

Explore it, adore it and save!



In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, KEM Electric Cooperative is once again making excursions to Medora more affordable for families.

To make your reservations and claim your savings, call **1-800-MEDORA-1** and provide the discount code: **Touch2022**.

This summer, our members are eligible for a 15% discount off the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

JUNE 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Poster contest winners announced**
- **Safety Starts with ME: Marcy Sanders**
- **Power supply report**



Annual poster contest winners announced

KEM Electric Cooperative continues to receive a strong message from children in the area, as posters were received for the annual poster coloring contest.

Students were instructed to concentrate on KEM's annual meeting theme: "Power for Generations."

The winners include:

Connor Bechtle

6 years old

Grandparents: Blair and

Doreen Bechtle

Wishek

Landon Bechtle

8 years old

Grandparents: Blair and

Doreen Bechtle

Wishek

Shonda Haak

9 years old

Parents: Steve and Sherri Haak

Hague

Safety starts with me: Marcy Sanders

Summer is in full swing, and many welcome the opportunities to be outdoors to enjoy the warm weather more.

"I enjoy my time with family, being on the farm working with livestock and enjoying nature, taking boat rides down the river and, of course, fishing," said Marcy Sanders, KEM Electric Cooperative manager of member relations.

However summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system.

"KEM Electric crews are ready and standing by to respond, should power outages occur in our area," Sanders said.

When major storms knock out power, KEM line crews take all the necessary precautions before they work on any downed lines.

"I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages," Sanders said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the tips below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars,



peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (diapers and toiletries).

- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure

your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies, so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on, so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for

storm and emergency information, and check KEM's Facebook page for power restoration updates.

"After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged," Sanders said. "Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property."

Advanced planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

"I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans," Sanders said. "At KEM, we recommend that you act today, because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and fun summer." ■

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

See you at the annual meeting



Travis Kupper

KEM Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is right around the corner, and we cannot wait to see you there – in-person! The purpose of an annual meeting is to hold the election for the board of directors, share important financial information, occasionally vote on other matters, such as bylaw changes, and, of course, win great door prizes!

KEM Electric's annual meeting is a cooperative gathering where neighbors can meet new neighbors or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the "errands of life" and more of our interactions with others are online (via social media), we must renew the value of face-to-face human connections. Few organizations are uniquely positioned like KEM Electric to bring together all members of our local communities.

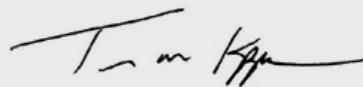
KEM Electric's annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of your co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense of community. KEM Electric exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its consumer-members. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our service area. This is where

you can help. As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable, and we invite you to share it with the co-op.

The annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you, the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

Perhaps you may feel you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and KEM Electric wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for power for generations.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to be with your fellow co-op members. KEM Electric is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting on June 16. ■



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The annual meeting of the members of KEM Electric Cooperative Inc. will be held at the Linton High School auditorium, Linton, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, to take action on the following matters:

1. Election of two directors. In connection with the election of two directors scheduled to be held at this meeting, the following members have been nominated for director by petition, which is in accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative:

District 3
Neil Meidinger, Zeeland

District at Large
Dean Hummel, Hague

2. For the transaction of such other and further business that may come before the meeting, or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

3. The board of directors of KEM Electric Cooperative Inc. is proposing several amendments to cooperative bylaws.

- *Proposed bylaw amendment No. 1:*

Currently, cooperative bylaws allow members to vote in-person or by mail. The proposed amendment will add voting by electronic means as an option. This will allow members to vote via special website, email or other electronic communications. Proposed bylaw amendment No. 1 is explained here:

306 Proxies and Absentee Voting by Mail

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

Members absent from a meeting may be permitted to vote by mail or electronic means, provided that a majority of the board of directors orders the same and provided that the member is given notice in writing directed to said member as the address appears on the records of the cooperative. The rules governing electronic voting or voting by mail shall be prescribed by the board of directors, provided the notice given to members shall contain the exact motion or resolution to be voted upon.

- *Proposed bylaw amendment No. 2:*

The board is proposing a new bylaw, 307 Record Date. This new bylaw will allow the board to set a date to determine the voting membership of the cooperative. Only those who are members on the record date will be given notice of a pending member meeting and have the right to vote on any issues coming before the cooperative membership. Prior to adoption of this bylaw, voting has always been conducted in-person. This bylaw is now necessary for the cooperative to provide proper notice to its voting members and make proper use of mail and electronic voting. Proposed bylaw amendment No. 2 is explained here:

307 Record Date

The board may fix a date not more than 50 days before the date of a meeting of members as the date for the determination of the members entitled to notice of and entitled to vote at the meeting. When a date is fixed, only members with voting rights on that date are entitled to notice of and permitted to vote at that meeting of members. ■

Luck-of-the-draw \$500 scholarships!

KEM Electric Cooperative will award two \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on June 16 in Linton. All high school seniors whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are members of KEM Electric are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting with at least one parent/guardian and are required to RSVP for the meeting.

To RSVP, email Marcy Sanders at msanders@kemelectric.com or call 701-254-4666.





Your co-op, your vote

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable, and we invite you to share it with the co-op.

At our annual meeting – which will be held June 16 – co-op leaders will discuss priorities, challenges and financial health for the coming years. The annual meeting is also the time to vote for board members who will represent you, the members of the co-op. Board members are local members, just like you. If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, but you're also allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future.

KEM Electric Cooperative wants to ensure your voice can be heard – even if you are unable to attend the annual meeting. That's why the KEM board has voted to use vote by mail this year, to make voting and having your voice heard even easier.

What can you expect?

As in the past, your cooperative will continue to offer the opportunity to vote in-person at the annual meeting. KEM has added a second option for members to vote by mail, making it even easier for your voice to be heard. KEM will be utilizing a third-party vendor to handle mail-in ballots, to ensure security and member anonymity.

Members will receive a voting packet with voting instructions. ■



Dean Hummel



Neil Meidinger

KEM announces candidates seeking director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for two KEM Electric Cooperative members vying for the director positions up for after reelection in June. In 2022, the two board positions sought include: one for the District at Large and one for District 3.

The board of directors set May 2 as the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms, and have approved the following list of candidates:

- **Dean Hummel**, District at Large
- **Neil Meidinger**, District 3

Due to the bylaw changes in 2021, no nominations will be welcomed from the floor of the annual meeting. ■



HOME IMPROVEMENTS CAN SAVE YOU MONEY!

Planning a home improvement project this summer? KEM Electric Cooperative can visit with you about the benefits of switching to electric heat.

There are other home energy improvements that will save you money, too.



ADD INSULATION

Add insulation to the attic, crawlspace and exterior walls. In conjunction with air sealing, this will keep your house cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Increasing your home's insulation is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste.



USE SMART TECHNOLOGY

Install and set programmable thermostats that save energy by automatically regulating your home's temperature when you are home, asleep or away. You can save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10% to 15% for eight hours.



LET THE SUNLIGHT SHINE

Install more energy-efficient windows, doors and skylights. Air infiltrates into and out of your home through every hole and crack. About 20% of this air infiltrates through openings in your windows, doors and skylights.



REPLACE THE LIGHTS

Install energy-efficient lighting. An average household dedicates 11% of its energy budget to lighting. Using new lighting technologies can reduce lighting energy use in your home by 50% to 75%.

SEAL THOSE LEAKS

Seal air leaks around floors, walls, ceilings, windows, doors and fireplaces with caulk, spray foam and weatherstripping. Warm air leaking into your home during the summer and out of your home during the winter can waste a lot of your energy dollars. The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5% to 30% per year, and the home is generally much more comfortable afterward.



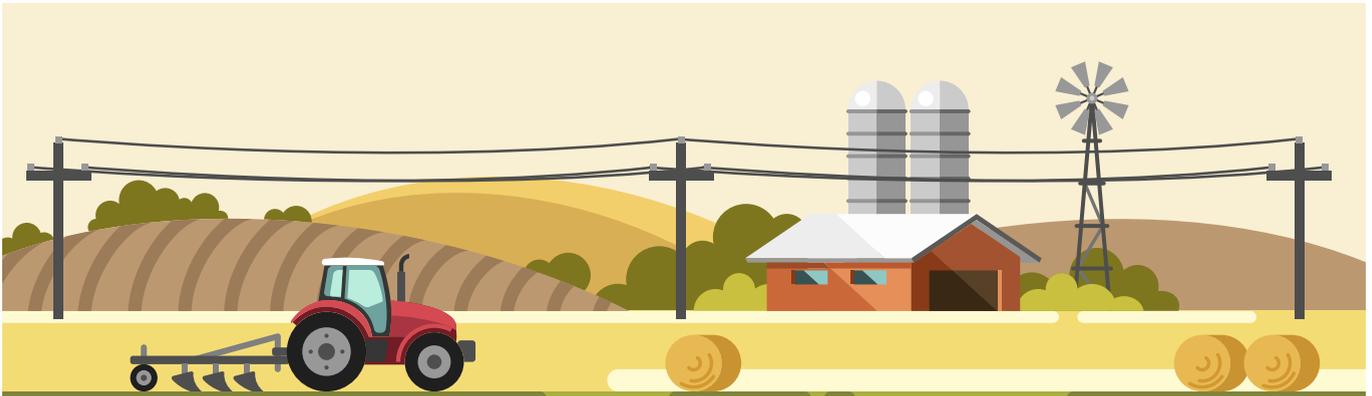
SEAL THOSE DUCTS

Seal ducts and make sure they are straight and properly connected. Many duct systems are not insulated properly or have gaps or holes where air can leak out. You can lose up to 60% of your heated air before it reaches the register if your ducts are not insulated and they travel through unheated spaces such as an attic or crawlspace.



LOOK UP. LOOK OUT.

POWER LINE SAFETY ON THE FARM



SAFETY TIPS THAT ARE ALWAYS IN SEASON

1. Know what's below. **CALL 811** before starting any digging project.
2. Always **USE A SPOTTER** to warn you of any dangers when moving equipment.
3. If you strike a guy wire, **NEVER REPAIR IT YOURSELF**. Call your local utility right away.
4. **WATER CONDUCTS ELECTRICITY**, so be careful when irrigating near power lines.
5. Keep yourself and machinery **AT LEAST 10 FEET AWAY** from overhead power lines.
6. Be extra careful when operating **sprayers, planters and cultivators**. **KNOW THE HEIGHT AND WIDTH OF YOUR FARM EQUIPMENT** to prevent accidental contact.

WHAT TO DO

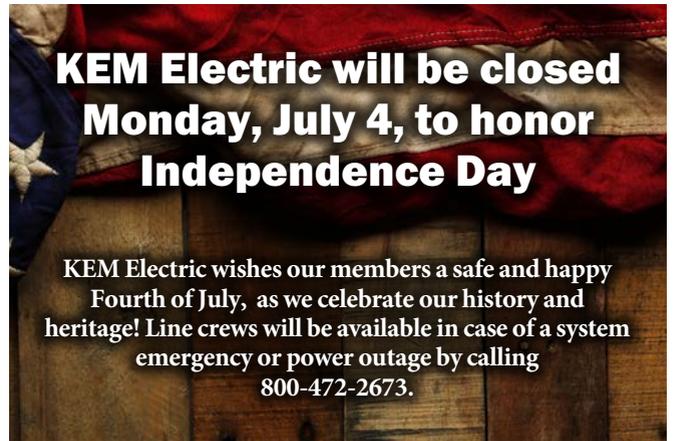
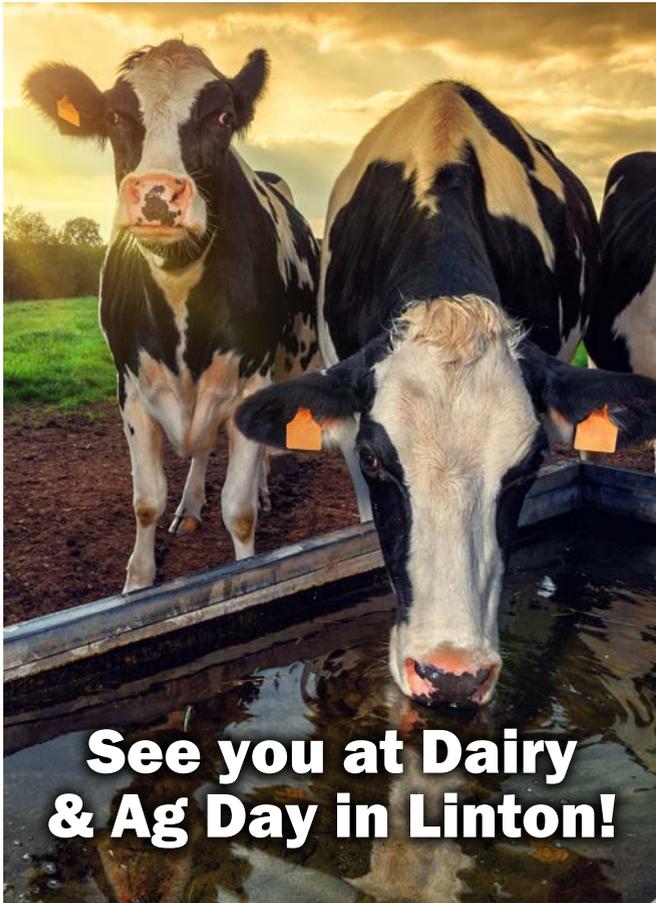
IF YOU CONTACT A POWER LINE:

If a power line falls across or near your machinery while you are in it, stay inside and **CALL 911**. Tell bystanders to stay away. If you must exit, jump as far as possible, so no part of your body is touching the machinery when you land. **KEEP BOTH FEET TOGETHER** and shuffle or hop at least 40 feet away.



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved March 22 board minutes
- Heard co-general manager/CEO report
- Discussed Energy Transfer Partners update
- The board was presented with the 2021 audit report by Brady Martz
- Heard financial reports
- Heard operations report
- Reviewed manager of member relations report
- Approved contract for services with Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative
- Nominated Dean Hummel as voting delegate for Cooperative Finance Corporation annual meeting
- Listened to board meeting report



KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

- Victor Wald, ChairmanNapoleon
- John Beck, Vice Chairman Linton
- Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
- Dean Dewald, Director Dawson
- Carmen Essig, Director Lehr
- Dean Hummel, Director Hague
- Neil Meidinger, Director Zealand

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MANAGEMENT:

- Don Franklund Co-GM/CEO
- Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO

Report outages to the following toll-free number: 800-472-2673

Hazleton, Linton and Strasburg exchanges' phone number: 701-254-4666

FIND US ON:

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website: kemelectric.com / Email address: info@kemelectric.com

