



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

THIS ISSUE:

- Member appreciation events planned
- Lineworkers complete apprenticeship
- Planning to build?
- Cybersecurity tips

MARCH
2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



*Fourth-generation agriculturists **Matt and Sara Hager**, with their daughter **Mariah**, returned home to Sara's family ranch near New Leipzig in 2021, following Matt's retirement from the U.S. Marine Corps.*

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE MONTH: **MATT AND SARA HAGER**

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

In rural America, agriculture is more than a livelihood. It's a legacy. The knowledge and passion for being stewards of the land continue to shape the future of agriculture. Today's producers aren't just growing crops and raising livestock – they are ensuring a prosperous future for the next generations. Matt and Sara Hager along with their daughter Mariah are passionate about continuing conservation and regenerative agriculture on their operation.

The Hagers are fourth-generation agriculturalists on Sara's family ranch near New Leipzig. The Hagers moved around for 21 years while Matt was in the U.S. Marine Corps. After Matt retired in 2021, they

moved to New Leipzig. The family was ready to plant roots and prepared to move to the ranch by planning and gathering helpful information, hoping to continue sustainable and regenerative practices on their operation. The operation includes cow-calf pairs, and they grow cover crops and implement other agricultural strategies. One of Matt and Sara's mentors on conservation practices was Sara's father, Larry Baesler.

"We would come and visit, help Larry and learn from him over the years," Matt says.

Baesler lived and worked on the ranch and helped

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Matt and Mariah check on the cow-calf pairs.

spark Matt and Sara's passion for conservation and bringing sustainable practices to their operation. Baesler worked for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and was passionate about land conservation and regenerative practices, which Matt and Sara soaked in at any opportunity.

The couple continues to work with various agricultural and wildlife groups to implement initiatives they see fit for their operation, such as cover crop programs.

"We have been able to return cows to cropland in places where cows hadn't been on the cropland for many, many years," Matt says.

Matt knew cattle were in the plans to continue to regenerate the land and build healthy soil. Cattle help as a tool to improve land as they graze, and they reduce fertilizer costs as well.

To add to conservation efforts on the ranch, Matt and Sara have worked to add and maintain shelterbelts for their cattle operation and also for wildlife. They plan to add 800 trees to their land this summer to help conserve the wildlife habitats.

Matt and Sara work alongside each other day in and day out, doing chores, attending workshops and planning for the future of their operation.

"It's been a whirlwind three years," Sara says. "But we have enjoyed being able to work on the things we want to work on, when we want to."


Sara also has a passion for growing a flourishing garden. They recently received a high-tunnel greenhouse through a program. A high-tunnel greenhouse will help the Hagers extend the growing season of plants, and they hope to donate extra produce to the local food pantry.

"The garden has been trial and error," Sara says. "We are working on our high tunnel and hope to plan some fun things in the future, like a pumpkin patch."

While moving around for over two decades, the Hagers say they missed the community.

"Getting to be involved and serve neighbors and community is something we've missed," Matt says.

He says they have friendly neighbors who have helped them along the way since moving back and have had a hand in teaching them more about ranching.

"Our neighbors say that with ranching, you're learning every year, whether you've been doing this for 40 years or not," Matt says. "Every day is a new day. Every challenge is different." 



Mariah helps her parents around the ranch including checking on the herd.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Restoring power safely and efficiently



Travis Kupper
Co-General Manager/CEO

We do our best to avoid power outages, but there's no way around it. Outages occasionally happen.

For most Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

When the power goes out, how do Mor-Gran-Sou Electric crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We have answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When a power outage occurs and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.


This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a greater number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously, working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages. This is why you see Mor-Gran-Sou Electric crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights of way. We love trees, too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself. The quickest way to report an outage is by calling our office at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use and never connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. 

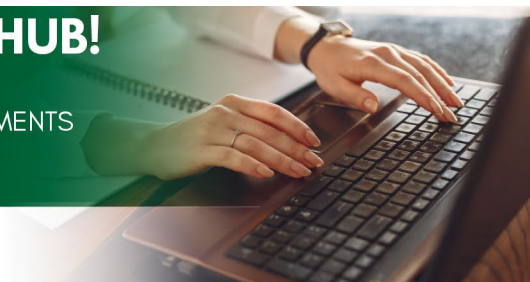


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MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: E-newsletter coming soon



Julie Armijo
Chief of Staff/Member
Services Manager

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is excited to announce the launch of our new e-newsletter coming soon, which is a direct response to the feedback provided in our 2024 member engagement survey. Your insights are valuable in shaping our approach to communication, and we're committed to keeping you informed and connected.

For members who have provided us with an email, our e-newsletters will arrive in your inbox on a monthly basis,

with additional updates as necessary. If you have not provided us with an email or if you have a new email address, please call our office or visit our website and update your information on SmartHub.

We welcome your ongoing feedback and suggestions on topics you would like covered, as this

e-newsletter is for you! Thank you for being a valued part of your cooperative.



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric wants to say **THANK YOU** for being part of our cooperative. Join us for one of our membership appreciation events, and enjoy food and visit with our board of directors, CEOs, staff and other members. All members are invited for a fun-filled night of bingo and camaraderie.

APRIL 7
AJ AGARD CENTER
FORT YATES
5-7 P.M. (CT)
BINGO AT 6 P.M. (CT)

APRIL 9
BRANDED BAR & GRILL,
FLASHER
5-7 P.M. (CT)
BINGO AT 6 P.M. (CT)

APRIL 16
LAKE TSCHIDA WELCOME
CENTER, LAKE TSCHIDA
5-7 P.M. (MT)
BINGO AT 6 P.M. (MT)

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Planning to build or upgrade?**



Gary Fitterer

Manager of Operations

As you begin to plan your spring to-do list in anticipation of tackling it at the first sight of sun and warmth, we want to remind you of a few tips before finalizing plans. If building or upgrading is on your list, whether it's a new pasture well, a new home or adding a grain dryer or shop onto the farm, give us a call so we can ensure your projects are completed smoothly.

Contact Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative in the early stages of the planning process, and we can help provide guidance and analyze what your projected electrical requirements may be, as well as service availability and potential costs.

Contacting us in the beginning stages also helps us plan for load forecast, which may include your plans for heating, cooling, water and other equipment. It is important to have an idea of possible expansion in your future, such as a barn, shop or even generator usage.

Once we get an idea of the project, we will ask to

meet at the project site to get a better idea of the location. Then, we can see if there are overhead power lines or underground cable near the project site. We can also determine the best choice of infrastructure, including overhead power lines or underground cable, if vegetation needs to be removed and where the best route of installation should be. An easement may need to be granted to the cooperative so we can access the land to install and maintain infrastructure.

Other items to consider when planning a building or upgrade project may be installation of surge protection to protect appliances and equipment from power surges. A backup power source should be on your radar as well, since the cooperative would need to install specific equipment to utilize it.

Our team at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric wants to help you get your project done in a safe and effective manner. This is why we ask members to inquire in the beginning stages of planning to ensure we can provide a safe and reliable service to your new home, pasture well or shop upgrade. Give us a call at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212 to start discussing your project or with any potential questions. 

PLANNING TO BUILD OR UPGRADE THIS YEAR?

***GIVE US A CALL SO WE CAN
HELP YOU START PLANNING!***



701-597-3301

701-663-0297

OR 800-750-8212



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative Manager of Operations **Gary Fitterer**, center, accepted a safety award on behalf of the cooperative at the annual NDAREC Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Conference in January, where **Chance Magilke**, left, and **Layton Kasper** were also recognized for completing their lineworker apprenticeships.


Lineworkers complete training

Each year at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Conference banquet, cooperatives and employees are recognized for various awards and achievements.

At the banquet, two Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative lineworkers, Chance Magilke and Layton Kasper, were recognized for completing their lineworker apprenticeship training. The lineworker

apprenticeship program requires apprentices to complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and 40 tests.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric also received a certificate of safety achievement for continually being dedicated to the safety of our employees and communities.

Help us congratulate Chance, Layton and all cooperative employees for being dedicated to ensuring a safety, reliable service to all members! 

SAVE THE DATE

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric
Annual Meeting

June 12, Mandan

More details will be available in the coming months.



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Cybersecurity awareness and tips

We live in an evolving and fast-paced world with new technologies around every corner. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative values our face-to-face and phone conversations with members, but we understand sometimes members prefer to communicate, pay bills, update contact information and much more online.


“We prioritize cybersecurity at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to ensure information remains safe,” says Beth Kroh, member services representative II. “But when it comes to security online, we all can contribute to remain secure.”

Here are a few cybersecurity tips to keep in mind when using online sites that house delicate information.

- **Use strong and unique passwords.** Create complex passwords with a mix of letters, numbers and special characters. A password manager can help generate and store unique passwords for each online user account you may have.
- **Enable multi-factor authentication.** For added security, enable multi-factor authentication when possible. This adds an extra layer of defense.
- **Keep software up to date.** Regularly update operating systems, applications (apps) and antivirus software.
- **Be cautious of phishing attacks.** Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading attachments from unknown users. If you ever receive a suspicious text or email with a link from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, call us as soon as possible to verify legitimacy.
- **Use secure networks and devices.** Connect to secure Wi-Fi networks or use your phone's hot



spot. Avoid connecting to public Wi-Fi networks, especially when logging into websites that contain sensitive information.

By following these tips, we hope you feel more secure when choosing to use online applications. If you ever have any questions on the legitimacy of an email, text or call coming from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric give us a call at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212 and we will help verify. 

JOIN MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC FOR THE CAREER TOUR AUGUST 5-6

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www.morgransou.com.

Application deadline is April 25.





MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS Dec. 18, 2024

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on Dec. 18, 2024, at the Mandan Service Center in Mandan. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Manager of Operations Gary Fitterer, Chief of Staff/Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, Interim General Counsel Andrew Fergel and Executive Assistant Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: Amendments to the agenda were presented. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic agenda: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the various meetings, including the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Class A managers meeting. Several Basin Electric, West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction reports were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Fitterer reviewed the operations report, which included an update on training and jobs on which crews are working. Armijo provided a member services report on various upcoming member meetings and annual meeting information. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Fergel provided a general counsel report on projects he is working on.

Action items: Action items were discussed and resolved.

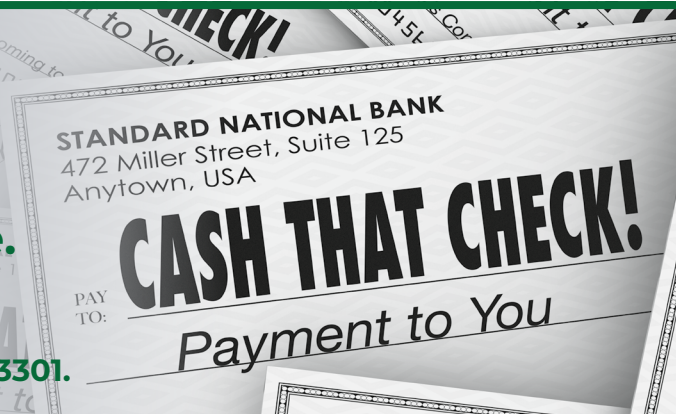
Discussion/general information: The board discussed the quarterly strategic plan update and other items.

The meeting concluded with the adjournment. Secretary-Treasurer Pam Geiger certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is 10 a.m. March 26 in Mandan.

Members, if you have received a capital credit retirement check, please cash it as soon as possible.

**Call our office with any questions
800-750-8212, 701-663-0297 or 701-597-3301.**



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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701- 663-0297 Mandan
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Email us: info@morgransou.com
UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair.....Steve Tomac
Vice Chair.....Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger
Directors.....Mark Doll, Rodney Froelich,
Bob J. Leingang, Ryan Petrick,
Kathy Tokach, Casey Wells

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEOTravis Kupper
Co-GM/CEO Jason Bentz

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