



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

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NOVEMBER
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

LaDukes spend 30 years in honey-loving business

BY RACHEL NEFF

As a lover of all things sweet, Ann LaDuke knew she did not want to stop making desserts for her husband, Delvin, due to an intolerance to white sugar. While exploring her options, a friend gave Ann a honey cookbook that consisted of a variety of recipes using honey as a sweetener rather than refined sugar. Little did she know the cookbook she received to help satisfy her sweet tooth would be life-changing.

While flipping through the pages of the cookbook, an ice cream topping recipe popped out to Ann and Delvin. Over the years, she made the topping and served it to friends and neighbors. One day, a neighbor approached Ann and mentioned she should consider selling her creation.

"I can remember him saying to me, 'You're really onto something,'" Ann said.

Shortly after that





Ann and Delvin LaDuke have owned Honey Lover's Co. for 30 years.

conversation in 1992, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Ann and Delvin officially formed their business, Honey Lover's Co., from their home in the Shields area.

"Our first show was at the Minot state fair in a Pride of Dakota tent," Ann said. "I took 78 jars of Honey 'N Chocolate and sold them all."

It was during this event, Ann could tell some customers were unsure of the product's use.

"It's an ice cream topping," Ann exclaimed. "From there, we started to sample it with ice cream at the craft shows we went to, and our product went like hot cakes."

Consumers of Honey Lover's Honey 'N Chocolate topping often share the honey is not too overpowering. Ironically, Ann's neighbor who helped plant the idea to sell the concoction did not even like honey and was unaware that the sweet drizzle contained honey.

The turning point

After a few successful years of selling Honey 'N Chocolate locally, the LaDukes decided to take a chance and enter QVC's 50 weeks in 50 states product search. Although their product was one of hundreds of applicants, luck and hard work helped Honey Lover's to be featured as part of the final 20.

"It was definitely a turning point for us," Ann said. "By the end of the seven-minute

segment, we sold all 7,200 jars, which was the encouragement that we needed to keep making it." And that is exactly what the LaDukes continued to do.

Since starting Honey Lover's 30 years ago, the LaDukes have expanded their selection of flavors, which now include coconut, German chocolate, raspberry, mint, almond and original Honey 'N Chocolate and a Honey 'N Caramel ice cream topping.

"We have experimented with a lot of different flavors," Ann said. "We have tried blueberry, chokecherry, mocha and even habanero. However, the seven we have now are our best sellers."


Where has the time gone?

After 30 years in the "honey-loving" business, Ann and Delvin often reflect, "Where has the time gone?"

"In those 30 years, we have raised three children, three foster children and now have six beautiful grandchildren," Ann said. "We are very busy nowadays, and do not want to end the Honey Lover's era, but rather continue it on, even if it's not with us."

Ann noted as they plan their future, they are looking for individuals just as passionate about the product to take over their business.

The next Pride of Dakota events where you can find Ann and Delvin LaDuke and their Honey Lover's booth are scheduled for Nov. 4 and 5 in Grand Forks, Nov. 18 and 19 in Fargo and Dec. 2 and 3 in Bismarck.

"Look for the crowd of people and that is where you will find us," Ann said. 



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

It's a matter of (co-op!) principles



Travis Kupper

For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things for which I'm grateful are our wonderful communities. I know I speak for all Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative employees when I say we are thankful to be in such an incredible place.

You may recall last month, my column touched on the first three cooperative principles. This month, I'd like to share the remaining four principles with you. The cooperative principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

Autonomy and independence

The fourth principle, autonomy and independence, means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local communities. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

Education and training

The fifth principle, education and training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual, professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

Cooperation among cooperatives


Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle into action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts. And we extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an ever-changing energy landscape.

Concern for community

The seventh principle, concern for community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through grants, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in the communities we serve.

I think you'll find most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. 





Need help with your energy bills? LIHEAP is here!



While the fall weather settles in, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members will be faced with cooling temperatures, and even colder temperatures in the coming months. 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 Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can assist Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's low-income and eligible individuals with heating and insulation costs this winter. Through the N.D. 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 curb the costs of your heating and cooling bills, it can also help households with weatherization to 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 energy 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 through May 31.

"Some individuals can be referred to the program, but anyone is welcomed," Rolandson said. Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will visit 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 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, Community Options processed a total of 548 applications, with 433 approved for LIHEAP. If you, or someone you know, would like to apply, visit your local human service office for more information.

Applications will be accepted from Oct. 1 through 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. 

Safety Starts with ME: Jesse Kuhn

The beautiful season of lights is officially upon us, as the holidays approach and the year draws to a close.

“Here at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, we want to remind you that before decking the halls, remember that safety should always come first,” said Jesse Kuhn, Mor-Gran-Sou’s engineering technician.

When decorating with lights this holiday season, Kuhn recommends these few tips to take into consideration:


1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) steady your ladder and pass the decorations to you. This is an invaluable part of safety, keeping you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners and encouragement.
 2. Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.
 3. Don’t overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
 4. Don’t overextend the ladder. If your ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is dangerous, as is standing on rungs too close to the top.
 5. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
 6. Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.
- Most of these tips apply equally to inside and



outside decorating activities.

In addition, Kuhn suggests investing in LED lights this season.

“Why go the LED route? Longevity and cost of operation are the two key reasons. Unlike incandescent lights, whether the large or mini bulbs, LEDs will last for many, many years. LEDs have no filaments to burn out. Aside from physically destroying the bulb, the LED is amazingly robust,” Kuhn said.

To our valued members, on behalf of everyone at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season. 



Holiday closings

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage. We thank all veterans and members of the military for their service and sacrifice!



AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. JUNE 18-23, 2023

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
- If you have any questions, please contact Julie Armijo, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, at 701-597-3301 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 20, 2023. You can email entries to Julie Armijo at jarmijo@morgransou.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.



TOP 3 REASONS

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
3. A learning experience you'll never forget

ESSAY QUESTION:

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
<https://ndyouthtour.com>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Before you buy it, make it: **Schirado Inventions LLC**

BY RACHEL NEFF

As a child growing up in rural North Dakota with a farming family, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member Richard “Dick” Schirado remembers what his family taught him.

“It traces back to my heritage,” Schirado recalled.

“Being a German from Russia, frugality was instilled in me. Rather than buying it, we made it.”

It was from this upbringing that Schirado trained himself to always be looking for creative ways to save money by inventing new gadgets to solve his problems.

In 2014, he took this innate quality one step further, making his childhood dream come true with the establishment of Schirado Inventions LLC, a home-grown business near Glen Ullin making goods that help farmers, ranchers and more. The Schirado’s are also Pride of Dakota members.

The motive behind the majority of his inventions is simple: to make life a bit easier for himself and others. For example, one of his most popular inventions, a remote-controlled gate, was invented shortly after his children moved away and left the farm.

“The remote-controlled gate is like an extra hired man,” he said. “It saves time and is much safer when you’re on your own and don’t have someone else to help you.”

Patience is key

Schirado has been a grain farmer for as long as he remembers, and rather than retiring, he switched his focus in a different direction. This switch did not come without any bumps in the road, but the creative process has a lot to do with finding patience.



“Some days, you feel like you shouldn’t have started a project, whereas others, you think, ‘Yeah, I will keep going,’” he said.

Schirado recalled a new project in particular that has tested his patience the most – the grease gun.

“It was on the market about five years ago, but then had to restart due to some defects,” he said. However, a minor bump in the road wasn’t going to stop him.

“I have been working on it for a while now and hope to have a trial back up on the market by the end of the year,” he said.

Through it all, a support system has encouraged Schirado to keep moving forward.

“Inventing can be hard, and I could not do what I do without my wife, Debbie,” he said. “She is my No. 1 supporter.”

Schirado Inventions is multi-faceted. Not only does the business offer gadgets to aid with farming, but also inventions for the smaller, practical side of life. One of his bestsellers is a mail clip.

To learn a little bit more about what Schirado Inventions has to offer, visit www.schiradoinventions.com or find the business on Facebook. 



Richard Schirado is supported in his inventions by his wife, **Debbie**.



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 28

- Approved the Aug. 24 board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment capitalization
- Approved capital credit retirement applications for estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed co-general managers/CEOs update
- Reviewed senior staff and general counsel reports
- Reviewed board governance director compensation policy
- Heard report from KRTA ratios
- Reviewed director attendance guide
- Appointed alternate trustee to ND REC Benefit Trust
- Approved NRECA's amendment and restatement of retirement security and 401(k) plans
- Approved exposure control plan
- Approved Connie Hill as acting secretary of Mor-Gran-Sou board
- Heard director board member reports
- Discussed current drug and alcohol policy

- Reviewed upcoming meetings
- Reviewed August financial report
- Approved bad debt write-off

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

Nov. 16, 10 a.m. CT/9 a.m. MT, J&L Building, Bismarck

Members are welcome to attend board meetings. As plans may change, please call the office at 800-750-8212 or 597-3301 to confirm the meeting status if you wish to attend. To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Steve Tomac or Co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper or Donald Franklund at 701-597-3301 at least one week in advance. Members may obtain a copy of approved board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form. You can find this form at www.morghransou.com or contact the Flasher office to request a copy.

Idle services to be retired

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative continues to retire idle services throughout the co-op's service area. What does Mor-Gran-Sou consider to be an idle electrical service?

It is a service that is not making any payment to the cooperative, but continues to receive regular maintenance. Your cooperative's procedure is to post a detailed list in our communications material to keep members informed of the idle services that will be retired. This is the second notice of this particular group of idle services to

be retired.

Prior to this detailed listing, Mor-Gran-Sou personnel have already contacted, or tried to contact, the property owner and affected property owners based on the information available. If someone comes forward and is willing to pay the line retention fee, we no longer consider it an idle service. However, if no one comes forward, the line is then put on a list and will be retired. The following idle services will be retired at the cooperative's convenience:


Grant County

T133 R87 Section 22 NE ¼
T133 R90 Section 8 NW ¼

Morton County

T135 R79 Section 11 NW ¼
T135 R79 Section 23 NW ¼
T138 R87 Section 10 SE ¼

Sioux County

T129 R82 Section 34 SE 1/4
T130 R80 Section 3 NE 1/4
T132 R83 Section 31 NE 1/4
T133 R79 Section 14 NE 1/4
T134 R79 Section 34 SE 1/4
T134 R79 Section 35 SW 1/4 



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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/CEO Donald A. Franklund
Co-GM/CEO Travis Kupper

www.morghransou.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

