



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

# CURRENT NEWS

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## How do YOU define fresh?

*Brian and Angie McGinness believe in growing and eating nutritious, home-grown food. In this month's center pages, read how these Mor-Gran-Sou members are involving people in agriculture, and why they are sharing the beauty and bounty of their land.*



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Sharing in the harvest
- Annual meeting recap
- Rate increase announcement
- Co-op remembers Ilene Weichman
- Meeting minutes ... and more!



Mor-Gran-Sou members Brian and Angie McGinness operate Riverbound Farm, a CSA south of Mandan. Inspected last month, Riverbound Farm is in the process of getting certified as organic. The couple anticipates most of the farm will be certified by the end of this summer.

## Riverbound Farm CSA

### 'A perfect marriage of interests and loves in life'

*Story and photos by Carmen Devney*

**C**rinkly potato chip bags. Shapely syrup bottles. Old Dutch and Aunt Jemima are masters of marketing to the mind and senses, as well as to the stomach.

Aside from enticing consumers through the eyes, nose and finger tips, packaging can play an important role in food preservation. It protects the product during shipping and handling. It informs the consumer about nutrition and portion control. It extends the freshness and shelf life of a product.

Sure, those bright, round, spotless tomatoes look tasty in their plastic packaging.

But are they truly farm-fresh when they've just been shipped from Cali-

fornia or Florida?

Local farmers Brian and Angie McGinness package their food a bit differently. Their tomatoes, lettuce and zucchini are nestled between pasture land and a cottonwood forest along the Missouri River. Their onions, okra, parsnips and potatoes are enfolded between warm sun and fresh air. And their watermelon, cucumbers and green beans are secured in chemical-free soil that was homesteaded by Angie's great-grandparents.

"What you get in the store is colorful, shiny packaging. When you come to the farm, the farm is the packaging, and it's real. It's where the food is grown," Brian describes.

Brian and Angie, Mor-Gran-Sou Elec-

tric Cooperative members, operate Riverbound Farm south of Mandan on Highway 1806 near Fort Lincoln State Park. They enjoy and appreciate eating truly fresh, homegrown fruits and vegetables, and they welcome people to share in the beauty and bounty of their land. The McGinnesses operate a CSA, or community supported agriculture, where members purchase a "share" of the farm's harvest and in return receive fresh, seasonal produce weekly, as well as a connection to the farm where the food is grown.

Brian and Angie also co-op with area farmers to offer grass-bed beef and lamb to their members for an additional price, as well as pastured poultry, pork and eggs from free-range chickens.



Succession planting is rather complex. "It's really important, especially for our type of business because we want to have a continuous supply of food for everyone," Angie shares. For instance, Brian and Angie may plant lettuce eight times, or every two weeks. The process starts in the greenhouse where the couple grows their own potting mix. After the seeds sprout, they are transplanted to the field until harvest.



COURTESY PHOTO

Once a week, members choose what they want to eat or freeze from a large variety of produce. On Saturdays, members are welcome to visit the farm, collect their produce, pick berries (and weeds), and take a nature hike. Or on Wednesday evenings, members can meet Brian or Angie at Sertoma Park in Bismarck and pick up their produce. All of the food is harvested within hours of pick-up.

Brian notes that when members come out to the farm, they tend to take more food.



The mission of Riverbound Farm: Sustainable farming, while bridging the gap between consumers and the farm that produces their food, creating a stronger local food economy, and making a living as small farmers.



Because of this year's historic flooding, Brian estimates 95 percent of the farm's land is under water. He and Angie are using pasture land to plant the CSA's produce until the Missouri River recedes.



Angie says the farm allows her family to “discover life together.”

“I think they are more excited about the food when they come to the farm,” Brian speculates.

Only in its second season, the Riverbound Farm CSA feeds more than 80 household members. Angie says while they have a diverse membership, they all share one thing in common: They care about the land and appreciate eating healthy, local food. After an initial payment is made, members can make an arrangement to trade hard work for food.

Sue B. Balcom, Mor-Gran-Sou member and marketing and outreach coordinator for the Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resources Management and Sustainability (FARRMS), Medina, says Brian and Angie bring more than fresh food to Mandan and the surrounding communities.

“They are a young couple who decided to relocate here. The social aspect of them coming to a community with their children and adding one more family to



COURTESY PHOTOS

Instead of growing produce for shelf-life, Riverbound Farm grows food for nutrition and taste. Brian encourages people to stop by the farm, taste truly fresh, homegrown produce, and taste the difference. “We don’t grow the same variety a person buys in the grocery store,” he explains. “And we literally harvest it the day people come and get it. You can’t beat that.”

our economic base is really one of the best benefits,” she says.

“In addition, they are working very hard at becoming sustainable farmers. They are giving back to the farm and also providing a quality CSA to share with their members. That is important for a couple reasons,” she continues.

“People are getting variety in their diets. They are getting healthier, fresher, local

food. And the fact that the consumer is actually participating in the process, it becomes educational and it helps to transfer the knowledge of farming to the next generation,” she concludes.

Inspected last month, Riverbound Farm is in the process of getting certified as an organic CSA. Organic means food is produced using methods that do not involve modern synthetic inputs such as pesticides and chemical fertilizers. The crops also do not contain genetically modified organisms, and are not processed using irradiation, industrial solvents, or chemical food additives. Angie and Brian anticipate the farm will be certified by the end of this summer.

According to the FARRMS Web site, sustainable farming includes the following components:

- Approaches to community and agriculture which foster self renewal, are in harmony with natural cycles and conserve natural resources.
- Activities which benefit and nurture the land and rural community.
- Activities and approaches which are socially as well as economically just and contribute to the common prosperity of the community.
- Cultural and agricultural practices which ensure the health and diversity of the land and the life it supports.

## Meet your Mor-Gran-Sou neighbors

• A native of north Bismarck, Angie fell in love with the hard but peace-filled work of farming, and the land her family has owned for several generations. “Outside is where I feel at home, working with my body, and Brian and I both love high-quality, nutritious food. It just seems to be a perfect marriage of all our interests and loves in life,” she summarizes.



• Originally from New York, Brian has completed a CCOF organic agriculture apprenticeship in southern California, has earned a master’s gardener’s certificate and a permaculture design certificate. He earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental education from Prescott College in Arizona. From there he worked at Native Seed SEARCH in Patagonia, Ari., and earned a master’s degree from Northern Arizona University in secondary education. Brian also has a North Dakota state teacher’s license and serves on the board of directors for FAARMS.

• The couple has two children: Owen, 7, and Pearl, 5.

"I got into sustainable agriculture because how we eat is a big part of how we live, and a big part of our impact on the planet and our society and community around us," Brian reflects. "I always wanted to contribute something worthwhile to society."

Balcom says sustainable agriculture can also help counteract reasons people are obese and lead sedate lifestyles.

"We need to focus on our health," she stresses. "Brian and Angie are part of this huge movement to create local food systems, so we don't have to rely on imported food not knowing how it was made or where it was grown."

Keeping money in the community. Employing neighbors. Giving people a better appreciation of how food is grown. Producing high-quality, nutritious food. And packaging produce the way Mother Nature intended. For a variety of reasons, CSAs are growing in popularity and membership.

Brian and Angie McGinness encourage people to eat well, support local farmers and protect the health of the land. For food and pricing, events, pickup information and more, visit Riverbound Farm's Web site at

[www.riverboundfarm.com](http://www.riverboundfarm.com) or call (701) 202-9834. For more information on the Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Resources Management and Sustainability, visit [www.farrms.org](http://www.farrms.org).

## From farm to fork

Since 2005, Mor-Gran-Sou has taken part in the KFYR Agri-International, and helped sponsor the Living Ag Classroom. These educational seminars teach participating fourth-grade students about the variety of crops and animals raised in North Dakota, and what it takes to get those products from the farmer's field to the grocer's shelf.

In the Mor-Gran-Sou March center pages of *North Dakota LIVING*, Jackie Miller, manager of member services, said agriculture today is more important than ever.

Mor-Gran-Sou commends members Brian and Angie McGinness for growing nutritious foods and generating interest and community support for agriculture.

## Mor-Gran-Sou remembers ILENE WEICHMAN

by Jackie Miller

In early spring of 2011, Mor-Gran-Sou learned of the death of Ilene Wiechman. Ilene worked in the office for Mor-Gran-Sou from August 1966 to July 1968.

A friend to many, Ilene was best described as being very social ... visiting with you on Main Street, at a function, or in her home. If she knew of someone who deserved a word of congratulations, well wishes or a pick-me-up, she made sure a card was in the mail to lift that person's spirits. Her family and her faith were most important to her. Over the years, Ilene was very involved in civic and community events in Flasher and highly regarded as a leader amongst her peers. An example of that community-mindedness was her service to the American Legion Auxiliary, serving as president for 20 years.

Although Ilene worked for Mor-Gran-Sou for only two years, she continued to attend many of the cooperative functions as her husband Jerry worked for Mor-Gran-Sou until 1995. Throughout the years, Ilene was always thinking of her co-op family. During the recent power outages in the spring of 2010, she spearheaded an effort to make dozens upon dozens of delicious cookies to share with the line crews which were out restoring power to the Mor-Gran-Sou members.

To Ilene's family, please know she will always be a part of the cooperative and that the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors and the entire staff wish to extend our condolences.



Ilene Wiechman

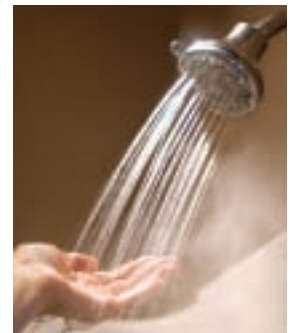
## Do you qualify for a flood rebate?

Flood rebates have been added to the North Dakota Utility Rebate Program for qualifying FEMA-registered homeowners for replacement of heating and cooling systems or water heaters damaged by flooding this year. Mor-Gran-Sou and the other affected distribution cooperatives across the state can now offer an additional \$400 for qualifying central air, air-source and ground-source heat pumps, and \$100 for demand-response and heat pump water heaters. These rebates are in addition to the rebates offered under the current rebate program.

As an example, a residential flood victim who installs a three-ton, tier 2 air-source heat pump would be eligible to receive \$1,200 under the original rebate (3 tons times \$400/ton) and an extra \$400 flood rebate for a total of \$1,600.

If you qualify and wish to receive the additional rebate, please submit with the regular application form a copy of your FEMA disaster assistance letter, together with a statement from yourself or from a Mor-Gran-Sou member services representative indicating that the new system replaces equipment damaged by flooding.

**Insulation update:** Some homeowners are also replacing insulation damaged by flooding, and we have been asked questions about whether or how flood victims might qualify for rebates for replacement. The N.D. Department of Commerce (DOC) has indicated they understand that flood-damaged insulation has to be replaced and has no insulation value. Thus, flooded homeowners can qualify for the insulation rebate if replacing water-damaged insulation. To qualify for the self-installation rebate, however, the DOC has indicated that an energy audit will still be required.



# Mor-Gran-Sou holds ANNUAL MEETING

by Jackie Miller

Members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., met at the Pavilion of Prairie Knights Casino and Resort north of Fort Yates on July 15 to conduct their business at the cooperative's 64th annual meeting. This year's theme was, "Resolve of the membership."

The afternoon began with registration from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Prior to a delicious banquet served at 6 p.m., a solemn prayer was offered by Mor-Gran-Sou Board Member Vernard Frederick. Sitting Bull College Vice President of Academics Dr. Koreen Ressler provided a warm welcome to the members.

Chairman Dave Archambault II dropped the gavel at approximately 7 p.m. and the business meeting was underway. This year, Mor-Gran-Sou members were asked to vote for three board directors: one for Grant County, one for the Mandan area, and one for the Sioux County position. Incumbents Casey Wells, Bob J. Leingang and Joe Dunn retained their positions on the board. Wells is the Grant County representative, Leingang is the Mandan area representative, and Dunn is the Sioux County representative, with each director fulfilling a three-year term.

Dedicated to the development of young leaders in the area, the cooperative then recognized four scholarship winners during the business meeting, including Kenneth Bahm, Mandan; Taylor Friesz, New Salem; Alex Kopyy, Mandan; and Jared Wolf, Glen Ullin. The teenagers competed for and received a Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative scholarship award in the amount of \$500 to further their education as they attend college this fall. With the exception of Taylor Friesz, who was unable to attend the meeting because of another commitment, each recipient offered a few words of thanks for the scholarship.

In 2011, Bernae Hertz of Carson participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Director Geiger recognized Hertz at this year's annual meeting and thanked her for representing Mor-Gran-Sou and North Dakota. Hertz addressed the audience, offering her gratitude for the experience of traveling to Washington, D.C., and gave the audience a sampling of what she experienced during her trip. Hertz and other delegates from across the nation learned from and about each other while participating in events that

**The board of directors and staff of Mor-Gran-Sou look forward to meeting its members' electrical needs in the future.**



Don Franklund, alliance co-manager, incorporated this year's theme of, "Resolve of a membership," in his informative recap of the January and April 2010 storms. He also touched on the 2011 flooding along the Missouri River and its impact.



Baby Jacob Hook indicated he was famished when we asked him to take a break from eating fried chicken to pose with grandma for a picture. Jacob is the son of Desiree Hook and grandson of Karen Hook. Karen is a Mor-Gran-Sou member from Mandan.



The storm caps Mor-Gran-Sou shared with members last year are getting a lot of mileage. Seated with his wife Beatrice, Joe Boehm, a member from Fort Rice, says his co-op cap is his "town" hat.

PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEWNEY



Joel Wolf, a member of this year's Election Committee, helped tally ballots.



Katherine Haas crossed riding a segway off her bucket list at this year's annual meeting. Michael Riedman of Basin Electric Power Cooperative helps her balance for the photo. Katherine, a member from Solen, is 73 years old. She proves you are never too young at heart to try something new.

showcase our nation's rich history, U.S. government, the cooperative philosophy and rural electrification.

Alliance Co-Managers Donald Franklund and Clayton Hoffman captured this year's theme in their interesting and informative report to the membership. Franklund included a recap of the January and April 2010 storms and touched on the 2011 flooding along the Missouri River and its impact. Hoffman also noted Mor-Gran-Sou has received word from Basin Electric Power Cooperative that a power cost rate adjustment will go into effect October 2011. Members will receive more information on the rate adjustment in the upcoming months. Finally, Chief Financial Officer Travis Kupper presented the financial report to the membership.

Directly following the annual meeting, the board of directors held its reorganization meeting. Dave Archambault II will continue to serve as the board chairman. Leland "Judge" Barth was elected to serve as vice chairman, and Pam Geiger retained the secretary-treasurer position. These officers will serve a one-year term.

The board of directors and staff of Mor-Gran-Sou wish to thank the members for participating in the 64th annual meeting of the membership, and look forward to meeting its members' electrical needs in the future.



Posing with his daughter, Angelee, John Rath, Mor-Gran-Sou member and the co-op's meter technician, brings his family to the annual meeting every year.

# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## board meeting highlights



**Meeting date: July 15**

- Approved the June Board meeting minutes
- Approved one special equipment and one work order inventory
- Approved applications for capital credit retirements to those age 80 and over
- Heard update on flood status of Mor-Gran-Sou service accounts
- Appointed a voting delegate and alternate for NRECA Region VI meeting
- Heard update on 3C Construction, LLC
- Heard update on IEA, LLC (the Alliance)
- Heard department updates
- Heard reports on meetings attended

*Upcoming regular board meeting dates:*

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

Oct. 26 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 e-mail Mor-Gran-Sou at [cternes@morgransou.com](mailto:cternes@morgransou.com) or call (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 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.

## Basin Electric announces rate increase

**Attention Mor-Gran-Sou members:** We have received word from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou's primary generation and transmission power supplier, that a power cost rate adjustment will go into effect tentatively with the bill you will receive on or around Nov. 5. You will receive more information on how this power cost adjustment will affect you in our future communications with you.

## COLD-WEATHER CHARGES

One thing that's certain about North Dakota weather is the uncertainty of it, except for the fact that at some point during the winter, it probably will get cold. Our rates are designed around a number of different factors, one of them being an average cost of installing our service. Over the years, we've seen requests for electric service coming in later and later in the construction season and in many years, throughout the winter season. Both equipment maintenance and labor costs are significantly higher during winter weather conditions.



We're not opposed to obliging those requests, however, depending on frost and weather conditions we will assess an additional contribution in aid of construction charge of \$5 per line foot to help offset our increased costs for late-season, cold-weather work. This charge will be made on a case-by-case basis for line extensions requested and built after Nov. 1 and prior to April 1.

Recognizing that everyone is really busy throughout the year, please remember we need sufficient advance notice (two to four weeks) most any time to schedule installing your electric service or service change, but especially just prior to Nov. 1 because everyone is trying to beat the weather.

If you have any questions please call Randy Ressler, manager of operations, or Jason Bentz, chief of staff/line superintendent, at (701) 597-3301 or (701) 663-0297.



Observe  
Labor Day,  
Monday,  
Sept. 5

### HOLIDAY CLOSING

Our entire organization sends its best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Labor Day. In observance of the holiday, Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5.

**Members:** Line crews will be available in case of an electrical emergency outage.

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

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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,  
Bernard 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)

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