



Cooperative Connections



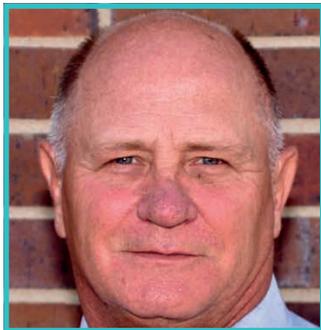
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Safety Above All Else



Steve Reed, CEO

steve.reed@wce.coop

As importantly, we encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety.

“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For West Central, it's the No. 1 priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, West Central has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At its essence, our mission is to provide safe, reliable services to our member-owners. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. West Central has a safety team whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share “lessons learned” and improve in the future.

As importantly, we encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. West Central conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools, for fire departments and for many other community events.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, broken poles, unlocked padmount transformers or anything else that may look amiss. Contact us for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event. Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

West Central Electric

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-988)

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**Our Mission is to Provide
Safe, Reliable Service
to our Member Owners.**

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Call 605-669-8100
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WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 17, Murdo, SD 57559. Periodicals Postage Paid at Murdo, SD 57559 and at additional mailing offices. Electric cooperative members devote \$1 from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$18 annually.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: West Central Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 17, Murdo, SD 57559; telephone 605-669-8100; fax 605-669-2358; e-mail wcec@wce.coop; Web site: www.wce.coop;

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Design assistance by SDREA



Stout Joins Co-op

West Central is pleased to announce the hiring of Journeyman Lineman Landon Stout. Landon was raised in the Kadoka area. After high school, Landon graduated from Mitchell Tech with a degree in electrical construction and maintenance and power line construction and maintenance.

Before coming to work at West Central, he worked for 15 years at Lacreek Electric Association. He started working for West Central on March 5, 2018, and works at the Kadoka outpost. He is happy to be back in his hometown and has this to say, "I like working with all the people in small-town, rural communities."

Landon and his wife, Kristy, have three children: daughter, Brinley, 5, son, Jax, 3, and son, Braxton, 1. During Landon's time off, he likes to hunt and fish and also enjoys playing softball in the summer.



Landon Stout
Journeyman
Lineman
Kadoka Area

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE: Your Guideline to Safety

First published in 1897, the **National Electrical Code** has been adopted in **all 50 states** as the standard for safe electrical installation, inspection, and use to protect people and property from **avoidable electrical hazards**.

There have been **15 code revisions** since **1974**, the year the average American home was built.



The National Electrical Code (NEC) is updated **every 3 years** to include the latest in proven safety technology.



The NEC creates a **universal electrical safety standard**. Allowing all new and renovated construction built to code to be **safe from electrical hazards**.



The NEC applies to **new construction and renovations**. The code is only in effect after it is adopted by the state or local jurisdiction.



Is your home up to code? Contact a **qualified electrician** to ensure your home is **safe and up to code**.



www.facebook.com/ESFI.org

www.twitter.com/ESFI.org

www.youtube.com/ESFI.org

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Fly Drones Safely

Drones are unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) that are increasingly being used recreationally and professionally. As a result, there is an increasing need to ensure these craft are flown safely and within regulations.

Keep drones away from overhead power lines. If a drone flies into a power line, it could cause power outages. It could also result in downed lines, which pose a dangerous electrical



safety hazard. The falling debris could also endanger public safety.

Touching a downed line or anything it has fallen on, like a fence or a tree limb, could get you injured or even killed. Stay away and instruct others to do the same. If you come across downed power lines, call 911 to notify emergency personnel and the utility immediately.

Follow federal guidelines for registering your drone or getting business approval, and be aware of and abide by community and state-specific legislation. Also, keep these FAA safety guidelines in mind:

- Before flying the drone, check it for damage. Have a damaged drone repaired before use.
- Never fly drones higher than 400 feet.
- Do not fly the drone beyond your line of sight.
- Do not fly near airports, manned aircraft, stadiums or people.
- Do not fly for commercial purposes, unless specifically authorized by the FAA.
- Do not fly in bad weather conditions, such as low visibility or high winds.
- Never fly your drone recklessly. You could be fined for endangering people or other aircraft.

Source: safeelectricity.org



May is National Electrical Safety Month

This month, we encourage all members to take extra time to plug into safety.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER

"If a power line is touching a car, stay in the car or jump out!"

JaeShawnia Iron Hawk, Second-grader at Dupree Public School



JaeShawnia is the daughter of Lindsey Flying By, Dupree, S.D. She is a member of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Timber Lake, 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.

Comforting Casseroles

Photo courtesy: McCormick

Quesadilla Casserole

1 lb. ground beef	2 tsp. chili powder
1/2 cup chopped onion	1 tsp. ground cumin
2 (8 oz. each) cans tomato sauce	1 tsp. garlic, minced
1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed	1/2 tsp. oregano leaves
1 (8-3/4 oz.) can whole kernel corn, undrained	1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper
1 (4-1/2 oz.) can chopped green chiles, undrained	6 (8-inch) flour tortillas
	2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Brown beef and onion in large skillet on medium-high heat; drain. Add tomato sauce, beans, corn and green chiles; mix well. Stir in all seasonings. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spread 1/2 cup of the beef mixture on bottom of 9x13-inch baking dish sprayed with no stick cooking spray. Top with 3 of the tortillas, overlapping as needed. Layer with 1/2 of the remaining beef mixture and 1/2 of the cheese. Repeat with remaining tortillas, beef mixture and cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 15 minutes or until heated through. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Makes 8 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 391, Total Fat 19g, Sodium 950mg, Cholesterol 63mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Protein 24g, Dietary Fiber 4g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Ham and Cauliflower Casserole

4 cups chopped fresh cauliflower	1/2 cup sour cream
1/4 cup butter, cubed	2 cups cubed cooked ham
1/3 cup flour	1 (4 oz.) can mushrooms, drained
2 cups milk	Topping:
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese	1 cup soft bread crumbs
	1 T. butter, melted

In a large saucepan, cover cauliflower with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 5 to 10 minutes or until tender. Meanwhile, in another large saucepan, melt butter; stir in flour until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened. Remove from heat. Stir in cheese and sour cream until melted. Drain cauliflower. In large bowl, combine cauliflower, ham and mushrooms. Add cheese sauce and toss to coat. Transfer to a greased 2-quart baking dish. Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over casserole. Bake, uncovered, at 350°F. for 40 to 45 minutes.

Rebecca Hauser, Tripp, S.D.

Chicken Crescent Casserole

4 cups cubed cooked chicken or turkey	1/2 cup chopped celery
1 can cream of chicken soup	1/2 cup chopped onion
1 can cream of celery soup	1/2 cup sour cream
1 (8 oz.) can sliced water chestnuts, drained	1 (8 oz.) can refrigerated crescent rolls
1 (4 oz.) can mushroom stems and pieces, drained	6 oz. shredded Swiss or American cheese
2/3 cup mayonnaise	2 to 4 T. butter, melted

In a large saucepan, combine first 9 ingredients. Cook over medium heat until hot and bubbly. Pour into an ungreased 12x8-inch baking dish. Place rolls on top of hot chicken mixture. Combine cheese and butter; spread over rolls. Bake at 350°F. for 20 to 25 minutes or until crust is deep golden brown. **Variation:** Substitute 4 cups of imitation crabmeat for the chicken or turkey and 1 can cream of shrimp soup in place of the cream of chicken soup.

Mary Crane, Mitchell, S.D.

Jalapeno Tater Tot Casserole

1 (2 lb.) bag tater tots	1 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled
2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened	6 jalapeno peppers, deseeded and diced
1 cup sour cream	6 green onions, thinly sliced
2 cups Mexican Cheddar jack shredded cheese, divided	

Line a casserole dish with tater tots. Bake at 425°F. for 15 minutes. In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, sour cream, 1 cup Cheddar jack cheese, bacon (reserve some for topping), diced jalapeno peppers and sliced onions (save a few for the top). Stir to thoroughly combine ingredients. Spread the jalapeno mixture over the tater tots. Top with remaining cup of cheese. Sprinkle with reserved bacon pieces and onion. Bake for 20 minutes. Serves 12.

Sandi Litschewski, Spearfish, S.D.

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert and salad recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



West Central Electric awarded 25 students \$750 scholarships.

Committed to Community

WCEC Awards Scholarships

West Central Electric has awarded 21 area students with \$750 scholarships in order to further their education.

Sage Bierle

My name is Sage Bierle and I am a senior at Philip High School. I have been involved in FFA, band, 4-H and NHS throughout high school. I plan to attend South Dakota State



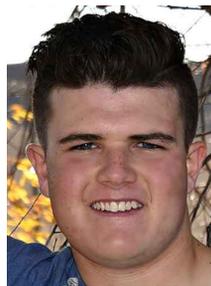
Sage Bierle
Philip

University (SDSU) in Brookings, S.D., this fall to major in pre-vet and minor in equine management. My family has been on the ranch for six generations and I hope to use my education to continue helping on my family's ranch and the surrounding community for many years to come. Thank you so much for the opportunity and for awarding me this scholarship!

Trew DeJong

I am the son of Travis and Pamela DeJong of rural Philip. I am a senior at Philip High School and I am active in PHS student council and I am currently serving as the South Dakota State Student Council reporter. Last fall I was co-captain of the

varsity football team. I am looking forward to the start of golf season and hope to qualify for the State B golf tournament for the fourth time this year. I also participate in National Honor Society, FCCLA and am a four-year All State Chorus member. I will be attending SDSU next fall, pursuing a degree in business economics.



Trew DeJong
Philip

Tyra RaeLynn Fugate

Hello, my name is Tyra Fugate and I currently live in Kadoka, S.D. I am 18 years old and I attend Kadoka Area High School. I've been living in Kadoka for all 18 years of my life. I recently just finished my last season of basketball and plan on working the rest of the semester and throughout the summer from there. Thank you for presenting me with this scholarship; I really appreciate it. I plan to attend the University of South



Tyra Fugate
Kadoka

Dakota (USD) in Vermillion, S.D., and obtain my BSN nursing degree.

Micheala Herman

Hello! My name is Michaela Faythe Herman, daughter of Nathan and Tisha Herman. I am a proud South Dakotan from the little, but lovable, town of Reliance.



Michaela Herman
Reliance

As a small-town homeschooler I have been so blessed with a solid education, a close-knit family, a loving community and various opportunities to be involved. I've always been active in soccer in some form, and I have recently been trying to teach myself the cello! But by far, *servicing* is my favorite form of involvement, whether that be working at my childhood Bible camp or staffing TeenPact, a national government class held at state capitols across the nation. I am excited to be pursuing a secondary education mathematics degree at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D., this fall. I view teaching as a huge opportunity to raise up and influence the youth of our nation. I would love to invest in something so precious as another's life and education.

Morgan Hickey

My name is Morgan Hickey and I go to Chamberlain High School. My parents are JD and Becky Hansen and Jessica and Rusty Danko. I am incredibly pleased and honored to receive the West Central Electric Cooperative scholarship. In the fall, I plan to attend USD to take up audiology, which is an eight-year program. Throughout high school, I have worked tirelessly in numerous extra-curricular activities and in academics. I have been an active member in cheerleading, FFA, band, National Honor Society, science club, etc. I have aspired to be a leader in my school and my community and a role model to my peers and youth. The immense amount of time I have dedicated to my high school career has taught me the meaning of hard work. It has also taught me what it means to have a strong work ethic and what it means to be kind to others. Thank you for choosing me as a 2018 scholarship recipient!



Morgan Hickey
Oacoma

Bailey House

It is with great honor to be selected to receive a West Central Electric Cooperative scholarship. Words can't express how appreciative and grateful I am for this opportunity. My name is Bailey House, I live in Lower Brule, S.D. I attend Lower Brule High School as a member of the class of 2018. I was born in Bismarck, N.D., near the Standing Rock Reservation where I am an enrolled member. Yuma House and Leah House raised me to be the person I am today by guiding me and allowing me to follow my dreams. I plan on attending the University of Minnesota-Morris through a football scholarship while striving to achieve my bachelor's degree in environmental science and minoring in criminal justice.



Bailey House
Lower Brule

Jada Jones

My name is Jada Jones and I am from Midland, S.D. I go to school at Philip High School and am involved in many activities. These activities include basketball, volleyball, National Honor Society, band and Tri-M. My hobbies include working at daycare, doing homework and playing with my new puppy.



Jada Jones
Midland

Conner Kroll

First of all, I would like to thank West Central Electric for awarding me a scholarship; it is greatly appreciated! My name is Conner Kroll and I have lived in rural Stanley County for more than 10 years and I will be attending Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) in Mitchell, S.D. in the fall of 2018 to pursue a degree in precision ag. I chose this career field because I have worked on the family ranch and have had the opportunity to run equipment with the GPS/GIS systems that I will be learning more about. After graduating college, I plan to come back to Fort Pierre and continue working on the family ranch as well as working with my degree at one of our local businesses.



Conner Kroll
Fort Pierre

Betty Jo LaRoche

My name is Betty Jo LaRoche. I am 17 years old and I grew up living on the Lower Brule (Kul Wicasa Oyate) Reservation. I am currently a senior at Lower Brule High School. Throughout high school, I have enjoyed participating in volleyball, cheerleading, basketball – both as a player and manager – and other extra-curricular activities. Since I was



Betty Jo LaRoche
Lower Brule

young, I knew I wanted to work in the medical field as I enjoy helping others. After graduation, I plan on furthering my education at Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) in Watertown, S.D. Thank you for the scholarship!

Katy Jo Manke

My name is Katy Jo Manke. I am the daughter of Shelly Manke and Bud Manke and the youngest sister of Cara, Kyle and Cody Manke. Throughout high school I have participated in: varsity basketball and football cheerleading, track and field, FFA, FCA, school play, student council, jazz choir, choir, band and the Jones County Turner Youth Foundation. This fall I plan to attend SDSU. While at SDSU, I plan to major in agricultural science and minor in animal science.



Katy Jo Manke
Murdo

Katie McManus

I am Katie McManus, daughter of Don and Melinda McManus. I, along with my four siblings, grew up on the family farm near Reliance, S.D. After graduating from Lyman High School, I plan on attending Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., to obtain a degree in accounting. I have been involved in many high school activities including: student council, FFA, National Honor Society, volleyball and a wrestling statistician. I also spend a lot of time volunteering around the community as well as maintain a part-time job. Thank you for this scholarship; it is greatly appreciated.



Katie McManus
Reliance

Jack Miller

My name is Jack Miller. I am



Jack Miller
Kennebec

Continued on Page 10



Boosting attic insulation is one way to cut energy bills.

ENERGY UPGRADES FOR A HAPPIER HOME

Boost Your Home's Comfort And Cut Energy Use

Diane Veto Parham

Contributing Writer

Imagine your house is not just the place you sleep, eat and store your stuff, but more like a part of your family, with its own unique needs. Ignore those needs and both you and your home suffer the consequences. But, pay closer attention, and you can find ways to enjoy a more pleasant – and efficient – living environment.

“It’s amazing how much comfort you can provide by spending a few dollars,” says Brian Sloboda, program manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Arlington, Va., “You’re going to increase your quality of life.”

Knowing what your house needs is job one. Your heating-and-air system, your appliances, your insulation and even your lightbulbs can affect not only how your home is behaving, but also how much you’re paying to keep it all running.

Need some ideas to get started? Here are seven smart ways to invest in a comfortable and energy-efficient house.

1. Get a professional home-energy audit

Cost: About \$250 to \$650.

Benefit: Making recommended improvements can cut energy use 10 percent to 40 percent.

DIY potential: None; use a certified professional.

A whole-house energy audit will take a few hours and evaluate household energy use, how the heating-and-air system is functioning and whether there’s adequate insulation. Using diagnostic

tools like a blower door and a thermal imaging camera, an auditor tests for leaks in ductwork and around windows and doors, plus other problems with the home’s “envelope” – essentially, the parts of the house that separate its insulated, air-conditioned interior from unconditioned spaces like attics and crawlspaces.

2. Seal your house

Cost: Ranges from a few dollars for weather stripping and caulk to thousands of dollars for whole-house weatherization.

Benefit: Annual energy savings of 10 percent to 20 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

DIY potential: You can do simple tasks; professionals should handle large-scale insulation or ductwork improvements

“Make sure your house is well insulated and well sealed,” says Alan Shedd, director of energy solutions for Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. A handy do-it-yourselfer can tackle simple sealing tasks. Feel for drafts or look for cracks and gaps around windows and doors, around electrical outlets and light fixtures, where pipes and wires penetrate walls, floors or ceilings, around fireplaces and where ceilings meet walls. Basic DIY materials like weather-stripping tape, tubes of caulk and spray foam are available at home-improvement stores.

If you invested in a professional home-energy audit, you know exactly where air is leaking and what repairs are needed. For fixes outside your skill set – for example, adding insulation or repairing leaky ductwork – ask your co-op for a list of certified contractors or visit Building Performance Institute’s website.

3. Replace your HVAC system

Cost: Ranges from a few thousand dollars for a single-zone, mini-split system up to tens of thousands to install a geothermal system.

Benefit: Upgrading to ENERGY STAR®-certified heating and cooling equipment can deliver annual energy-bill savings of 10 percent to 30 percent, according to the Department of Energy; geothermal systems can cut energy use for heating and cooling by 25 percent to 50 percent.

DIY potential: You'll need a trained professional to properly size and install a system for your needs.

Heating and cooling account for about half of typical household energy costs. Minimize those expenses by upgrading to a more efficient system when your current unit ages out. Expect an HVAC system to last, on average, about 10 to 12 years.

Air-source heat pumps, which draw heat from the air and move it indoors or outdoors as needed, provide efficient heating and cooling from a single unit. Ground-source (geothermal) heat pumps are the most efficient, albeit more expensive, heating-and-cooling option. Drawing heat from stable ground temperatures rather than fluctuating air temperatures, geothermal heat pumps use about 25 percent to 50 percent less electricity than conventional HVAC systems.

Geothermal is “the gold standard” for peak efficiency in heating and cooling, Shedd says, where the property can accommodate an extensive vertical or horizontal underground-loop system.

For any heating-and-cooling system, proper installation is essential to reap full benefits of energy-efficient performance. A certified HVAC contractor will do a load calculation to determine what size HVAC unit is right for your house and whether any special adjustments are necessary for your location.

4. Modernize major appliances

Cost: Hundreds of dollars for major appliances; zero dollars for unplugging energy hogs that are not in use.

Benefit: Save anywhere from a few dollars up to hundreds of dollars a year.

DIY potential: You'll need a professional to install some appliances, but you can unplug small appliances around the house in minutes.

Among your appliances, the two biggest energy users are water heaters and refrigerators, which are nearly always on duty. After that, you might be surprised by another energy hog: consumer electronics.

“The fastest-growing user of electricity in your house is all the things you plug in,” Shedd says.

5. Boost your attic insulation

Cost: National averages range from \$1,300 to \$2,000, depending on home location, attic size and type of insulation.

Benefit: Reduce your energy bills by keeping heated and cooled air in your living space.

DIY potential: Handy homeowners can add insulation with

proper tools, safety gear and precautions, but it's a job best left to professionals.

It's all about the R-value. That's the number assigned to insulating materials based on how well they resist the transfer of heat. Higher numbers mean more resistance to heat flow and more effective insulation. For attics, recommended R-values range from 30 in warmer climates to 60 in colder regions. To learn what's recommended for your climate zone, consult the R-values map at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_insulation_table.

Older homes are more likely to lack enough attic insulation for peak efficiency, because “energy-efficiency standards keep going up and getting higher,” Shedd says. “Thirty years ago, R-19 was standard practice.”

What you spend to upgrade your attic insulation will depend on multiple variables, including the type of insulation – for example, fiberglass or cellulose, batts or loose fill – as well as the size of the attic space and the contractor's labor costs.

6. Switch to efficient light bulbs

Cost: A few dollars per bulb .

Benefit: Save about \$50 per year by replacing 15 traditional incandescent bulbs with more efficient energy-saving light bulbs.

DIY potential: You can handle this.

You're going to change your light bulbs sooner or later. When you do, why not invest in bulbs that will save energy and create the lighting environment you want in your home?

When you're shopping, pay attention to lumens – the brightness of the bulb – rather than watts, which indicate how much energy it uses. Packaging often refers to the wattage a new bulb can replace – for example, an energy-saving 800-lumen bulb can replace a 60-watt bulb. Look at the lighting-facts label for details about the bulb's lumens, estimated yearly energy cost and lifespan and the lighting color. ENERGY STAR®-certified bulbs can deliver the brightness you want while using 70 percent to 90 percent less energy.

7. Install smart thermostats

Cost: Products range from about \$170 to \$250.

Benefit: Manufacturers estimate annual savings of 9 percent to 23 percent on heating and cooling costs.

DIY potential: Video and written instructions can guide you through installation and Wi-Fi set-up.

Early versions of programmable thermostats were hailed as tools that would help homeowners save energy and money and increase home comfort, all by tailoring thermostat settings to daytime, nighttime, weekend and vacation schedules. And they did – but only for those who bothered to manually program them.

Thanks to the internet connection and remote-control options, smart thermostats are ideal for use in electric cooperative load-control programs. Across the country, cooperatives are testing new programs that use this technology to help members save energy and help co-ops reduce demand.

WCEC Awards Scholarships

Continued from Page 7

currently a senior at Lyman High School. I have lived in Kennebec my entire life with my parents, Brian and Debbie Miller. I have two sisters (Jacey, 16, and Jerzie, 12) and one brother (Jude, 4). During high school, I have participated in football, wrestling and band. I have also worked part-time for Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc., as a multi-functional assistant since April 2014. This has allowed me to help out in the different divisions of the company and given me a wide range of experience. I plan to attend LATI in the fall to become a heavy machinery operator. After graduating from LATI, I plan to return to my hometown of Kennebec and work full-time for Kennebec Telephone Company's construction division. This scholarship is greatly appreciated and I would like to thank West Central for choosing me as a recipient.

Jay-Shawn Milton

My name is Jay-Shawn Milton and I'm from Lower Brule. Originally, I was born and raised in New Jersey and when I was 14, I moved to Florida.



Jay-Shawn Milton
Lower Brule

I didn't come to South Dakota until I was 16 to live with my father. During my high school years, I participated in many activities from show choir to athletics. I am very passionate about music and sports. When I go to college, I will be studying music entrepreneurship and business. I will also be continuing my track and field career but have not decided on a university yet. I think of myself as an outgoing person who isn't single-minded. I like to look at all aspects of life. I believe in doing that, it makes me a better student and athlete, but most of all, it makes me a better person.

Sage Mowry

I grew up on a cattle ranch on the White River south of Presho with my parents, Steve and Deb, and younger brother,

Shilo. I attended Lyman High School, where I participated in many extracurricular activities, including football, basketball, wrestling, track, FFA and band. I spend most of my free time catching up on studies, working at home and playing guitar in a band with my friends. Thank you for selecting me for your scholarship.



Sage Mowry
Presho

Ajjiah Ortiz-Pierce

My name is Ajjiah Ortiz-Pierce, pronounced like the continent Asia. I was born in Bullhead City, Ariz., to a single mother of five girls, including me. I also have two brothers and a sister on my dad's side. I moved to Kadoka, S.D., at the age of 8, and have lived in this town ever since.



Ajjiah Ortiz-Pierce
Kadoka

I plan on attending Black Hills State University (BHSU) in Spearfish, S.D., in the fall of 2018. I am looking to pursue a degree in psychology or physical therapy. I love working with people and being able to help whenever needed. I will use my degree as best as I can in order to become very successful in life.

I currently work at a daycare called Kid Cave and our small-town grocery store, People's Market.

My passion for psychology came from working well with others and having a great deal of communication with friends, family, and co-workers. I have not made my mind up entirely on what path I am deciding to take, but I know for a fact that I will put my full effort and dedication into anything and everything. Becoming successful is not just handed down to people – in order to achieve being the best at what I do, I will have to strive for it and have determination. I am very appreciative of this scholarship as it will help me achieve my career goals.

Anna Piroutek

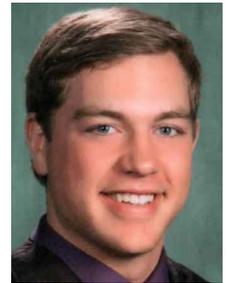
In my 18 years of life, I have lived within the same ranching community of Milesville, S.D. I am the third oldest out of eight and the oldest one still at home. I have an older sister, an older brother and five younger brothers. I have gone to school at the small country school in Milesville from kindergarten to the eighth grade and attended high school in Philip. When I was 16, I published my first book, and there are plans to publish the next book, within the next year.



Anna Piroutek
Milesville

Jory Rodgers

Hello, I am Jory Rodgers and I live in Belvidere, S.D., with my parents, John and Jo Rodgers. I am enrolled in the Kadoka Area School District in Kadoka, S.D., where I have attended school all 12 years.



Jory Rodgers
Belvidere

I am planning on attending SDSU in the fall of 2018 and majoring in soil science and minoring in agronomy/range management. The reasoning behind my choosing of this field is because I find great interest in soils and range management. I have taken four years of agriculture classes in the Kadoka Area High School where I have received many awards in land and range judging.

One of my biggest accomplishments was earning a spot to participate in the National FFA Land and Range Judging competition in Oklahoma.

After college I would like to move back to the Belvidere area or a neighboring community and work for either the Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Forest Service, Farm Service Agency or else the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service.

I participated in the following activities all four years of high school: wrestling – placing fourth in the state at 220 my

senior year, football, where I was awarded the Class 9B Western Great Plains All Conference Defensive Tackle and the 2017 All-State Defensive Tackle, track, FFA, FCA, Legion baseball, and high school musicals/plays. I have been involved in the local community all my life, since my parents own two businesses in Belvidere. Besides my parents, my family consists of two sisters: Melonie and Karri Jo, a brother, Johnny, and my dog, Cheech. Thank you for this scholarship.

Allison Schelske

My name is Allison Schelske, daughter of Wyatt and Michelle Schelske, and I was raised in Kennebec, S.D., with my two brothers, Hayden, 21, and Logan, 19, and sister, Morgan, 12. I am currently a senior at Lyman High School and am president of the senior class and the student council. The past four years, I have participated in volleyball, student council and I am a statistician for wrestling and the vice president of the Lyman FFA Chapter. I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a recipient of a scholarship by West



Allison Schelske
Kennebec

Central Electric. I am currently planning on obtaining a degree in social work at USD this coming fall.

Mackenzie Springer

My name is Mackenzie Springer. I am the oldest daughter of Sam and the late Jane Springer. I was born in Pierre, S.D. Ever since I was old enough, I started school at Jones County and have lived here in Murdo for my whole life. I have always known that I would go on to further my education into the medical field after I graduated from high school, although I wasn't quite sure what I was going to further educate myself in until my senior year of high school. I plan to attend Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls, S.D., and pursue a career in the surgical tech program.



Mackenzie Springer
Murdo

Reese Sudbeck

My name is Reese Sudbeck. I am a senior at Kadoka High School. I have been in the Kadoka Area School District all my life. I have participated in football, basketball, and track for all four years of high school.

I have been in student council my entire high school career and NHS since I was a sophomore. I will be going to BHSU after I graduate to get my bachelor's degree in mathematics and science education.



Reese Sudbeck
Kadoka

Tate Wagner

I am the son of Tim and Lorri Wagner of Presho. I have three siblings (Kacie, Tance and Kenzie). I come from a farming/ranching family and my dad is a former power lineman at WCE.



Tate Wagner
Presho

I have attended Lyman schools throughout all my years of education. I participated in band, football and basketball all four years of high school. I have been on the A honor roll each quarter and have been a member of the National Honor Society since my sophomore year. I was chosen as prom king and I am a member of Zion Lutheran Church. I have been accepted at MTI in their agronomy program this fall.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Make, Model, Capacity, Oh My!

Tips for Purchasing New Appliances

By Paul Wesslund

NRECA Contributing Writer

The No. 1 problem for homeowners is trying to determine which of the things actually presents value.

The Sloboda family needed a new refrigerator so Brian volunteered to do the shopping. After all, he's a national expert on electric appliances.

He came home frustrated. There were just too many choices, even for the guy whose job title is program and product line manager for energy utilization, delivery, and energy efficiency at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Arlington, Va.

"Just buy whatever you want," he told his wife, Sami Jo.

He finally got to use his in-depth knowledge when he looked over the model that Sami Jo brought home.

"Why didn't you get the version that has a camera inside, so you can use your smartphone in the grocery store to see if we need more milk?" he asked.

"Because it costs \$500 more," she said.

That, said Brian, was a good reason.

That's the kind of reasoning we're all going to be doing in the coming months and years as we grapple with the newest trend in appliances – connection to the internet.

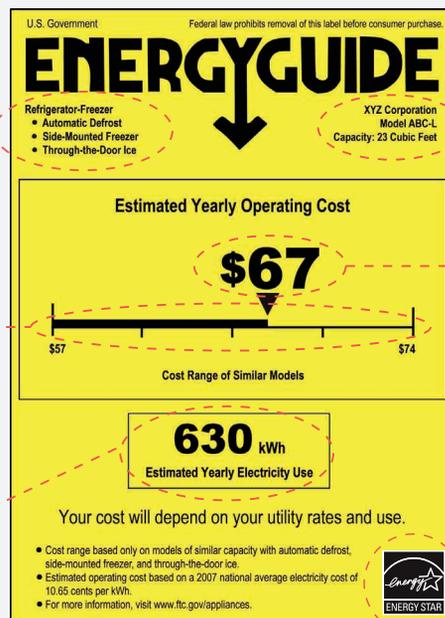
"The No. 1 problem for homeowners is trying to determine which of the things

Understanding the ENERGYGUIDE Label

The ENERGYGUIDE label is a great tool that helps consumers compare the energy use and costs of new appliances. Use the sample below to better understand how to use the information found on the label.

Lists key features of the appliance and the similar models that make up the cost range below.

The make, model and size tell you exactly what product this label describes.



The cost range helps you compare the energy use of different models by showing you the range of operating costs for models with similar features.

What you might pay to run the appliance for one year, based on its electricity use and the national average cost of energy. The cost appears on labels for all models and brands so you can compare energy use.

An estimate of how much electricity the appliance uses in a year based on typical use. Multiply this by your local electricity rate on your utility bill to better judge what your actual operating cost might be.

If you see the ENERGY STAR logo, it means the product is better for the environment because it uses less electricity than standard models.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

actually presents value," says Sloboda. For example, when you're on vacation you can use your smartphone to check whether you've left the oven on or the garage door open.

Sounds nice, but is it worth it?

"There's a Crock Pot® app," he says. "Does that have value to you? It might if you use a Crock Pot® a lot."

"There are infinite possibilities," says Sloboda. "They sound nice when you first hear about them, but you have to remember you are paying more for those features."

Web-connected appliances could also offer online diagnostics. There might not be strong everyday reasons for a washing machine to be hooked into cyberspace, but



Home owners have a wide array of choices when it comes time to upgrade major energy-using appliances.

if it broke, the manufacturer could log in to figure out what's wrong. That could help decide the best way to repair or replace the equipment. But is it worth the extra cost?

"It's a good feature," says Sloboda, "but one you're only going to use when the appliance breaks."

If you're longing for lower-tech help in decision-making, look to the yellow and black U.S. Department of Energy's EnergyGuide label on each appliance.

"It's one of the single greatest pieces of information that you can find when you buy an appliance," says Sloboda.

He says the most useful info is the big dollar figure right in the middle of the label, showing what it will cost to use that appliance for a year.

Sloboda cautions that the number doesn't tell you exactly what you will pay because it doesn't use your local utility's kilowatt hour rate. But it's a perfect way to compare appliances because every appliance's label is based on the same national average electric rate.

"You can stand in that aisle looking at all the washing machines and you can scan the entire row and narrow your options down from a dozen," says Sloboda, "down to the three or four that use the least amount of money."

Taking charge of your appliances

Other especially useful parts of the label, he says, include the lower right corner – if you see an ENERGY STAR® logo it means the appliance will use less energy than one without. He also singles out the upper right corner that lists the manufacturer

and model number, which you can use for more detailed comparisons with other models.

Sloboda also advises to pay attention to the age of your major energy-using appliances. In addition to dramatic energy efficiency advances over the past several years, motors start degrading in refrigerators and in heating and air conditioning systems. He says to consider upgrading air conditioners and heat pumps older than 10 years and refrigerators older than eight years.

Pay attention to the age of your major energy-using appliances.

The Department of Energy offers a handy way to check whether it's time to replace your refrigerator: visit the EnergyStar.gov website and in the search box, type "flip your fridge calculator." You'll find a link to a page where you can enter your type of refrigerator and its age to calculate how much you'd save buying a new one.

All these options mean more decisions for consumers. But help is on the way.

Sloboda says that electric co-ops are working with two national laboratories to study the most useful ways to connect appliances with the internet and with the utilities that provide the electricity. He says that over the next two years the study will report on how consumers can more easily make decisions on how to use appliances and even how to enhance cybersecurity for the growing number of internet-connected

devices in the home.

Sloboda says the aim of the study is "to understand what the value of internet-connected devices is to the consumer. Then the manufacturers can start to build products that the consumer wants."

The study will also look for futuristic-sounding ways that co-op members can sign up for optional utility programs to help homeowners decide how they want to use electricity.

"The appliances would be networked together and they would talk to one another," says Sloboda. "In a very advanced scenario, the home could actually reconfigure the way appliances are being used depending on occupancy of the home at the moment and the weather conditions."

That setup could even let homeowners decide if they are a person who wants to save as much energy and money as possible or if they would rather the house be warmer or cooler.

"They won't have to figure out if they want to set the thermostat back," says Sloboda. "The homeowner would tell the system whether they wanted to maximize comfort or maximize savings, then the home would communicate to the utility. That way it won't be the utility controlling the system, it won't be the appliance manufacturer, but it will be the occupant of the house who is making the decisions."

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



Installing fiberglass batting should be done wearing gloves and a mask.

WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?

Diane Veto Parham

Contributing Writer

A peek in most attics will reveal the tried-and-true materials commonly used to insulate homes: fiberglass, cellulose, mineral wool or spray-foam insulation. Regardless of type, the keys to effective insulation are the same – getting the right R-value for your home's insulation, proper installation and air sealing.

Fiberglass: This is the insulation that looks like cotton candy, commonly seen in long strips – called batts or rolls – between wall studs and ceiling joists. It might be pink, white or yellow, and it also comes in a loose-fill form, often blown into attic spaces. Made of tiny glass fibers, it can be uncomfortable to touch; wear gloves and a mask while handling it.

Cellulose: Grayish in color, cellulose is a loose-fill insulation that can be blown in between attic joists. It chemically is treated to be resistant to moisture, fire, insects and nesting rodents. Over time, it can settle, reducing its insulation value and requiring an additional layer to bring it back to the recommended R-value for your home.

Mineral wool: Like fiberglass, this comes in batts, rolls or loose-fill forms. It's made from natural and recycled materials and often appears greenish-brown in color.

Spray-in foam: More expensive than other types of insulation, spray-in foam is becoming a more common choice because it provides more insulation and better air sealing, Touchstone Energy's Alan Shedd says. Sprayed on the interior of your roof, it wraps the attic into your home's envelope; if your HVAC unit is in the attic, it's going to

Spray-in foam insulation is a no-brainer for new construction.



operate more efficiently in that more temperate environment. "It's more expensive than blowing in another six inches of fiberglass or cellulose, but it's certainly worth getting prices," Shedd says. "For new construction, it's a no-brainer."

If you're climbing up to look at what you've got, be sure to protect yourself. Bring a flashlight, so you can check your insulation in every nook and cranny and also see where you are stepping. Only walk where you are sure of secure footing, so you don't drop through the ceiling below. Wear gloves, eye protection and a dust mask if you'll be handling any insulation. Limit your time up there if temperatures are very hot or cold.

A Shopper's Guide to Heat Pumps

Baffled by the alphabet soup that greets you when you start looking at heat pumps? If an HVAC contractor starts spouting numbers for SEER, EER, HSPF and COP, just remember those terms are a handy shorthand for comparing the efficiency of one heat pump to another. A higher number indicates a more efficient system. That can save you money in energy costs over the life of the unit, but you may have to pay a little more for it up front.

SEER: Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio.

This rates the cooling efficiency of an air-source heat pump. To earn ENERGY STAR certification, heat pumps must have a SEER of at least 15; mini-split SEER ratings can be in the 30s.

You can buy less expensive, traditional models with a SEER of 13, the NRECA's Brian Sloboda says. "The good news is, if you have an older unit, it's probably below that, so the lowest amount you spend on a new unit will still save you money," he says.

EER: Energy Efficiency Ratio.

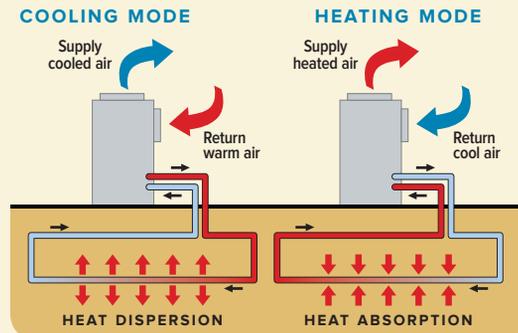
It's not tied to seasonal performance, but it is a measure of cooling performance. You'll find this on geothermal (ground-source) heat pumps, usually rated 18 and up.

HSPF: Heating Seasonal Performance Factor. The flip side of SEER, this rates an air-source heat pump's heating efficiency. Look for a rating of 8.2 or above for ENERGY STAR-certified models.

COP: Coefficient of Performance. If you're shopping for geothermal systems, watch for this measure of heating efficiency, and aim for a rating of 3.6 or higher for more efficient models.

How ground-source heat pumps work

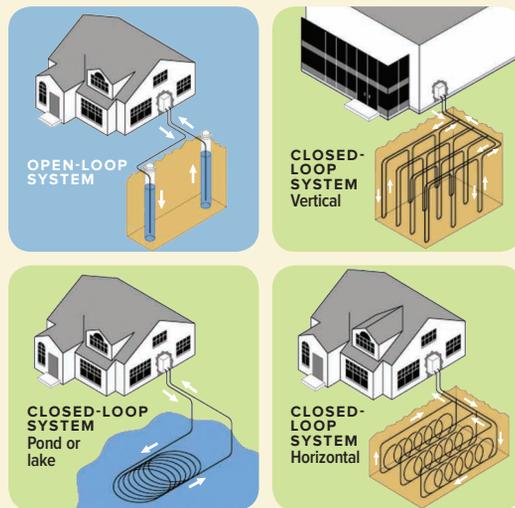
Geothermal heat pumps operate on the same heat-transfer principles seen in air-source heat pumps, but they use 25 to 50 percent less electricity than conventional HVAC systems.



SOURCE: WATERFURNACE

TYPES OF GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS

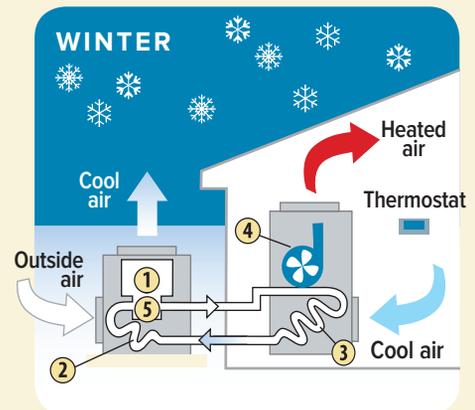
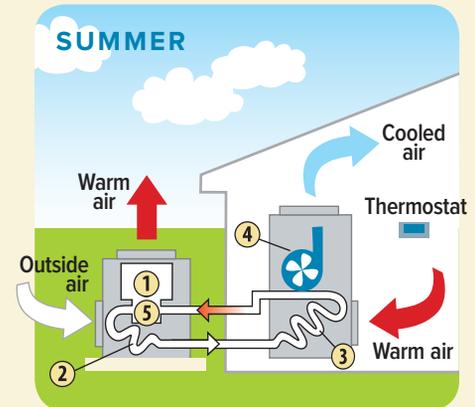
There are four basic configurations for geothermal heat pump ground loops. One is an "open-loop system," where ground water or well water is used. Three others are "closed-loop systems," where a water and antifreeze solution is continually moved through pipes.



SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

How air-source heat pumps work

By transferring heat between a house and outside air, these devices trim electricity use by as much as 30 to 40 percent in moderate climates.



- 1 COMPRESSOR**
Increases refrigerant pressure to accept the maximum heat from the air.
- 2 OUTSIDE COIL**
Refrigerant moves through coils, absorbing heat from the outside air in winter or releasing heat to the outside air in summer.
- 3 INSIDE COIL**
Refrigerant moves through coils, absorbing heat from the inside air in summer or releasing heat to the inside air in winter.
- 4 AIR HANDLER**
Fan blows air over the inside coil and into a home's ducts.
- 5 REVERSING VALVE**
Switches the direction of the refrigerant flow, changing the heat pump's output to hot or cold air (controlled by thermostat).

SOURCE: NRECA

April 25-29

Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

April 27-29

Short Grass Arts Council's 19th Gallery Art Show, Chamber of Commerce Community Room, Pierre, SD, 605-567-3562, dan46@gwtc.net

April 28-29

Bike Show, Ramkota Convention Center, Aberdeen, SD, 605-290-0908

May 4-6

Naja Shrine Circus, Rapid City, SD, 605-342-3402

May 5

Frühlingsfest and Spring Market, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

May 10

Chris Young, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

May 12

Art and Wine Festival, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

May 13

1880 Train Mother's Day Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

May 17

Norwegian Independence Day, Parade at 5:30 p.m. followed by supper and entertainment, Vivian, SD, 605-222-3296 or 605-869-2366

May 18

Turkey Races, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

May 18-19

Sioux Empire Film Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000



Photo courtesy: travelid.com

May 18-20

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

May 18-20

Tesla Road Trip Rally, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

May 19-20

Black Hills Mud Days, Lead, SD, 605-569-2871

May 19-20, May 26-27

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

May 25-September 30

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

May 25-27

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

May 26-27

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

June 1-3

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

June 1-3

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

June 1-3

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

June 2

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

June 2-3

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

June 6-7

Yelduz Oahe Shrine Circus, Expo Building, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. CT, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-280-7274

June 6-8

Cody Gilmore Mx Training, Thunder Ridge Mx Park, Reliance, SD, 712-260-3376, codygilmoremx@gmail.com

June 9-10

10th Annual Motocross Races, Thunder Ridge MX Park, Reliance, SD, www.thunderridgesd.com

July 4

Philip Volunteer Fire Department Annual 4th of July Firework Show, Lake Wagoner, Dusk, Free Will Donation, Philip, SD, philipvfd@gwtc.net or like our Facebook page

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.