



ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MARCH 2023

Members recognized at NDSU Harvest Bowl

BY RACHEL NEFF

March is National Agriculture Month, and Roughrider Electric Cooperative salutes our farmers and ranchers who make agriculture one of North Dakota's top industries.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) also acknowledges the agricultural impact on the state by recognizing leading agriculturalists through the NDSU Harvest Bowl.

"The Harvest Bowl is a weekend event, where we are able to recognize agriculture and athletics, and the connection between," said Duane Hauck, NDSU Harvest Bowl chair.

The Harvest Bowl annually recognizes dedicated agriculturalists in all of North Dakota's 53 counties and 10 counties in western Minnesota with the naming of county agriculturalist honorees. The honorees are selected through the local NDSU Extension offices.

"Each county agent nominates an individual or couple based on active community leaders, people who are innovative and active in promoting the ag industry, and are highly respected individuals," Hauck said.

Six Roughrider Electric Cooperative members were recognized during the event.

Harvey and Janal Hoff, Stark County



Harvey and Janal Hoff

As owners of the first robotic dairy in North Dakota, Harvey and Janal Hoff put themselves on the map in 2012. They dually operate a third-generation farm in Stark County. Recently, the Hoff's shifted focus from their dairy operation and transitioned to

farming cash crops, grain and beef on their 1,100-acre farmstead.

"I was not expecting an award like this at all," Harvey said. "But it is quite an honor to be nominated and accepted."

"The Hoff's are well deserving of the award. They were the first robotic dairy farm in North Dakota, as well as have children and now grandchildren who are heavily involved in 4-H. Harvey and Janal have been huge supporters in that aspect," said Kurt Froelich, NDSU Extension agent for Stark and Billings counties.

In addition to being supportive of youth agricultural programs, Harvey was chairman of the North Dakota Dairy Coalition for several years, and chairs the board for the 103.7 radio station. Janal was a 4-H leader for 34 years, served on the state and Midwest Dairy Association boards, and was a past delegate for the Dairy Farmers of America. The couple also host 30 tours per year to help schools and businesses understand and learn about dairy operations.

Perry and Alicia Redmond, Billings County

After living across the United States, Perry and Alicia Redmond decided to move back to North Dakota in 2005 and purchase a ranch, where they now have a black Angus cow/calf operation, and produce hay and forage crops. They have

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*Perry and Alicia
Redmond*

worked to implement a variety of land preservation farming techniques, such as rotational grazing, water development and no-till practices.

“We both grew up in agriculture and both sets of our parents farmed and ranched in Billings County, so this is very exciting for all of us,” Alicia said. “They are all essentially a part of this award, as well as our children and their families.”

Perry has served on the Billings County weed board for 15 years, the water board for eight years and is an FFA county committee member. The couple has also been involved in the Farm Bureau and N.D. Stockmen’s Association for over a decade.

“The Redmonds are great people to work with. They have a great operation, and they utilize our office resources to help with decisions. Their children are also heavily involved in 4-H,” Froelich said.

Derrick and Angie Dukart, Dunn County



*Derrick and Angie
Dukart*

Derrick and Angie Dukart are fourth-generation farmers and ranchers who work alongside his parents, third-generation farmers and ranchers, Doug and Sandy Dukart.

Founded by Derrick’s great-grandparents in 1918, the Dukart Angus Ranch is currently home to 280 pairs and 140 yearlings and spans across 6,930 acres, some of which is owned and some leased.

Derrick recalls the importance of agriculture and what it means to him and his family: “This award was given to my parents many years ago, and now to my wife and I,” he said. “It recognizes producers and all that they do. My wife and I and now daughter all being students at NDSU is really cool as well.”

“Angie and Derrick Dukart have been

selected because they are an integral part of the Dunn County community with their agricultural commitments, accomplishments and volunteerism. They continually strive to be stewards of the land by managing their resources effectively and efficiently to ensure the protection and productivity of the land, livestock, and wildlife that inhabit their operation,” said Rebecca Yarger, NDSU Extension agent for Dunn County.

In addition to working on the ranch, Derrick and Angie have been actively involved in 4-H and FFA for over 20 years. They are active members with the North Dakota Grazing Coalition, Farm Credit Services nominating board, NDSU Extension advisory board, Killdeer FFA Alumni, as N.D. State Fair delegates, Bismarck Horse Club chairs/members, and on their local church council.

Rick and Valerie Bauman, Mercer County



*Rick and Valerie
Bauman*

Rick and Valerie Bauman have owned and operated their farm and ranch since 2002. There, they raise cattle and sheep and farm a variety of small grains.

“Rick and Val Bauman have always put people first. They are always willing to go the extra mile to do whatever needs to be done for their community and Mercer County. They both have served on many local, city and county boards and have given countless volunteer hours to their church, Mercer County fair board and Beulah public schools,” said Craig Askim, the Extension agent for Mercer County.

“It’s an honor to be selected for this. We spend a lot of time doing what we do and it’s a way of recognition,” remarked Rick, as he and his wife solely operate their farmstead.

The couple is dedicated to serving the community, as they drive bus for West River Transit.

Clay and Ranie Price and Lewis and Barb Price, Oliver County



Clay and Ranie Price

Clay and Ranie Price and Lewis and Barb Price together own and operate a fourth-generation farm and ranch, where they grow soybeans, wheat, dry beans, corn, alfalfa and corn silage and have a cow-calf operation in addition to a

small feedlot

The Prices have implemented a variety of efficient practices, including strip-till farming on irrigated land and no-till farming on

dryland, rotational grazing for their cow-calf operation, pivot irrigation and GPS and variable rate technology.

“Clay and Lewis are producers that lead by example. Their goals are to focus on good soil health and do their homework to maximize returns. They are unique producers and hard workers that do a fantastic job being high-quality producers,” said Rick Schmidt, Oliver County’s Extension agent.

Although they don’t do it for the recognition, Clay remarked, “It is an honor to be recognized by your peers for the work you do.”

The Price brothers were also awarded the Oliver County Soil Conservation District achievement award in 2012. ■

Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members **CONSERVATION AND ENERGY-EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES**

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2023 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31. The program for the heat pumps is for new installation or for replacement of a conventional heating system.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative personnel will check the installation, and get the appropriate documentation and receipts. Once completed and

approved, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send a check directly to the member to help cover the purchase cost.

A maximum dollar amount has been set aside for the incentive program. The program will close when we meet this amount. Roughrider Electric reserves the right to cancel the program without further notice. One rebate allowed per member.

For more information, please contact Brad Quenette, director of member services, at 800-748-5533 or email bquenette@roughriderelectric.com.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps:	\$150 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$600		
Required minimum efficiency	CLOSED LOOP:	EER >= 16.1	COP >= 3.1
	OPEN LOOP:	EER >= 20.1	COP >= 3.5
Air-Source Heat Pumps:	\$100 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$400		
Required minimum efficiency	HSPF >= 8.5	EER >= 12.5	SEER >= 15

Manager's message: Stay in the know



Travis Kupper

At Roughrider Electric Cooperative, we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency, so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our consumer-members (that's you!).

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which

is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address to our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Emails and text messages are also used to notify registered members of any changes in co-op event details. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if Roughrider Electric has accurate account information.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize we will never share your contact information with any third parties. It is only used by Roughrider Electric to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by using SmartHub, calling our office at 800-748-5533 or emailing us at info@roughriderelectric.com.

By doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op. ■



Safety Starts with ME: Brad Quenette

Power surges can be frustrating, but typically happen unexpectedly. To reduce the members' risk of damage, it is important to be knowledgeable and prepare ahead of time if and when a power surge does strike.

"A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines," said Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric Cooperative's member services manager. "Regardless of the cause, a power surge can cause significant damage to electronic devices and equipment in your home."

Common causes

Electrical overload happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that cannot handle that amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged in at the same time through an extension cord. If power surges are a reoccurring event in your house due to electrical overload, it is time to call a certified electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs.

Faulty wiring in a home is another cause of power surges. Signs of a faulty wire include visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers.

"If power surges are a reoccurring event in your house due to electrical overload, it is time to call a certified electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs, as it may be time for an electrical wiring repair or update," Quenette said.

A quick surge of electricity may also occur after Roughrider Electric restores the power after an outage. In the case of a power outage, it is important to unplug any sensitive devices around your home, then wait to plug them back in after power is restored.

Roughrider Electric recommends two ways to protect electronics in your home:

- Point-of-use surge protection devices – Power strips can protect your devices during most power surges in the home with 120-volt loads.



Not all power strips, however, include surge protection. So, before buying a power strip, read the packaging and do not overload the power strip with too many devices. Choose a surge protector with a joules rating of 1,000 or higher for small electronics and 2,000 or higher for more sensitive equipment, and consider 3,000 or higher for you more expensive electronics such as computers, TVs and stereo equipment.

- Whole-home surge protection – This can protect your home for 240-volt loads from more powerful power surges that come from outside the home. These are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses and notification capabilities to inform when a device has been impacted by a surge. The price of this device varies and should be connected by a licensed electrician.

For more information, contact Roughrider Electric Cooperative. ■

Need help with your energy bills? LIHEAP is here to help

While the winter weather continues, Roughrider Electric Cooperative members will be faced with colder temperatures. For some, anticipation of the winter months causes stress and anxiety, as they wonder how to make ends meet. Thankfully, there are programs to help members.

The Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, can help Roughrider Electric's low-income and eligible individuals with assistance when it comes to heating and insulation costs in the winter. Through the North Dakota Department of Human Services, human service zone offices and Community Options, individuals can be helped with a variety of services when it comes to heating assistance.

Services offered

LIHEAP offers a variety of service assistance. Not only can the program help curve the costs of your heating and cooling bill, but is also helps households with weatherization, which helps make homes more energy efficient.

"For example, if someone lives in a 100-year-old home, with outdated windows, we might be able to help them with the costs of installing new windows, therefore making the home more energy efficient and reducing their electricity bill," said Shannon Rolandson, outreach specialist at Community Options.

The assistance program may also help with the costs of furnace and chimney cleaning, emergency assistance and cost-reduction devices.

It is important to remember this program is not only for homeowners, Rolandson said.

"This program not only helps low-income homeowners with energy costs, but renters as well," she said.

Apply for LIHEAP

LIHEAP eligible members can apply from Oct. 1 to May 31.

"Some individuals can be referred to the program, but anyone is welcomed," Rolandson said. Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will go into your home and assist you in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent into the state for review and the results will be provided back within a week or two.

"I wish more people knew the program was available," Rolandson said. "We often hear, 'This won't apply to me' or 'I will just get denied.' But if you need help, please contact us and we will work with you. It doesn't hurt to apply."

"Last year, we processed a total of 548 applications, and 433 were approved for LIHEAP," Rolandson said.

Check with your local human service office for more information regarding these services. Applications will be accepted from Oct. 1 to May 31 and can be found online at www.applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office or Community Options office. ■



For more information on Roughrider Electric Cooperative's heating assistance resources, visit www.roughriderelectric.com/heating-assistance

Lineworkers attend AT&S Conference



*Roughrider Electric Cooperative received a Certificate of Safety Achievement for its successful participation in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program. Roughrider Electric Cooperative apprentice lineworker **Connor Kuntz**, second from right, accepts an award on behalf of the cooperative.*

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) hosted its 59th annual Apprenticeship Training and Safety Conference Jan. 11-13 in Bismarck. The conference is sponsored by NDAREC, with cooperation from the U.S.

Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship.

The conference drew representatives of NDAREC member-cooperatives, students at the Bismarck State College lineworker program and the electric industry for classroom sessions, equipment

evaluations and award ceremonies. Training topics included N.D. Department of Transportation updates, protective grounding, lineworker safety and tool training, transformer connections, conducting a thorough accident investigation, and more.

"Participants increase their knowledge and skills of the trade by attending the Apprenticeship, Training & Safety Conference and, in turn, improve the safety, resilience and reliability of the electrical system, which directly impacts the quality of life for our members," said Christina Roemmich, NDAREC safety services director.

During the awards banquet, Roughrider Electric Cooperative was recognized as a successful participant in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program. ■

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC FOR YOUR
ANNUAL MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023
DICKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA

MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW.



POWER
FOR GENERATIONS

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. **Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures.**

Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Do we have your current contact information?

If you no longer have a land line or your mobile mailbox is full - we may not be able to reach you in regards to information about your electric service. Update your phone number and email address by:

 **Logging into your SmartHub Account**

 **Call us at 800-748-5533**

Board meeting highlights

When, where and who: The board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative met at Roughrider's Dickinson office on Jan. 27.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Dec. 16, 2022, meeting, and the Jan. 5 special board meeting.

Co-general managers' report: Travis Kupper presented the co-general managers' report.

WDUS/3C updates: A December report was presented to the board from WDUS and subsidiaries.

Board member reports: Attendees at the meetings over the past month reported to the board.

CFO report: Alex Craigmile presented the board with a summary of financial reports, which were accepted by the board.

Operations report: Jason Bentz provided the board with additional information on his written report.

Member services/key account report: Leonard Hibl provided the board with an update on his written report.

Legal report: Jennifer Grosz provided the board with an update on the status of projects addressed in her written report. ■



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CT Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE

701-483-5111 or 800-748-5533
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. MT Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Greg Steckler, President; Dunn Center.....	548-8122
Roger Kudrna, Vice President; Dickinson.....	483-8377
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley.....	948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley.....	983-4222
Darell Herman; Beulah.....	873-4371
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson.....	483-8207
Dan Price; Henler.....	794-3779
Callen Schoch; New England.....	290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Travis Kupper.....	Co-GM/CEO
Jason Bentz.....	Co-GM/CEO



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