



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CURRENT

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

MAY 2015

NEWS

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVENEY



*Mor-Gran-Sou wishes you
a scenic and safe spring.*

Fish Creek Dam, Morton County

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Ag Day connects field and food

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Morton County Farm Bureau held its 39th-annual Ag Day on Thursday, March 19 at Open Road Honda in Mandan. Ag days is held on the third Thursday of March every year during national Ag Week.

This year kids toured around 25 booths, touching, feeling, hearing, seeing and tasting a variety of things related to agriculture, to help them better understand where their food comes from and how it gets from the farmer's field to their table. "With fewer and fewer kids having a connection to a farm through relatives and friends, we are seeing a disconnect as to how kids view their food and farming," says Nathan Boehm, vice president of the Morton County Farm Bureau. "Our goal is to let young people and kids know the connection of farming and the food they eat."

Kids of all ages were encouraged to attend Ag Day, but the focus is on preschool through second-grade students. "The last six years, we averaged between 2,500 and 3,500 kids, and 500 to 1,000 adults at this one-day event, which is free to the

Julie Armijo, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member services clerk, dressed Carter Michlitsch in personal protective gear and asked him to be tough like a lineman. The son of Tony and Lindi Michlitsch, Carter attends school at St. Joseph's in Mandan. He toured Ag Day with his dad, who works as a control room operator at Leland Olds Station.



FFA students showed kids how to milk a stationary cow. **Stetson Ellingson** (right) and **Jamison Ellingson** (left) are the sons of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Chad and Julie Ellingson, and **Cory Wald** is the son of Steven and Sonia Wald.

public,” Boehm says.

Highlights included touching a variety of large and small animals, learning how sheep are sheared, and watching a farm safety puppet show put on by the Mandan FFA chapter.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative also had a booth to teach electrical safety around the farm. Jackie Miller, chief of staff and manager of member services, and Julie Armijo, member services clerk, dressed kids in rubber sleeves and safety glasses, so they learned how personal protective gear keeps linemen safe when working around power lines. The kids also received stickers and coloring materials with messages about electrical safety, and watched a safety video. Armijo said the event was a great way for Mor-Gran-Sou, as a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, to show its commitment to community by teaching children about the importance of electrical safety.

The annual event is planned by the Morton County Farm Bureau board of directors. Several sponsors help make the event a success by donating panels and wood shavings for the livestock, and sponsoring a noon lunch for workers and people who work the booths. Boehm thanked Dusty and Annette Caldwell, the owners of Open Road Honda, who have offered the use of their building at no charge for the last five years. “They are great community leaders who understand the importance of agriculture and our community,” he commends. The location for next year’s event has yet to be determined.

Boehm says the amount of positive feedback received by the Farm Bureau is “unbelievable,” and that they are always seeking feedback to improve the event for the coming year.

For more information on Ag Days, contact Boehm at naheboehm@gmail.com. ■



Kayden Skavlem was shocked to learn that liquid comes out of the udders! He is the son of Missy and Garrett Skavlem.

National Ag Week was March 20-28

Ag Week is about recognizing – and celebrating – the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Week program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.



Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for six Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for one of three board director positions up for re-election in July. In 2015, the three board positions sought include: the At-Large position, one for the Morton County position, and one for the Sioux County position.

The board of directors set March 5 as the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 10. At that meeting, the committee declared that the candidates' names they received be forwarded to the board of directors for approval. Upon confirmation of eligibility at its regular board meeting on March 25, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

At-Large:

- Mark Doll, New Salem
- Kevin Fishbeck, Mandan
- Clyde Howe, Mandan

Morton County:

- Richard C. Tokach, St. Anthony
- Bonnie Tomac, St. Anthony

Sioux County:

- Chad Harrison, Fort Yates

A full biography of each candidate will appear in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual report, scheduled to be mailed in late June. ■

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 (to the right) in our communications material to keep members informed of those idle services that will be retired. This is the first 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

- T135N R90W SECTION 34 NE 1/4
- T136N R89W SECTION 10 NE 1/4

Morton County

- T134N R84W SECTION 03 SW 1/4
- T135N R79W SECTION 14 SW 1/4
- T136N R81W SECTION 06 SE 1/4

- T137N R80W SECTION 08 NE 1/4
- T138N R82W SECTION 05 NW 1/4
- T139N R82W SECTION 08 SW 1/4
- T140N R89W SECTION 10 SW 1/4
- T140N R89W SECTION 15 SE 1/4
- T140N R83W SECTION 23 NE 1/4

Sioux County

- T130N R80W SECTION 12 SE 1/4
- T130N R80W SECTION 13 NE 1/4
- T130N R80W SECTION 25 SW 1/4
- T130N R80W SECTION 26 NW 1/4
- T130N R81W SECTION 33 SE 1/4
- T131N R80W SECTION 02 NE 1/4
- T131N R80W SECTION 27 NW 1/4
- T132N R79W SECTION 17 SW 1/4
- T132N R82W SECTION 16 SE 1/4
- T133N R79W SECTION 08 NE 1/4
- T133N R79W SECTION 14 SW 1/4
- T134N R79W SECTION 27 SE 1/4
- T134N R79W SECTION 34 SE 1/4



Annual Meeting 2015

SAVE THE DATE!

WHAT:

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting

WHEN:

Friday, July 17, 2015

WHERE:

Prairie Knights Casino and Resort, Fort Yates

WHY:

To learn about co-op issues; to cast your vote and elect three members to serve on the board of directors; and to enjoy a hearty meal.



Mor-Gran-Sou awards scholarships to graduates

BY JACKIE MILLER

Mor-Gran-Sou is pleased to announce the winners of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative scholarship awards. Exemplifying the Touchstone Energy® value of commitment to community, Mor-Gran-Sou offers four \$500 scholarship awards; two of the four scholarships are designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school.

Those receiving a \$500 scholarship in the fall of 2015 include: Emily Bendish, Mandan; Larissa Eckholm, Mandan; Serena Frederick, Flasher;

and Justine Schaff, New Salem.

Emily Bendish plans to complete her general studies at Bismarck State College (BSC), and transfer to North Dakota State University to pursue a career as a large animal vet. Her parents are Mor-Gran-Sou members Russell and Debra Bendish, Mandan.

Larissa Eckholm plans to earn a degree in biology/pre-dental at the University of North Dakota. Her ultimate goal is to complete her residency and come back to North Dakota to work. Larissa's parents are Mor-Gran-Sou members Curtis and Lisa Eckholm of Mandan.

Serena Frederick, in pursuit of an

undergraduate degree in accounting, plans to attend the University of Mary. Upon acquiring her college degree, she plans to become a certified public accountant and eventually live and work in rural North Dakota. Serena's parents are Mor-Gran-Sou members Wesley and Janelle Frederick of Flasher.

Justine Schaff also plans to attend BSC and earn an accounting degree, and work as a certified public accountant. Her parents are Mor-Gran-Sou members Jim and Jeanette Schaff of New Salem. ■

BEWARE OF DANGERS ABOVE. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

Look up and around for power lines.

Learn more at:

SafeElectricity.org

Safety poster contest winners announced;

Area youth offer ideas on safety around electricity

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative continues to receive a strong message from children in the area, as 82 posters were received for the annual poster coloring contest. The posters were judged by employees during the all-employee meeting in March.

Students were instructed to concentrate on the following topic:

How do you stay safe at your home or farm when around electricity?

We had a wide variety of scenes showing safety around the home and farm communities.

Mor-Gran-Sou hopes the contest made the students more aware of their responsibility in practicing safety around electricity. We wish our young people a great summer, and remind them to stay safe when working or playing around electricity.

This year's winners include:

Preschool through kindergarten:

First place: Ruby Maher, daughter of Cody and Tracy Maher, Selfridge

Second place: Jocelyn Rossow, daughter of Travis and Jessica Rossow, Flasher

Third place: Aiden Meyer, son of Christy and Bill Meyer, Solen

Grades one through three:

First place: Traetyn Hatzenbuhler, son of Dallas and Joy Hatzenbuhler, Solen

Second place: Olivia Erhardt, daughter of Brent and Sarah Erhardt, Flasher

Third place: Matthew Gieser, son of William and Amy Gieser, Mandan

Grades four through six:

First place: Carter Bonogofsky, son of Art and Lisa Bonogofsky, Flasher

Second place: Laura Gieser, daughter of William and Amy Gieser, Mandan

Third place: Lezlee Isbell, daughter of Jerid and Melissa Isbell, Flasher. ■

Winners: preschool-kindergarten



Winners: grades one through three

1ST



Winners: grades four through six

1ST



2ND



2ND



3RD



3RD



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: March 25, 2015

- Approved the Feb. 18, 2015 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Approved applications for refund of capital credits to estates, and those age 80 and over
- Heard Co-General Managers/Chief Executive Officers' update and reports from events attended
- Heard update on Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC (IEA)
- Reviewed IEA Strategic Planning Summary Notes
- Reviewed IEA Board Meeting Summary from February
- Reviewed Mor-Gran-Sou Strategic Planning Summary Notes
- Heard updates on all entities of WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Accepted financial report from the Chief Financial Officer
- Reviewed and discussed senior staff department updates
- Reviewed safety meeting and safety committee meeting minutes
- Discussed Basin Electric transmission wheeling
- Discussed Basin Electric contract extension
- Held annual Bylaws/Resolution meeting
- Heard update on proposed self-funded health insurance program
- Assigned trustee and alternate to the Board of Trustees for the ND REC Benefit Trust
- Assigned Mor-Gran-Sou director as Statewide delegate for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference in May
- Accepted 2015 Candidates for the Board of Directors
- Heard report on 2015 overhead charge
- Heard report on minor change to depreciation rate
- Accepted director's financial report for February
- Heard reports and held discussion on meetings attended
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

May 27 in the Mor-Gran-Sou board room in Flasher at 9 a.m. CT | June 24 in the NDAREC Ulmer Center in Mandan at 9 a.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time.

Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@morgransou.com,

or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301, to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Judge Barth or Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Donald Franklund 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.morgransou.com or call the office for a copy.

Board minutes available to Mor-Gran-Sou members

Each month, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative publishes highlights of the monthly board meeting in the local pages of *North Dakota Living*. This information is presented under the caption "board meeting highlights."

Mor-Gran-Sou reminds members that they do have access to the approved monthly board meeting minutes in their entirety, if they wish to see them. Under present policy, members can request to come to the Mor-Gran-Sou Flasher office and review the approved minutes, or have the approved minutes mailed to them upon completing a request for data form. They can also find the Request for Information or Data form on our website at www.morgransou.com (click customer service and then forms/applications).

If a member wishes to review the minutes in Flasher, we ask that he/she call before stopping in. This gesture of courtesy will make the visit more efficient, as the minutes will be readily available upon the interested member's arrival.

Members, to request to review the approved monthly board minutes at the office or to obtain a copy by mail, please direct your calls to Manager of Administrative Services Cindy Ternes at 701-597-3301 or 800-750-8212. She will be happy to assist you. For further discussion, please contact Board Chairman Leland "Judge" Barth.

Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed to honor holiday

Remember to keep "memorial" in Memorial Day, and to observe the day as it should be ... a day where we actively remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

It is also important to salute those who are now actively serving in the many branches of our military, both overseas and at home. We thank our soldiers for protecting what is precious to all American citizens — OUR FREEDOM.

If anyone from your home is actively serving and is having trouble meeting electric bill expenses, please call Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative to work out a suitable payment arrangement.

Mor-Gran-Sou line crews will be available in case of an emergency on Monday, May 25.

Happy Mother's Day
May 10



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Leland "Judge" Barth
Vice Chair..... Casey Wells
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger
Directors Mark Doll,
Vernard Frederick, Lance Froelich,
Robert Gaebe, Chad Harrison,
Bob J. Leingang

MANAGEMENT

Co-General Mgr./CEO..... Chris Baumgartner
Co-General Mgr./CEO.... Donald A. Franklund

www.morgransou.com

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