
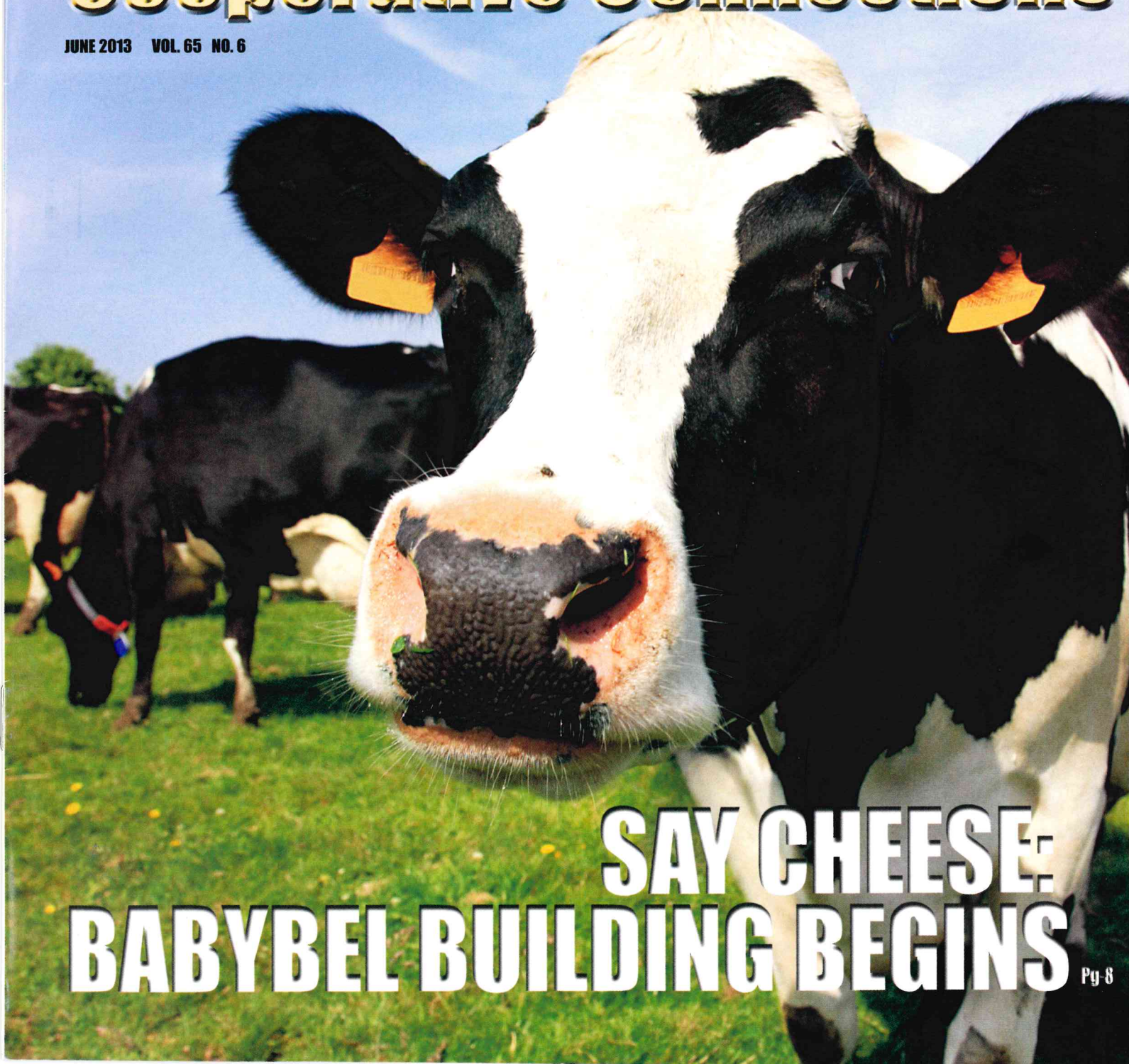


South Dakota Electric

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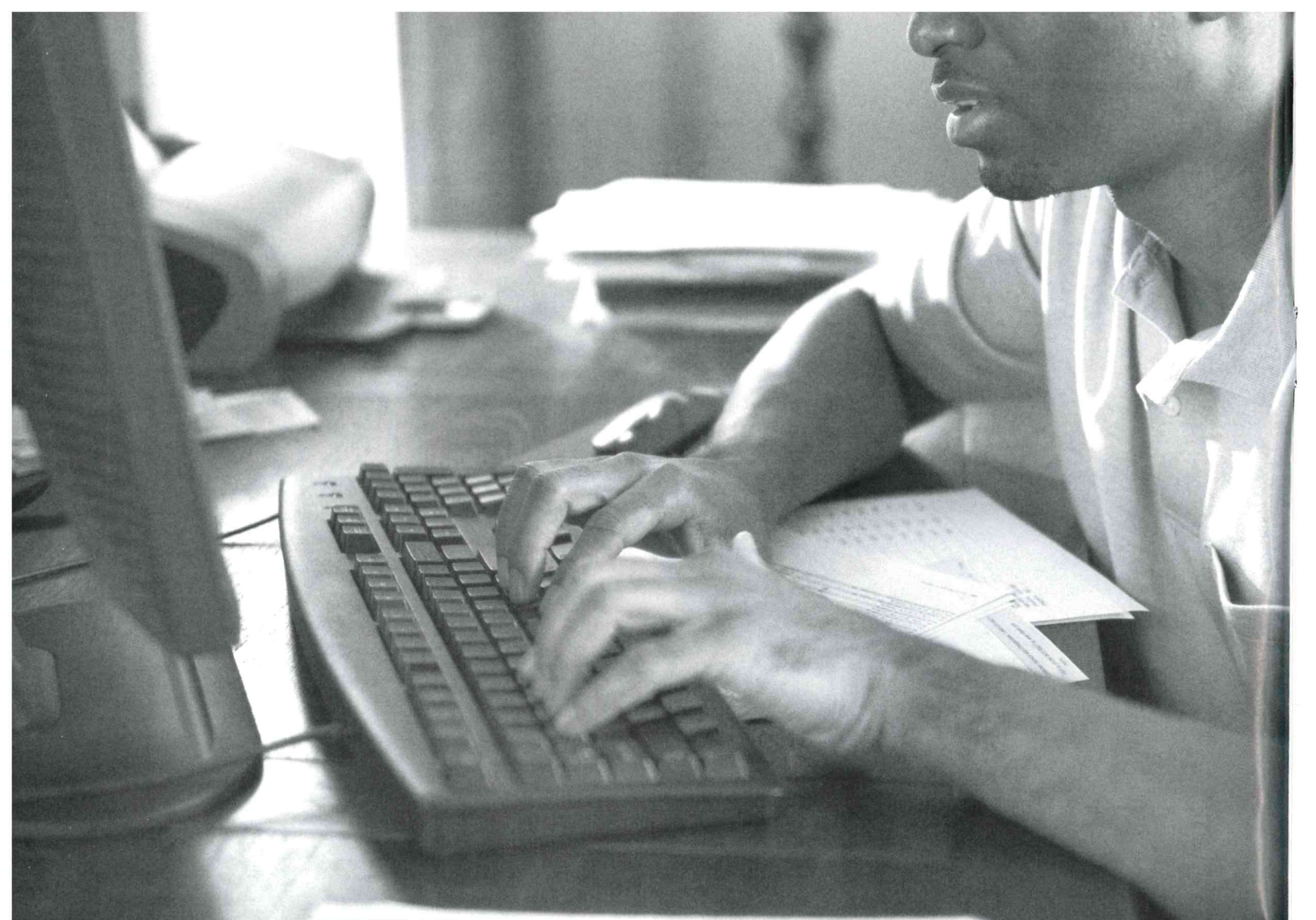
Cooperative Connections

JUNE 2013 VOL. 65 NO. 6



SAY CHEESE: BABYBEL BUILDING BEGINS

Pg. 8




STICKING TO A BUDGET IS EASIER WITH MY COMPUTER TURNED OFF.

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South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

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Black Hills Electric, Custer, S.D.
Bon Homme Yankton Electric, Tabor, S.D.
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Editorial

Cracking the Copper Crime Network



Ed Anderson
General Manager, South Dakota
Rural Electric Association

Metal thieves seem willing to take any type of risk just to make a quick buck. It's an incredibly risky criminal practice, one that almost always includes the possibility of electrocution.

But as worldwide demand for copper and other metals rises, so does the price, and with it theft continues. Toss in stubbornly high unemployment and illegal drug use, particularly methamphetamine, into the mix, and things only get worse.

As copper crooks become more determined, electric cooperatives have taken steps to thwart this activity, from placing surveillance cameras at hard-hit substa-

tions and offering rewards for information to working more closely with local law enforcement and scrap dealers. State and federal legislators are also taking a closer look at the toll metal theft takes on utilities and other businesses. It's no small concern – stealing \$5 to \$10 worth of copper can cause thousands of dollars in damage to electric co-op equipment and trigger power outages as repairs are made.

In many cases where thieves were caught, a combination of these solutions was at play. A quick-acting and observant employee

at an electric co-op in South Carolina, for example, took down the description of a getaway van that led to two arrests. A Missouri co-op positioned a game camera at a substation, and police identified the intruder based off the footage.

Other co-ops are using alternatives to traditional copper wire when building new lines or replacing old equipment. Copper-clad steel works just as effectively in conducting electricity but is worthless as scrap metal.

The Metal Theft Prevention Act was reintroduced in the U.S. Senate in February to make metal theft a federal crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison, a fine, or both. It would require sellers to show proof that they own or are authorized to sell the metal, and recyclers would need to have "a reasonable basis to believe" that the documentation is valid. Dealers found in violation would face a civil penalty of up to \$10,000.

That's in addition to laws already on the books in 48 states.

Your local, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperative does its best to prevent this kind of costly and sometimes deadly crime. But it needs your help, too. Your cooperative will always work in a marked vehicle, employees will carry identification, and they'll use lights at night. If you notice a situation that doesn't seem legitimate, call the authorities. We can all work together to keep people safe and stop copper theft.

State and federal legislators are also taking a closer look at the toll metal theft takes on utilities and other businesses.

Junior Duck Stamp Winner

An oil painting of a canvasback duck has made a Burbank, S.D., six-year-old the youngest winner ever of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp contest.



Madison Grimm's oil painting was judged the winner among Best-of-Show entries from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

More than 29,000 students participated in state Junior Duck Stamp competitions. As the top winner, Grimm receives \$5,000. The second place award of \$3,000 went to a Missouri 17-year-old while the third place award of \$2,000 went to a Wisconsin teen. The \$500 prize for the winning conservation message, "Nature is our history, conservation is our future," went to a Kentucky 11-year-old.

Proceeds from the sales of the \$5 Junior Duck Stamp support environmental education, including production of a new Junior Duck Stamp curriculum combining the arts and science. The new curriculum guides may be downloaded from www.fws.gov/juniorduck.

The First Day of Sale Ceremony for the 2013-2014 Federal and Junior Duck Stamps will be held June 28 at the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Ashland, Va. It is free and open to the public. Both the Federal and Junior Duck Stamp artists will be available to sign stamps and the U.S. Postal Service will have a special cancellation for collectors.

Originally created in 1934 as federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps have a much larger purpose today as vital tools for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Madison is the daughter of Adam and Janet Grimm of rural Burbank.

General Tips for Driving Safer with Cell Phones

Tip lists for safe driving with cell phones range from simplistic to profoundly conservative. Corporate cell phone policies err on the side of conservative with extensive dos and don'ts intended to protect large corporations from dire economic liability. Most general safety lists include some or all of the following:

- Abstain from talking on a cell phone while you are actively driving.
- If you need to answer a call or make one, try and pull off the road into a safe parking area.
- Make sure your phone is within easy reach, not in the glove compartment or a purse where you might have to dig for it.
- Use a hand's free device like a Bluetooth headset or earpiece that allows you to talk while both hands remain on the wheel.
- Hands-free or not, postpone conversations that are either emotional or complex.
- Prior to getting on the road, practice driving while using your hands-free device in an open parking lot so you know how to use it properly without fumbling.
- Do not send a text message, IM or try and read incoming messages while driving.
- Shop for the latest models of phones that feature voice activated dialing and speed dialing.
- Use your cell phone only in the event of an emergency in which you need help or someone else needs help.
- In emergency cases where wireless frequencies are jammed, the CTIA recommends cell phone users text a call for help instead.

Upsides to Cell Phones

What about the upside to cell phones on the road? Cell phone technology makes the timely reporting of emergencies a reality. Motorists also have the convenience of phoning for roadside assistance when stranded. The Cellular and Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) maintains statistics relevant to cell phone users as well as the wireless industry. The company estimates that more than 230,000 911 calls are logged each day from cell phone operators. Many of these calls are motorists. Before cell phones a motorist would have had to pull off the road and find a pay phone before a 911 emergency could be reported.

Saving a life is a significant benefit.

Source: www.cellphonesafety.org

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Call before you dig."



Zachary Worsech,
7 years old

Zach is the son of Luke and Miranda Worsech. They are members of Cherry-Todd Electric, Mission, 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.

Ethnic Eats



Lefse

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 4 cups rice potatoes | 1/3 cup butter |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 cup flour |
| 1 T. sugar | 1 tsp. baking powder |

Russet potatoes are best for lefse. Boil with peelings on. Peel while hot, rice or mash thoroughly. Add salt, sugar and butter; cool. Add flour and baking powder. Measure 1/3 cup for each. Place in refrigerator. Take out one at a time and roll out very thin. Bake on lefse grill. Turn when brown flecks appear.

Lois Larson, Beresford
Cooperative Connections

Swedish Raspberry Almond Bars

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 3/4 cup butter, softened
(must use butter) | 3 egg whites |
| 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar | 6 T. sugar |
| 1-1/2 cups flour | 1/2 cup flaked coconut |
| 3/4 cup seedless
raspberry jam | 1 cup sliced almonds, divided |
| | Additional confectioners'
sugar |

Cream butter and powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually add flour; mix well. Press into a 13x9-inch greased pan. Bake at 350°F. for 18 to 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Spread jam over crust. In large bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in sugar, 1 T. at a time, on high until stiff peaks form. Fold in coconut and 1/2 cup almonds. Spread over jam. Sprinkle with remaining almonds. Bake at 350°F. for 18 to 22 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely on a wire rack. Dust with confectioners' sugar.

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN
Cooperative Connections

Vichyssoise (Chilled French Potato Soup)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 to 4 leeks | 3 cups chicken broth |
| 2 T. butter | 1 cup milk |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 1-1/2 cups heavy cream, divided |
| 2 large potatoes, peeled and diced | 1 drop Tabasco sauce |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 T. minced parsley or chives |

Thoroughly clean leeks; halve lengthwise and cut into thin slices. Heat butter. Add leeks and cook until transparent. Add onions, potatoes, salt and chicken broth. Simmer mixture 35 minutes. Puree in blender and reheat. Pour in milk and 1 cup cream. Heat and stir until well-blended, but do not boil. Season with Tabasco sauce. Chill mixture. Beat remaining 1/2 cup cream until stiff; fold into soup. Adjust seasonings to taste. Serve soup garnished with chopped chives or parsley. Makes 4 servings.

Nancy Brown, Sioux Falls
Cooperative Connections

Southwest Honey and Spice Pork Hand Tacos

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 T. honey | 1 lb. thinly-cut boneless chops (1/2-inch
thick), cut into strips |
| 1 T. olive oil | 8 small corn tortillas, warmed |
| 1 tsp. lemon juice | 1 cup shredded romaine lettuce |
| 1 tsp. soy sauce | 1 cup pico de gallo* |
| 1/2 tsp. ground chipotle pepper (smoked
or plain paprika can be used as an
alternative) | Sour cream or crema to taste |

In a medium-sized bowl, combine honey, olive oil, lemon juice, soy sauce and ground chipotle pepper and whisk to combine. Add sliced pork to the marinade and let it sit for 15 minutes. Heat a skillet over high heat. Add slices of pork to the skillet and cook for 1 to 2 minutes on each side, flipping with tongs in the middle of the cooking process. Once cooked, remove the pork to a plate and reserve. Arrange 8 corn tortillas on a platter. Sprinkle each with equal amounts of shredded lettuce and pico de gallo. Arrange a few pieces of pork on top of each taco and top with sour cream or crema if desired. Yield: 4 servings, 2 tacos each

* You can find prepared pico de gallo, typically a combination of onions, chiles, tomatoes, lime juice and cilantro, in the refrigerated section of the produce department in most major supermarkets.

Nutritional information per serving: Calories: 360; Fat: 10g; Saturated Fat: 1.5g; Cholesterol: 80mg; Sodium: 550mg; Carbohydrates: 39g; Protein: 27g; Fiber: 2g.

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Kulich (Russian Easter Bread)

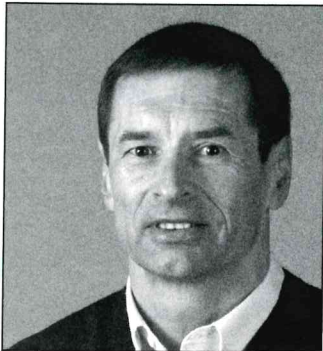
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2-1/4 to 2-3/4 cups flour,
divided | 1/4 cup water |
| 1/4 cup sugar | 2 T. margarine |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 egg |
| 1 tsp. grated lemon peel | 1/4 cup almonds, chopped |
| 1 pkg. yeast | 1/4 cup raisins |
| 1/2 cup milk | Powdered sugar frosting |
| | Colored sprinkles |

Mix 3/4 cup flour, sugar, salt, lemon peel and yeast in a large bowl. Combine milk, water and margarine in saucepan. Heat over low until warm. Add to dry ingredients; beat 2 minutes at medium speed. Add egg and 1/2 cup flour or enough to make a thick batter. Beat on high 2 minutes. Stir in enough extra flour to make a soft dough. Knead until smooth and elastic, 8 to 10 minutes. Place in greased bowl. Cover, let rise until double, about 1 hour. Punch down. Knead in almonds and raisins. Divide dough in half. Shape into ball and place each half in a greased metal 1-lb. coffee can. Cover, let rise until double, about 1 hour. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes. Remove from cans. When cool, frost with powdered sugar frosting; top with sprinkles. Makes 2 loaves.

Mary Jessen, Holabird
Cooperative Connections

**Please send
your favorite
dessert 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
2013. All entries
must include
your name,
mailing address,
telephone
number and
cooperative
name.**

What Do You Need from Extra AC?



Jim Dulley
www.dulley.com

Dear Jim: We added a room, but our central air conditioner doesn't cool it well. Our second-floor master bedroom also does not stay cool. Does it make more sense to install a window air conditioner or a mini-split system? – Kyle F.

Dear Kyle: This is a common problem, especially for second-floor rooms. Cool air is denser than warm air, so

it tends to drop to the first floor through cracks, gaps and the stairs. Also, second-floor ceilings are exposed to the hot underside of the roof and tend to stay warm well into the evening.

Whether you install a mini-split heat pump or a window air conditioner depends on what you need and want from the unit. Most people install a window air conditioner to provide extra cooling in a room at a low initial cost. Energy efficiency is not the primary concern. Mini-split heat pumps offer many bonus features (heating and cooling, quiet operation, flexible installation, and control) and increased efficiency, but at a higher cost.

The main drawback for mini-split heat pumps is cost. A window unit generally sells for less than \$300; mini-splits can run to more than \$1,000, plus the cost of installation. Also, unlike a window unit, mini-splits can't be moved once installed.

I have a two-story house with a central heat pump. I recently installed an LG Art Cool mini-split system for the master bedroom. I selected the smaller output 9,000 Btu per hour model, which has a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of 28 and inverter compressor technology – twice as efficient as the central heat pump. I chose the heat pump version so it can also heat efficiently during winter.

A window air conditioner has all its components – compressor, air circulation fan, condenser fan, etc. – in the cabinet mounted in the window. Though it is insulated against heat flow and sound, it still is not ideal for energy efficiency. The newest ones are fairly quiet but still may be annoying in a bedroom at night. When it's not running, more outdoor road noise can be heard.

A mini-split system is similar to a central air conditioner or heat pump, with the condenser fan, coils and compressor in an outdoor unit, which is flat and small. I had mine mounted high on the garage wall so I could walk under it on an existing walkway.

Some models allow the outdoor unit to be placed up to 100

feet from the room or group of rooms to be cooled or heated. This virtually eliminates indoor noise pollution from these components.

Instead of having the indoor cooling coil in an air-duct system as with your existing central air conditioner, the coil is mounted in a fan unit on the wall or ceiling of the room. It's connected to the outdoor unit by refrigerant and electric lines. Only a three-inch diameter hole needs to be cut through the wall and the condensate drain from the evaporator coils can go out through the same hole.

Mini-split systems can also be used to cool an entire house by installing indoor wall units in several rooms. The conditioned air will naturally circulate throughout the house. This is commonly done in houses using baseboard electric or hydronic heat, which lack a duct system. Installing a duct system for central air-conditioning in an existing two-story house can be an expensive project.

A mini-split system is similar to a central air conditioner or heat pump, with the condenser fan, coils and compressor in an outdoor unit, which is flat and small.

In addition to the high SEER rating, installing a mini-split unit allows for zone cooling of your house, which can also lower your electric bill. In my case, there's no need to keep the downstairs cool all night when I'm sleeping in the upstairs bedroom. My mini-split system allows me to set the central heat pump thermostat higher at night so it runs very little. This provides substantial electricity savings.

Inverter compressor technology is the newest and most efficient trend in air conditioning. The compressor runs at variable speeds to provide for variable cooling output. Once the room cools down to the thermostat setting, the inverter compressor speed slows to keep the room at that temperature.

The remote control has several modes of operation, including a dehumidification setting for the summer, which slows down the fan speed so the indoor air is dehumidified more than it is cooled. This is ideal for allergy sufferers who are sensitive to high humidity but don't want a cold room.

There also is a "jet" setting that switches either the heating or cooling mode output and fan speed to high for quickly changing the temperature. This feature conserves energy because you can turn it on only when you use a particular room instead of keeping the room hot or cold continuously.

Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, *Cooperative Connections*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

LED Bulbs Recalled

About a half million light emitting diode (LED) bulbs sold in the United States are being voluntarily recalled by their importer, Lighting Science Group Corporation.

The 120-volt LED bulbs, sold as 6- 8- and 9-watt bulbs (equivalent to 40 or 50 watts), were marketed under the brand names Defin-ity, EcoSmart, Sylvania and Westinghouse. The model numbers A19, G25 and R20/ PAR20 are found on the packaging and on the light-colored circular neck above the base of the bulb where the date code is also printed. The date code reflects the week and year of manufacture; for example date code L4010 was produced during the 40th week of 2010. The date codes listed below may have the letters "CH " or "MX " at the end. For example, date code L4010 can also appear as L4010CH or L4010MX. The date codes are:

L4010 L4110 L4210 L4310 L4410
L4510 L4610 L4710 L4810 L4910
L5010 L5110 L5210 L5310 L0111
L0211 L0311 L0411 L0511 L0611
L0711 L0811 L0911 L1011 L1111

Lighting Science Group is aware of 68 incidents of product failures, eight of which were accompanied by visible smoke or fire conditions. The incidents include damage to light sockets, melted fixtures, burned rugs/ carpet/ floors, damage to a circuit and to a lamp. There have been no reports of personal injuries.

The bulbs were sold at various retailers including hardware and lighting and electrical supply stores.

The bulbs were manufactured in China by Citizen Electronics and Lighting Science Group (with a small number of products having final assembly in Florida or Mexico).

Consumers should immediately remove the bulbs from sockets and lamps and contact Lighting Science Group for replacement bulbs. Lighting Science Group can be reached toll free at 855-574-2533 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ET Monday through Friday, or online at www.lsgc.com/ recall.



L4810CH

Resource Conservation Speech Contest Winners Announced

The 52nd annual

state finals of the Resource Conservation Speech Contest was held at the State Capitol in Pierre on Saturday, April 20.

Winning first place and a \$1,100 scholarship was Shanae Doerr.

Doerr was sponsored by the South Brown Conservation District and is a sophomore at Aberdeen Central High School. She is the daughter of James and Charleen Doerr of Aberdeen.

Receiving second place and a \$750 scholarship was Emily Meier. Meier was sponsored by the South Brown Conservation District and is a sophomore at Aberdeen Central High School. She is the daughter of Steve and Katie Meier of Aberdeen.

Receiving third place and a \$450 scholarship was Logan Hattervig. Hattervig was sponsored by the Miner County Conservation District and is a freshman at Howard High School. He is the son of David and Connie Hattervig of Carthage.

Scholarships totaling \$2,300 for the winners are provided by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota. The contest is co-sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA), the U.S. Fish & Wildlife



The top five winners in this year's contest are pictured here with East River Electric and SDREA director Ken Gillespie of Pierre, third from right. From left are third place winner Logan Hattervig of Carthage (Miner County Conservation District), second place winner Emily Meier and firstst place winner Shanae Doerr, both of Aberdeen representing the South Brown Conservation District; 4th place winner Ashley Schmit of Artesian (Sanborn County Conservation District) and 5th place winner Erin Mairose of Kimball Brule-Buffalo Conservation District).

Service and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

The theme of this year's contest was "The Economic Impact of Conservation on America." South Dakota high school students first participated in a local contest sponsored by their conservation district.

Two students from each district were then eligible to participate in an area contest. From there, the top two winners from each of the designated areas were eligible to advance to the state finals. This year, 11 contestants competed in the state finals.

Next year's theme is "Why Conservation Saved Us from Another Dust Bowl." For more information, contact your local conservation district office or SDDA at 605-773-3623.

To read the winning speeches, visit: <http://sdda.sd.gov/education-outreach/>



Babybel Building in Brookings

S.D. Looks to Double Number of Dairy Cattle in State

By Brenda
Kleinjan

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE CHICAGO-BASED Bel Brands USA announced plans to build a 170,000 square-foot manufacturing facility east of Brookings, S.D., to produce its Mini Babybel cheese.

At the time of the announcement, the company had already sold 17 million pounds of the little cheese wheels in the United States.

The Brookings facility will allow the company to increase their total production to 22 million pounds. It will also decrease the amount of cheese it imports from its plants in France.

Bel Brands USA currently has plants in Leitchfield, Ky., and Little Chute, Wis., and employs nearly 750 people.

The Brookings plant is expected to produce 1.5 million Mini Babybel cheese wheels daily. If lined up side-by-side the small cheese wheels produced in one day at the plant would extend more than 40 miles – roughly the driving distance from Custer, S.D., to Rapid City, S.D.

The building, – which will be roughly the size of three football fields – represents a nearly \$100 million investment in the state. The company says that the state-of-the-art plant will be a flagship facility in terms of automation, equipment, processing and efficiency and is being built to meet LEED certification.

“We weren’t even on Bel Brands’ shopping list to start with. To wind up with that plant in South Dakota is a huge boon to not only South Dakota



but also to South Dakota State University and the dairy science department,” said David Skaggs, dairy/ag development specialist for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

Skaggs noted that South Dakota’s ability to grow its own feed for the livestock industry, coupled with available water, affordable electricity and processing capabilities make it a good fit for the growing dairy industry.

The first phase of the Bel Brands plant is expected to be completed in July 2014. The phase one portion will have a production capacity of 22 million pounds of cheese and will employ 200 people. To produce the cheese, the plant will need more than 500,000 pounds of milk daily. The second phase is anticipated in 2016-17, assuming that anticipated increased market demands occur. The second phase carries with it an additional 200 jobs.

And, the importance of the growth of the cheese industry in the region has a far-reaching impact.

Agriculture is the number one industry in South Dakota providing a \$16.3 billion economic impact to the state. Dairy products are the second leading livestock commodity in cash receipts. The state’s milk production in 2009 totaled 1,892 million pounds, up from 1,796 million in 2008.

The average number of milk cows, at 94,000 head, was up from 2008, and production per cow, at 20,128, increased 2,387 pounds since 2005. Most of South Dakota’s milk is processed into cheese, milk powder and whey blends, then exported to other states.

“With the plant expansions at Milbank, Lake Norden and Brookings, we’re looking at a need of an additional 80,000 to 90,000 cows in the state. We need to double our herd size,” said Skaggs.

“Dairies are an economic driver for a community,” said Skaggs, noting that the rule of thumb is one employee for every 100 cows. “Those are employees that spend their money as well.”

Skaggs said the economic impact per dairy cow is \$14,042, citing research conducted at South Dakota State University.

While much of the focus on the growing dairy industry has been occurring in the eastern part of the state, other areas are flourishing as well.

“There are two awesome plants in Pollock and Hoven, S.D., that have won numerous contests for their cheese,” Skaggs said. “We need to get more cattle in that north central region, too.”

A Parmesan cheese made by Associated Milk Producers Inc. (AMPI) in Hoven, S.D., was awarded the Grand Champion Cheese award at the 2012 National Milk Producers Federation cheese competition. The cheese, received a score of 99.0 from the judges and was selected from among 176 entries to this year’s NMPF cheese contest – a record number of entries. A total of 3006 pounds of cheese was judged.

Dairy Production Statistics

Here are some statistics about dairy as provided by the Midwest Dairy Association:

- Dairy farms support rural communities in all 50 states.
- There are more than 49,000 dairy farms in the U.S.
- An economic analysis of the direct and indirect economic impact of U.S. dairy (farming through processing) was estimated to be \$140 billion in economic output and \$29 billion in household earnings.
- Dairies create a ripple effect on the agricultural economy and the economic well-being of rural America. When a dairy farmer sells a dollar of milk, it generates economic activity of \$3, and every \$1 million of U.S. milk sales generates 17 jobs.
- Dairy farms sustain rural America. Even under the nation’s current economic challenges, dairy farmers and companies are a lifeline to 900,000 jobs in the United States.
- Dairy processing provides more than 130,000 U.S. jobs.
- Around 178,000 retail outlets in the U.S. sell dairy foods.

South Dakota

- In the state of South Dakota, there are 290 licensed dairy herds.
- S.D. dairy farms produce 229 million gallons of milk.
- S.D. farms generate \$388 million in milk sales annually.
- S.D. is the 20th largest milk-producing state in the U.S.
- In South Dakota, the average dairy cow produces seven gallons of milk per day. That’s more than 2,487 gallons of milk over the course of a typical year.
- South Dakota has nine plants that process one or more dairy products. (The new plant at Brookings will be the 10th.)
- The average person consumes 6 pounds of cheese a year, and South Dakota produces enough of this dairy food for 38 million people.
- It takes just 48 hours for milk to travel from the farm to a retail outlet.

Minnesota

- There are 3,952 licensed dairy herds in Minnesota.
- Minnesota dairy farms produce 1 billion gallons of milk.
- Minnesota farms generate \$1.8 billion in milk sales annually.
- Dairy products are the 4th largest agricultural commodity in Minnesota.
- Minnesota is the 7th largest milk-producing state in the U.S.
- Minnesota has 39 plants that process one or more dairy products.
- It takes just 48 hours for milk to travel from the farm to a retail outlet.



Source: Midwest Dairy Association, <http://www.midwestdairy.com/0t253p205/dairy-stats/>

When up and running in July 2014, Bel Brands USA’s cheese plant at Brookings, S.D., will produce 1.5 million Mini Babybel cheese wheels a day.

Co-ops Must Tell Their Story to Congress

By Cathy Cash
ECT.coop

SDREA General Manager Ed Anderson, left, introduces several legislative issues to David Schwietert and Jessica Yearous. Schwietert is the Minority Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Ranking Member John Thune, R-S.D.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE country gathered in Washington, D.C., April 29-May 1 for NRECA's 2013 Legislative Conference to learn the latest developments on key issues, including the Rural Utilities Service loan program, coal ash and water heater efficiency.

More than 1,500 rural co-op leaders came to the three-day meeting that included five town halls with NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson, who urged members to use all available tools to communicate with lawmakers about their significant work.

"You make a difference in the lives of so many people and there is no better story to tell than that," Emerson told the delegations at the April 29 town hall.

To underscore their efforts, co-op leaders were encouraged to send hand-written thank-you letters to members of Congress lauding their staff who they met with while the lawmakers were in their home districts this week. "Never fear," Emerson said. "That thank-you note will get before the member of Congress."

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., the senior Republican on the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, also addressed the conference.

Vilsack urged co-ops to back comprehensive

immigration reform to address farm workforce shortages and spoke of ways to retain rural residents through "bio" economies that utilize local resources and science. He also said rural communities must mitigate and adapt to intense weather patterns resulting from climate change.

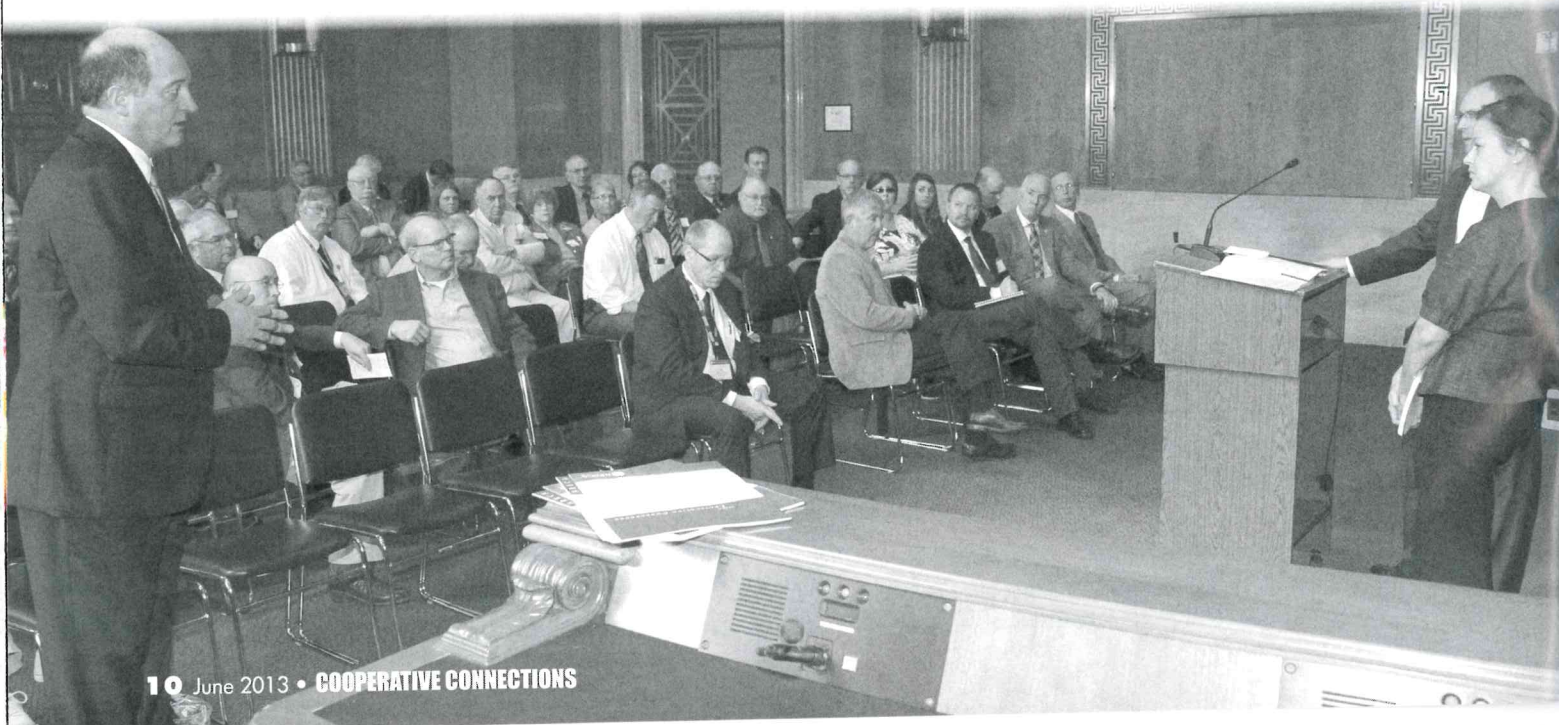
"I hope you go home and find a way to revitalize rural America," Vilsack said. "Our country's future depends on just that."

Blunt noted that federal policy should employ domestic resources, such as coal, and apply "common sense" and "good judgment" when it comes to regulating fuel sources. "More American energy equals more American jobs," he said.

This year's Legislative Conference marks the 40th anniversary of NRECA's Jan. 29, 1973, meeting, where 1,400 co-op leaders gathered at Washington's Mayflower Hotel to protest the Nixon administration's termination of the Rural Electrification Administration direct loan program.

Co-op leaders returned to Capitol Hill in May of that year and President Nixon signed legislation restoring the REA program that was championed by Sen. Hubert Humphrey.

"That is the power of this membership," said Kirk Johnson, NRECA senior vice president of government relations.



Electric Cooperatives Rally Hill on Key Issues

Member co-ops had a chance to have their say on Capitol Hill during the annual Legislative Conference, where NRECA provided a run-down of key issues as the 113th Congress gets under way. What follows is a snapshot of the major issues:

Rural Utilities Service

NRECA urges members to ask their senators to sign a letter in support of a \$4 billion loan level for the RUS Electric Loan Program and opposing strict new limits on RUS loans. The program provides co-ops loans to build infrastructure to generate and deliver electricity.

Co-ops thanked several House members for their help. So far, 134 House members – 71 Democrats and 63 Republicans – signed the letter in favor of the RUS program. In addition, more than a dozen House members drafted their own letters to garner their colleagues' support for the RUS program.

Coal Ash

A bill to tackle how best to regulate coal ash is expected to be introduced in

the House and Senate with provisions favored by NRECA members. These include language to treat coal ash as non-hazardous material. This will allow coal ash to continue to be recycled and used in concrete, drywall and other products.

Co-ops urged their delegations to support the Coal Ash Recycling and Oversight Act of 2013.

Water Heaters

New efficiency standards by the Department of Energy are set to sideline large electric water heaters co-ops use as storage to manage peak load and save consumers money. In response to NRECA's call for a waiver, the department proposed a short-term option for co-ops.

Co-ops should request congressional delegations to have DOE provide a more workable solution to sustain these water heaters as part of their demand response programs for consumer savings.

Sen. Saxby Chambliss and Rep. John Barrow, both from Georgia, are circulating "Dear Colleague" letters to encourage DOE to agree to a more workable waiver timeframe for its electric water



Photos by Brenda Kleinjan/SDREA

East River Electric General Manager Jeff Nelson, right, and assistant general manager Scott Parsley, center, discuss a legislative issue with Janelle DiLuccia, legislative assistant for Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D.

heater efficiency standard.

Pole Attachments

Electric co-ops called on their Senators and House members to maintain their federal pole attachment exemption.

Congress has recognized the local direction of co-ops and exempted them from the Federal Communications Commission pole attachment regulations, but the cable industry is pushing lawmakers to reconsider in a move that would raise rates.

NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson: Co-ops Make a Difference

By Todd H. Cunningham • ECT Staff Writer

Making a difference in peoples' lives as a member of Congress became increasingly difficult in recent years, noted NRECA CEO, and former lawmaker, Jo Ann Emerson. But electric cooperatives do just that on an ongoing basis, she added.

This opportunity – "to change lives and make a difference" – is why the nine-term House member left Capitol Hill earlier this year to become NRECA's CEO.

"That's what's different about electric co-ops," Emerson explained in her May 2 keynote address to the annual meeting of the Energy Bar Association in Washington, D.C.

The CEO said she had been familiar with electric co-ops while on the Hill, through their efforts in her "wonderfully diverse ... but poor" congressional district in southeast Missouri. The nine co-ops in the agricultural area worked with their communities over the years on a range of recovery

and improvement efforts. Emerson pointed to co-ops' response to events such as a 2009 ice storm and, later, a devastating EF-4 tornado.

"Co-ops led the charge to rebuild," she recalled. "It was always the co-ops."



Emerson also shared stories of efforts in other areas. She recounted how Dade City, Fla.-based Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative had resuscitated the impoverished rural community of Lacoochee, which had been added to its service territory in 2007. The co-op launched a campaign to rebuild the depressed area, parts of which lacked indoor plumbing, raising millions of dollars and leveraging federal grants to support the effort.

Co-op consumer-members also donated food and clothing and worked to improve an elementary school in the community, helping raise it from a "D" rating to an "A."

"That inspired me and you can't imagine how many of these stories there are," Emerson told energy bar members. As another illustration, she

cited Asheboro, N.C.-based Randolph EMC, which led all of the state's electric co-ops in an effort to raise money to expand a university-based burn center.

Co-ops' good deeds don't stop at the U.S. border, Emerson said. She reported on a mission to Guatemala by more than 30 Indiana linemen, supported by the NRECA International Foundation and the Indiana statewide.

The co-op team worked with the local populace to bring electricity to a remote area that lacked this basic service. "Now I know what my grandfather felt like when the lights came on" many decades ago, one Hoosier lineman commented.

Responding to a question from an EBA member, Emerson turned to the energy situation here at home. The CEO told the group that she is an "all of the above" person on energy technologies.

However, she pointed out, many co-op consumer-members in rural America "don't have a lot of money," and cannot afford the additional costs attached to the renewable energy resources favored by some policy makers.

Vining Out

Regional Vineyards Take Root

Whether it be the home hobbyist growing a few grapes or a commercial vineyard growing produce for the region's emerging wine industry, the interest in vineyards specializing in cold-hardy variants is growing.

"It's a hobby that sort of got out of hand," said David Greenlee, who, with wife, Sue, owns Tucker's Walk Vineyard and Farm Winery at Garretson, S.D. The vineyard is named for their Afghan Hound, Tucker, who died in 1996.

"We had a good time with the hobby," said Greenlee of their vineyard's start. "We looked at the south slope of the neighbor's land out of our window. When he died, we asked the family about purchasing a couple of acres; we wound up purchasing 66 acres."

The vineyard features a 12-acre area that is fenced in by an 8-foot tall deer fence which contains 6.5 acres of grapes. About 30 acres of soybeans and corn in turn surround the vineyard.

"For us, that's about 3,500 plants," said Greenlee. "It's all we can do to take care of 3,500 plants."

Greenlee noted that about half of the plants are in production. It takes about four years from the time a vine is planted before it can be harvested.

"It is a lot of work. It's not hard work, it's just a lot of work," said Greenlee of operating a vineyard.

And, it's work that pays off.

"We're able to use our own grapes so we don't need to buy from anyone else," said Greenlee who noted they also grow rhubarb and other fruits to create the different varieties and flavors sold under the Tucker's Walk label.

"We are able to grow grapes where 15 to 20 years ago, you would never have tried because they would have never made it through the winter," Greenlee said. New varieties created at the University of Minnesota and Cornell University have developed the cold-hardy grapes, crossing the California wine-making grapes with the area's native grapes that can survive the harsh winters of South Dakota and Minnesota.

The vineyard is something that holds appeal to people.

"There's something – seductive isn't the right word – but, seductive, I guess about the grapes. Everyone wants to know what you're doing," said Greenlee.

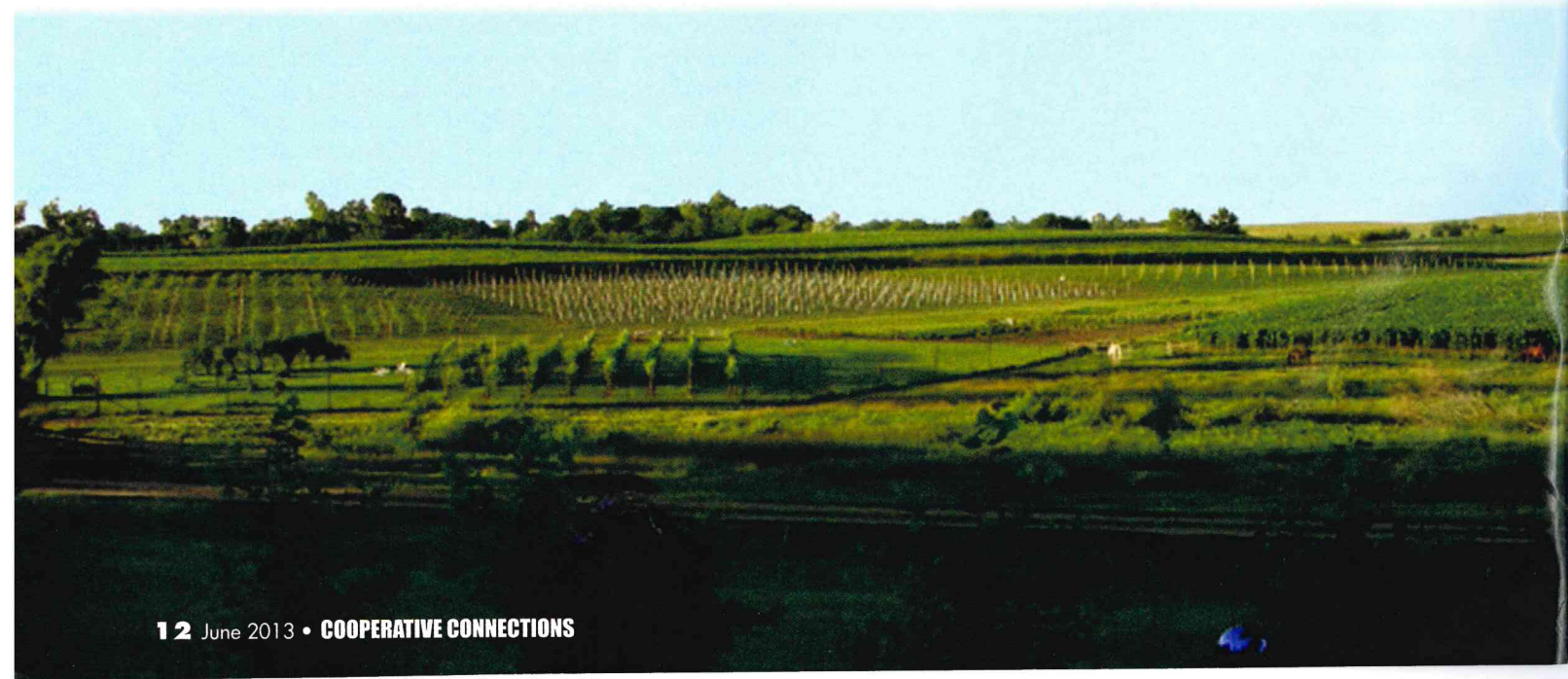
"We've had people wanting to help harvest grapes and even some who wanted to help with the planting," Greenlee said.

Creating the vineyard and then producing wine is a process that takes patience.

"It takes time to figure out what grapes will

By Brenda
Kleinjan

Tucker's Walk Vine-
yard and Farm Winery
is located west of
Garretson, S.D.



Vineyard Work Calendar

When one thinks of a vineyard, one may picture idyllic, tranquil settings and assume that, other than at harvest, the plants run on autopilot.

But, in reality, the carefully manicured and tended vines that will yield their fruit require year-round vigilance to ensure a good crop. Here's a look of the suggested work calendar for a vineyard, as published by South Dakota State University.

January/February

- Attend meetings to network and to learn more about viticulture production.
- Engage in business planning.
- Review disease, insect and weed management strategies.
- Determine supplies on hand/order supplies, including chemicals.
- Check and repair equipment, including sprayers and mowers.
- Build your relations with buyers.

March/April

- Test soil if you have not before or have not for several years.
- Make needed post/trellis repairs.
- Remove any old, diseased clusters that were missed during fall cleanup.
- Evaluate winter damage.
- Prepare to receive and handle new plants.
- Chop and disc ground cover for new plantings.
- Eliminate perennial and biennial weeds before grape bud break.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicides to established plantings,

according to label directions.

- Train vineyard personnel.
- Begin pruning, starting with the hardiest cultivars first. Pruning ideally should be done late; waiting until the vines bleed when cut will help to delay budbreak, thus decreasing chances of damage from spring frosts. Watch for disease signs and for cane borer damage when pruning. Record pruning weights of representative vines.
- Apply half the recommended amount of any recommended nutrients (refer to soil or tissue tests).
- Plant new dormant vines.
- Check and prepare the irrigation system for the growing season.

May

- Start monitoring soil moisture levels and irrigate if needed.
- Scout for insects that damage buds and young shoots.
- If grape berry moth was a problem last season, place pheromone traps in the vineyard to monitor for their presence.
- For control of phomopsis, anthracnose, powdery mildew, and black rot, lime sulphur with dormant oil sprays should be done as buds just begin to swell. If the buds have burst before you get a dormant spray on, use lime sulphur only, leaving out the dormant oil.
- Start shoot and cluster thinning.
- Cultivate to control weeds in new plantings.
- Mow between rows.

June

- Early June, start training new grape planting as needed; debud

any clusters that appear.

- Irrigate as needed.
- Spray for phomopsis, black rot, and powdery mildew
- Continue weed control in new plantings.
- Remove suckers from vine base.
- In late June, finish shoot and cluster thinning.
- In late June, shoot position vigorous vines and vines trained to a Geneva Double Curtain system. Keep the shoots spaced so there is minimal overlapping of leaves.
- Continue scouting for diseases and insect pests and apply control measures as needed.
- Mow between rows.
- Second application of glyphosate herbicide may be necessary.

July

- Continue training new plantings.
- Continue pest control program.
- Mow between rows.
- Irrigate as needed.
- Finish shoot positioning.
- VERAISON:
 - Collect leaf petioles for analysis of vine nutrient level.
 - If needed, remove leaves shading fruit, especially yellowed leaves.
 - Apply fungicide for bunch rot before installing bird net, if this has been a problem in the past.
 - If bird net is being used, it needs to be applied when grape color change starts; check nets several weeks ahead of time for condition. Remove tendrils at top of trellis wire before applying netting.

- Prepare for crop harvest.

August

- Continue training the new planting.
- Check weed control in new plantings.
- Irrigate as needed, but begin tapering off water to harden vines.
- Check fruit maturity — test for sugar content, flavor, and acidity, and start harvesting early cultivars.
- Mow between rows.
- Check vines for signs and symptoms of anthracnose.
- Contact winery/buyer to discuss harvest timing, fruit characters.
- Contact and train harvest personnel.
- HARVEST/POST-HARVEST:
 - Irrigate as needed, but sparsely, to harden vines.

September

- Begin plans for new plantings next spring; plow ground if it is in grass; treat for white grubs; sow ground cover.
- Continue maturity checking and harvesting.
- Continue disease management strategy.
- Irrigate as needed.
- Clean equipment.

October/November

- Order plants if you plan new plantings next year.
- Remove any diseased fruit from vineyard.
- Repair equipment.

For more information, see <http://sdgrapes.sdstate.edu>

grow. And, then it takes a while to figure out what will taste good," said Greenlee. "The experiments take time."

One of the varieties in the Tucker's Walk offerings is its Marquette, made from cold-hardy Marquette grapes patented by the U of M in 2006.

"So far as we know, we are the first winery to bring South Dakota Marquette to market," said Greenlee.

"We're enjoying it," said Greenlee.

"There will probably be more people who start off as a hobby and go from there," said Greenlee.

One such hobbyist with no current plans to go commercial is former Charles Mix Electric Cooperative employee Greg Farke.

Farke is growing five types of wine grapes near Armour, S.D.

"I have 10 vines of each variety, I should be able to get enough for a five-

gallon batch of each variety. Those vines take a lot of care. If you had any more vines than this, it would be more than a hobby," said Farke.

For more information on vineyards in the region, visit:

<http://northerngrapesproject.org/>
<http://mngrapegrowers.com/>
<http://www.sdstate.edu/ps/research/viticulture/>

Tomorrow's Home Appliances:

High Tech, High Efficiency

By Brenda Kleinjan

Below: Whirlpool® Appliances with 6th Sense Live™, make it simple to stay connected and in the know while managing your kitchen appliances. Control key features like managing your refrigerator temperature, locking your dishwasher control console and knowing when your cycle is done.

FOR GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS HANNA-BARBERA Studios' "The Jetsons" gave viewers a glimpse at what high-tech home life in 2062 might look like.

While the multi-talented Rosie the Robot isn't yet a fixture in homes, some of her characteristics are appearing in today's high-tech home appliances.

Consider some of these ideas and gadgets that won CES Innovations Awards in 2013:

iRobot's Looj 330 Gutter Cleaning Robot

<http://www.irobot.com>

The iRobot Looj 330 Gutter Cleaning Robot blasts away leaves, dirt and clogs while brushing gutters clean. Featuring a high-velocity, four-stage auger and the new CLEAN mode, Looj travels down your gutter on its own, sensing and adapting to debris.



Other offerings in the iRobot stable:

- The Roomba vacuum cleaner which sweeps up messes around the house. Certain Roomba models can be programmed to run automatically and return to their charging station when finished chasing dust bunnies and pet hair from floors.

- The Scooba floor washing robot can wash 150 to 450 square feet of floor at a time, depending on the model.

Lowe's Home Improvement Iris Smart Kit

<http://www.lowes.com>

Lowe's Iris is the first affordable DIY solution for monitoring and controlling the home. Iris uses Web and cloud computing to provide simple, scalable products and services to make homes safer, more efficient and easier to manage.



LG High-Efficiency Top Load Washer with 7-inch TFT LCD Touch Screen and Smart ThinQ Technology

<http://www.lg.com>

The WT6001/DLGX6002 laundry pair offers high-efficiency washing technology, TFT LCD touch-screen controls and LG's ThinQ Smart Technology Suite.



Samsung 30-inch Induction Range with Flex CookZone

<http://www.samsung.com/us/#latest-home>



Samsung's 30-inch induction range with Flex CookZone™ has a large cooking area with the flexibility to suit any pan configuration. It also has Boil Alert, which detects vibration and automatically reduces heat to a preset level to prevent boil-overs.

The CES Innovations Design and Engineering Awards gives consumer technology manufacturers and developers an opportunity to have their newest products judged by a panel of independent industrial designers, independent engineers and members of the trade press. Entries are judged on overall engineering qualities related to technical specifications and materials, aesthetics and design qualities, the product's intended use and function, unique features and the design and innovation of the product.

Your Shopping Strategy

READY TO SHOP? DON'T FORGET TO:

Measure. Make sure the space you've got for an appliance is big enough to fit it, including room to open the door or lid fully and appropriate clearance for ventilation.

Compare performance. Decide which features are important to you, and ask about how various models operate: Are they noisy? What safety features do they have? What about repair histories? How much water do they use? Expert reviews might be helpful. Online reviews also can help you spot common complaints, but don't put all your faith in any one review. Try searching for the company or product's name with words like "review" or "complaint."

Look at the energy use. This is where the EnergyGuide label comes in handy. It lets you compare the energy use of similar models. The difference on your monthly utility bill can be significant, especially when considered over the life of an appliance, and might make up for a higher purchase price on a more efficient model.

Ask about special energy efficiency offers. Ask your salesperson or local utility for information on cash rebates, low-interest loans, or other incentive programs in your area for energy-efficient product purchases and how to qualify. Or visit DOE's Energy Saver site at energysavers.gov.

ENERGY STAR® Certified Appliances

When purchasing appliances, remember there are two price tags: what you pay at the register and what you pay in energy and water costs to operate them. By incorporating advanced technologies and premium features, ENERGY STAR® certified appliances help offset initial costs through energy savings over the life of the unit.

Certified appliances often feature the ENERGY STAR mark directly on the yellow EnergyGuide label. The EnergyGuide indicates how much energy is used to operate each appliance and provides an energy scale for you to compare products. It also lists approximate annual operating costs. Your exact costs will depend on local utility rates and types and sources of energy.

Refrigerators and Freezers

Improvements in insulation and compressors ensure that today's refrigerators and freezers use much less energy than older models. A new ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator is about 15 percent more energy efficient than the minimum federal standard for refrigerators and can cost you about \$50 a year to run, on average. A typical ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator uses less energy than a 60-watt light bulb.

An ENERGY STAR certified freezer uses 10 percent less energy than a new, non-certified model.

DEHUMIDIFIERS

A standard dehumidifier running constantly uses more energy than a refrigerator, clothes washer, and dishwasher combined. An ENERGY STAR certified dehumidifier removes the same amount of moisture as a similarly sized standard unit, but uses 15 percent less energy because it has more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors, and fans. An average ENERGY STAR certified dehumidifier can save you about \$175 over the life of the unit—enough to pay for the dehumidifier.

Room Air Cleaners and Purifiers

Room air cleaners and purifiers help remove fine particles, such as dust and pollen, from indoor air. ENERGY STAR certified room air cleaners are 40 percent more energy-efficient than standard models, saving you \$25 annually on your utility bills. These savings could add up to more than \$200 over the life of the air purifier.

Dishwashers

New ENERGY STAR certified dishwashers, on average, are 10 percent more energy efficient and 20 percent more water efficient than standard models, costing less than \$35 annually to run, while saving on average, 1,900 gallons of water over its lifetime. Using advanced technology such as soil sensors, improved water filtration, more efficient jets, and innovative dish rack designs, your dishes get clean while using less water and energy.

Clothes Washers

The average American family washes about 300 loads of laundry each year. An ENERGY STAR certified clothes washer can cut your energy costs by about a third and your water costs by more than half. Choose from top-loading or front-loading models that have greater capacity than standard models, which means you can run fewer loads to clean the same amount of laundry. Efficient motors spin clothes faster during the spin cycle to extract more water, meaning less energy use for drying time.

Regional Dateline

May 30-June 2

Argus Leader RibFest
Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-7288

May 31-June 1

Car and Motorcycle Show
and Swap Meet
Sisseton, SD, 605-698-3401

May 31-June 2

Regional Qualifying
High School Rodeo
Rodeo Grounds, Wall, SD
605-529-5868

May 31-June 2

Regional Qualifying
High School Rodeo
Rodeo Grounds, Winner, SD
605-529-5868

May 31-June 2

Regional Qualifying
High School Rodeo
Rodeo Grounds, Huron, SD
605-529-5868

May 31-June 2

Regional Qualifying
High School Rodeo
Tipperary Arena, Buffalo, SD
605-529-5868

May 31-June 2

Wheel Jam
Huron, SD, 605-353-7340
www.wheeljam.com

June 7-9

Regional Qualifying
High School Rodeo
Stanley County Fairgrounds
Fort Pierre, SD
605-529-5868



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCIS SEER

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.

Events of Special Note

June 21-22

1928 Ford Tri-motor Aircraft
Chan Gurney Airport
Rides Available, Yankton, SD
605-660-4237

June 22-23

Air/Fan Boat Rides
Oahe Days, Pierre, SD
605-530-2430

June 7-9

Regional Qualifying
High School Rodeo
Rodeo Grounds, Sturgis, SD
605-529-5868

June 7-9

Regional Qualifying
High School Rodeo
Rodeo Grounds, Dupree, SD
605-529-5868

June 7-9

Regional Qualifying
High School Rodeo
Derby Downs Rodeo Grounds
Watertown, SD, 605-529-5868

June 14-16

Hills & Valley Riding Club
Annual Trail Ride
Sisseton, SD, 605-742-3077

June 14-16

Crazy Horse Stampede Rodeo
Crazy Horse, SD
605-673-4681
www.crazyhorsememorial.org

June 15-16

Parrot Festival
Belle Fourche, SD
605-892-2336

June 15

Center of the Nation
All Car Rally, Belle Fourche, SD
605-892-2676

June 19-23

State High School Finals Rodeo
Roundup Rodeo Grounds
Belle Fourche, SD
605-529-5868

June 20-22

Tabor Czech Days, Tabor, SD
www.taborczechdays.com

June 21

Dalesburg Midsummer
Festival, Vermillion, SD
605-253-2575

June 21-22

Wellmark Tour de Oahe
Pierre, SD, 605-222-0858

June 21-22

Shrine Circus, Mobridge, SD
605-845-2387

June 21-23

Red Wall Canyon Cowboy Music
Festival and Trail Ride
Hot Springs, SD, 605-745-1890
www.redwallcanyon.com

June 23

Kite & Bike Festival
Brookings, SD
www.southdakotaartmuseum.com

June 27-29

Crystal Springs Ranch Rodeo
Clear Lake, SD, 605-874-2996
www.crystalspringsrodeo.com

June 28-29

Rodeo, Irene, SD
605-263-2855

June 28-30

Black Hills Bluegrass Festival
Sturgis, SD, 605-348-1198
www.blackhillsbluegrass.com