



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**LACREEK ELECTRIC**  
AUGUST 2024 VOL. 25 NO. 4

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Mammoth Discovery

**Coal Miner Finds  
Mammoth Tusk**

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Pictured: Camden O'Bryan,  
Winner for 2024 Youth Tour

## O'Bryan Represents Lacreek Electric in Washington D.C.

Thirty-six students representing 18 South Dakota electric cooperatives headed to the Washington, D.C., June 15-21 for the 2024 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

The program, which can trace its existence back to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson where he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capital so they "can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," encourages teens to engage in their communities and learn about the importance of political involvement. More than 1,300 teens have represented the Rushmore State since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963.

The 2024 group visited many of the historic sites the region offers, including Fort McHenry in Baltimore. The fort's bombardment in the War of 1812 was captured in Francis Scott Key's poem, which would eventually become the national anthem. Old Glory would play a recurring theme in the trip as students could see it at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and also hear an inspirational message centered on the flag from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men's wheelchair basketball.

Students also met with the state's congressional delegation with a short meet and greet with U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Sen Mike Rounds. Also, while in D.C. Youth Tour participants from across the country while touring many of our

nation's historical sites – including the National Archives, Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, U.S. Supreme Court, and many more.

Each year Lacreek Electric accepts applications for students to win this once in a lifetime trip. Each student that applies then takes an open book test to secure their spot on the trip. This year Camden O'Bryan answered the most questions correctly, making him this year's Youth Tour participant.



**COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS**

**LACREEK ELECTRIC**

(USPS No. 018-912)

**Board of Directors**

- Wade Risse – President
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- Scott Larson – Secretary
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- Cole Lange – Clifford Lafferty
- Neal Livermont – Marion Schultz
- Jerry Sharp – Connie Whirlwind Horse
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- Kasi Harris – Finance Manager
- Sherry Bakley – Work Order/Staff Assistant
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- Apprentice Linemen:
  - Tee Allen – Les Cuny – Kody Hagen
  - Matthew Kruid – Chayson Schofield
  - Riley Meis - Cameron York
- Staking Specialist: Ryan Pettit
- Warehouseman: Henry Johnson
- Maintenance Man: Justin Smokov

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**May 2024 Board Meeting Highlights**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. was held in the office of the Cooperative, located in the Town of Martin, South Dakota, on May 21, 2024 beginning at 4:00 P.M. Directors present were, Wade Risse, Donovan Young Man, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Jerry Sharp, Marion Schultz, Cole Lange, Clifford Lafferty, Troy Kuxhaus, Clarence Allen, Tom Schlack, Brent Ireland and Neal Livermont via Webex. Also present were General Manager, Josh Fanning, Finance Manager, Kasi Harris, Line Foreman, Jesse Byerley, Member Service/IT, Jessica Cook, Work Order/Staff Assistant, Sherry Bakley, Office Manager, Tracie Hahn and Administrative Assistant, Ashley Turgeon. Absent was Director Scott Larson.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Ashley Turgeon to record board minutes
- Reorganization of Officers and Committees to remain in their current positions
- Minutes of the April 2024 board meeting
- Operating Report for March
- Disbursements for April
- April Analysis of Investments
- New Members
- PACE Grant discontinuation

Discussion was held on the following items:

- Positives and negatives of changes from this year's Annual Meeting
- PSE Rate comparisons
- Scholarships

The board heard reports from management. These included details of operations, member services, communications, upcoming projects and safety. Tom reported on The Rushmore Electric Board Meeting he attended. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2024.

**AG APPRECIATION EVENT AT THE CENTRAL STATES FAIR**

Please come show your support in honoring these individuals for their dedication to the rural community.

An Ag Appreciation Meal and short program will be August 20th from 5-6:30pm at the Monument Health Community Stage inside the fairgrounds.

Enjoy a free meal, free fair entrance\* and a night out at the rodeo\*!

**2024 RURAL NEIGHBOR NOMINEES**



**Roy Ireland**  
2024 Rural Neighbor Award  
Sponsored by:  
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives



**Joy Falkenburg, M.D.**  
2024 Rural Health Care Neighbor Award  
Sponsored by:  
Monument Health



**In memory of Jerry Cope**  
2024 Rural Neighbor Award  
Sponsored by:  
Central States Fair



**BREADROOT**

NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

Breadroot Natural Foods co-op

2024 Agribusiness Award

Sponsored by:  
Elevate Rapid City

\*MORE DETAILS TO COME  
\*RODEO TICKETS SOLD SEPARATELY



# Extreme Heat Preparation

## Learn How to Stay Hydrated

You need to drink enough water to prevent heat illness. An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of water daily. Everyone's needs may vary.

- You can check that you are getting enough water by noting your urine color. Dark yellow may indicate you are not drinking enough.
- Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- If you are sweating a lot, combine water with snacks or a sports drink to replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prepare if you have a medical condition or are taking medicines.

## Make a Plan to Stay Cool

Do not rely only on electric fans during extreme heat. When temperatures are in the high 90s, fans may not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

- Spending a few hours each day in air conditioning can help prevent heat illness.
  - If you have air conditioning, be sure that it is in working order.
  - If you do not have air conditioning or if there is a power outage, find locations where you can stay cool. For example, a public library, shopping mall or a public cooling center. Plan how you will get there.
  - Additional resources may be available from local government or community groups.
- Make sure you have plenty of lightweight, loose clothing to wear.
- Create a support team of people you may assist and who can assist you. Check in with them often to make sure that everyone is safe.

## Learn Emergency Skills

- Learn how to recognize and respond to heat illness.
- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power. Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power.

## Gather Emergency Supplies

- Gather food, water and medicine. Stores might be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home

Kit. In the event of a power outage, you may lose access to clean drinking water. Set aside at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Consider adding drinks with electrolytes. Include sunscreen and wide-brimmed hats.

- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies.
- Have a one-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.
- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up)
- Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

*Source: American Red Cross*



## Power Line Safety "Call 911 and Don't Get Out"

### Hobie Klein, Age 12

Hobie Klein warns farmers to call 911 and don't get out of the tractor if contact is made with a power line. Hobie's parents are Dean and Karey Klein, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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

# Summer SALADS

## MOM'S VEGETABLE SALAD

### Ingredients:

#### Salad

- 2 cans diced carrots
- 1 can green beans
- 1 can yellow beans
- 1 small can peas
- 1 can cut baby corn

*Drain all the vegetables*

#### Add

- 1/2 cup diced green pepper
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 diced medium onion

#### Dressing

- Combine in a saucepan
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup white vinegar
- 1/3 cup cider vinegar
- 2 Tbsp water

*Combine in a saucepan and boil until clear*

### Method

Pour dressing over vegetables and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Keeps for a week.

**Debra Clow  
Harrisburg, S.D.**

## FRESH SUMMER SALAD

### Ingredients:

- 3 tbsps. olive oil, divided
- 1 tbsp. lime juice
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 1/5 cups fresh corn or thawed frozen corn
- 1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup cucumber, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp. fresh basil, minced
- 1/3 cup crumbled Feta cheese or Parmesan cheese
- 1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar or Italian salad dressing

### Method

Mix 2 tablespoons of oil, lime juice and salt in a small bowl. Cook corn in a skillet with remaining 1 tbsp. oil. Pour corn into bowl, cool slightly. Add tomatoes, cucumber and basil. Refrigerate. Before serving, drizzle with dressing, cheese and balsamic vinegar or Italian dressing.

**Barb Selland  
Mitchell, S.D.**

## CHICKEN SALAD

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
- 2 tbsps. mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. parsley flakes
- 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion

### Method

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.

**McCormick.com**

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Types of Heat Pumps



**Miranda Boutelle**  
Efficiency Services  
Group

**Q:** My heating system is 10-plus years old, and I want to switch to a heat pump. Can you help me choose the best option for my home?

**A:** Heat pumps have been around for decades, and in that time, the technology has come a long way. In my opinion, they could use a rebrand.

The name heat pump does not highlight the benefit of air conditioning that comes with the technology. Heat pumps are highly efficient because they don't use energy to create heat. Instead, they use energy to move heat – into the home in the winter and out of it in the summer. They typically produce about three times more energy than they use.

The most common types of heat pumps are air source and ground source. Air source heat pumps transfer heat from the outside air, even if it isn't particularly warm outside. Ground source, or geothermal heat pumps, transfer heat between your home and the ground. With a lower upfront price tag, air source heat pumps are more common.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, air source heat pumps can reduce heating use by about 65% compared to an electric furnace. They come in a variety of styles and configurations to fit different homes. Air source heat pump technology has been popular in warmer climates for decades. There are now cold climate versions available, too.

## Here's an explanation of how each type operates:

**Ducted air source heat pumps** are ideal for homes with existing ductwork or homes where ductwork can be feasibly added. Replacing an aging central air conditioning system with a heat pump can significantly reduce heating costs.

**Ductless heat pumps**, or mini-split heat pumps, also draw heat from the outside air. They are a great solution for homes that do not have existing ductwork.

There are many configurations to suit

different home layouts. New options on the market allow for coupling with gas or propane backup heat, which might be a good fit for your home. Ductless heat pumps can be a great option for homes with wood stoves. This can help home air quality, heat the home without gathering wood and provide air conditioning in warmer months.

**Geothermal heat pumps** transfer heat from the ground to your home. They are even more efficient than air source heat pumps, reducing energy use by 70% to 80%, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. They can also heat water for use in the home, which saves on water heating costs.

From a user experience perspective, heat pumps are a little different because the heat from the register doesn't feel quite as warm as oil, electric, natural gas or propane heat. That can take a little getting used to, but the efficiency gains and energy savings make the investment worthwhile.

Before buying a heat pump, compare equipment ratings. The higher the rating, the more efficient the equipment. If it is time to replace your heating system, I recommend making the switch to a heat pump to conserve energy and potentially save on your electric bills.

## Understanding the Backup Heat Feature

Most heat pump systems are installed with a backup or auxiliary heat for cold weather. This auxiliary heat can be electric coils, gas, propane or oil, which is usually more expensive to operate. This helps keep your home warm on cold days, but you don't want to use it if you don't need it.

For some heat pumps, turning up the thermostat too quickly or too high can trigger the backup heat. Typically, your thermostat will display emergency or auxiliary heat when using this feature. Speak to your HVAC technician to ensure your thermostat is set to maximize efficiency.

# Sparking Innovation On The Farm

**Tara Miller**

Central Electric Cooperative, Manager of Communications

The year was 1950, and a teenager named Robert Moe was living on a farm in northern Hanson County when Intercounty Electric brought power to the prairie. His parents, Chester and Myrl, had three boys and three girls. Robert was the second youngest of the Moe children.

When farms started receiving power, welding manufacturers held demonstrations to sell their products to area farmers. So, Robert's dad and his brother, Roy, purchased a 220-volt Forney brand welder.

"Intercounty Electric started small group welding classes in each county. Hanson County's classes were held at an implement dealer in Alexandria," Robert said.

After several weeks of classes, Intercounty Electric organized a contest in each county to pick the best welder, and Robert emerged as the winner in Hanson County. His skills were further recognized in a four-county contest held at the Intercounty Electric office building, where he was again named the winner.

Robert presented the first-ever 4-H welding demonstration at the South Dakota State Fair.

"Because my welding demonstration required a special electrical connection, Intercounty Electric installed an electric plug on a pole in the middle of an empty lot on the state fairgrounds."

Robert fabricated livestock gates and other farm necessities. In 1953, he also made a metal grille guard for the family's 1952 International pickup. His welding demonstrations would earn him a trip to Chicago to attend the 4-H Club Congress in the electrical division.

At age 21, Robert joined the United States Army and served for two years before returning home to farm. He eventually met his future wife, Norma Northrup, who grew up on a farm served by Intercounty Electric east of Letcher on Highway 37.

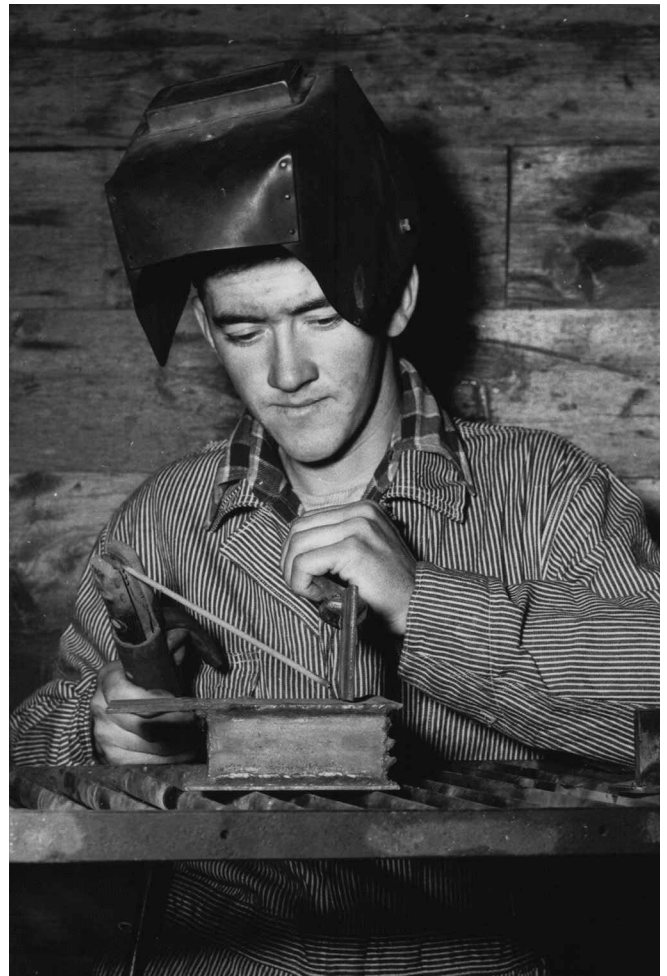
Robert and Norma grew crops and raised cattle on the Moe homestead for more than 25 years. They spent 32 winter seasons in south Texas and traveled around in an RV in the summer for 18 years before eventually moving to Mitchell.

Robert remembers, "Having a yard light was a handy new luxury when we first got electricity, but it got even better later when Intercounty offered a free all-night light if wired through the meter."

Norma said, "It's amazing to look at all that's changed with electric appliances. Refrigerators, deep freezers, water heaters, and washing machines."

However, Norma explained, one of the more profound impacts of electricity was how it would shape their children's lives. Their two sons, Kevin and Keith, both have successful careers related to computer technology, a field that would not exist without electricity.

Intercounty Electric merged with Tri-County Electric in 2000 to form Central Electric Cooperative, which today serves mostly rural portions of Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Miner and Sanborn Counties.





*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*

# Mammoth Discovery

**Shannon Marvel**

[shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop](mailto:shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop)

Over Memorial Day of 2023, a coal miner made a historic discovery at the Freedom Mine in North Dakota.

“The shovel operator just happened to take a scoop that had a complete mammoth tusk,” said Jeff Person, a paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey.

“The tusk was about seven-foot-long. That shovel must’ve picked it up just perfectly to not damage or break it. The driver reported the find to his superiors at the Freedom Mine, who then contacted us,” Person said.

The tusk was found in an old streambed. Other fossils



*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*



were found in the streambed, including “more than twenty bones from the skeleton, including ribs, a shoulder blade a tooth and parts of the hips,” according to a news release.

“Most of the mammoth fossils known from North Dakota are isolated bones and teeth,” stated Clint Boyd, Senior Paleontologist for the North Dakota Geological Survey, in the news release. “This specimen is one of the most complete mammoth skeletons discovered in North Dakota, making it an exciting and scientifically important discovery.”

The bones were sent off to the Paleontology Lab at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck to undergo extensive cleaning before being prepped to be dried out, which requires that the bones be

wrapped in plastic.

It could take up to another year for the bones to be dried out enough to be taken out of the plastic wrap, Person said.

At that point, the bones will be the focus of scientific research, he said.

According to the news release, “mammoths lived in North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, commonly called the Ice Age, and went extinct in this area around 10,000 years ago. Several species of mammoth lived in North America, including the Woolly Mammoth and the Columbian Mammoth. They lived alongside other iconic animals like saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Once the bones are fully cleaned, paleontologists will be able to identify which species was collected from the mine.”



*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*



# Neighboring Co-ops Lend Assistance in Time of Need

**PICTURED:** Dana DesLauriers of West Central Electric and Jordon Bakley of Lacreek Electric, working simultaneously to restore power back to its normal feed.

The evening of Tuesday, June 25th, 2024 around 7pm, a severe Thunderstorm rolled through our service area producing large hail, damaging high winds and tornados were reported by members. This resulted in broken poles and scattered outages in the Potato Creek community and nearby ranches.

In response to this crisis, Lacreek Electric swiftly activated its emergency response plan, mobilizing all available crews and resources. Recognizing the magnitude of the damage, Operations Manger, Mike Pisha, quickly reached out to neighboring co-ops for assistance. This collaboration significantly boosted man power and resources, accelerating the recovery efforts.

The Wanblee 115 Substation, West Circuit three-phase feeder was the hardest hit losing 23 poles in a row just south of the Potato Creek Housing. The storm took a North/South track, dropping large hail and a tornado that took down 27 poles to the Jackson and Bennett, County Line.

The Storm's southward path drifted right into the town of Martin, hitting the Transmission line that serves the Martin City Substation, tearing down (2) 65' poles on an "H" structure and splintering (1) pole on another "H" structure. This opened the circuit from the Martin WAPA Substation north of town and left the entire area in the dark until damage could be assessed and the damaged line

## June 25th Storm Repairs, continued.

isolated. After that, operations had WAPA reenergize the 1342 Breaker from the WAPA Sub and power was restored to the Martin Rural Sub, the Weinmaster Sub, the Allen Sub and the Merriman Sub. Lastly, back feeds from the Martin Rural Sub were conducted to reenergize the City of Martin.

The neighboring Electric Coops responded incredibly to our request for assistance; West Central Electric sent 4 linemen, West River Electric sent 2 linemen and Cherry-Todd Electric sent 2 linemen, all with various equipment to help with the restoration of power to the membership. It should also be mentioned that Black Hills Electric was poised to send 4 linemen if we found more damage, requiring more crews to restore power in a timely fashion.

Repairs on the transmission line were conducted on Wednesday and Thursday, power to the Martin City Sub was restored, and all feeds returned to normal.



Photo Credit: Lineman, Matt Kruid

Repairs and pole replacements continued in the Potato Creek area into the following day. All member's power was restored by mid-afternoon Thursday.

There were 2 more poles in the Martin area found broken bringing the total count for broken poles to 55 at the end of June.



Photo Credit: Lineman, Matt Kruid

### Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

35 ft.

Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away - so keep your distance.

Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.

If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.

Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!



# A GOLDEN HARVEST

## The Buzz Behind Adee Honey Farms

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Three generations ago, the Adee family learned that a tumultuous time can lead to significant opportunity. During the 1930s, the Great Depression wreaked havoc on small rural communities and the agricultural industry. The value of crops and livestock plummeted, and the land became arid.

These hard times impacted many in the Midwest, including Vernon Adee, a rural teacher and rancher in Nebraska. Vernon needed a new way to provide for his family, and a letter from his brother held the answer: “I can’t sell chickens or hogs, but I’m doing well with honey. Be advised: Get a beehive.”

Following his brother’s advice, Vernon attended a foreclosure auction and purchased his first beehive. The decision to begin

beekeeping would inspire several more generations of the Adee family to continue in the trade.

Wanting to start their own operation, Vernon’s sons, Richard and Stanley, purchased a retiring beekeeper’s business through a trade magazine advertisement in 1957. Located in Bruce, South Dakota, the business included 1,500 hives and a breeding yard in Woodville, Mississippi. The acquisition marked the beginning of Adee Honey Farms, and what began as a small family farm quickly grew into the largest beekeeping operation in the country. Today, Adee Honey Farms supports more than 80,000 colonies and nearly 70 full-time employees.

“It started with survival and eventually became a family business,” said Bret Adee, Vernon’s grandson and the owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms. “I can remember being four or five years old and being in the field with my dad, holding the smoker and helping where I could. By the time I was in elementary school, I was loading trucks and moving boxes in the warehouse. Like anyone who grew up on a farm, I was involved in the family business by the time I could walk.”

From a young age, Bret has held a deep love and appreciation for the honey bee. The insect’s ability to cooperate and produce golden treasure while benefiting plants, crops, and the ecosystem at large makes them a unique livestock, unlike any other.

“To watch a hive grow and forage, and by the end of the summer make up to 150 pounds of honey – it’s just so exciting,”

said Bret. “It’s the dynamics of the biology that keeps it interesting.”

Right now, Adee Honey Farms is engaged in honey production in the Midwest, with their bees spread across South Dakota and the west edge of Minnesota and the south edge of North Dakota. Around the first week of August, Bret’s business will start the honey harvest, an event that can last until the first frost or even longer. For now, Bret said this year is shaping up to be a good season for honey production.

“It’s early, but I’m optimistic. The years when there is a lot of clover are the years that beekeepers do well,” said Bret. “We had a wet enough fall that enough clover germinated. We can always lose that to a hot dry wind... but we are optimistic right now.”

But bees aren’t just used to make honey; they also have hand in pollinating crops across the country. More than a neat fact, it’s also the second half of the beekeeping industry. The mere presence of honey bees can increase yields for crops such as alfalfa and sunflowers by up to 20 to 30 percent, depending on the variety of crop. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollination is responsible for more than \$18 billion in added revenue to crop production in the country.

Once the honey harvest is over, the bees will be loaded onto a truck to tour the country, traveling from the Dakotas to California and later to Texas in search of favorable weather and crops to pollinate. In fact, crop yields from California almond trees and apple trees are almost totally dependent on pollination from bees, enticing farmers from across the country to welcome

bees onto their land. Everyone benefits – even bees.

“It’s a win for the consumer who gets to eat the honey. It’s a win for the landowner who has the bees on his land, and if everything goes right, it’s good for the beekeeper’s family too,” said Bret.



Bret Adee, owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms, is a third-generation beekeeper in the Adee family. Photos courtesy of Adee Honey Farms.





*Photos Courtesy of Karli Hinds*

# Food Trucks

## How Karli Hinds Jumped Into the Business

**Shannon Marvel**  
shannon.marvel@sdcra.coop

Karli Hinds was working a typical corporate 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job when she realized she wanted a life where she had the flexibility to travel with her husband.

“So I had actually quit my job and stayed home for six months or so,” Hinds said. “Then I wanted something I could do but still have the flexibility to travel.”

Hinds had a couple ideas, one that had to do with the fact that she’s a “foodie.”

“I started cooking really young. I would say I was making meals by myself when I was in middle school,” she said.

The idea for opening a food truck was at the forefront of her mind, given that she was not interested in having a storefront.

“I didn’t want the hassle and responsibility of it. I wanted a business I could rely on myself and not have to rely on several employees,” Hinds said.



**“On my second day in the food truck, I was serving Tex Mex, and I had a crazy line. It was just insane. I wanted to quit right then, but I also was thinking, ‘this is going to work.’ It was a good turnout, and it was only my second day.”**

**- Karli Hinds**

Financially, there are pros and cons to starting up a food truck business.

Hinds said there’s limited finance options for food trucks while at the same time, there’s more cash that you must have on hand to get started.

Finding a food truck or trailer was the next challenge and proved to be fairly difficult for Hinds at first.

“We wanted one that was brand new,” Hinds said. “Most of the manufacturers are out of Mexico, and they don’t always have the best reputations. We really struggled with finding a reputable company to build a trailer with me. Somehow, we found a random post on Facebook from a guy that was selling brand new food trailers somewhere in the middle of nowhere in Iowa.”

Hinds and her husband walked through the trailers and picked out what they liked and didn’t like before finally deciding on the one to get.

Hinds uses the food truck to cook up an array of menu items every week.

“I’m actually a really picky eater, believe it or not,” Hinds said. “I didn’t want to specialize in one thing. People in small towns know we get kind of burnt out from eating the same thing over and over.”

Hinds rotates between eight or so different food themes.

“Once in a while I come

up with something new to add within that theme,” Hinds said. “My best seller is always my smash burgers.”

She’ll find her recipes on the popular social media app, Tik Toc.

On her second day of business, Hinds knew her food truck business would be sustainable.

“On my second day in the food truck, I was serving Tex Mex, and I had a crazy line,” Hinds said. It was just insane. I wanted to quit right then, but I also was thinking, ‘this is going to work.’ It was a good turnout, and it was only my second day.”

Hinds said the job isn’t always fun and is physically demanding.

“The hours are a lot more chaotic,” she said. “The problem-solving aspect is better as I don’t have a chain of command that I need to go through to make things right with the customer.”

During the winter months, Hinds delivers lunches a couple days out of the week.

“It’s just one item and I deliver them in town within Vermillion,” Hinds said. “That’s just something that I do that’s a little bit different than other food trucks.”



## REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**AUG. 2-11**  
**Sturgis Motorcycle Rally**  
Sturgis, SD  
[www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com](http://www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com)

**AUG. 18**  
**Arlington Car Show**  
Arlington, SD  
605-203-0728

**AUG. 20-22**  
**Dakotafest**  
Mitchell, SD

**AUG. 22**  
**61st Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree**  
Prairie Village  
Madison, SD

**AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2**  
**South Dakota State Fair**  
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
State Fairgrounds  
Huron, SD  
[www.SDStateFair.com](http://www.SDStateFair.com)

**AUG. 2-4**  
**Arlington Days**  
Arlington, SD  
605-690-5717  
Follow Arlington Days, South Dakota on Facebook & Instagram

**AUG. 3**  
**Prairie Fest**  
Armour, SD

**AUG. 3**  
**Bloomin' Quilt Party**  
12-5 p.m.  
Bennett Barn  
Aurora, SD  
605-690-3246

**AUG. 6-8**  
**IDEAg's Farmfest**  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Redwood County, MN  
651-316-4369

**AUG. 7**  
**Ag Appreciation Day**  
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
Sioux Falls, SD

**AUG. 10**  
**Perseid Meteor Shower**  
Palisades State Park  
Garretson, SD

**AUG. 10**  
**Camaro Fun Days**  
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Pioneer Park  
Brookings, SD

**AUG. 10-11**  
**Fur Trader Days**  
Geddes, SD  
605-680-2160

**AUG. 17**  
**6th Annual Black Hills Super 6 Mountain Bike Race**  
3 hour race, 10 a.m.  
6 hour race, 8 a.m.  
Northern Hills Area CASA  
Spearfish, SD

**SEPT. 8**  
**Homesteader Day**  
1-4 p.m.  
Beaver Creek Nature Area  
Valley Springs, SD

**SEPT. 14-15**  
**2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival**  
Delmont, SD

**SEPT. 17**  
**EV Expo**  
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
Sioux Falls, SD

**OCT. 17**  
**Co-op Month Celebration**  
Cherry Rock Farms  
Brandon, SD

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

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