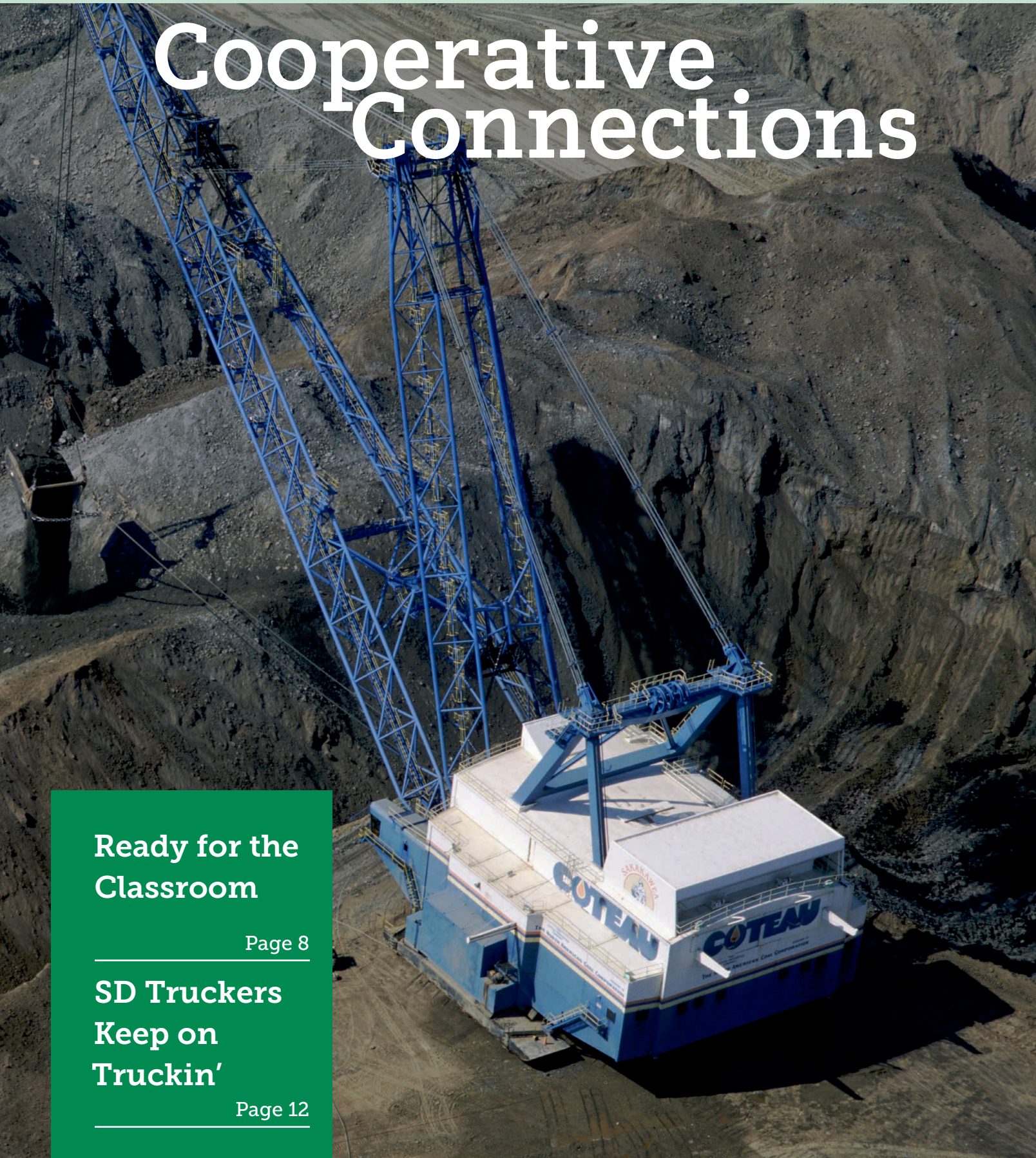
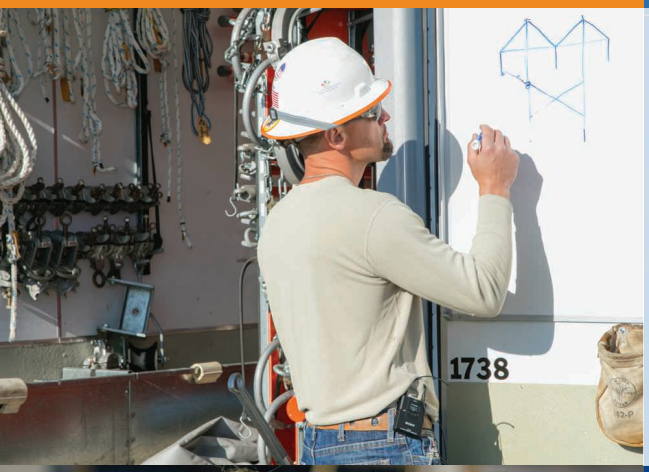
South Dakota Electric
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
September 2019 Vol. 71 No. 9

Cooperative Connections



Tough training.

Safe & reliable power.



Linemen play a critical role in our mission to provide reliable, affordable electricity. Tough training and a focus on safety is behind everything they do. Simulated field operations and emergency-response training are ways Basin Electric invests in their safety and in providing reliable power to you.

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

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Black Hills Electric, Custer, S.D.
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Rushmore Electric, Rapid City, S.D.
Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.
Southeastern Electric, Marion, S.D.
Traverse Electric, Wheaton, Minn.
Union County Electric, Elk Point, S.D.
West Central Electric, Murdo, S.D.
West River Electric, Wall, S.D
Whetstone Valley Electric, Milbank, S.D.
City of Elk Point, S.D.

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Brenda Kleinjan, Editor
Dawn Trapp, Communications Specialist
Jocelyn Romey, Staff Communications Professional

Study Committee Holds First Meeting

The Electric Services in an Annexed Area Study Committee, chaired by Sen. Alan Solano, R-Rapid City, held its first meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at the State Capitol in Pierre, S.D. The interim committee was created through the passage of Senate Bill 66 by the 2019 Legislature. SB 66, otherwise known as the Territorial Integrity Act, sought to freeze electric utility service territories and stop municipal utility taking of electric cooperative territory. The meeting agenda included presentations by representatives of the Public Utilities Commission, electric cooperatives, municipal-owned utilities and investor-owned utilities. Time was also allowed for public testimony.

Current statutes create different sets of rules that govern any changes to South Dakota electric service territory. By law, electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities must collaborate and agree upon changes in service territory between the two. Municipal governments, on the other hand, have the authority to expand their electric service boundaries and take territory from incumbent electric providers. These differences in the rules favor government taking of private enterprise.

"It is unfair, even dangerous, to presume that just because government participates as a provider of goods and/or services in any industry alongside other private providers, that the interests of government should be held superior to any other participant in that industry," said Ed Anderson, general manager of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. "In this case, providing for the unilateral taking of service territory by government does just that."

Through the summer study process, the state's electric cooperatives want to level the playing field by requiring municipal electric utilities to follow the same negotiation rules followed by rural electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities.

"Applying the same rules to all electric utilities operating in the state will not impede municipal annexations," said Anderson. "It will force municipal governments to engage in the same conversations about fairness and equity that an investor-owned utility and an electric cooperative must consider when making individual customer exchanges or making permanent changes to the boundaries."

The issue has been an ongoing one. It comes to a head periodically when municipal governments take over the territories of cooperatives or investor-owned utilities. These are areas the co-ops have served for decades and have incorporated into long-range planning. Electric cooperatives have built the infrastructure needed to serve all areas of their territories. When municipal utilities take away the electric service areas of those co-ops, the infrastructure, including generation, transmission, substations and distribution assets, that have been put into place become useless. The municipal-taking of incumbent utility territory also greatly limits the incumbent's ability to plan for the future because the territory is so easily seized by the local government.

"Density is everything when you're distributing the costs of building, operating and maintaining a system across a customer or member base," said Anderson. "With less than three members per mile on average across the state, compared to 40-plus customers per mile for municipal electric systems, the economics of losing higher density development through takings is significant. The loss of that opportunity, coupled with the loss of revenue from existing members, can never be recovered."

In addition to Sen. Solano, the committee members are Reps. Thomas Brunner (R-Nisland), vice chairman; Shawn Bordeaux (D-Mission); Kirk Chaffee (R-Whitewood); Spencer Gosch (R-Glenham); and Rep. Tim Reed (R-Brookings); and Sens. Lee Schoenbeck (R-Watertown); Susan Wismer (D-Britton); and Jordan Youngberg (R-Chester).

To learn more about the Electric Services in an Annexed Area Study Committee, visit https://sdlegislature.gov/Interim/Documents.aspx?Committee=216&Ses-

Back to School Safety

As many prepare for this upcoming school year, we want to share some electrical safety tips that are useful for students of all ages.

Elementary School Students

- Never throw shoes onto power lines and definitely don't try to get them off of the lines.
- Writing utensils and other supplies like paper clips should never be placed in or near electrical outlets, even if you think the outlet isn't working.
- Make sure your hands and the area around you are dry before plugging something in. This is especially important in science labs where there are usually several sets of sinks, an eye wash, chemicals, etc.
- When unplugging things from an electrical outlet, always hold the plastic base to pull the plug out.

Middle/High School Students

- If you've just received the privilege of driving to school with your newly obtained driver's license, pay close to attention on those morning and afternoon drives for utility crews at work. Should you be involved in an accident involving a power line or pole, assume live electricity is outside of the car and use extreme caution.
- Always steer clear of pad-mount transformers – the big green metal boxes. All electrical equipment on school property should be avoided due to the possible dangers of electrical shock.
- Always be cautious in science classes, specifically the ones with labs. Sinks, eye washes, chemicals – it's likely your hands or the area near you will be wet. Keep everything dry and use caution when plugging in equipment.

College Students

- Get in the habit of unplugging what's not in use.
- Use only approved electrical products with the mark of a recognized certification agency.
- Choose a power strip with a heavy-gauge cord that is approved by a recognized certification agency.
- Replace frayed or damaged extension cords with new ones.
- Keep extension cords out from under carpet, rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and also present a fire hazard.
- Keep flammable materials such as books, paper and clothing away from heaters, stoves and other heating sources.
- Never leave cooking appliances unattended.
- Plug portable heaters and air conditioners directly into the outlet. If an extension cord is needed, to prevent overheating and risk of fire, use only one that is rated for this purpose to ensure that the cord can handle the electrical current.
- Never remove the third prong from an electrical product. The third prong is the grounding device and is a critical safety feature.
- Keep gadgets and cords away from bedding and curtains. The heat from a laptop charger or mini-fridge can start an electrical fire if left in contact with flammable material for too long.
- Avoid overloading outlets or circuits as this can cause overheating that may lead to fire.

Source: twielectric.com

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER

"If you drive into an electric line, call 911 for help!

Sawyer Nelson, 12 years old

Sawyer is the son of Wes and Chris Nelson, Wolsey, S.D. They are members of Dakota Energy Cooperative, Huron, SD.

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.

Recipe and photo courtesy mccormick.com/recipes

Garden Goodness

Roasted Vegetables

1 tsp. garlic salt
1 tsp. Italian seasoning
1/2 tsp. fennel seed
1 small green bell pepper, cut into chunks
1 small yellow squash, sliced
1 small red onion, cut into thin wedges
1 small zucchini, sliced
1 cup asparagus pieces
1 cup red potato chunks
2 T. oil

Mix seasonings in small bowl. Toss vegetables and oil in large bowl. Add seasonings; toss to coat well. Spread vegetables in single layer on foil-lined 15x10x1-inch baking pan. Bake at 450°F. for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Makes 6 Servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 93, Total Fat 5g, Sodium 342mg, Cholesterol 0mg, Carbohydrates 10g, Protein 2g, Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Microwave Tomato Dish

2 large, firm ripe tomatoes
1/2 lb. ground beef
4 T. chopped onion
1/4 tsp. garlic salt
1/2 cup seasoned stuffing mix
2 beaten eggs
Dash of pepper

Cut a slice off the stem end of tomato. Scoop out pulp; place into a small glass baking dish. Combine remaining ingredients to fill tomato shell. Place filled tomatoes in dish of pulp. Cover with waxed paper. Microwave 5 to 8 minutes. Let set covered 2 minutes.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, SD

Zucchini Chips

4 cups thinly sliced zucchini (about 2-3 medium)
2 T. extra virgin olive oil
2 T. white balsamic vinegar
2 tsp. coarse sea salt

Use a mandolin or slice zucchini as thin as possible. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil and vinegar together. Place zucchini in a large bowl and toss with oil and vinegar. Add zucchini in even layers to dehydrator then sprinkle with coarse sea salt. Depending on how thin you sliced the zucchini and on your dehydrator, the drying time will vary, anywhere from 8 to 14 hours. To make in the oven, line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Layer zucchini evenly. Bake at 200°F. for 2 to 3 hours. Rotate half way during cooking time. Store in an airtight container.

Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD

Apple Pie Filling

4-1/2 cups sugar
1 cup cornstarch
2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg, optional
1 tsp. salt
3 T. lemon juice
2 to 3 drops yellow food coloring
5-1/2 to 6 lbs. tart apples, peeled and sliced

In a large saucepan, blend sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add salt and stir in 10 cups water. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Add lemon juice and food coloring. Pack raw apples into hot jars, leaving 1-inch head space. Use spatula to help distribute syrup. Adjust lids. Process in boiling water bath – pints 15 minutes and quarts 20 minutes. Makes 6 to 8 quarts. Before serving, prepare pastry for a double crust 8- or 9-inch pie. Line pie plate with pastry, add 1 quart apple pie fulling. Adjust top crust, cutting slits for escape of steam; seal edges. Bake at 400°F. for 50 minutes.

Linda Goulet, Tea, SD

Kohlrabi Au Gratin

6 med. kohlrabi, peeled and sliced
3 T. flour
3 T. margarine, melted and divided
1 cup sour cream
3/4 cup shredded American cheese
1/2 cup milk
2 T. sliced green onion
3/4 cup soft bread crumbs (1 slice)

Cook kohlrabi, covered, in small amount of boiling salt water 25 minutes, drain. Blend flour into 2 T. melted margarine. Stir in sour cream, cheese, milk and onion. Cook and stir until cheese melts. Combine kohlrabi and sauce; turn into 1.5-quart casserole. Toss crumbs and remaining margarine; sprinkle over top. Bake, covered, at 350°F. for 15 minutes. Uncover and bake and additional 15 to 20 minutes. Serves 6 to 8.

Shirley Thedorff, Centerville, SD

Please send your favorite pasta, slow cooker and holiday 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 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Insulating for Comfort and Energy Savings

Pat Keegan
Collaborative Efficiency

Dear Pat and Brad: We're dreading winter. It feels like every year, no matter what we do, our home still feels cold and our heating bills go through the roof. We think our home may need more insulation. Any advice before winter hits? – Grace

Dear Grace: There's a good chance you are right about the problem. Most older homes – and many newer ones – are not properly insulated and adding insulation can be a good investment year-round since it can help keep out the summer heat as well.

There are many types of insulation, but I'll focus on the three most common types in residential buildings: batt, loose-fill and rigid.

Batt insulation can be made with several kinds of fibers including fiberglass and wool. It's cut to fit between the framing in your ceilings, walls or floors. Loose-fill insulation is made with small pellets or particles. It can be added by hand or blown in by machine into attic floors or exterior wall cavities. Rigid insulation comes in light sheets and is installed against a solid surface like an exterior wall or foundation.

All insulation is measured by its R-value. A higher R-value is more effective. The amount of R-value you need depends on your climate and where the insulation is being added in your home.

The amount of R-value you need depends on your climate and where the insulation is being added in your home.

If your heating costs are too high, there's a good chance the attic is part of the problem. Finished attics are usually under-insulated and correcting the problem can be a challenge. If your attic is unfinished, solutions will be simpler and more cost-effective.

You can inspect your unfinished attic, but be cautious. Loose-fill insulation in older homes may have harmful asbestos that you absolutely do not want to disturb. It's probably best to just poke your head in enough to look around, since it's easy to damage wiring or ducts, or step through the ceiling.

The attic will likely have loose-fill insulation or batts on the floor. Look carefully to see if the insulation is spread evenly with no gaps or voids. To determine whether there is enough insulation, you can start by researching the recommended amount for your climate. The Department of Energy publishes that information, which you can find on their website. After measuring the depth of the insulation, you can calculate the R-value. Different types of insulation have different R-values per inch. If your attic insulation is far short of the recommended levels, you will likely see major energy savings by having a professional add enough to reach that level.

The next place to check is the walls. Many homes built before 1980 have little or no wall insulation, and even newer homes may lack proper insulation. You might be able to see if the walls are insulated by carefully removing an outlet cover.

The most common technique for adding insulation to walls is to have it blown in through holes drilled from inside or outside the home. These holes can be easily patched. An alternative, if the house is being re-sided, is to add rigid insulation to the exterior, underneath the new siding.

Finally, if your floor gets cold in winter and you have a crawl space, you can install batt insulation between the floor joists. If your home is built on a concrete slab, rigid foam can be installed around the perimeter.

Insulation works great if you choose the right approach and the work is done carefully. Contact the energy experts at your electric co-op for more information about insulation solutions.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips

Co-op Leaders to be Recognized

Trio to be inducted into South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame


Mike Nickolas

Ray Scherschligt


Don Snyders

Three co-op leaders – Mike Nickolas of Aberdeen, Ray Scherschligt of Alpena and Don Snyders of Valley Springs – will be inducted into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame during the Co-op Month Banquet and Induction Ceremony Sept. 17 at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls, S.D. Induction into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame is the highest honor that the cooperative community can bestow on those whose endeavors in the cause of the cooperative form of enterprise have been genuinely heroic.

Mike Nickolas, Agtegra Cooperative

Bowdle-native Mike Nickolas was a leader in two of the nation's largest cooperatives. Nickolas began his grain marketing career at South Dakota Wheat Growers Association (SDWG), now Agtegra Cooperative, in 1981. In 1998, he joined North Central Farmers Elevator (NCFE) as grain division manager before becoming that co-op's general manager in 2012. When SDWG and NCFE merged to become Agtegra, he became the new co-op's executive vice president/COO of Grain, retiring in January 2019.

Ray Scherschligt, Alpena Co-op Oil and Santel Communications

At Alpena Co-op Oil Company, Scherschligt was the general manager of the ag and fuel cooperative from 1958 to 1989, instilling and supporting a community and cooperative philosophy. One nominator wrote, "Ray worked tierelssly to lead his employees by example. He worked six days per week doing the bookwork, fixing tires, hauling fuel and fertilizer, pumping gas...whatever needed done. No job was too menial for the manager to do." He also served on the Santel Communications Cooperative board of directors from 1973 to 2002, including as board secretary.

Don Snyders, Alliance Communications

During his tenure as manager of Alliance Communications in Garretson, S.D., Snyders was at the helm when the cooperative was formed through the merger between Splitrock Telecom and Baltic Telecom in 2003. By the time of his retirement in 2015, the co-op had 11,600 customers and served 19 communities. He also oversaw a nine-year $66 million project to bring fiber-optic connectivity to every customer in its market. His 36 years at Alliance saw him not only serve on the South Dakota Telecommunications Association board of directors but also on the SDN board of directors.

Interested in attending?

To purchase tickets for the banquet, contact the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives by Sept. 1 at 116 N Euclid, Pierre, SD 57501. Tickets are $45.

Past Inductees

- **1985** – Arthur Jones (1905-1985) and Emil Loriks (1895-1985)
- **1986** – Albert Schramm (1916-2000) and Herman D. Holt (1909-1986)
- **1987** – John Riedy (1911-2001) and August Dahme (1901-1980)
- **1988** – J. Evan Rasmussen (1905-1990) and John Skage (1904-1989)
- **1989** – Darrell Moseson (1926-2019) and Warren G. Grebner (1920-2014)
- **1990** – J.E. Krull Sr. (1909-1999) and Lawrence Stoley (1901-1987)
- **1991** – Clifford G. Bell (1904-2000) and Warren Moe (1925-2011)
- **1992** – Ken Holum (1915-1998) and John A. Cink (1911-2002)
- **1993** – Clement J. Kloucek (1925-2005) and S. Douglas Murphy (1904-1996)
- **1994** – Philip Testerman and Max Farrar (1897-1980)
- **1995** – Quentin E. Louden (1919-2012) and Oscar C. Johnson (1880-1965)
- **1996** – Vernon L. Berg (1920-1998) and Leo P. Flynn (1908-2001)
- **1997** – Ben Radcliffe (1915-2014) and G.L. Moseson (1894-1973)
- **1998** – J.D. Lynd (1933-2013) and George A. Hargens, Jr. (1921-1999)
- **1999** – Raymond M. Judy (1919-1997) and Virgil Fodness (1922-2013)
- **2000** – Keith Taylor (1923-2002) and Joseph Hieb (1924-2017)
- **2001** – Robert A. Johnson (1921-2014) and Donald N. Olson (1928-2006)
- **2002** – Vincent Erz (1926-2012) and Donald Wynia
- **2003** – Brian Meyer (1943-2003) and Don Paulsen (1930-2018)
- **2004** – Ed Fritzsche (1923-2005) and Dean Rasmussen
- **2005** – Robert Ching (1924-2012), Darrell Henderson and Alex Stoeser (1925-2000)
- **2006** – Dennis Hagny and Robert Rademacher
- **2007** – Leroy Schecher, Ralph Schreurs and Merlin VanWalleghen
- **2008** – Charles Olsen and Donald Fieber
- **2009** – Delbert Bushong and Owen Jones
- **2010** – Jake Boomsma, Milo Gilbertson and Barry Jensen
- **2011** – Jeffrey L. Nelson and Wayne Wright
- **2012** – Luverne Crosser, Gary French, Ron Minnaert and Larry Wilson
- **2013** – Thomas Hueners, John D. Johnson and Loren Noess
- **2014** – Gene Kroell, John Van Beek and Harvey Wollman
- **2015** – Keith Hainy, Roy Ireland, Rodney Renner and Carlyle Richards
- **2016** – Bill Bielmaier, Mark Hofer and Ronald Sandine
- **2017** – Jerry Heiberger and Clair Bonebright
- **2018** – Dale Locken and Kermit Pearson

Patricia DeMers of Colome, S.D., takes part in activity demonstrating the mining and reclamation process.

TEACHERS HIT ENERGY CLASSROOMS

Annual Seminar Equips Educators with First-hand Experience

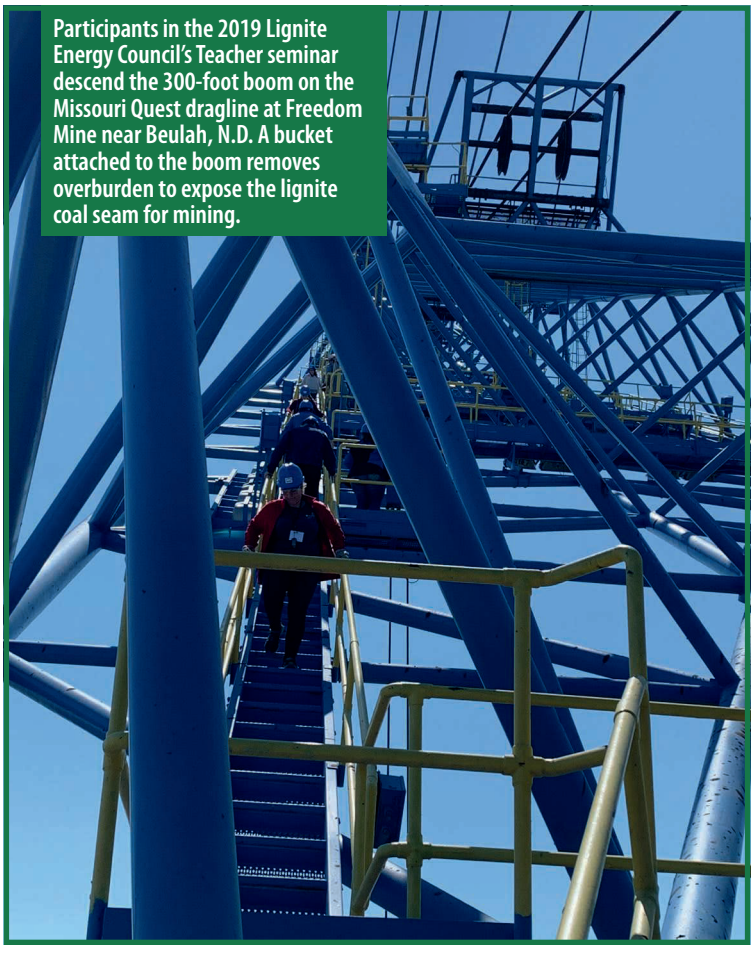
Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

When Craig Shryock's vocational agriculture students at Wessington Springs High School return to the classroom this fall, they will eventually cover a section on electricity and Shryock can provide some first-hand lessons to his students thanks to a summer course he took.

Several years ago, Shryock was one of dozens of teachers to attend the Lignite Energy Council's Teacher Seminar held each June since 1986. Since the first seminar was offered, more than 3,300 teachers have attended, giving each an insight into not only coal's role in energy production, but also into electricity in general.

At a meeting of fellow ag teachers this summer, Shryock spoke about the seminar and its value.



Participants in the 2019 Lignite Energy Council's Teacher seminar descend the 300-foot boom on the Missouri Quest dragline at Freedom Mine near Beulah, N.D. A bucket attached to the boom removes overburden to expose the lignite coal seam for mining.

"Being able to hold up that vial of coal and let the students see it is important," Shryock said.

Having that tangible piece of coal to serve as a learning tool helps students understand that electricity is more than just flipping on a switch in the morning.

The piece of coal was just one take away that seminar attendees like Shryock benefit from. At the conclusion of the seminar, teachers take home handouts, videos, coal samples, and activities that can be used in the classroom, as well as two professional graduate credits.

The goal of the seminar is to provide teachers with the information and educational materials they need to teach their students about how lignite is mined and used to produce electricity for homes, farms and businesses in the Upper Midwest. In addition, the seminar covers lignite's economic impact on the region, as well as important environmental issues affecting the lignite industry.

Educators attending the seminar are eligible to earn two professional development graduate credits from three North Dakota universities: North Dakota State University (teaching and learning), University of North Dakota (education), Minot State University (science).

Students in Craig Shryock's vocational agriculture courses at Wessington Springs High School benefit lessons he learned at the Lignite Energy Council's Teacher Seminar.

All teachers and faculty are encouraged to apply for the seminar with preference given to fourth grade through 12th grade teachers,those with science, math or social studies as a primary subject matter and career counselors.

The seminar is a no-cost seminar for K-12 teachers in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Iowa, but they may incur travel expenses. Sponsorships may available for transportation reimbursement to and from the seminar for eligible teachers in Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. Those sponsorships will be arranged by the utilities and cooperatives serving those states. Housing and most meals during the seminar are paid for as are graduate credit hours.

Handouts and classroom activities made available to the teachers go beyond lignite coal and lignite mining and reclamation. Teachers also dive into light bulb efficiencies and types, electricity transmission systems, energy use, carbon capture and storage, workforce issues, geology and environmental compliance.

For more information on the seminar, visit https://lignite.com/events/teachers-seminar/ or contact the Lignite Energy Council at 701-258-7117.

Teachers get an up-close view of equipment used in the mining process at Coteau Properties' Freedom Mine at Beulah, N.D.

South Dakota Youth Excursion participants pose for a photo at Antelope Valley Station near Beulah, N.D.

YOUTH EXCURSION '19

Teens Explore Energy, Cooperative Careers

Jocelyn Romey

jocelyn.romey@sdrea.coop

Forty-eight teens from 15 electric cooperatives in South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota traveled to North Dakota July 22-25 to explore energy production, cooperatives and careers in related industries.

The group traveled by bus to Bismarck where they stayed in a residence hall on the Bismarck State College campus.

Time spent at the National Energy Center of Excellence on the Bismarck State College campus included hands-on science and energy-based activities, including information about energy-related careers.

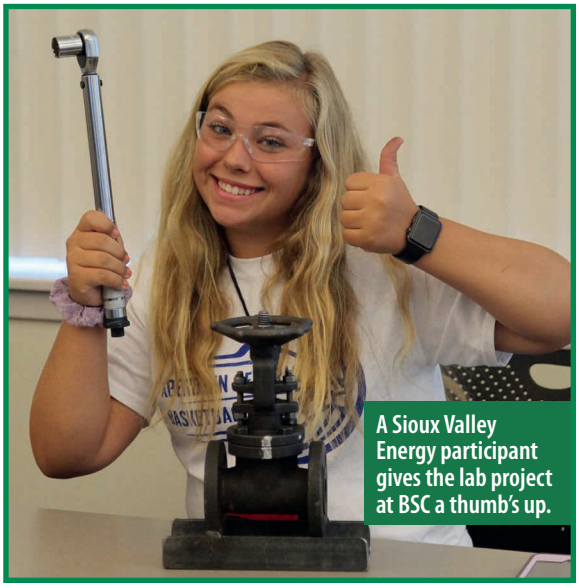
Students also visited Basin Electric Power Cooperative's headquarters to see how their energy production is managed and BisMan Food Cooperative to see how the cooperative business model works in a community grocery store setting.

The third day of the excursion was spent in Beulah, N.D., where they toured a coal mine, visited the Antelope Valley Station coal-based power plant, learned about how the electricity produced in North Dakota enters the electric grid to be used in their homes and toured the Dakota Gasification Plant. Each stop showed how electricity is produced – beginning to end.

Students relaxed between the tours and learning with bean bag toss, trips to a water park and amusement park and a riverboat cruise.

A Bismarck State College instructor explains the solar collector panels outside the National Energy Center for Excellence building.

Lacreek Electric's Grace Jager tries her hand at a lab station at Bismarck State College.



A Sioux Valley Energy participant gives the lab project at BSC a thumb's up.

Hardhats and safety glasses were part of the Antelope Valley Station tour experience.

While at BSC, students got to check out a Tesla electric car.

2019 PARTICIPANTS

Bon Homme-Yankton Electric Association, Tabor, SD	
Alexandra Corbit	Yankton, SD
Brooke Davis	Scotland, SD
Butte Electric Cooperative, Newell, SD	
Karmin Brunner	Nisland, SD
Matthew Marrs	Whitewood, SD
Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell, SD	
Katelyn Nicholson	Mitchell, SD
Colin Pennings	Stickney, SD
Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative, Mission, SD	
Colby Petersen	Mission, SD
Clay-Union Electric Corporation, Vermillion	
Rebecca Kelley	Vermillion , SD
Isabelle Libby	Volin, SD
Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Watertown, SD	
Marin Femrite	Watertown, SD
Collin Fuller	Henry, SD
William Thuringer	Ortley, SD
FEM Electric Cooperative, Ipswich, SD	
Holly Anderson	Roscoe, SD
Miles Hoffman	Leola, SD
Erica Ingerson	Eureka, SD
Megan Nash	Mansfield, SD
Grand Electric Cooperative, Bison, SD	
Alexia Donovan	Bison, SD
Kahlea Seidel	Bison, SD
H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake, SD	
Madysen Brewer	Toronto, SD
Hunter Opdahl	Hayti, SD
Evan Oppelt	Goodwin, SD
Carter Verhelst	Gary, SD
Lacreek Electric Association, Martin, SD	
Grace Jager	Martin, SD
Paige Pettit	Martin, SD
Lake Region Electric Association, Webster, SD	
Dane Feldhaus	Britton, SD
Taylor Storbakken	Lidgerwood, ND
Northern Electric Cooperative, Bath, SD	
Cynthia Ford	Miller, SD
Breanna Huber	Mansfield, SD
Kaitlyn Kost	Aberdeen, SD
Hailey Monson	Groton, SD
Danielle Nowell	Hitchcock, SD
Irelande Podoll	Westport, SD
Elizabeth Wanous	Mansfield, SD
Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, SD	
Emma Budden	Pipestone, MN
Caeden Bunde	Garretson, SD
Abby Connor	Winfred, SD
James Drietz	Flandreau, SD
Hunter Griffin	Dell Rapids, SD
Melissa Jacobson	Brandon, SD
Jacob Jorgenson	Brandon, SD
Jada Lembcke	Volga, SD
Emilee Owen	Volga, SD
Luke Ross	Garretson, SD
Jordan Saathoff	Estelline, SD
West River Electric Association, Wall, SD	
Sean Crandall	Rapid City, SD
Dawson Hoffman	Rapid City, SD
Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Milbank, SD	
Jenna Johnson	Stockholm, SD
Korbin Leddy	Stockholm, SD
Chaperones	
Chinelle Christensen	Sioux Valley Energy
Justin McClurg	Lake Region Electric
Amy & Mike Pisha	Lacreek Electric
Jocelyn Romey	SDREA
Brenda Kleinjan	SDREA

Trucking Along

Future Driver Shortage May Tap the Brakes

Brenda Kleinjan
editor@sdrea.coop

Our industry could be short just over 100,000 drivers in five years and 160,000 drivers in 2028.

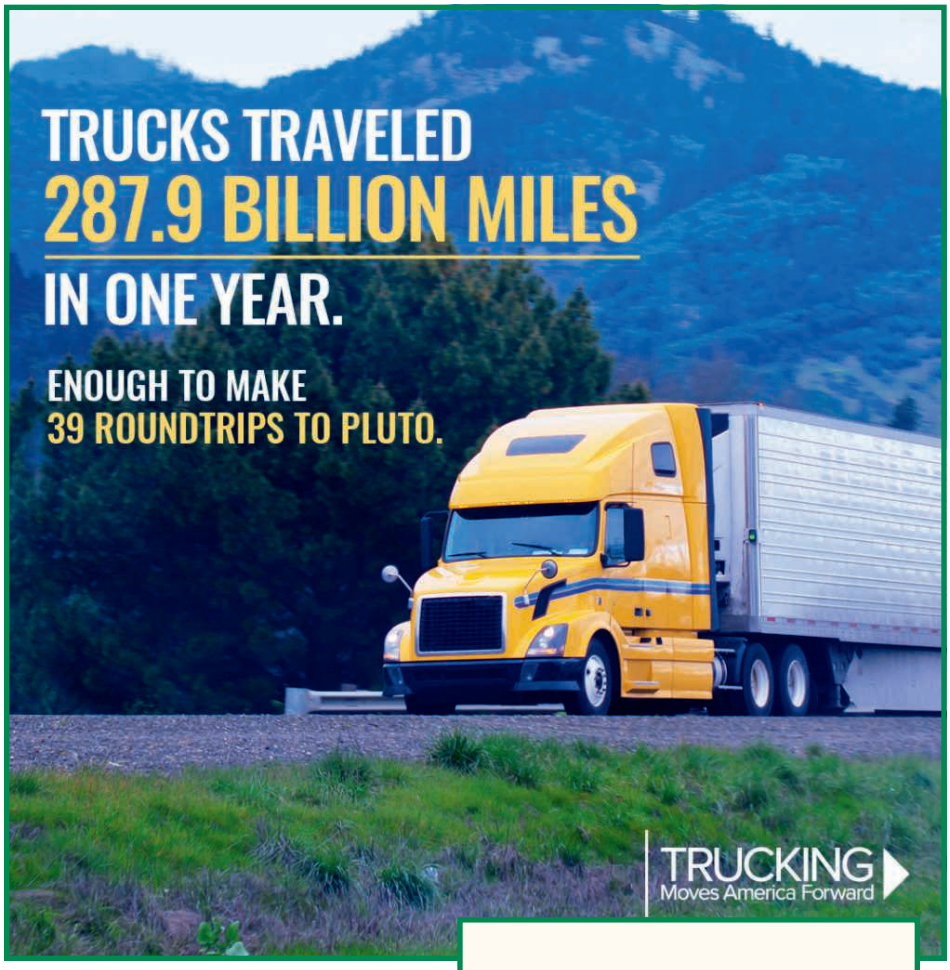
Travel down any major highway in the region and chances are you'll encounter dozens of semi trucks.

Some are hauling agriculture equipment or products, others may be hauling specialized loads such as wind turbine components. Yet others contain items destined for your local grocery store's shelves. Even your electric cooperative relies on timely deliveries of poles and materials hauled in by trucks.

There's no doubt about it, we're all connected by this nationwide trucking industry network.

This summer, the American Trucking Associations released its latest examination of the driver shortage, finding the industry needed 60,800 more drivers at the end of 2018 to meet the country's demands for freight services.

"Over the past 15 years, we've watched the shortage rise and fall with economic trends, but it ballooned last year to the highest level we've seen to date," said ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello. "The combination of a surging freight economy and carriers' need for qualified drivers could severely disrupt the supply chain.



The increase in the driver shortage should be a warning to carriers, shippers and policymakers because if conditions don't change substantively, our industry could be short just over 100,000 drivers in five years and 160,000 drivers in 2028."

The report details the factors that contribute to the shortage, including an aging driver population, increases in freight volumes and competition from other blue-collar careers. It also outlines potential market and policy solutions. While the report covers the entire trucking industry, the bulk of the shortage is in the over-the-road for-hire truckload market.

"The trucking industry needs to find ways to attract more and younger drivers," Costello said. "Right now, the average age of an over-the-road driver is

Sept. 8-14 is National Truck Driving Appreciation Week

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is a week recognizing the 3.5 million professional truck drivers that are an important part of our economy. Every day these dedicated professional men and women transport goods and services safely, protected and on time, while keeping highways safe.

A semi travels along U.S. Highway 281 north of Plankinton, S.D.

46 years old, and almost as alarming is that the average age of a new driver being trained is 35 years old.

"Whether by removing barriers for younger drivers to begin careers as drivers, attracting more demographic diversity into the industry, or easing the transition for veterans, we need to do more to recruit and retain drivers," he said. "That includes increasing pay, which happened at a brisk pace last year, to keep pace with demand, addressing lifestyle factors like getting drivers more time at home, and improving conditions on the job like reducing wait times at shipper facilities."

In order to meet the nation's freight demand, the report says the trucking industry will need to hire 1.1 million new drivers over the next decade – an average of 110,000 per year to replace retiring drivers and keep up with growth in the economy.

Myron Rau, president of the South Dakota Trucking Association in Sioux Falls, recently commented on the shortage in the *SDTA Trucking News*.

"It is probably not new news to anyone but it is reported that the U.S. trucker shortage is expected to double over the next decade. The driver deficit swelled by more than 10,000 to 60,800 in 2018 from a year earlier. The American Trucking Associations (ATA) estimates that 160,000 driver positions will go unfilled a decade from now. A possible solution has been proposed to regulators by the ATA. That solution is to lower the age for commercial drivers who can cross state lines by three years to 18. This proposal included increased training and supervision. Over 40 states now allow 18 year old drivers to get a commercial driver license to operate within the borders of their license issuing state. I believe there is a chance, if all parties come to the table, to implement this proposal that will bring some relief to predicted driver shortages," Rau wrote.

The SDTA holds its annual convention Sept. 4-6 in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Facts About Trucking

- Professional truck drivers drove over 287.9 billion miles in 2016, more than double 25 years ago. Those miles accounted for 14.2 percent of all motor vehicle miles and 29.8 percent of all truck miles.
- The trucking industry paid $41.8 billion in federal and state highway taxes in 2016, and represented 13.3 percent of vehicles on the road. The trucking industry paid $17.6 billion in federal highway-user taxes and $24.2 billion in state highway-user taxes in 2016.
- The trucking industry consumed 54.9 billion gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline in 2016. Based on consumption and price, ATA reported that motor carriers spent $142.9 billion in 2015.
- The federal fuel tax for diesel in 2018 is 24.4 cents per gallon; the average state tax for diesel fuel was 25.2 cents per gallon.
- There are 3.68 million class 8 trucks on the road in the United States and 11.7 million commercial trailers were registered in 2016.
- There are 7.7 million truck drivers in the United States. Total industry employment is 3.5 million or one out of every 16 people working in the United States.
- There are 777,240 for-hire carriers and 700,591 private carriers in the United States; 97.3 percent of them have fewer than 20 trucks and 91 percent are operating six trucks or less.
- In 2016, the trucking industry hauled 10.77 billion tons of freight, or 70.1 percent of total U.S. freight tonnage. Rail was the next busiest mode, moving 13.8 percent of the nation's freight tonnage.
- In 2017, the trucking industry was a $700.18 billion industry, representing 79.3 percent of the nation's freight bill.
- More than 80 percent of U.S. communities depend solely on trucking for delivery of their goods and commodities.

Source: Professional Truck Drivers and The Trucking Industry, October 2018

International Vinegar Museum volunteer Dick Snaza extols the virtues of seven types of vinegar available for sampling at the museum's tasting bar.

ALL THINGS VINEGAR

Roslyn Attraction Celebrates International Vinegars

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

As county fair and state fair season rolls around, it's easy to think of prize-winning jars of pickles preserved in vinegar-based solutions.

But, there's so much more to the world of vinegar than the basic white vinegar or apple cider vinegar sold by the gallon in grocery stores.

And, the folks of Roslyn, S.D., want to tell you that story.

Enter the International Vinegar Museum located on the north edge of Roslyn's business district. Housed in a historic auditorium built by the community and Public Works Administration employees during the Depression, the museum seeks to inform and educate about vinegar.

Twenty years ago, Lawrence Diggs, also known as

The International Vinegar Museum is located in the Roslyn Auditorium, a building built by the Town of Roslyn and the Works Progress Administration in 1936.

The Vinegar Man, moved from California to Roslyn. Discussions soon began on ways to improve the quality of life and future of the towns of Roslyn and Eden. The museum opened in 1999 in the historic Roslyn Auditorium.

Once home to the Roslyn Vikings, the building's wood floors would become the foundation to showcase all things vinegar. Community volunteers oversee the museum's daily operations and provide tours to guests.

The first stop on entering the museum is a display explaining the process of making vinegar. According to eight yellow signs on the wall, one starts with a starch from either grains or root crops which becomes sugar by malting, molds, enzymes and hydrolysis. The sugar is converted to alcohol by yeast and then the alcohol is converted to vinegar by Acetobacter Aceti. The vinegar is then aged to improve flavor and mouth feel before finally being packaged and shipped. (The museum's own brand of balsamic vinegar is aged 18 years.)

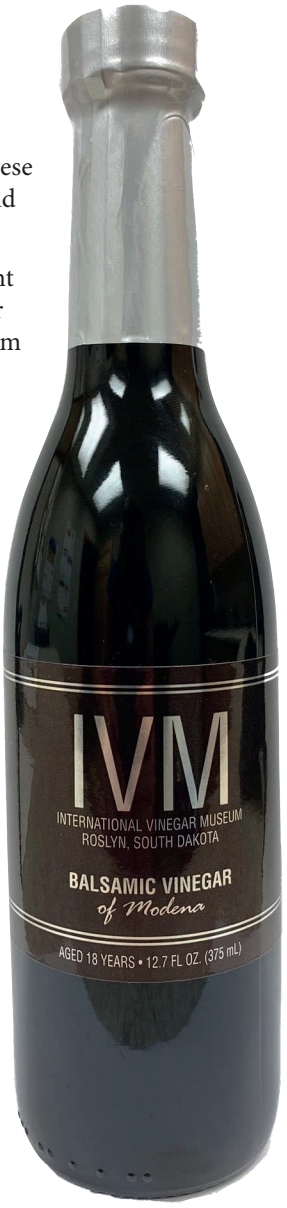
The museum's north wall is lined with 200-plus different bottles of various vinegars from around the world. Explanatory panels describe different types of world vinegars. Fruit vinegars include wine vinegars and cider vinegars, while grain vinegars include malt, corn and rice vinegars. The displays further explain differences between balsamic vinegar, Chinese vinegar, Japanese vinegar, Korean vinegar and vinegar uses in the Bible.

The displays also explain different health-related uses for vinegar as well as household and farm uses.

A corner of the museum features artwork made from vinegar, including paper made from vinegar. (The paper is formed from vinegar bacteria to produce a sheet of cellulose. The cellulose is pressed and dried to produce paper.)

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. During th rest of the year, it may be open by appointment by contacting museum volunteers. If you're planning adventures for 2020, be sure to mark the International Vinegar Festival down on your June calendar.

For more information on the museum, contact them at PO Box 201, Roslyn, SD 57261 or online at museum@internationalvinegarmuseum.com. They also have a Facebook page @internationalvinegarmuseum.



A corner of the museum features items for sale, including several varieties of vinegar as well as Roslyn community items. The museum has its own labeled balsamic vinegar for sale. (Pictured above, right.) The vinegar, which is aged 18 years, is a product of Italy and is bottled for the museum in North Dakota.

August 21-25
Corn Palace Festival, Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

August 22-24
Senior Games, Watertown, Contact Andrew Magedanz at 605-949-0028

August 22-25
Prairie Village Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

August 22-25
Kool Deadwood Nites, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

August 22-25
Hugh Glass Rendezvous, Lemmon, SD, 605-393-5832

August 24-25
Great Dakota Wine Festival, Vermillion, SD, 605-624-4500

August 26-September 1
Mustang Rally, Sturgis, SD, 605-490-1663

August 29
South Dakota State Fair Value Added Ag Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT, Huron, SD

August 29-September 2
South Dakota State Fair, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

August 30-September 2
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Powwow, Fair and Rodeo, Eagle Butte, SD, 605-964-2447

August 30-September 1
Studebaker Car Show, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

September 1
Mount Rushmore Rodeo at Palmer Gulch, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2525

August 24-25: Fourth Annual Fall River Balloon Fest, 6 a.m., Airport, Hot Springs, SD, 605-745-4140

Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

September 6-7
Supermoto, Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800

September 6-7
Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll, Vermillion, SD, 605-624-2021

September 7
Sidewalk Arts Festival, Sioux Falls, SD

September 7
Insect Festival at McCrory Gardens, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6707

September 7
Germanfest, 1 to 10 p.m., Fawick Park, Sioux Falls, SD

September 7
Foothills Bud Light Bull Bash, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

September 7
Geothermal Greenhouse & High Tunnel Tours, Mission, SD, 605-430-4699, SDSPAmembers@gmail.com

September 7-8
Quilt Show, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2810

September 8
Homesteader Day Celebration, Valley Springs, SD, 605-367-4210

September 13
Organic Grains & Pumpkin Patch Agritourism Tours, Milbank, SD, 605-430-4699, SDSPAmembers@gmail.com

September 13-14
Deadwood Jam, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

September 13-15
Dakota Western Heritage Festival, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-222-0079

September 14-15
Stirling Family Memorial Ranch Rodeo, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-870-2472

September 14-15
Twin Rivers Old Iron Harvest Festival, Delmont, SD, 605-505-0535

September 19-21
St. Joseph's Indian School Powwow, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-3452

September 21
AgriCulture on the Square, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. MDT, Free, Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-1722

September 26-28
Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival, Opens at 10 a.m., Game Lodge grounds, Custer State Park, Custer, SD, 605-255-4541

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.