

July 2024

Circuits

For Dakota Electric members



CAREERS

BE A PART OF OUR ENERGY

www.dakotaelectric.com/careers
HResources@dakotaelectric.com
651-463-6301

CONTACT US

Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409
Minnesota Relay Service 711
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

Lobby - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

24-Hour Outage & Emergency Service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

Underground Cable Locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or
651-454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

New & Existing Services

651-460-7500

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer.*

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota
Electric® are registered service marks of the
cooperative.*

*All programs and rebates are subject to
change without notice. Funds are limited and
available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

www.dakotaelectric.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe | *MREA Director*
David Jones | *Treasurer*
Gerald F. Pittman | *Vice Chair*

DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp | *GRE Director*
Clay Van De Bogart
Terry Donnelly | *Secretary*

DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner
Cyndee Fields
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Chair*
Stacy Miller
Jenny Hoeft

CIRCUITS | JULY 2024



Bremer Farms Lights

Dakota Electric's 2023 holiday glow-off winner!

Nestled in Hastings, Bremer Family Farms has been a beacon of dedication, innovation and warmth. The Bremer family runs this bustling dairy operation with a strong emphasis on family values and community involvement.

Adding a new dimension to their legacy, their daughter Sara launched Bremer Farms Lights in 2009, a seasonal drive-through holiday light display. The family invites visitors to experience a winter wonderland of twinkling lights and festive scenes from the comfort of their own cars. The scenes feature eight different holiday movie sets, handcrafted by Sara out of paint and plywood. Visitors receive tasty treats, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, say hi to

Princess Kay of the Milky Way and meet the cows of Bremer Farms. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season with family and friends.

Bremer Farms Lights was the winner of Dakota Electric's first ever holiday glow-off competition under the small business category. Their submitted photo below received the most engagement on our social channels, which won them the opportunity to be featured in *Circuits*. Congratulations to Bremer Farms Lights!

Be sure to check out the November edition of *Circuits* for more information on our 2024 holiday glow-off competition.



Bremer Family Farms

Est. 1952



Welcome to Bremer Family Farms, where the barnyard is always buzzing with life and the spirit of togetherness.

Bremer Family Farms is a three-generation dairy farm owned and operated by Karen, her son John and daughter-in-law Janet. John and Janet's children, Sara and Michael, also contribute to the farm while holding off-farm jobs. Each family member has distinct responsibilities, ensuring the farm's continued success.

The farm spans nearly 300 acres, dedicated to growing crops like corn, alfalfa and oats to feed their 130 milking cows and 100 young cattle. The farm's sustainable practices — including crop rotation, efficient irrigation and manure

recycling — ensure high yields and environmental preservation. Their Holstein cows are housed in a spacious, well-ventilated barn that allows them to move freely, eat, drink and rest comfortably. With cooling systems for the warmer months and ample food and water, the cows are kept healthy and happy, producing top-quality milk.

As Dakota Electric members, the Bremers benefit from programs that boost their farm's efficiency and sustainability. Participation in the cycled air conditioning program and load management for irrigation helps manage energy use and conserve resources, reducing operational costs.

Bremer Family Farms embodies the values of community, family,

and farming, creating a warm and productive environment. Their story highlights the joys and challenges of farm life, and their dedication to sustainable practices and community involvement makes their farm a shining example for others. Whether you're enjoying mint ice cream, a chunk of cheese, or a chocolate malt, you can taste the love and care the Bremer family pours into their work every day. Find out more about Bremer Family Farms at <https://mybarnyardview.blogspot.com/p/blog-page.html>.

To learn more about Dakota Electric's energy-saving programs, visit www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates.

The **moo-re** you know



Cows don't have top front teeth! Instead they have a dental pad. This pad is an area of hard gum tissue that the lower front teeth grind against.



Holstein cows produce seven-to-nine gallons of milk per day!

Electrical **safety outside** the home

POWER LINES

- Keep kites, drones and other flying objects away from power lines.
- Never climb trees, poles or towers that are contacting power lines.
- When using a ladder, be aware of overhead power lines.

PATIOS

- Install weatherproof boxes or covers on outdoor outlets.
- Make sure all lighting is designed for outdoor use.
- Throw out damaged extension cords — do not try to repair them.

POOLS

- Keep electric radios, appliances and wiring for outdoor lighting away from swimming pools.
- Never touch an electric device when in a pool.
- Have your pool/spa wiring inspected annually.

Spot and **stop scams**

Today's scammers are sneaky and sophisticated — targeting potential victims by phone, online and in-person. Scammers often target individuals or communities that are in need or susceptible to their schemes. By knowing what you can expect from Dakota Electric, you'll be better prepared to spot and stop a scam.



DAKOTA ELECTRIC WILL:

- Help you make payment arrangements for past due accounts. If no payment agreement is reached, service may be disconnected.
- Drive a Dakota Electric vehicle, wear company clothing and carry Dakota Electric identification.
- Allow you to verify our identity. Ask to see a Dakota Electric photo ID and have the person wait outside while you call us at 651-463-6212 to verify your account status.



DAKOTA ELECTRIC WON'T:

- Demand immediate payments by prepaid credit or debit cards.
- Call claiming you have overpaid your utility bill, and ask you to provide personal bank account information or a credit card number to facilitate a refund.
- Call asking for social security numbers, credit card or banking information to avoid disconnection.
- Disconnect your service outside of our office hours: 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Our Member Service Representatives are ready to work with you to avoid disconnection. Call 651-463-6212.

2024 **scholarships** awarded

More than 100 area high school students received scholarships this spring for their post-secondary education from Dakota Electric Association. Other students receiving part of the \$160,000 in unclaimed capital credits this year are students at Inver Hills Community College and Dakota County Technical College, who will receive their scholarships in the fall. Dakota Electric has donated over \$2 million from unclaimed capital credits since 1990 to help local students reach their goals through post-secondary education.

Students from the following high schools received scholarships: Apple Valley, Burnsville, Cannon Falls, Eagan, Eastview, Farmington, Hastings, Lakeville North, Lakeville South, Northfield, Randolph, Red Wing, Rosemount, Simley and Two Rivers.



Committed to the **environment**

Dakota Electric is excited to share that we've donated a tree to cities in our service area! Each city chose and planted their own tree between April 19 and May 9. We're also thrilled to announce that we've donated 3,000 dogwood tree seedlings across our service area this year. Since 1997, we've given over 180 trees to member cities and more than 177,000 tree seedlings to the community for Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Tree and seedling donations show our commitment to more than just providing electricity. Dakota Electric is dedicated to making our operations greener and helping our communities build a sustainable, eco-friendly future.



2024 **electricity** brochure available

The most recent information on how the electric generation, transmission and distribution systems work, plus the sources, costs and emissions of fuels used in meeting the needs of Dakota Electric's members, is available by visiting www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/member-resources.

PII member notice available

We understand the importance of protecting the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) provided by our members. Dakota Electric protects its members' privacy in accordance with all regulatory and legal requirements. To learn more, view our PII member notice brochure by visiting www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/billing-payments/electric-rates-rights.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Independence Day**
July 4, Office Closed
- **Member Appreciation Event**
July 18, 4-8 p.m.
Minnesota Zoo
- **Board Meeting**
July 25, 8:30 a.m.

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



DAKOTA ELECTRIC'S MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Thursday, July 18 | 4-8 p.m.



MINNESOTA ZOO®

JOIN US AT THE ZOO FOR OUR FREE MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT!

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!!

For further details and registration, scan the QR code or go to <https://my.mnzoo.org/all-zoo-rentals/dakota-electric-member-appreciation-day>. Registration is highly encouraged, however we will accept recent electric bills and *Circuits* for admission.

FOOD SHELF DONATION

Please consider donating to our local food shelves by bringing non-perishable food items. Cash donations are also accepted.



For questions regarding rentals or Zoo amenities, please call the Minnesota Zoo at 952-431-9500.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!**