



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

## CURRENT NEWS

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH

*When Britany Fleck met with challenges at the National Finals Rodeo after the first four rounds, she had to make a decision: keep her longtime partner, Rootie, or substitute with her spare horse. In this month's center pages, read why Britany chose to stay with Rootie, and how the team rallied to pull a check.*

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

### JANUARY IN THIS ISSUE:

- Fleck earns 13th place at the NFR
- Annual meeting date set
- Serve your co-op as a director!
- Scholarships still available
- Poster contest rules ... and more!



At the 2011 Cloverdale rodeo in British Columbia, Canada, Britany and Rootie earned \$23,000 after three rounds. They recently competed against many of the same women at the NFR in Las Vegas in December.

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH

## Fleck sticks with long-time partner and rallies to earn 13th place at the NFR

by Carmen Devney

Look past the barrels. Drive Rootie deep. Help her make the turns. Ease her through the pattern. Let her finish the run. And leave the barrels standing. Leave the barrels standing. Leave the barrels standing.

Britany Fleck knows her job. And so does her partner Rootie, an 11-year-old mare. But Rootie is a spunky mare and she anticipates her turns. That means, on rare occasion, she tips a barrel.

"I have to ride her really hard," Britany confides. "She wants to turn real bad, so I really have to pay attention to where my pocket is and ride her really hard up to her turn."

The daughter of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Duane and Terri Fleck, Solen, Britany is the first woman from North Dakota to earn the opportunity to participate in the barrel racing competition in the annual National Finals Rodeo (NFR). To earn the honor, she competed in the

Women's Professional Rodeo Association and was one of the top 15 money winners in 2011. Of those 15 women, only four including Britany had never competed at the NFR.

The 10-day rodeo was held Dec. 1-10 in Las Vegas, Nev. The first few days consisted of attending meetings and ceremonies, getting horses used to the arena and rehearsing.

"It seemed like forever before we actually got to do what we were down there to do," Britany reflects.



COURTESY PHOTO

Britany developed a passion for horses and animals as a toddler. She started riding when she was 5 or 6. A member of the Raleigh Rodeo Club, Britany attended youth rodeos and team-roped as a freshman at Flasher High School. At the end of her sophomore year, she started competing in high school rodeos.

Rootie must have thought the same thing. Muscle-sore from the long haul from North Dakota to Nevada, the mare tipped one barrel the first four rounds. Britany felt discouraged, to say the least. “We don’t tip barrels very often. But we did there,” she admits.

“I’ve had bad rodeos in the summer. But you get to leave the next day. You don’t have to stay there and run nine more nights in the same place,” she shares. “I just got off on the wrong foot.”

After the fourth round, a chiropractor worked on Rootie.

“She was freed up and completely different the night of the fifth round,” Britany observes. “I went in and tried to erase the previous four nights and treat it like a brand new rodeo. I was bound and determined to not hit a barrel.”

The power of positive thinking — and the healing hands of a chiropractor — worked. While they didn’t place in the top 6, Britany and Rootie ran a clean pattern and were competitive with the other contestants. The next night they ran clean but didn’t place. On the seventh night, their luck changed when they placed sixth.



PHOTO © WWW.COWBOYIMAGES.NET

Above: Britany says her family bought Dasher Dude — better known as Rootie — as a baby. Needing extra credit in college, Britany broke the mare to ride for a class. She took Rootie to her first jackpot as a 6-year-old. The two competed in amateur rodeos when Rootie was 7. The next year, Britany bought her pro permit and filled it at one rodeo. Below: Posing with her grandpa, Clemens, and dad, Duane, Britany says her farming and ranching background helped her learn the value of hard work. “We’ve always had to work. If we wanted money to do anything, dad made us work. He didn’t have any boys so we were always in the field, on horseback moving cattle,” she remembers.



COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO BY CHRIS DOLL

Britany says she has always been independent. For much of the summer, she lives in her horse trailer. "It's me, my dog and usually two horses," she says. She takes hot wire fencing and builds a pen around the trailer for the horses to stretch and graze at night.

"Rootie was working good that night. She was really honest with me and ran hard all the way up to her turns," Britany describes. "It was super exciting for me. I was happy to break the 14-second mark and finally pull a check."

After 10 rounds in 10 nights, her sixth-place finish in round seven was her best.

"Being toward the end, one of the last ones out, made a big difference," she says, referring to her final 13th place finish. "All the other girls had run on the ground so it was loose and hard to be fast. That's why most of the winning times came in the beginning."

After the first four rounds in which she



COURTESY PHOTO

Britany credits her family and friends for being incredibly supportive of her rodeo career. Her immediate family includes Nicole Fleck (far left next to Britany), parents Duane and Terri Fleck, and Jamie (Fleck) and Brian Binstock. Duane and Terri are Mor-Gran-Sou members who farm and ranch. Duane is also a youth counselor at Charles Youth Services, Bismarck, and Terri is a nurse on the Standing Rock Reservation.

tipped a barrel each night, Britany had the option of running a "really nice" back-up horse instead of Rootie.

But she kept Rootie.

"We were a team all year long. She was the one that got me to [the NFR]," Britany explains.

While she certainly would have liked to have earned \$18,000 for the best 13-second run on any given night, Britany says the NFR was a rewarding experience.

"I got to do what I always dreamed of doing, which is running down the alley of the Thomas & Mack Center and competing in the NFR," she summarizes.

Britany, 28, hopes to return to Las Vegas next year and compete with more experience in the Thomas & Mack Center. She would also love to earn the title of barrel racing world champion, which is determined by money earned in a year.

Her ultimate goal, however, is to get married and have a family — and perhaps raise a daughter or son who will love and respect animals as much as she does. And then she will teach them to change a flat tire, vet a horse, and dream big. As one of the nation's most competitive and proven barrel racers, Britany is living her dream.



PHOTO BY MT PHOTOGRAPHY

Britany competes in 60 to 80 rodeos a year, which typically consist of one or two runs. While barrel racing can be lucrative, it is always expensive. Last year she spent about \$16,000 in entry fees. That excluded the endless feed, veterinarian and fuel bills.

Britany thanks her sponsors for helping make her rodeo career financially feasible. Her sponsors include:

- Prairie Skies Arena, north of Mandan
- Four Bears Casino, New Town
- Oxy-Gen® (high-performance supplements and products)
- Rock and Roll Cowgirl by Panhandle Slim (clothing)
- Reinsman (equestrian products)



*Britany describes Rootie as a hyper, sometimes crabby horse that has a lot of spunk. But even though she is "queen bee" among other horses, Rootie's respect and affection for Britany is obvious in a gesture or soft knicker. "She's got a lot of personality," Britany laughs.*

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

## Mor-Gran-Sou's annual meeting scheduled for July 20

**A**re you looking for a way to serve the people of central southwestern North Dakota? Look no further, as Mor-Gran-Sou can help you fulfill that desire. Why not serve as a board director for the cooperative? The initial commitment is a three-year term, with provisions in the bylaws limiting a director to serving six consecutive three-year terms, after which time the director is not eligible for another six three-year term until one year has elapsed.

At the annual meeting, the following three board positions will be elected:

- The At-Large position presently held by Mark Doll;
- The Morton County position presently held by Robert Gaebe; and
- The Sioux County position presently held by Dave Archambault II.

Under the bylaws and due to the use of a mail-in ballot, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Instead, the bylaws require the board of directors to appoint a Nominating Committee of five to nine members who geographically represent the cooperative. These members will provide a list of qualified and willing candidates to the board for inclusion on the ballot. The committee will be providing this list to the board for approval at the board of directors' meeting scheduled for March 28. This date has been set so there is adequate time for each candidate's biographical information to be included with the notice of meeting sent to the members in June, along with the mail-in ballot for those who are unable to attend the annual meeting in person.

The Nominating Committee has been appointed by the board and will be meeting for the first time, set for Jan. 12.

The members of the Nominating Committee include Donald Arndt, Flasher; Wayne Braun, New Salem; Kevin Fishbeck, Mandan; Chad Harrison, Fort Yates; Vernetta Iron Eyes, Fort Yates; Bill Kesler, Mandan; Rodney Nelson, Almont; Jeff Striegel, Carson; and Travis Wilkens, New Salem.

For a person to be nominated, the member vying for a board seat must submit the completed declaration of candidacy form to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric by 4 p.m. CT (3 p.m. MT) March 8. The completed form must be mailed to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Attn: Jackie Miller, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297. If you or someone you know is interested in being nominated, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members or Jackie at Mor-Gran-Sou by calling (800) 750-8212 or (701) 597-3301. You can also e-mail Jackie at [jmiller@morgransou.com](mailto:jmiller@morgransou.com).

The Nominating Committee members or Jackie can provide you or the potential candidate with the declaration of candidacy form. It is also located on Mor-Gran-Sou's Web site at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com). To download the form electronically, click on the link entitled Find the Declaration of Candidacy form on the home page. Candidate qualifications can be found on the Web site under Home/Cooperative/Articles and Bylaws/Board of Directors/402 Director Qualification or on the declaration of candidacy form.

If you have questions about the process, give Jackie a call. All qualified and willing candidates who have completed and forwarded the written declaration of candidacy form to the Mor-Gran-Sou office by the **March 8** deadline will be included in the list the Nominating Committee will provide to the board.

# ATTENTION, HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

## Co-op scholarships available for high school graduates

**M**or-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program. We feel it's important to help finance our local students' educational journeys by offering four \$500 scholarships to qualifying seniors.

The scholarship program, sponsored by Mor-Gran-Sou and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of the children of cooperative members. To qualify, students must be enrolled or plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. They must be U.S. citizens and dependents of Mor-Gran-Sou members.

As in past years, Mor-Gran-Sou will offer four scholarships. Two of the four are designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school. We ask that the applicant specify which scholarship award he or she is requesting.

Recipients will be chosen on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade point average; activities, achievements and honors; work experience; a personal statement of career goals; an essay question centered on local cooperatives and how they serve the area; and an appraisal from a high school or college counselor or advisor, instructor or a work supervisor who knows the student well.

The scholarship will be awarded during the 2011-2012 school year. Applications are available at area schools, co-op headquarters in Flasher, or online at [www.morgransou.com](http://www.morgransou.com).

Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on **Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012**. Please deliver or mail all necessary information to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative at P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.



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## It's Mor-Gran-Sou's 65th birthday!

### Help us celebrate by designing a poster in our annual contest

**K**ids, we need your help! Grab your art supplies and draw a poster that tells our readers how you would like to help Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative celebrate its 65th birthday. Mor-Gran-Sou would like you to draw a birthday cake and decorate it creatively. Ideas may include: historical events (seeing electricity for the first time, building power lines, etc.), staying safe around electricity, or just decorating the cake with candles and birthday wishes from you. All posters should display the Touchstone Energy® logo on their entries. No matter what you draw, have fun! We can't wait to hear from you. Cash prizes will be awarded in each division.

#### DIVISIONS:

- Preschool to kindergarten
- First grade to third grade
- Fourth grade to sixth grade

#### DEADLINE:

Posters must be received at the Flasher office no later than 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 p.m., MT) on **Friday, Feb. 24, 2012**.

#### RULES:

- Posters must be on white, 8.5- by 11-inch paper.
- Posters must depict the theme, "Happy 65th Birthday, Mor-Gran-Sou!" and display the Touchstone Energy logo. Be creative!
- Print the child's name, address, age and parent's names on the back of the posters.
- Enclose a photograph of the child for publishing purposes.
- Only dependents of current Mor-Gran-Sou members are eligible for this contest.

#### PRIZES:

Each division will be awarded three prizes (nine prizes total): three first-place prizes of \$15; three, second-place prizes of \$10; and three, third-place prizes of \$5.

#### WINNERS:

Winning posters, along with the child's photograph, will be featured in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric center pages of **North Dakota LIVING**.



# NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

High School Juniors and Seniors...

## WRITE A WINNING ESSAY BEFORE DEADLINE RUNS OUT!

JUNE 16 to 22,  
2012

**And an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.**

- ▶ To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2012.
- ▶ You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
- ▶ Essay is not to exceed two standard 8½- by 11-inch typewritten, double-spaced pages on this topic: **What would your day be like without electricity?**
- ▶ Submit your essay in hard copy or electronic format to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. Electronic submissions should conform to the two-page, double-spaced guideline described above. Include a cover page with your name, date of birth, school and grade in 2012, parent or guardian's name, address and telephone number.
- ▶ The deadline is **January 30, 2012**. E-mailed entries should be directed to Jackie Miller at [jlmliller@morgransou.com](mailto:jlmliller@morgransou.com), and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.
- ▶ If you have a question, contact Jackie Miller, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, at the address listed above, or call (701) 597-3301 during regular business hours.



### TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

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.

Check it out at

[www.ndyouthtour.com](http://www.ndyouthtour.com)  
and  
[www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop)



## MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### board meeting highlights



**Meeting date: Nov. 29**

- Approved the Oct. 26 Board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment and a work order inventory
- Approved retirement applications for capital credits to estates
- Approved the 2012 budget for Mor-Gran-Sou
- Approved the IBEW contract for a three-year term
- Set date for Board to visit with auditing firm representative
- Set deadline dates for Declaration of Candidacy for 2012; reviewed declaration form
- Appointed members to fill expiring terms on the Nominating Committee
- Heard update on 3C Construction, LLC
- Heard update on IEA, LLC (Innovative Energy Alliance)
- Approved language revision in IEA/MGS Contract for Services
- Reviewed changes to governance structure due to CoBank merger
- Heard department updates
- Heard reports on meetings attended
- Held Executive Session
- Performed and reviewed results of annual Board of Directors self-evaluation
- Performed annual legal counsel evaluation

*Upcoming regular board meeting dates:*

Jan. 20 in the NDAREC Board Room in Mandan at 10:30 a.m. CT

Feb. 29 in the NDAREC Board Room in Mandan at 10:30 a.m. CT

March 28 in the NDAREC Board Room in Mandan at 10:30 a.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at [cternes@morgransou.com](mailto:cternes@morgransou.com), or call (800) 750-8212 or (701) 597-3301 to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend. To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chairman Dave Archambault II or Alliance Co-Manager 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.

## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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### MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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(701) 663-0297 - Mandan

Toll-free: (800) 750-8212 Fax: (701) 597-3915  
UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES  
1 (800) 795-0555 OR 811

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman .....Dave Archambault II  
Vice Chairman.....Leland "Judge" Barth  
Secretary-Treasurer .....Pam Geiger  
Directors .....Mark Doll, Joe Dunn,  
Vernard Frederick, Robert Gaebe,  
Bob J. Leingang, Casey Wells

#### MANAGEMENT

Alliance Co-Mgr. ....Donald A. Franklund  
Alliance Co-Mgr. ....Clayton O. Hoffman  
Mgr. of Admin. Serv.....Cindy G. Ternes  
Mgr. of Member Serv.....Jackie Miller  
Mgr. of Operations.....Randy Ressler  
Chief of Staff/Line Supt.....Jason Bentz  
Alliance Chief Info. Officer .....Charlie Dunbar  
Alliance Chief Fin. Officer .....Travis Kupper  
Alliance Human Res. Mgr.....Sienna Sailer  
Alliance Mgr. of Engr. Services. ....Rob Kelly

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

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD



# Year of Cooperatives in 2012



For more information visit <http://www.2012.coop/>.

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