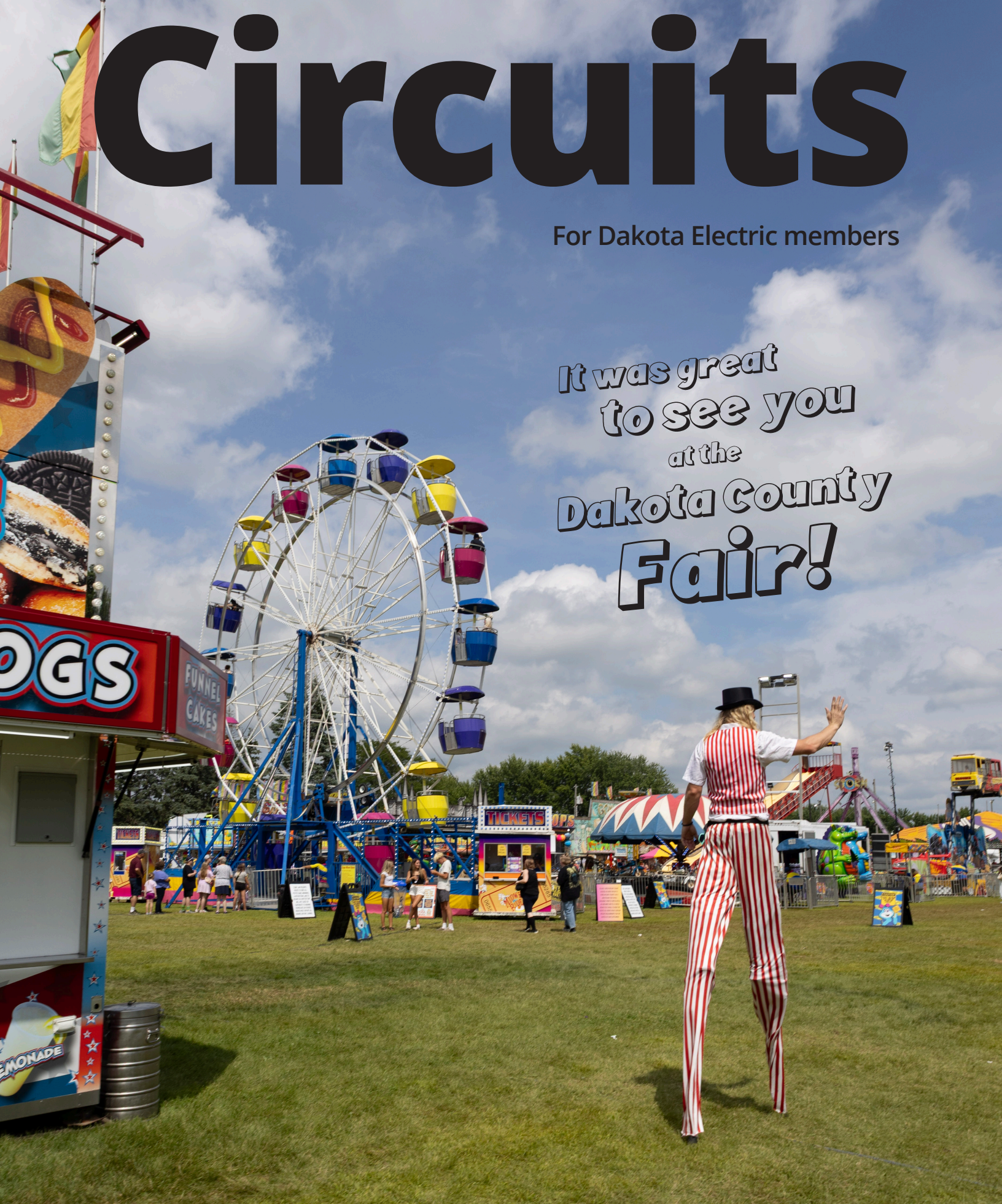


September 2025

# Circuits

For Dakota Electric members

It was great  
to see you  
at the  
Dakota County  
Fair!





## 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

651-463-6247

*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.*

## Board of Directors

### DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe  
David Jones | MREA Director  
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 | Treasurer  
Margaret D. Schreiner | GRE Director

### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | Chair  
Stacy Miller  
Jenny Hoeft

# Farm **safety** starts with **awareness**

## National Farm Safety & Health Week

**September 21-27**

This week serves as a reminder to prioritize safety in every aspect of farm operations — especially electrical safety and roadway awareness.

### Farm electrical safety tips

Electricity is essential on today's farms, but it also poses serious risks if not properly maintained. Keep these tips in mind:

#### Inspect systems regularly

Check electrical wiring, panels and equipment often. Catching issues early can prevent outages, fires and injuries.

#### Ensure proper grounding

Grounding helps redirect stray electrical current safely. Without it, even routine tasks can become hazardous.

#### Provide training

Everyone working on the farm should understand how to work safely around electricity and know how to respond in emergencies.

#### Wear protective gear

Use insulated gloves, safety glasses and flame-resistant clothing when working near electrical systems.

#### Avoid overloading circuits

Too many devices on one circuit can overheat wiring and cause fires.

#### Weatherproof outdoor equipment

Protect outlets and electrical tools from rain and moisture.

#### Store equipment safely

Keep unused equipment in dry, secure areas to extend lifespan and avoid malfunctions.

#### If you contact a power line

Stay in your vehicle and call Dakota Electric immediately. Do not exit until utility crews confirm it's safe.

#### Never move power lines yourself

If you notice low or sagging lines, contact Dakota Electric. Do not attempt to lift or reposition them.

### Plan ahead for crop drying season

Sign up for crop drying load management notifications to avoid disruptions during harvest. Stay informed and manage energy use efficiently. You can sign up at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/gdKzXJB/loadcontrol>.

### Share the road this harvest

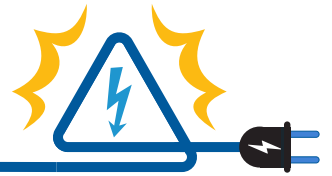
With more large machinery on the roads during harvest, remember to drive with extra caution.

- Don't pass unless it's clearly safe and legal.
- Give wide turns plenty of space.
- Slow down and be patient.
- Watch for flashing lights and reflective signs.

Safe practices protect lives, livelihoods and the communities we serve.



# Back-to-school **electrical safety** tips



*As kids head back to school, here are some electrical safety tips that are useful whether they're starting college, or getting on the school bus for the first time.*

## K-8th grade

- Keep fingers, writing utensils, paperclips and other objects away from electrical outlets.
- When unplugging electronics, always hold the base of the plug to pull it out — never yank from the cord.
- Stay clear of pad-mounted transformers (big green box) and other electrical equipment.
- Never throw shoes onto power lines. If you see shoes already hanging on power lines, do not try to remove them.
- Keep electronics and cords away from water. Never use anything electrical near a sink, bathtub or wet surface.

## High school

- If you drive to school, obey all traffic laws and practice safety when driving in areas where utility crews are working.
- If you see a downed power line, assume the line is energized and stay away from it. Call 911 to report it.
- Always be cautious in science classes, specifically those with labs, as it's possible your hands, or the area near you, will get wet. Keep everything dry and use caution when plugging in equipment.
- Use chargers and cords that are in good condition. Frayed or damaged cords should be replaced immediately.

## College

- Get in the habit of unplugging devices that are not in use.
- Don't overload electrical outlets. Many dorms and campus housing are not equipped to handle today's use of electronics.
- Keep extension cords out from under rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and it is a fire hazard.
- Don't plug space heaters or mini-fridges into power strips. These should be plugged directly into the wall to avoid overheating.
- Keep appliances clean and free from dust. Lint, grease, or dust buildup (like on microwaves or toasters) can be fire hazards.

## Considering **solar**? Know the facts and **avoid the scams**

Residential solar can be a great way to reduce your electric bill and support renewable energy — but it's important to make informed decisions and watch out for misleading claims. At Dakota Electric, we support members who choose to install solar, but we've also heard from members who were misled by high-pressure sales tactics or false promises.

Before signing a contract, ask for a detailed breakdown of the system costs, savings estimates, and financing terms. Be cautious of companies that claim you'll "eliminate your electric bill" or that their systems are "free." Dakota Electric still provides grid access and backup power, and most solar customers will still have a monthly bill.

Dakota Electric never partners with or is affiliated with any solar company. While we can provide a handful of suggestions upon request, we encourage members to research installers thoroughly, read the fine print, and review our interconnection guidelines. Visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/renewable-energy/residential-solar](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/renewable-energy/residential-solar) for trusted resources and next steps. When it comes to solar, a little homework goes a long way.

# ChargeWise **electric vehicle** (EV) programs

*Dakota Electric offers three voluntary options for charging your EV at home as well as a rebate of \$500 to assist with the cost of installing a charging circuit on the storage or time-of-use programs.*

## Off-peak storage rate

This option offers members the lowest cost of off-peak electricity for charging an EV. Electricity for charging an EV is only available during off-peak hours (11 p.m. - 7 a.m.), and members receive a discounted rate for their EV charging.

## Time-of-use rate

This option allows members to charge their EV at any time of day. Members receive a discounted rate for charging their EV during off-peak hours.

## Virtual metered EV charging program

Charging your EV at home just got easier! Dakota Electric now offers a virtual metered EV charging program for members who want to participate without needing to install another meter.

**Participate** today! Contact our **Energy Experts®** at 651-463-6212.



# Participate in **Wellspring** Renewable Energy®

*By participating in Wellspring Renewable Energy, members not only help support wind and solar development in Minnesota, but they also help reduce our dependency on non-renewable energy sources.*

## Participating in Wellspring

Wellspring Renewable Energy is a voluntary program that gives Dakota Electric members a way to provide additional support for renewable energy technologies.

## How it works

Those who participate in the Wellspring program purchase renewable energy credits (RECs). For every 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWhs) of clean, renewable electricity generation, an REC is created. RECs embody all of the environmental attributes of electric generation and can be tracked separately from the underlying electricity. Dakota Electric provides Wellspring energy to members through Great River Energy, our wholesale power supplier, making it easy for members to support renewable energy and its future.

## Options

Wellspring is sold in 100 kWh blocks, and members can purchase a fixed number of blocks each month or enough to power their monthly electricity use.

There are two options to choose from:

OPTION	BLOCKS	ENERGY TYPE
Option One	Fixed number per month	Wind, solar or a combination of both
Option Two	Number per month fluctuates	Either wind or solar

## Participate today

For questions regarding Wellspring Renewable Energy options, or to participate, please contact our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6212.



# Cold weather **rule**

Members can avoid disconnection or be eligible for reconnection between Oct. 1 and April 30 by following steps outlined by Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule. Your August bill statement included a Cold Weather Rule brochure with more information on program details and contact information for agencies that provide utility payment assistance.

For more information, visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/billing-payment/electric-rates-rights](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/billing-payment/electric-rates-rights).

## Assistance for military personnel

If a member is ordered into active duty, for deployment or for a change of active military duty station, Minnesota law may protect these military personnel and their families from shutoff if they cannot pay their utility bills in full.

Call 651-463-6212 to get an application and set up a payment plan. You must keep your payment plan to qualify for protection.

For more information, visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/billing-payment/financial-assistance](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/billing-payment/financial-assistance).

## National **drive electric** month

Plug In America has announced that its annual National Drive Electric Week campaign is expanding to National Drive Electric Month, running from Sept. 12 to Oct. 12, 2025. The extended format gives communities more time to host events, offer EV test drives, and engage with the public about electric vehicles.

As an electric cooperative focused on supporting our members' interest in EVs, Dakota Electric encourages you to take part in this nationwide effort. Visit [www.DriveElectricMonth.org](http://www.DriveElectricMonth.org) to find or sign up for events near you and explore firsthand what it's like to drive electric. For local resources, rebates, and tools, check out our website at [www.dakotaelectric.com](http://www.dakotaelectric.com).

# Rate case update

Dakota Electric's rate case remains under review by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). As shared in previous updates, a Settlement Agreement was filed in June between Dakota Electric, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and the Minnesota Office of the Attorney General. The agreement, if approved, would increase the cooperative's annual revenues about 9.62% or \$20.88 million.

The MPUC is expected to make a final decision in early 2026. In the meantime, the interim rate increase of 9.5% will remain in effect. If the approved overall increase is lower than interim rates, we will refund members the difference with interest. If the overall increase is higher, we will not charge members the difference for the interim period. The new rates will go into effect at the end of this case.

## Dakota County 4-H auction winners

Dakota Electric proudly supports the Dakota County Fair 4-H livestock auction each year, recognizing the dedication of local 4-H members. This year, four outstanding participants were honored (pictured below). Proceeds from our involvement fund scholarships for graduating seniors, state fair trips, chaperone costs, donor recognition, the Purple Ribbon Club, and educational programs — helping develop the next generation of leaders.



Anika Hauck



Jordyn Dingels Hallcock



Liza Chamberlain



Daniel Wagner



4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

## Upcoming Events

- **Office Closed: Labor Day**  
Monday, September 1
- **Board Meeting**  
Thursday, September 25,  
8:30 a.m.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

## Connect with us!



## COMING SOON A New Member Portal!

**Dakota Electric is rolling out a new member portal designed to make managing your account easier than ever. With this new tool, you'll be able to:**

- Get faster, more personalized support
- Access your account and services online, anytime
- View real-time energy use and billing info
- Receive outage alerts and restoration updates
- Enjoy secure, accurate data management
- Choose how you get notifications: email, text or phone
- Use more flexible payment and billing options

***Stay tuned for more details in the coming months — we're excited to bring you a better, more convenient experience.***