



# MOR-GRAN-SOU

## ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

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OCTOBER  
2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## THE ART OF HOME: Little White Farm

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

Home means something different for everyone. It can be a physical place, a feeling or a smell that sparks reminders of home. Home has been a refuge for Dana Zimmerman, a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member. The little white farmhouse the Zimmermans call home is a place where Dana and her husband, Brad, make memories with their children and play with their grandchildren. But this home also inspired Dana's business and commitment to spreading the art of home.

In 2020, the Zimmermans moved from Hazen to the farm, where Brad grew up near Elgin. The 1906 farmhouse, which remained on the farm, had been vacant for a few years and needed some restoration. As Dana and Brad started to restore the house, they took note of its lasting charm and peaceful character and worked to ensure it remained. As construction continued, contractors would refer to the house as "the little white house," as the outside was painted white coupled with a homey white interior.

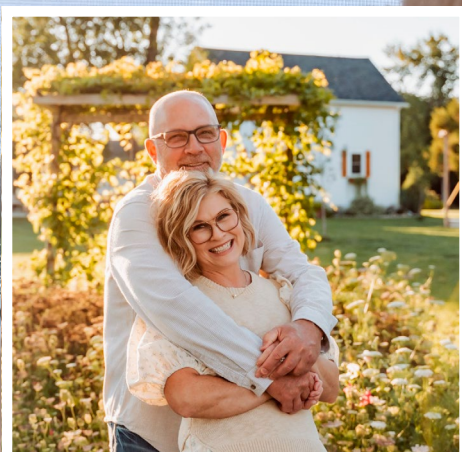
"White felt fresh, calm, peaceful and homey to me," Dana says.

That name stuck with the Zimmermans. Coincidentally, around that same time, Dana felt the call to create and began making candles.

"I have always found a way to create at home," Dana says.

While raising their three children, Dana stayed at home, but she always found herself creating. The trust in quality of work began when she started making baby blankets for family and friends, which she did for 15 years. Her passion, knowledge and caring nature set her apart when it came to a quality product.

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**Dana and Brad Zimmerman,**  
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric members,  
live on Brad's family farm near Elgin.





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"There is so much science behind making candles," Dana says. "Different waxes, blends, wicks."

Dana, who loves to learn, found herself digging into candle making. What began with a few blocks of wax, wicks and pouring them into vintage dishes has now become a wholesale operation known as Little White Farm.

"The thought has to go into it, because it's going into someone's home," Dana says.

Dana takes pride in learning all she can about the products she produces to ensure a high-quality product is on the shelves. When Dana is sourcing product for her candles, melts and room sprays, she values utilizing other small makers who know the product's source and contents. She says she has learned a lot from others in the candle making community who have pointed her in the right direction. For instance, she uses a coconut soy blend for her base, which she was once creating herself, but then found a reliable source from a group of makers. Since Dana's burst of business in 2025, she has found herself outsourcing and making things more efficient.

"2025 has been a turning point for us," Dana says. "We had been operating as word of mouth until now."

In September, Little White Farm launched its website where customers can now shop. Before then, Little White Farm products were available in locations around the state.

"Even that was word of mouth," Dana says.

Business owners came to her, asking to carry her products, and now they can be found in nine towns across North Dakota.

Although business has increased, you will still find Dana and her family pouring waxes, creating scents, designing labels and delivering products to wholesalers.

She finds joy in creating the scent for her candles, waxes and room sprays. After learning about the factors that impact a candle's scent and overall lifespan, Dana has nailed the process and now has a signature Farmhouse Collection and offers various seasonal scents.

"For fall, I always have classic fall, fresh and masculine scents," she says.

This year, over 15 fall scents debuted in September with a few new ones added to the collection.

Learning from her wholesalers as well as customers has been helpful in her scent development process. She says it's been interesting getting to know what people prefer and fun to hear everyone smells things differently.

"Home is a feeling, and it is in a scent," Dana says.

Not only does Dana offer a variety of scents, but the candles also offer reminders and have a story. The candle's scent not only brings comfort and joy, but


so does the product name and design. In homage to the little white farm where they live, the branding is simple. The graphics and text are black on a white label. The candle itself is white in a clear jar, making it a refreshing addition to anyone's decor.

"Every scent has a story," Dana says. "The picture I chose and the name, there is a reason behind."

Some of Dana's favorite scents from the Farmhouse Collection are Farmhouse Kitchen and Sunny + Citrus. Sunny + Citrus is the scent that inspired her to learn how to make candles and experiment with scents. As her fall collection rolls out, she shares her favorites – although she says it's hard to choose – from the collection, Cranberry Clove and Gather Together. She says Cranberry Clove is a fresh and bright scent with a hit of a cozy fall, while Gather Together reminds her of an apple cinnamon crumble baking at someone's house.

Not a day goes by where Dana doesn't feel grateful to step into a shop on the farm that has been turned into her workshop.

"It's important to me, when I step into my home, I feel that 'ahhh' and I want others to feel that way, too," Dana says.

Shop Little White Farm products at [littlewhitefarm.com](http://littlewhitefarm.com) and follow the shop on Instagram @littlewhitefarm1906. 



*A line up of Little White Farm scents. Shop Little White Farm products at [littlewhitefarm.com](http://littlewhitefarm.com).*



MOR-GRAN-SOU  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**1,800 students.**  
**7 days.**  
**1 unforgettable trip.**

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative! *Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.*

**Learn more at [ndyouthtour.com](http://ndyouthtour.com).**

#### 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.

#### Essay question:

As member-owned organizations, electric cooperatives are always seeking new ways to engage their members. What are some ways electric cooperatives can better communicate and connect, especially with students and young adults?

The application deadline is Jan. 16, 2026.

Questions? Please contact Julie Armijo, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212 during regular business hours.

Email entries to Julie Armijo at [jarmijo@morgransou.com](mailto:jarmijo@morgransou.com) or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297.





## MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

# Co-ops power communities with purpose



**Jason Bentz**

*Co-General Manager/CEO*

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces, such as social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

In October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the United States are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses. But more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are nonprofit utilities built by the communities they serve. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's mission has always been to provide you with reliable electric service. We care about your quality of life. And because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond providing electrical services, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because our employees live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody

the values and spirit of the cooperative movement.

These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities, while remaining true to our purpose.

**Open and voluntary membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.

**Democratic member control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members for the members.


**Member economic participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it operates smoothly now and in the future. At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, this happens through paying your energy bills.

**Autonomy and independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.

**Education, training and information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

**Cooperation among cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other in times of need, because we want other co-ops to thrive.

**Concern for community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

As we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of co-op membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people and the local communities we're proud to serve. 



# ELECTRIC CO-OPS PROVIDE POWER WITH PURPOSE.



## MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS: **LIHEAP is here to help**



**Julie Armijo**

Chief of Staff/Member  
Services Manager

As the fall weather arrives, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members will be faced with colder temperatures in the coming months. For some, anticipation of the winter months causes stress and anxiety as they wonder how to ensure a warm home. Thankfully, there are programs to help members.

Through the N.D. Department of Human Services (NDDHS), the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)


can help low-income and eligible individuals when it comes to heating and insulation costs in the winter. Individuals can obtain home energy assistance with a variety of services, including home heating.

The assistance program may also help with the costs of furnace and chimney cleaning, emergency assistance and energy cost-reduction devices. Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for assistance.

### **Apply for LIHEAP**

Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist from NDDHS will visit your home and assist in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent to the state for review, and the results will be provided within a week or two.

Check with your local human service office for more information regarding these services.

Applications are now being accepted year-round and can be found online at [applyforhelp.nd.gov](http://applyforhelp.nd.gov) or by request at the local human service zone office. 

### **Services offered**

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

**Scan the QR code or reach out to your local human service zone office for more information and to apply.**



## Additional resources:

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone:** Serving Grant, Morton and Sioux counties

### **Grant County office**

106 Second Ave. NE, P.O. Box 278,  
Carson, ND 58529  
Phone: 701-622-3706 or 711

### **Morton County office**

210 Second Ave. NW,  
Mandan, ND 58554-3124  
Phone: 701-667-3395

### **Sioux County office**

105 N. Agency Ave., P.O. Box B,  
Fort Yates, ND 58538  
Phone: 701-854-3821 or 711







MOR-GRAN-SOU  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Powering together**



**Gary Fitterer**

*Manager of Operations*

Every October, electric cooperatives across the country celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. As an electric cooperative, we are guided by the seven cooperative principles. One of those principles is cooperation among cooperatives, which is something we do every day.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative and three neighboring electric cooperatives are proud owners of Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative (IEA), Maintenance Solutions Cooperative (MSC), West Dakota Utilities Services (WDUS) and 3C Construction. You have probably read about these strategic partnerships in the past, but we would like to highlight the partnerships that help us ensure safe, reliable electric services for our members.


Each day, employees at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric collaborate with employees of IEA, which provides various services and support to the cooperative. On the operations side, we work closely with IEA's engineering department to analyze, update and plan for system maintenance and expansion. We also work with the information technology team to ensure secure, efficient and reliable operation of all computing systems, hardware and software at our cooperative. Other departments within IEA Mor-Gran-Sou Electric works closely with includes managerial, employee services,

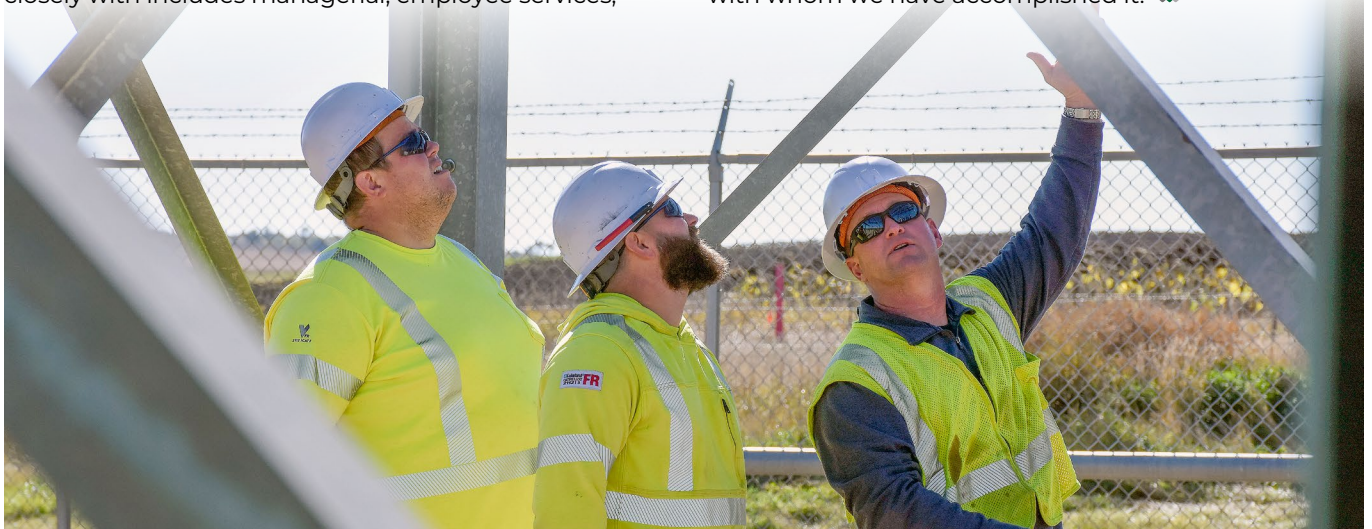
finance and accounting as well as others.

But it doesn't stop there. We also partner with MSC, which is a dedicated team delivering comprehensive maintenance and technical solutions. MSC's experienced team builds and maintains our metering systems within substations, ensuring these critical components operate smoothly and efficiently. MSC also verifies meters on our system, ensuring accuracy and integrity of metering equipment.

When our fleet of vehicles and equipment needs attention, WDUS certified technicians, who specialize in a variety of services, are here to keep us running. From N.D. Department of Transportation inspection certifications to utility vehicle repair and maintenance, WDUS's multi-faceted repair shop ensures our cooperative vehicles are always ready.

When we need additional hands to complete a project or repair storm damage, 3C Construction, a construction contractor, is ready to assist our cooperative. Its crews provide reliable solutions for plowing underground cable and for outage restoration efforts. By providing additional manpower and advanced equipment, 3C Construction helps reduce project time and ensures efficient operations to help us continue powering our communities.

Through these partnerships, we can better serve you with cost savings, while maintaining quality of service to our members. By working together, sharing resources and supporting one another, we build a stronger cooperative. During National Co-op Month, we are proud to celebrate what we have accomplished and with whom we have accomplished it! 



## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Generator safety

The safety of our members and our employees is a top priority at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, especially during uncertain situations. When storms impact our area, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric employees work safely and diligently to restore electric services as soon as weather conditions allow.

When line crews are working on impacted infrastructure, such as downed power lines, they take necessary precautions to ensure their safety. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized and proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. Then, they place grounding straps on the circuit, on both sides of the lineworkers, to make sure the power line cannot be energized while work is being completed.

"Our team works to ensure a safe working environment during every job," says Cody Maher, area foreman. "But members can also assist in keeping everyone safe."


Portable generators, which are widely used during an outage, can prove fatal to both line crews and members when used improperly.

Although portable generators can be helpful during outages, we urge you to follow these safety guidelines:

- **Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use.** A generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes into contact with the line, even if the line seems de-energized. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect generators to your home.
- **Plug appliances or equipment directly into generators.** Turn off appliances or equipment before plugging them into the generator or turning off the generator.
- **Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.** Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs.



- **Never overload a generator.** A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- **Keep the generator dry.** Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.
- **In case of a fire hazard, have a fire extinguisher nearby.**
- **Never refuel a generator while it is operating.** Turn the generator off and allow it to cool before refueling.
- **Carefully read the manufacturer's instructions.** Follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe operation.

Rest assured when a storm hits our area, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric crews are ready to safely restore power to homes and business, but we need your help to remain safe. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit. 

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows.





MOR-GRAN-SOU  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS July 30

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held July 30 at the Mandan Service Center in Mandan. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. CT. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric co-General Managers/CEOs Jason Bentz and Travis Kupper, 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:** The consent agenda was approved as presented.


**Strategic items:** Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on a North Dakota managers meeting, Mid-West Electric Consumers Association meeting, power suppliers and more. Several additional Basin Electric Power Cooperative board documents were available for review.

**Department reports:** Craigmile provided a financial report. Fitterer reviewed the operations report, which included projects. Armijo provided a member services report on programs and upcoming events. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided the board with a report. Fergel provided a general counsel report on projects.

**Action items:** Action items were discussed and resolved.

**Discussion/general information:** Nicholas Disanti and Jason Strong with the Cooperative Finance Cooperation reviewed the cost-of-service study. Additionally, the board discussed bylaws and other items.

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

**Next meeting date:** The next meeting is at 10 a.m. CT on Oct. 29 in Mandan. 

## MEMBER PAYMENT UPDATE

To further ensure secure credit card payments over the phone, a CVV code will be needed to process payment.

If you have any questions please call our office during normal business hours at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 800-750-8212.



MOR-GRAN-SOU  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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701- 663-0297 Mandan  
Toll-free: 800-750-8212 Fax: 701-597-3915  
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/CEO .....Travis Kupper  
Co-GM/CEO .....Jason Bentz

[www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com)

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