



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

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JULY
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Summer grilling with your local grocery store

Summer has a way of bringing community members, friends and family together. Whether people are spending time at the lake, in the backyard or late evenings in the field, food plays a central role. Often, these gatherings involve salads and fresh fruit, but the aroma of grilled meat really draws people. These moments are powered by local trusted grocery stores that serve our communities. For the surrounding community of Fort Yates, White Buffalo Foods has become the local source for great grilling options.

White Buffalo Foods has been a reliable staple in the Fort Yates community for many years, offering convenience and accessibility to fresh foods, pantry items and hot-to-go food. When Mike Dowling purchased the store in 2015, he had a goal to expand the meat section. To help him achieve that goal, he hired Keenan Meidinger, who had previous experience in a grocery store's meat department and brought his expertise to White Buffalo Foods.

"The selection was very slim when I started," Dowling says. "We now offer more of a variety for the community."

White Buffalo Foods is proud of the wide selection it offers of beef, pork, chicken and other grilling favorites, such as hot dogs and brats. Through its weekly sales flyer, which can be found at the store or on its White Buffalo Foods Facebook page, customers can check out sales which may help with cookout planning.

Due to the rural community White Buffalo Foods serves, Dowling and his team find it important to offer options for customers to store their meat purchases for longer term at home. Whether customers find themselves stocking up during a sale or not cooking as much that week, meat at White Buffalo Foods is cryo-vacuumed, which locks in freshness using food-safe vacuum bags.

"We started doing this in January 2025," Dowling says. "This allows people to freeze things if they need to and reduce freezer burn and it lasts longer."

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Dowling looks through the vast selection of meat White Buffalo Foods offers.



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The most popular sale is ground beef, which is known to be affordable and offers high nutritional value. It is also versatile as hamburger patties or as an addition to other favorite recipes. But Meidinger has seen another protein hit customers' shopping carts in the last few years.

"More people have been eating pork lately," Meidinger says. "It's affordable and you can do a lot with it."

Other popular protein options at the grocery store are brats, especially during the summer months, beef


chuck and top sirloin.

White Buffalo Foods also sells an array of "meat bundles." These bundles vary from popular beef cuts to a mix of summer favorites. Bundles allow customers to grab a variety at a bundled price or add new cuts of meat to their dinner menu.

Summer grilling on a budget

Grilling could be one of the most popular ways to cook during the summer months. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when cooking on the grill.

- Marinades can be made from simple pantry staples, such as oil, vinegar and spices, and are an easy way to tenderize meat and add bold flavor without extra cost. Dry rubs are another budget-friendly option, creating a flavorful crust that enhances the taste of the meat.
- Using proper grilling techniques makes a big difference. Cooking with both direct and indirect heat helps sear meat while preventing it from burning or drying out. Using a meat thermometer can help avoid undercooking or overcooking meats. Additionally, letting meat rest before serving allows the juices to redistribute, resulting in a more tender and flavorful bite.

Grilling is a great way to bring friends and family together this summer. Plus, cooking outdoors is also a simple way to keep your home more comfortable during summer heat. Bypass additional heat from the oven and fire up the grill instead. While you are planning your cookout, don't forget to check your local grocery store's selection of fresh meat choices and take a peek at the weekly ads for savings. 

A grateful farewell to our retiring Board of Directors



Casey Wells,
Grant County



Bob Leingang,
Mandan Area



Rodney Froelich,
Sioux County

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our retiring Board of Directors: Casey Wells from Carson, Bob Leingang from Mandan, and Rodney Froelich from Selfridge, for their unwavering commitment to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to them for their years of dedicated leadership, vision and service to our cooperative. The foundation they have helped establish will continue to benefit and strengthen our cooperative for years to come.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Cybersecurity tips for safer digital world



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/CEO

Did you know the average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices? That figure covers a wide range of electronics, including smartphones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected technologies, the likelihood of new cyber threats is ever-present.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to ensuring our local system is safe and secure. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks, and we work together with other co-ops to share the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures that make us stronger. But you can help, too.

When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts and sensitive data.

Learn how to spot and report phishing attempts.

Phishing occurs when criminals use phony emails, direct messages or other types of digital communications that lure you to click an unsafe link or download a malicious attachment. If you

receive a suspicious email or message that includes urgent language, offers that seem too good to be true, generic greetings, poor grammar or an unusual sender address, it could be a phishing attempt. If you spot one, report it as soon as possible, and don't forget to block the sender.

Create strong, unique passwords. When it comes to passwords, remember length trumps complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 12 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers and symbols.

Enable multi-factor authentication when available. Multi-factor authentication (also known as two-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access or one-time codes sent to your email or phone.

Update software regularly. Software and internet-connected devices, including personal computers, smartphones and tablets, should always be current on updates to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware.

Let's all do our part to stay cyber smart and create a safer digital world for all. 



BE CYBER SAFE



VERIFY THE SOURCE



RED FLAGS



RECOGNIZE SCAM TACTICS



REPORT ANY SCAMS



STAY INFORMED





Operations Manager **Gary Fitterer**, visits with a member about his service.



Mor-Gran-Sou Electric employees including **Deb Haugen** and **Jesse Kuhn** welcomed and registered members.

Members and guests gather for Annual Meeting

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members and guests gathered at the cooperative's Mandan Service Center June 11 for the 2026 Annual Meeting. Attendees were welcomed by employees with snacks and a thank you gift upon registration. Before the business meeting, members visited various activities and booths to learn more about our cooperative initiatives and programs.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Chair Steve Tomac welcomed and thanked members for attending the Annual Meeting. Mandan Boy Scouts Troop 54 presented the colors and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The membership voted to fill the board positions in Grant County with Seth Johnston from Leith, in the Mandan Area with Tess Schmidt from Mandan and in Sioux County with Katie Wirt from Selfridge.


The following directors retired and were recognized for their years of service on the board: Grant County, Casey Wells from Carson; Mandan Area, Bob Leingang from Mandan; and Sioux County, Rodney Froelich from Selfridge. Additionally, the membership voted to approve the 2025 financials and Annual

Meeting minutes.

Members listened to cooperative updates from co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz and Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile. Department reports were provided by Chief of Staff/Member Services Manager Julie Armijo and Manager of Operations Gary Fitterer. A 2025 charitable foundations report was also provided.

High school students were recognized for being awarded scholarships and Youth Tour spots. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric also awarded two \$500 Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships. Carter Remboldt and Drew Teddick from Mandan High School each received a \$500 scholarship.

After the Annual Meeting, members enjoyed a complimentary meal served by Baymont. Members were also awarded door prizes.

The Board of Directors, co-general managers and staff at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric wish to thank our members for participating in our Annual Meeting of the membership and look forward to meeting your electric service needs in the future. 



Journeyman lineworker **Lance Brown Otter** (right), visits with members about the safety gear employees use.



The Boy Scout Troop 54 presented the colors and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.



The recipients of the Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships were **Carter Remboldt** (left) and **Drew Teddick** from Mandan High School.



Katie Wirt (left), Selfridge representing Sioux County, **Seth Johnston**, Leith representing Grant County and **Tess Schmidt**, Mandan representing Mandan Area were elected by the membership.



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Summer storm safety**



Gary Fitterer

Manager of Operations

Now that summer is in full swing, many of us find ourselves outdoors, enjoying the warmer weather. Summertime brings grilling with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also create conditions for dangerous storms, especially tornadoes across the state. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electric system, but Mor-Gran-Sou Electric

Cooperative crews are ready to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they start working on any downed lines. Members can also take steps to practice safety and preparedness during major storms and extended outages.

- Stock your pantry with a supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials, such as toiletries.
- Have adequate hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including chargers, flashlights, batteries and a

battery-powered radio or TV.

- Stay away from downed power lines. Always assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call us to report the downed power line immediately.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of power interruptions or power outages, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help reduce damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. It is helpful to leave one light on, so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and wired to state and national electrical codes. Always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information. Check Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's Facebook page for power restoration updates and visit morgransou.com to view an outage map. Outages can be reported by calling our office at 800-750-8212.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

We hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. There is power in planning. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer. 

SMARTHUB | Download the app *Simplified*

The SmartHub mobile app puts your cooperative in the palm of your hand – giving you more convenience and control.



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Tips to reduce wildfire risks



C.J. Pesicka

Journeyman lineworker

While much-needed rainfall has brought relief to many of our drought-impacted areas and has reduced the immediate risk of wildfires, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative remains committed to fire mitigation. Weather conditions can change quickly, and we prioritize taking precautions to ensure safety for our employees, members and communities.


As Mor-Gran-Sou Electric employees work across the service territory, everyone is equipped with fire mitigation knowledge and equipment. Equipment includes a water tank and fire extinguisher on each co-op vehicle.

Cooperative employees are also briefed with the fire mitigation plan to ensure they can respond accurately to an emergency while working in the field. Through regular vegetation management and grid maintenance and hardening practices, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is proactively working to reduce risks and

improve the reliability of our local system.

As a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, there are steps you can take to prevent wildfires as well.

- Follow local fire regulations. Always check for burn bans or restrictions in your area before burning anything or using open flames outdoors.
- Don't burn on windy days. Avoid outdoor burning when it's windy or dry, as embers can easily spread and ignite surrounding areas.
- Use equipment safely. Tools like lawnmowers or chainsaws can spark fires. Use them during cooler times of the day and keep them in good working condition.
- Clear vegetation and debris. Maintain a defensible space around your home by removing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable materials.
- Properly extinguish campfires. Always douse your campfire with water, stir the ashes and ensure everything is cool to the touch before leaving the area.

Let's all work together to make this summer memorable and do what we can to ensure safety across our service area. 





MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS April 22

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on April 22 at the Fort Yates Service Center. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. CT. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's co-General Managers/CEOs Jason Bentz and Travis Kupper, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, Operations Manager Gary Fitterer, Interim General Counsel Andrew Fergel and Executive Assistant Connie Hill. Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative Manager of Member Support Anne Hansen attended a portion of the meeting.

Consent agenda: Amendments were proposed to the agenda. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates from recent statewide and national meetings, noting discussions related to technology development, infrastructure expansion and large industrial loads, including data centers. Several additional Basin Electric Power Cooperative reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial

report, which included the balance sheet and income statement. Fitterer provided an operations report on line crews continuing routine system maintenance, oil-circuit recloser changeouts and cleaning of pad-mounted tubs and vaults. Armijo provided an update that outlines several key member-focused activities and upcoming events for 2026. She also outlined annual meeting details and employee updates. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided the board with a written report. Fergel provided a general counsel report covering legal topics and ongoing projects, including regulatory matters, service rules and regulations along with other items.

Action items: The board discussed and resolved the emergency response plan/crisis communication plan, margin allocation and other items.

Discussion: Hansen provided a recap of the member satisfaction survey. The board discussed bylaw amendments and legislative updates.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. CT on July 29 in Flasher.

KX/Co-op Day at the North Dakota State Fair

Wednesday, July 22 / 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT

Stop by for free breakfast, prizes, cash drawings and an ice cream social. Stop by our office for coupons to save on gate and rodeo admission, rides and more!



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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair Steve Tomac
Vice Chair Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer Pam Geiger
Directors Mark Doll, Seth Johnston,
Ryan Petrick, Tess Schmidt,
Kathy Tokach, Katie Wirt

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEO Travis Kupper
Co-GM/CEO Jason Bentz

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