota Sales Tax	\$12.50
Operation Round Up	\$0.65
Other Services & Credits	\$13.15
Total Electric, Other Services & Credits	\$195.00
Total Amount Due 09/03/2023	\$195.00
Total Amount Due After 09/03/2023	\$197.92

Capital Credit Statement			
Total Payouts for 2022		\$1,455.84	
Category	Unretired Balance	2022 Allocation	TOTAL
RSCPA	\$2,001.01	\$88.17	\$2,089.18
East River	\$516.03	\$40.90	\$556.93
Basin	\$822.90	\$29.30	\$852.20
TOTAL	\$3,339.94	\$158.37	\$3,498.31

▲ **KEEP**

▼ **SEND** Please do not staple or paperclip.

ANY MEMBER
12345 ELECTRIC ROAD
ANYWHERE MN 56565


Please check here and complete the appropriate section on the reverse side to update your Mailing Address, Phone Numbers, or Email.

Account Number	123400
Total Due 09/03/2023	\$195.00
Total Due After 09/03/2023	\$197.92

RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER 1

PO BOX 68

DANUBE MN 56230-0068



2507200004992000000195000000197920080420221

July Board Meeting Highlights

The July board meeting was held on Tuesday, July 25 at 8 am. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Cindy Mertens, Gene Alex, and Amy Ervin.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the June 27 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of June
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Safety Report for July
- Basin Electric Annual Meeting Voting Delegates
- CoBank Director Election and Nominating Committee Candidates

The board reviewed:

- Total new members
- Capital Credits Transferred
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department.

Items in the reports include:

- o High-level Statement of

Operations review – YTD (unaudited)

- o Organization activities
- o East River update
- o Basin Electric update
- o NRECA update
- o MREA update
- o Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
- o Accounts Receivable
- New Facility Update
- Farmfest
- Family-a-Fair night

Please contact the Renville-Sibley office if you would like more information regarding the board meeting.

Notice:

The August board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 22, at 8 a.m.

The September board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, at 8 a.m.

WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month RSCPA member did not find their member number in the newsletter. The value of the energy credit will be increased to a value of \$120. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 5th of September, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

OUTAGE REPORT

Affecting 10 members or more

Date: 6-15-23

Time off: 9:00 AM

Time on: 10:49 PM

Substation: Emmet

Cause: Other Prearranged

Date: 6-27-23

Time off: 9:26 AM

Time on: 10:35 AM

Substation: Kingman, Troy

Cause: Cause Unkown

Please contact Renville-Sibley's office for more details about these power outages.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee for awarding this scholarship to assist me in my college journey. I am excited to be leaving for college in a few weeks. I look forward to obtaining my degree at South Dakota State University in Agricultural System Technology. Thank you again.

– Keegan Lorang



Drone Spraying

A Modern Tool in Today's Agriculture

Scott Waltman

As modern agriculture continues to evolve, drones are one of the newer tools farmers can use to help their land and crops.

The hovering, unmanned aircraft can be handy for small areas and places it's difficult for traditional spraying options to get to, according to those who offer the service to those in the ag sector.

Drones aren't the weapon of choice to spray chemicals on 1,500 acres of corn or soybeans, but that day is likely coming, said Derek Ver Helst, who operates Dakota Unmanned Aerial in Brandt.

Closer to the coasts, drones are already used for a multitude of purposes that aren't just fun and shooting videos. They are only going to become more prominent in ag-heavy states like the Dakotas, he said.

"The possibilities are pretty much

just limited by your imagination," Ver Helst said.

He said his background as an agronomist piqued his interest in spraying with drones. Dakota Unmanned Aerial is a side hustle he started about two years ago. He works as a senior conservation agronomist for AgSpire.

Nick Williams had a background in agriculture working for CHS Cooperative and selling farm equipment before starting Williams Drones southeast of Parkston in August 2020. Business has been good, he said, estimating that it has doubled each year.

"It's really taken off, it continues to grow," Williams said.

He and Ver Helst agree that farmers have been receptive to the relatively new option, willing to give it a try when the project isn't too big.

Williams said he does mostly ag-related work. In late July, he was staying busy with fungicide applications.

Drones are great near shelter belts and around wet areas. Those are places



that are hard for a land rig or spray plane to get to. Drones work better because they are smaller and more agile, he said.

A route is mapped out and the drone reads that information and flies mostly autonomously, Williams said.

He sets the height, speed, gallons of application per acre and swath width. Once a drone is in the air, it does almost all of the work, though Williams said he can control the height a little, if needed.

Drones have sensors and other features so they don't run into trees, equipment, wind turbines or structures, he said.

Depending on the amount of land to be sprayed, it can take longer to map a field than to spray it, Ver Helst said.

His drones carry 10 liters, but others have a capacity of 40 liters, he said. When a drone runs out of chemical, it returns back to the operator, who puts on a new tank, changes the battery and sends it back out, Ver Helst said. The drone will pick up spraying right where it left off, he said.

In 2016, land-grant university researchers and educators started work to increase the use of drones in agriculture, according to information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

That work continues today. It includes identifying and evaluating the most user-friendly and cost-effective drone platforms and sensors, according to the USDA.

Some drone operators offer swarm spraying, Van Helst and Williams said.

For instance, there could be five drones programmed to follow the same grid over a field, pasture or slough working in unison, Van Helst said. As one runs out of spray, it returns for a new tank of chemical and battery until the job is finished.

Van Helst said he doesn't do a lot of spraying. Most of it is on pastures.

But, he said, he has done some work in orchards and vineyards where grapes are grown.

Williams has branched out a little more. Last year, he said, he was hired to do a dust-control project at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in the Black Hills. That is the former Homestake gold mine near Lead.

And both men say drones can be used to combat one of South Dakota's least-popular commodities – mosquitos.

Drones can be used to spray for skeeters on fairgrounds, when there's a big city gathering and even in a residential area.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, they were even used to shower stadiums with antibacterial spray, Van Helst said.

One drone operator in Texas was contacted to see if drones could be used to drop fish food into a pond, Williams said.

He said his drones can cover about 20 acres an hour, though some can do 30 hours an acre. And he expects the new drones released next year will be able to spray 40 hours in an acre.

For large fields, a land rig or a spray plane is still a better bet, Williams said. A traditional ground sprayer can probably cover 70 acres an hour, he said.

Van Helt said his T-40 drone can handle about 100 acres a day.

One challenge in getting started is getting all of the licensing needed from the Federal Aviation Administration.

He spent about two years testing and writing exemptions and working through the legalities.

Commercial drone operators need a remote pilot certificate from the FAA. Another license is needed to dispense chemicals from a flying aircraft, Van Helst said.

He said he has procured 14 FAA exemptions and will need two more next year.

That's why some drone operators hire a business to navigate that process. That's the route Williams took.

Being a drone operator can be fun or frustrating, just like any other job, he said. He just checks the forecast and hopes it holds. Trying to spray when the wind is 20 mph or more just isn't going to work, he said.

Even so, Van Helst said, drones are a fantastic tool. Ground rigs and spray planes will always be needed, and drones are just one more option for farmers to tap.

"There's a right time and a right place for everything," he said.



Operation Roundup

The Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Charitable Trust met in July to review Operation Roundup grant applications. The board reviewed the applicants and awarded four (4) grants of \$500 each to non-profit and community organizations.

The recipients were Imagination Library which provides books to children, Redwood County 4-H Horse Project for an arena for the fair and to host events, Renville County Walk in the Park to provide research support for cancer and support for survivors, and SWWC Foundation for Innovation Education for activities and programs for students and families. All funds for Operation Round Up are placed in a trust fund separate from the cooperative accounts.

The next application deadline is October 1, 2023.

Comparative Report			
	Current YTD	One Year Ago YTD	10 Years Ago YTD
Average # of Consumers	1,878	1,890	1,916
kWhs purchased	7,908,162	14,673,142	8,859,434
Cost of purchased power	\$389,546.00	\$915,022.40	\$517,522.90

FREE Want Ad Service

Members can submit ads for the following categories: Giveaway, For Sale, For Rent, and Wanted. Ads should be or are limited to no more than 15 words and must be received by the first of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Renville-Sibley reserves the right to edit content or exclude ads due to space restrictions. Ads will be run one time only unless resubmitted. Please complete the following information and mail it to the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power, PO Box 68, Danube, MN 56230.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Ad to be placed (limit of 15 words per ad)

Type of ad: Giveaway For Sale For Rent Wanted

NOTICE:

STAR Energy Services will be doing below-ground inspections of the power poles beginning the week of September 5th. They will be in the Renville and Sacred Heart areas and are expecting to test around 1,610 poles. They will have a pickup and a ranger with STAR Energy Services on the side. Your service will not be interrupted while the poles are being tested. Please contact the office at 800-826-2593 if you have any questions.

REMINDER

As of August 7th, Renville-Sibley's headquarters is now located at 515 Hwy 212 W in Danube. If you plan to drop off your payments, please use the dropbox located on the east side of the building.

NEW FACILITY UPDATE

August 7th was our first day of operation in our new facility located at 515 Hwy 212 W in Danube. The landscaping process is taking place now with the large grass-seeded area to be completed in the fall. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Open House on August 22nd beginning at 10:30 a.m.

To watch the outside activity at the new facility, check out the video on our website: [rscpa.coop/news/renville-sibley-new-facility](https://www.rscpa.coop/news/renville-sibley-new-facility)

FOR SALE:

Champion portable generator. Runs on gas or LP. 9375/7500 watts. Like new, only used twice.

Robert & Joyce Luckow
Sacred Heart, MN 56285
320-247-2536

Energy Star Rebates

Renville-Sibley offers rebates to members who purchase the following Energy Star-certified appliances for their home: refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher, clothes washer, clothes dryer, dehumidifier, central air-conditioner, room air-conditioner, and LED light bulbs.

To qualify for the rebate, the unit must be currently Energy Star certified. Occasionally, Energy Star changes their qualification of what is certified. Therefore, what was Energy Star certified last year or even last month, may or may not be currently Energy Star certified due to a change in the requirements. Renville-Sibley would like to remind members to verify that the appliance they are purchasing is currently Energy Star certified by visiting the Energy Star

website: www.energystar.gov.

Once on the website, click on the Find Products tab at the top of the page and then click on the appliance you are interested in purchasing. Next, click on “Explore Models” and search by the brand of the appliance you are purchasing. Renville-Sibley also uses this website to verify that the appliance is currently Energy Star certified before issuing the rebate. This website has a host of other information to assist members in becoming energy efficient.

Rebate forms can be found on Renville-Sibley’s website <https://www.rscpa.coop/energy-star-rebates>. Rebates must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please contact the office if you have any questions on rebates or on Energy Star products.

Standby Generator

While owning an emergency generator comes in handy during an extended power outage, you must consider the following.

To safely use standby generators, operate them only in well-ventilated areas outdoors so emissions can’t enter your home. In addition, always turn off a generator when refueling it, and store gasoline, diesel fuel, or propane outside of living areas. Plug appliances directly into a generator or use an extension cord. Do not try to power a home’s wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet.

A permanently installed standby generator for a home or business requires a transfer switch to isolate it from the power grid. The main breaker on an electric panel does not qualify as a transfer switch under the National Electrical Code.



Transfer switches are critical for two reasons:

- They prevent the backflow of current across distribution lines that could electrocute lineworkers trying to restore power during an outage.
- They protect the generator from damage when electric service has been restored.

Installation of a standby generator should be done by a licensed electrician and must comply with the National Electrical Code as well as state and local codes.

Mission Statement

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will provide efficient, reliable electric energy and services to enhance the quality of rural living.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



Aug 31-Sept 4
South Dakota State Fair
SD State Fairgrounds

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.

SEPT 2
Hidewood Valley Barn Dance
7 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 4
Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show
Steam Whistle Blows
1 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 8-10
James Valley Threshing & Tractor Show
World's Largest Steam Traction Engine
Andover, SD
605-868-3242

SEPT 9-10
Old Iron - Fall Harvest Festival
Delmont, SD

SEPT 10
10th Annual Black Hill Beer Run
Spearfish Campground Pavilion
Spearfish, SD
605-642-7730

SEPT 10
100th Anniversary of Little Brown Church
11 a.m.
Service, Potluck & Auction
West of Hayes
Hayes, SD

SEPT 11-17
Traditions & Olivia American Legion
Olivia, MN
320-523-1000

SEPT 11-17
HOBO Days
Live Music-Fun
Olivia, MN
320-523-1000

SEPT 16
Midland Appreciation Day
Theme: Automobiles
1:30 p.m.
Midland, SD

SEPT 17
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Church Bazaar
12 p.m.
Hoven, SD

SEPT 22-24
Coal Springs Threshing Bee
Meadow, SD
605-788-2229

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
9 a.m.
Springfield Community Building
Springfield, SD

SEPT 30
Day of Wellness
10 a.m.
Sturgis Armory
Sturgis, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

OCT 6-7
Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest & Vendor Show
Philip, SD
605-441-1060

OCT 7
Spirit of Dakota Award
Huron Event Center
Huron, SD
605-352-6073

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