



Cooperative Connections

United States®
**Census
2020**

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

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**Safety Shines
at Stock Show**

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It's Census Time



DeeAnne Newville, CEO

dnewville@renville-sibley.coop
 Phone: 320-826-2593 or
 Toll Free 800-826-2593

Editor's Note:

This article was received from Renville County but is just as important for all the counties in the Renville-Sibley Service area.

Check with your local county for more information.

The season of the 2020 Census is upon us and we only have less than two months until April 1, Census Day. But it is even closer than you think as Renville County residents, as well as the whole country, will start to receive mailers from the Census Bureau in mid-March. The census itself will collect basic information about the people living in your home, counting every person that lives there on April 1, 2020. This really does mean something to you because of what this information determines and how much funding is tied to the Census. It will determine where \$675 billion+ is going to and that is billion with a B. Minnesota, itself, received approximately \$15 billion, through 55 federal spending programs, guided by data derived from the 2010 Census in 2016 alone.

As if you need more reason to fill out the Census form, here are two very important facts for you. First, the Census will be ONLINE for the first time ever in 2020; it will be easier than ever to respond to the Census. A small percentage of people will still get sent the original form to fill in and mail back, but online will be the Census Bureau's main form of response. You can also respond by phone, if need be, as the ultimate goal is to count everyone once and only once. The second fact, Minnesota could LOSE its 8th Congressional Seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Minnesota needs a great turnout to hold its eight seats, should we lose this representation we will have to conduct redistricting with seven seats. Census forms the basis for redistricting and, for 2020, Minnesota wants to do this with the eight districts that we have had since 1960. Remember this information is not a one-and-done, as this information will affect us and the country for 10 years. That's 120 months, 520 weeks or 3,650 days!

More good information for Renville County is that the Census Bureau does not deliver mailers to PO boxes. If that's you, you can expect a visit from a Census worker to drop that off to you. And those Census Workers are locally hired people that take a lifetime oath to protect personal information because security is not only a No. 1 priority, it is the law that census information is protected. Should you not fill out your form before the end of March and the April 1 deadline, the Census Bureau will send a reminder postcard. They will then follow up with a letter and a paper questionnaire and then another postcard towards the end of April. By the beginning of May, if you have NOT filled in your form, that Census worker will be knocking on your door.

No matter what you care about: schools, school programs, roads/infrastructure, hospitals, medical insurance, housing, private business or child care, all of these and more will be affected by the Census as the \$675 billion is divided out among the many federally funded programs. Renville County has already taken steps to make sure our county is accurately counted; to that end we have been posting information and statistics about the Census since last fall. To see this great information just go to Facebook and type, '@RenvilleCountyCensus' to find these great posts from our Renville County Census Complete Count Committee or R5C.

Minnesota could LOSE its 8th Congressional Seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Minnesota needs a great turnout to hold its eight seats.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL NOT BE REQUESTED?

The Census Bureau will **NEVER** ask for:

- Social Security Numbers
- Bank or credit card account numbers.
- Money or donations.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.

WHY THEY ASK

The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.

Responses to census questions provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

When you fill out the census, you help:



Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.



Inform how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.



Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.

Renville-Sibley

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

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Web site: www.renville-sibley.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Renville-Sibley Co-op to Hold Annual Meeting

The 82nd annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at the Island Ballroom in Bird Island. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with the dinner immediately following the meeting. The meeting is being called in accordance with the bylaws of the association to transact the following business:

- Report of officers, directors and committees.
- Election of three (3) directors, one (1) from District 1, one (1) from District 2 and one (1) from District 3.
- Any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

The annual meeting report will be mailed to all members the second week of March. Members will receive their voting ballots for director election including candidate information, at that time. If you cannot attend and you wish to mail your ballot, you may do so. However, if mailed, it must be received through the mail by March 26, 2020.

Drawings for the early bird prizes will begin at 5:45 p.m. Drawings will also be held at the close of the annual meeting. Children in attendance will be eligible for prize drawings. A \$10 energy credit attendance prize will be given to members (one credit per member) who attend the annual meeting. All members are encouraged to attend the 82nd annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

Alan Neyers, Secretary

NOTICE:

Candidates for the director positions will be listed in the April *Cooperative Connections* and candidate information for each district will be included with the ballot mailing.

Comparative Report

	Current Dec. 31, 2019	One Year Ago Dec. 31, 2018	10 Years Ago Dec. 31, 2009
Average Number of Consumers	1,882	1,882	1,938
kWhs purchased	166,574,084	192,340,866	171,862,690
Cost of purchased power	\$9,994,343.64	\$11,481,861.27	\$6,613,938.38

Scholar of the Month

Congratulations to Kaitlyn Lorang from Cedar Mountain High School for being selected as the January Scholar of the Month. She was nominated because she is such a driven person, both in school and in the community. She is involved in NHS, student council, FFA, 4-H and her church. A couple of years ago, Kaitlyn created a PALS program where she researches, prepares and teaches a lesson to Kindergarten students about some aspect of agriculture. This year she secured an intern experience with Minnesota Ag in the Classroom. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Kaitlyn as the January Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the month.



Kaitlyn Lorang

More information about the Scholar of the Month program can be found on our website www.renville-sibley.coop under the Customer Service tab.

Extension Cord Safety Tips

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

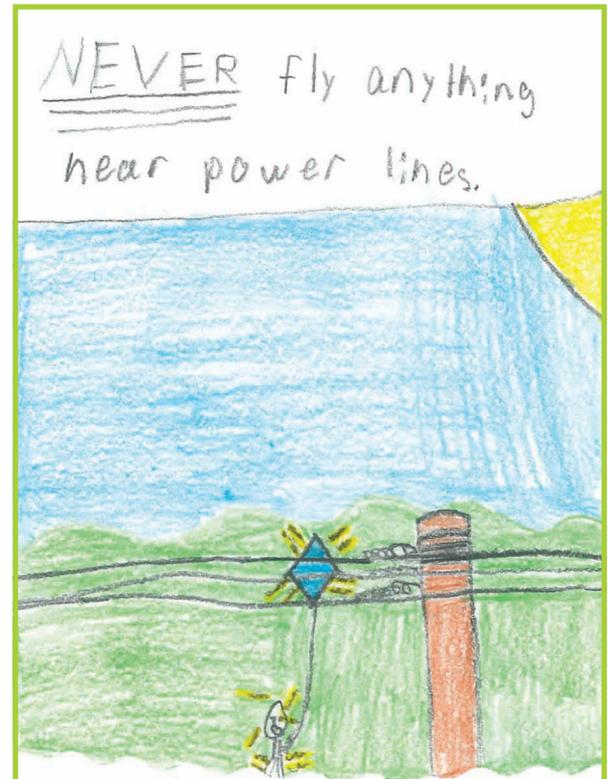
Using extension cords properly is critical to your safety. With continuous use over time, an extension cord can rapidly deteriorate, creating a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips for staying safe from electric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

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

Source: esfi.org



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never fly anything near power lines."

Gage Cumbow, 12 years old

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

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



Seafood Sensations

Hot Crab Dip

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

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

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

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Seafood Casserole

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

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

Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel, SD

Red Salmon Spread

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

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

June Herke, Watertown, SD

Crab Lasagna

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

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

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

Crab or Shrimp Salad

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

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

Joyce Hermans, Milbank, SD

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage, casserole or dairy recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.



Choose Renewable Energy for Your Home or Business

You can easily purchase renewable energy from your local electric cooperative, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power. Renville-Sibley has Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for purchase to offset your current usage with 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% renewable energy options. The price of the RECs will be added to your current electric bill.

The electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you have always received from Renville-Sibley Co-op Power but, by participating in this program, you will be supporting current and future renewable projects in our area.

Your home or business will be joining hundreds of other people from across the nation who are supporting renewable energy. By purchasing RECs, your business could add value to your products or services, promote future regional renewable projects and showcase your support for renewable energy sources.

FAQ's

What is a Renewable Energy Credit (REC)?

- 1,000 kWh (kilowatt hours) produced by a renewable energy source equals 1 REC
- RECs are also called Green Tags
- RECs represent the valuable renewable attributes of wind energy

Where do the RECs come from?

The RECs come from several wind farms in the region that supply renewable energy to Renville-Sibley Co-op Power. These include, but are not limited to:

- North Dakota: PrairieWinds 1, Wilton 1 & 2, Baldwin Wind Project and Minot Wind Project
- South Dakota: Crow Lake Wind, the Chamberlain turbines, Day County Wind Farm and South Dakota Wind Project

How much does it cost?

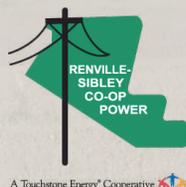
To participate a rate adder per kWh will be added to your bill:

- \$0.001 /kWh for 100% renewable
- \$0.00075 /kWh for 75% renewable
- \$0.00050 /kWh for 50% renewable
- \$0.00025 /kWh for 25% renewable

For example, if your monthly usage is 1,200 kWh and you would like to participate at the 100% renewable level, you would pay an additional \$1.20 for the month.

Do I need to purchase any special equipment?

No. Renville-Sibley will continue to fulfill all your electric needs and you can enjoy the benefits of renewable energy.



1.800.826.2593
renville-sibley@renville-sibley.coop

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power is an equal opportunity provider & employer.



SMALL CHANGE THAT CHANGES LIVES

— OPERATION ROUND UP —



WORKING TOGETHER

First Operation Round Up Funds Disbursed

Lenae Wordes

lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

The Operation Round Up® Board of Trustees had its first meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10. Members of the Board of Trustees are Louise Kiecker, Ty Erickson and Butch Buschette.

Prior to reviewing applications, the board took time to review the bylaws and articles of incorporation to better understand their responsibilities as trustees of the Operation Round Up funds. In this review, a few minor changes were recommended to the bylaws. One recommendation was to combine the positions of secretary and treasurer into one position. The other recommendation was to allow the cooperative's employees to sign the checks instead of the officers of the trust.

Ty Erickson was elected president of the trust board, Butch Buschette the vice president and Louise Kiecker the secretary and treasurer. 977900

The financial condition of the trust was reviewed. As you know, each month the member's electric bill is rounded up to the next even dollar amount with the difference put into a separate fund for donation to area organizations. The average member donates around \$6 each year with a maximum possible annual contribution of \$11.88 per year. Member participation is voluntary and at any time members can request to be removed from the program. The Operation Round Up program was implemented beginning with the statement members received in June of 2019.

There were four applications submitted for the board to review.

After a full discussion, the trustees approved giving a \$500 donation to each of the following organizations:

- Lutheran Social Service of MN
 - Meals for low-income seniors at the Morton and Fairfax sites.
- RCW Post Prom
 - Expenses for post prom activities at the school.
- RC Hospital Foundation
 - Renville County Walk in the Park Survivor celebration dinner.
- Blue Star Mothers of America
 - Mother's Day brunch.

The next meeting of the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees will be Thursday, March 12, 2020. Information on the Operation Round Up program can be found on our website www.renville-sibley.coop under the Your Co-op tab. Applications can also be downloaded from this site or requested by calling the office at 800-826-2593. Applications must be submitted to the cooperative by March 5 to be reviewed at this meeting.

***Note:** Members can see the amount they contributed to the Operation Round Up program in 2019 on the statement they receive in February. This will be listed under the kWh Usage History section of the bill.*



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

GET COUNTED

Census 2020 Will Shape Region's Future

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone.

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



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



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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020

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

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

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

Census Key Dates

March 12:
Self-response begins
and continues
through July 2020.

April 1: Census Day
**Dec. 31: Census
Counts Delivered
to President**

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

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

The value of the census goes beyond dollars.

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

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

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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

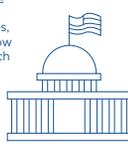
Everyone counts.

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



It's about fair representation.

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



It's in the Constitution.

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



It's about \$675 billion.

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

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



It's about redistricting.

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

Taking part is your civic duty.

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



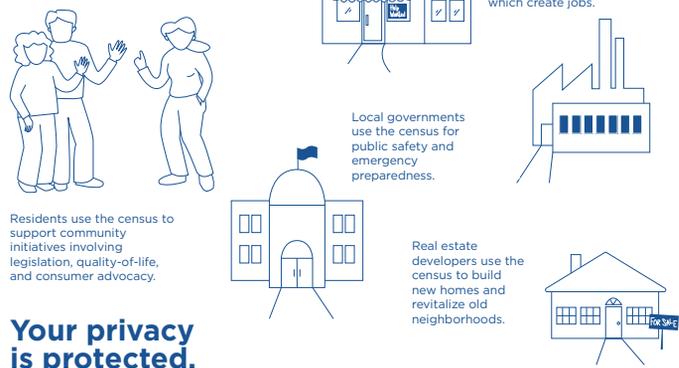
Census data are being used all around you.

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

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

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

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



Your privacy is protected.

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

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

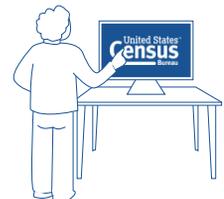


2020 will be easier than ever.

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

You can help.

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





FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT
[2020CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS](https://2020census.gov/partners)



January Board Meeting Highlights

The January board meeting was held on Monday, Jan. 27, at 9 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were Attorney Jeff Whitmore, CEO DeeAnne Newville, Gene Alex and Lenae Wordes.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the December board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of December
- Capital credits to estates
- Safety report for January
- 2020 capital project purchases
- Depreciation Resolution

The board reviewed:

- Total new members for the month of December
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
 - High level Statement of

Operations review – YTD through December (unaudited)

- Organization activities
- East River update
- Basin Electric update
- NRECA update
- MREA update
- Line crew work in progress, equipment update and outage update
- Accounts receivable
- Nominating Committee meetings
- Member informational meetings
- Annual meeting
- Youth Tour
- Scholarships

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

Notice:

The February board meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 24, at 9 a.m.

The March board meeting will be held on Monday, March 23, at 8 a.m.

Where's the Number?

Last month, Clay Bryan found his member number in the newsletter.

Congratulations! The credit will start over with a value of \$15. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by March 3, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!



Thank you...

Renville-Sibley linemen would like to thank **Steve Hinderks** and **Mark Chan** for the burger and fries given to them after restoring power to all members on Dec. 31. It was greatly appreciated.



Mission Statement

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

Wanted/For Sale

For Sale: For Sale: Wooden ammo box 9 1/2" W x 18 1/2" L x 16" H, brown/red vertical stripes, very good shape, price \$75
Edwin Hacker, Fairfax, MN
507-426-7507.

Wanted: Cattle round bale feeder.
Sharon Kiecker, Fairfax, MN
507-430-1117

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 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

Why Is My Power Out?

When power goes out, we are working hard to restore it

We hate it when the power goes out just as much as you do. When there is an outage, we work hard to resume service as quickly and safely as possible.

Many times, the reasons for outages are beyond our control. Here are the main reasons the power goes out:



STORMS - Conditions brought on by storms such as high winds, ice and lightning can interrupt service. Lightning itself does not impact outages as much as people think, but it can strike trees and cause branches or even whole trees to fall on distribution lines. Lightning can cause a problem, however, if it strikes substation equipment, such as a large transformer. Strong high winds and ice that accumulates on lines can also impact distribution.

TREES AND VEGETATION -

Branches, limbs or trunks can fall on lines and vegetation (such as vines) can grow around poles, lines or other equipment. Ice and wind can make matters worse. This is why we work so hard to keep power lines and equipment clear.

ANIMALS - Squirrels and raccoons, along with other critters, can be the cause of a power outage. For some reason, they seem to like to find their way up a power pole or into a substation. Steps are taken to reduce this risk for our furry friends. A bird on a wire is harmless and safe as long as it touches the line and nothing else.

ACCIDENTS - Cars, trucks, and farm equipment that have a run-in with a utility pole can cause an outage.

PUBLIC DAMAGE - Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism or theft can all cause interruptions in the energy chain.

OVERLOAD - This happens where demand spikes, such as when too many air conditioners run on a hot summer day, causing blackouts or brownouts.

EQUIPMENT issues - We maintain and inspect all of our lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment malfunctions. We strive to address any problem as soon as it happens.

Please contact Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association at 800-826-2593 with questions about outages or to learn more about the steps we take to provide reliable service. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Redwood Electric Cooperative assist Renville-Sibley Co-op Power linemen with storm restoration.

Outage Report

affecting 10 members or more

Date: 12-4-19
 Time off: 2:30 p.m.
 Time on: 2:45 p.m.
 Substation: Emmet
 Cause: Scheduled outage

Date: 12-5-19
 Time off: 9:30 a.m.
 Time on: 10:45 a.m.
 Substation: Kingman
 Cause: Scheduled outage

The cooperative had several line outages on Dec. 30 and 31 due to ice on the line and wind, which caused the power lines to gallop. Most of the outages were reported from members served from the Emmet, Kingman and Troy substations. There was one line outage on the Birch Cooley substation. Birch Cooley, Henryville and Troy substations experienced an outage due to the transmission lines slapping together several times along County Road 5. On Tuesday, Dec. 31, additional crews were brought in from Minnesota Valley Electric and Redwood Electric to assist in storm restoration. The Troy and Henryville substations were brought down in order to repair a transmission line. In the weeks following the storm, the linemen have continued to make repairs to the system from damage caused by this storm. Renville-Sibley appreciates your patience while the linemen work as quickly and safely as possible to restore the power.

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

Boots, Broncs and Safety

Electric Safety Remains a Tradition at Black Hills Stock Show®

Courtney J. Deinert

courtneyd@centralec.coop

“We’re just selling safety.”

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

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

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

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

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

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



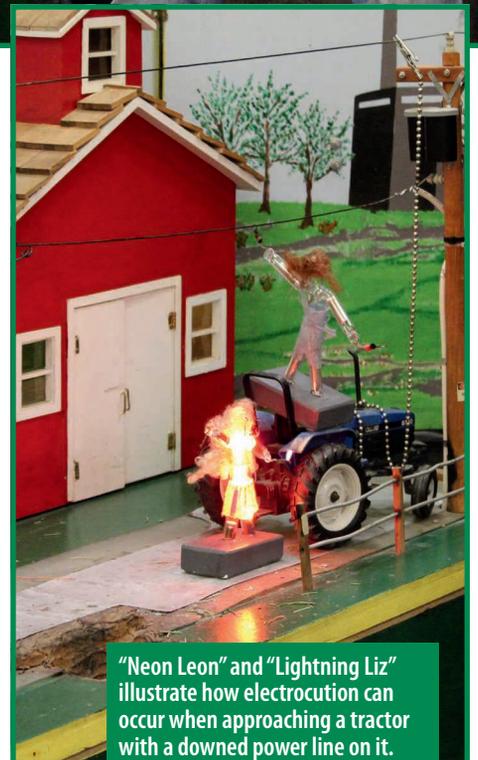
The presentation is designed to educate elementary-aged children about the dangers of electricity, but all ages gather to see the demonstration.

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

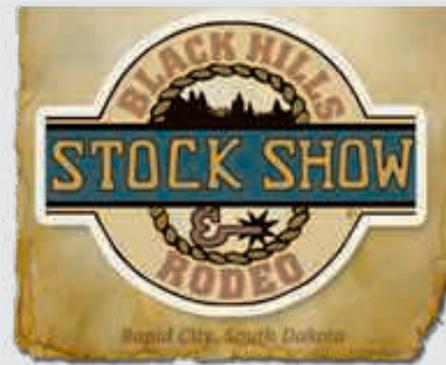
In addition to the Stock Show, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota provide energy efficiency and safety education at other events across the state, including the South Dakota State Fair and Dakotafest. You can also likely find them at your local home and farm shows, town festival, school

events and more.

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



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



Ranch Rodeo Events

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

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

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



East River Electric employees work the serving line at a previous feed. Pictured, from left, are Mike Jaspers, Business Development Director; Paul Lambert, radio, SCADA and LM foreman; Rory Johannsen, materials coordinator operator; Tom Boyko, CEO/General Manager and Kim Boyko.

FEEDING FOR A CAUSE

East River Electric to Hold 56th Annual Mountain Oyster Feed March 12

Shayla Ebsen

sebsen@eastriver.coop

Mountain oysters will be the center attraction at a fundraising event held by East River Electric Power Cooperative on March 12.

Serving for the 56th annual Mountain Oyster Feed begins at 5:30 p.m. at Nicky's on the west edge of Madison, S.D.

But for those not so interested in the prairie delicacy, the event's menu will also include pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert. There will be a raffle, door prizes, silent auction and 50-50 tickets.

Proceeds from the event will once again benefit LifeScape, formerly Children's Care Hospital and School and SD Achieve, whose mission it is to empower children and adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. With more than \$275,000 contributed to LifeScape over the years, East River's Annual Mountain Oyster Feed has helped provide for the very best in medical care, therapy, education and other services for the children at LifeScape.

"LifeScape is so honored to benefit from this tremendous event each year. It is so fun and so



Marshall Area Foreman Colton Sanderson and Journeyman Radio and SCADA Technician Tyler Frost are all smiles as they work in the kitchen at a past feed.

unique, and it brings the community together in fellowship and food, but more importantly, it brings the community together in support of children with disabilities. The money raised over the years has made a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of Madison-area children and their families supported by LifeScape,” said Jessica Wells, LifeScape Foundation president. “This is a tradition we love and look forward to each year. We are so grateful for this event and for the people of this community that show their compassion and care by coming out in support of this each year.”

The partnership began about a dozen years after Children’s Care Hospital & School opened in 1952.

According to the history of the organization on LifeScape’s website, the school was a private, nonprofit organization started as a citizens’ grassroots effort to provide rehabilitation and education to children recovering from polio. Until then, children often never returned to school after recovering from the acute phase of their illness, as buildings were seldom accessible. As the polio threat waned, children with other disabilities were admitted, but the early mission of the organization was to serve children with physical disabilities only. More children were “mainstreamed” into public schools in the 1970s

and Crippled Children’s began serving children with more complex disabilities – the result of modern medicine’s ability to save sicker and more premature babies. Also in the 1970s, the organization began serving children in their own communities through the outreach program. The organization acquired an outpatient center in Rapid City in 1985 and was able to provide services throughout the state. The name changed to Children’s Care Hospital & School in 1994 and an outpatient rehabilitation center opened in Sioux Falls in 1999, serving children and adults. In 2012, Children’s Care celebrated its 60th anniversary.

“Every year, the East River Employees’ Committee seeks out donations of any kind and every year the community steps up in supporting our cause and making this event a success,” said Sam Anderson, East River Employees’ Committee chairperson. “East River takes pride in our community and is committed to benefiting non-profits in our area such as LifeScape.”

“The charity event was very successful and a direct tribute to our employees fulfilling



EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
**MOUNTAIN OYSTER
FUNDRAISER**
SERVING LIFESCAPE

03.12.20 | NICKY'S | 5:30 P.M.
THURSDAY | RESTAURANT | SERVING
BEGINS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT  LifeScape
Providing Pathways, Inspiring Lives.

our Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives principle of Commitment to Community,” said East River General Manager Tom Boyko after the 2019 event, which saw the East River Employees Committee donate \$1,000, a total matched by East River Electric at \$1,000 and CoBank also contributed \$2,000. In total, the 2019 event raised more than \$25,000 for LifeScape.



Apprentice Substation Technician Tim Fuerst, Facilities Maintenance Technician Mark Even and Mechanic Terry Zingmark prep the mountain oysters for frying.

December 15-March 31

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

February 21

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

February 21-22

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

February 22

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

February 22-23

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

February 26

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

February 27-29

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

February 27-March 1

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

March 12-14

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

March 14

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

March 14-15

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



March 18, June 11, August 13 and October 8

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

March 19-21

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

March 19-21

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

March 20-21

Danube Volunteer Firemen's Annual Smelt Feed, Danube, MN, 320-894-5645

March 20-21, 27-28

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

March 21-22

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

March 28

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

March 28

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

April 3-4

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

April 4-5

Annual USD Wacipi, Vermillion, SD

April 11

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

April 17-19

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

April 18

Black Hills Gold & Treasure Show, Rapid City, SD

April 18

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

April 25

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

July 14

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

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.