



COURTESY PHOTO

# Father's Farm: Preparing men to thrive in a broken world

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

After a decade of being involved with prison ministry, Dan Slaubaugh had a vision of helping those he had prayed over on a larger scale. He enlisted his longtime friend and fellow jail minister, Cleo Yoder, to help make this dream a reality. The dream was to have a safe place for men to build character, learn practical skills and further their relationship with God the Father. The place would eventually be named Father's Farm.

"We are looking to break the cycle," Slaubaugh said. "Time and time again, we have seen it, when a guy gets out of jail, he goes back to the same bad habits that put him there. So, that's where we'd come in."

The two blazed forward by organizing a board of directors, made up of members from around the Wolford community, for the faith-based nonprofit. The group focused on ways to help prepare men to thrive in a broken world. The organization's belief is that living with humility, a willingness to work hard and a

desire to worship in the community are the best ways to thrive. They believed they could achieve this in rural North Dakota.

In 2017, Father's Farm purchased a farm north of Wolford in Pierce County to set up a home base. The

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**JANUARY 2023**

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PHOTOS BY NDAREC/CLARICE KESLER

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23-acre property, complete with a barn, an A-frame house and a couple other buildings, had plenty of room to grow and would be the perfect place to help men with addiction on the path to recovery.

During the next couple years, an eight-bed housing facility was built on the property, featuring four bedrooms designed for two men to a room, a kitchen, meeting room, laundry room, lockers/bathrooms and a 46x72-foot recreation room with basketball hoops to promote healthy living.

A 17x72-foot greenhouse that uses geothermal energy to heat in the winter and cool in the summer was also added to the property. The greenhouse will be used to care for plants and provide food all year long. They hope to have excess vegetables to sell at farmers markets and around the community.

Utilizing the barn and pasture, a horse and two milk cows were added to the Father's Farm family for daily chores. They will also use nearby farmland for small-scale farming.

While the men will be expected to work hard on the farm, they will also have the opportunity to work in nearby communities. The director of Father's Farm and Cleo's son, Chet Yoder, explains the 12-month program is set up in four stages.

"Stage one, zero to three months, is all about connection, building trust, doing chores and farming. Stage two, three to six months, will start the men with part-time work. We have three to four businesses ready to receive men from Cando, Wolford and Rugby. The men can now start to contribute to their cost of living. Stages three and four, the men will gradually increase hours to full-time work. The goal is to have them leave with enough money to put a down payment on an apartment and a good reference to put on their resume," Yoder said.

During the 12 months, the men will also receive life skill lessons, counseling and support services. The group home will have a staff member onsite 24/7, serving as a group leader and peer support.

Chet said the Father's Farm board of directors would select men for the program primarily from local communities, with participants coming from Rugby, Wolford, Cando, Mylo, Rolette, Rolla, Belcourt and Dunseith. Men will be referred from probation officers when leaving jail, or might be coming from a rehab facility, like Heartview Foundation in Cando or Teen Challenge



**Cleo Yoder** stands inside the greenhouse that operates on geothermal energy for residents to use all year long.



*"We are looking for men that want to be here, and that are looking to change," **Chet Yoder**, director of Father's Farm.*

in Mandan.

"We are looking for men that want to be here, and that are looking to change," Chet said.

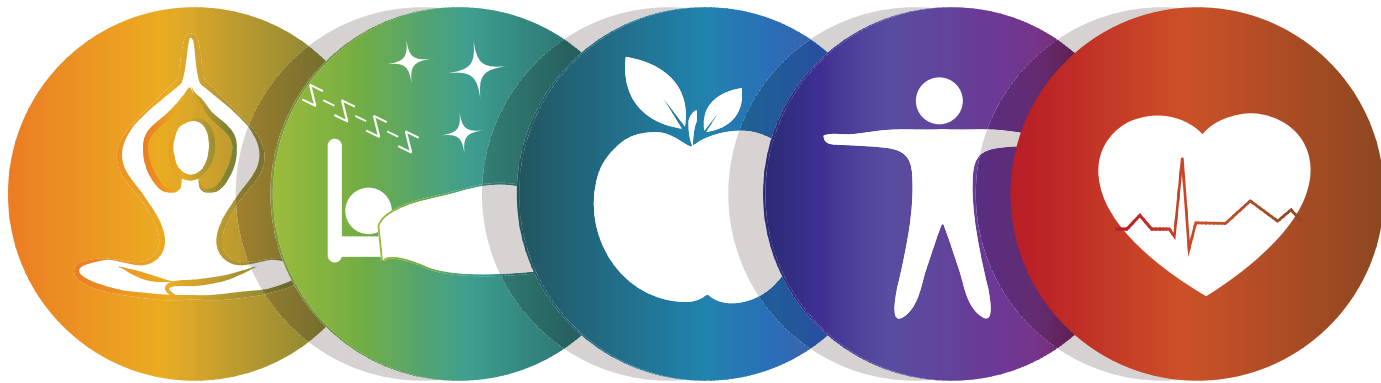
Due to higher-than-normal construction costs, the opening date to welcome residents has been pushed back a couple times. In December 2022, after five years of planning, countless volunteer hours and thousands of dollars raised, Father's Farm welcomed its first resident.

Of those funds raised, Father's Farm was on the receiving end of an Operation Round Up grant through Northern Plains Electric Cooperative and a matching grant through the Rural Development Finance Corporation, which is a North Dakota nonprofit finance and development corporation whose member-owners are all the North Dakota electric cooperatives.

Chet called each donation instrumental.

"Our mission is to help men thrive and help them to transform their lives, often coming out of a difficult situation. Any gift would help us do just that," he said.

For more information, or to help Father's Farm, email Chet Yoder at [info@fathersfarmnd.org](mailto:info@fathersfarmnd.org) or call 209-273-9844. ■



## NPEC employees donate \$400 prize money to charities

In October, more than 130 electric cooperative employees across the state participated in a Co-op Bingo Challenge sponsored by the N.D. REC Benefit Trust. Over the four-week challenge, bingo cards were distributed weekly to challenge participants to expand and enrich their sense of overall wellness by checking off tasks. Cards had a variety of challenges focused on social, financial and physical health.

Seventy-five participants won individual prizes, including coolers, wireless earbuds, wireless speakers, massage guns, water bottles and a \$100 donation to a charity of the winner's choosing. Charitable

donations totaled \$4,000. Four Northern Plains Electric Cooperative employees were lucky enough to be selected and distributed their winnings to the these charities:

- \$100 – Carrington Daily Bread, donated by Blaine Hulbert, IT/network technician
- \$100 – Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation, donated by Jon Sjostrom, lineworker
- \$100 – Great American Bike Race, Bismarck, donated by Kevin Larson, engineer
- \$100 – National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, donated by Clay LaRocque, engineer ■

## Scholarship deadline nearing!

Together with Northern Plains Electric (NPEC), Basin Electric Power Cooperative is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2023-24 school year. To qualify, an applicant's parent/guardian's primary residence must be served by NPEC. Applicants for the scholarship must be a high school senior or college freshman enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2023.

### How to apply

Scholarship applications are available for download at [www.nplains.com/scholarship](http://www.nplains.com/scholarship).

### Deadline

Applications must be received/postmarked by Jan. 31. ■



# EMPLOYEE NEWS

## Northern Plains hires Rosencrans full time



**James Rosencrans**

Apprentice lineworker James Rosencrans, who was hired at the start of the summer as temporary help, has secured a full-time position at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC). Rosencrans will continue to work with the Rugby line crew under foreman Stan Pierson.

“Throughout the summer, James has exceeded all expectations as a summer help employee and has been a great addition to NPEC,” said Operations Manager Josh Cabler.

A Towner native, Rosencrans graduated from lineworker school at Bismarck State College in 2019 and worked for Coal Creek Construction before joining NPEC. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and golfing.

area full time.

Welcome to the team, Brad. We are happy to have you!



**Doyle Schwanke**

## Schwanke named foreman

NPEC has named Doyle Schwanke as the line crew foreman for the Maddock outpost.

Schwanke, a journeyman lineworker, has worked for NPEC for 25 years in the Maddock area.

Schwanke will resume duties held by Wayne Randle, who retired in October. In his new position, Schwanke will be responsible for providing field supervision and assuring safety practices for himself and the Maddock crew.

Congratulations, Doyle! ■



**Brad Johnson**

## Johnson joins Maddock crew

Journeyman Brad Johnson has been hired at NPEC under foreman Doyle Schwanke. Johnson joined the team in December after Wayne Randle’s retirement opened a spot on the Maddock crew.

Johnson grew up in Miles City, Mont., and spent his summers in the Oberon area with his father, working on the family farm. After high school, he attended Bismarck State College, earning his lineworker degree in 2000. He has been employed at Capital Electric Cooperative, Bismarck, for the last 21 years, while also helping on the family farm on the weekends.

He enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family. Johnson said he is excited to be back in the



## SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Place space heaters on hard, level surfaces.

Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from children, pets and flammable materials.



# Do you have money waiting for you?

The following people have capital credit checks at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative for which we do not have a current address. Please notify us if you have a current address for any of these people, or if you are entitled to the capital credits in the case of an estate. Please contact us by Jan. 31. Call us at 800-882-2500 and ask for Tami.

## 2022 UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

Ask, Daniel ..... Imperial, NE  
 Bachmeier, Mary A ..... Sheyenne  
 Baker, Donna ..... St Michael  
 Banic, Al ..... Round Rock, TX  
 Bauer, Joyce M ..... Bismarck  
 Beard, Glenda ..... Carrington  
 Belgarde, Clifford E ..... Belcourt  
 Belgarde, Marla ..... Belcourt  
 Bercier, Bulah V ..... Belcourt  
 Bercier, Frances ..... Belcourt  
 Bercier, Wendy ..... Belcourt  
 Bisson, Michelle ..... Grand Forks  
 Bjork, Amber ..... Minot  
 Black, Connie ..... Ft Totten  
 Black Cloud, Ivan ..... Ft Totten  
 Brien, Rochanda ..... Belcourt  
 Brunelle, Charles ..... Belcourt  
 Calheim, Clifford ..... Jamestown  
 Campbell, Stella ..... Rolla  
 Charboneau, Karla ..... Bismarck  
 Charbonneau, Robert Sr ..... Belcourt  
 Dease, Lola ..... Munich  
 Decoteau, David W ..... Rolla  
 Decoteau, Erika ..... Belcourt  
 Decoteau, Francis M ..... Belcourt  
 Delorme, Debora ..... Belcourt  
 Delorme, Kristy ..... Belcourt  
 Didier, Cindy ..... Jamestown  
 Didier, Rod ..... Jamestown  
 Dionne, Jessica M ..... Belcourt  
 Dramstad, Duane ..... Binford  
 Dubois, Benjamin ..... Ft Totten  
 Elhard, Diane ..... Jamestown  
 Enno, Gladys ..... Belcourt  
 Feather, Misty B ..... Bismarck  
 Follmer, Paul ..... Bismarck  
 Garcia, Angela ..... Ft Totten  
 Gray, Carla ..... Belcourt

Grand, Frank H ..... Rolla  
 Grand, Wanda L ..... Belcourt  
 Handeland, Amy ..... Belcourt  
 Harrington, Gerald ..... Moorhead, MN  
 Hammer, Richard ..... Jamestown  
 Hegvik, Jason ..... Glenfield  
 Hellerud, Leanne ..... Thief River Falls, MN  
 Hoffart, Vicki ..... Monango  
 Hogenson, Melfred ..... Kenmare  
 Houle, Francis J ..... Belcourt  
 Icesman, Cora ..... Ft Totten  
 Iverson, James ..... Minot  
 Janusz, Tony ..... Aneta  
 Jeannotte, Victoria ..... Rolla  
 Jones, Leora ..... St Charles, MO  
 Kalstrom, David ..... Glendale, AZ  
 Keefe, Kevin ..... Hawley, MN  
 Kelson, Michael ..... Spanish Fork, UT  
 Kenner, Harold ..... Sun Lakes, AZ  
 Kevins Construction ..... Belcourt  
 King, Kelly ..... Devils Lake  
 Kleir, David ..... Henderson, NV  
 Knecht, Elroy H ..... Cleveland  
 Knutson, Merlyn N III ..... Ft Totten  
 Laducer, Mary ..... Belcourt  
 Lamfromboise, Larry ..... Belcourt  
 Lambert, Dorothy ..... Ft Totten  
 Laverdure, Terry ..... Belcourt  
 Malater, Kristy ..... Dunseith  
 Martin, Dean H ..... Rolla  
 Martin, Earl ..... Belcourt  
 Martinez, Misty L ..... Mandan  
 Mc Cloud, Doug ..... Rolla  
 Mc Garth, Gregory ..... Devils Lake  
 Mc Gillis, Allen ..... Belcourt  
 Mc Gregor, Sharlene ..... Cando  
 Mc Lellan, Thomas ..... Rugby  
 Miller, Jerome ..... Jamestown

Miller, Tom G ..... Carrington  
 Moline, Donna ..... Willow City  
 Morin, Clarence ..... St Michael  
 Morin, Lora ..... Moorhead, MN  
 Morrow, Shannon P ..... Monroe, WA  
 Muir, Ryan ..... Salk Lake City, UT  
 Mutschler, Fred ..... Spiritwood Lake  
 Nestell, Leigh A ..... Fort Totten  
 Pedroza, Jacqueline B ..... Belcourt  
 Peltier, Kurt Jr ..... Belcourt  
 Peterson, Donald ..... Granville  
 Pogge, Jack ..... Greenwood Village, CO  
 Poitra, Adel ..... Belcourt  
 Poitra, Cheri ..... Belcourt  
 Poitra, Diane M ..... Belle Fourche, SD  
 Price, Mel ..... Amberg, WI  
 Questell, Michael ..... Rolla  
 Rainbow, Tanya ..... Devils Lake  
 Rice, Orville ..... Egeland  
 Roemmich, Chad ..... Spiritwood  
 Scott, Marlene S ..... Maddock  
 Selzler, Terry ..... Rugby  
 Selner, Russ M ..... Osceola, IN  
 Semmens, Christopher ..... Carrington  
 Smith, Crystal L ..... Rolla  
 Stoddard, Earl ..... Carrington  
 Tolson, Diane ..... Eagle Bend, MN  
 Tomahawk, Hope ..... Ft Totten  
 Tuenge, Karen K ..... Buckeye, AZ  
 Vallie, Lynda K ..... Rolla  
 Walen, Doris W ..... Cooperstown  
 Wangler, Freddie ..... Casselton  
 Weisser, Ted ..... Mandan  
 Whitetail, Tioga ..... Ft Totten  
 Wiesenburger, Wilbert ..... Carrington  
 Wilson, Brence ..... Belcourt

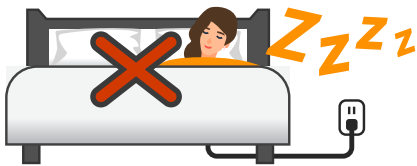


# ELECTRIC BLANKET FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

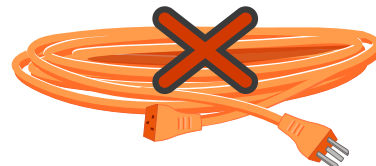


Heating pads and electric blankets cause around **500 fires each year**. Almost all of these fires involve electric blankets that are **more than ten years old**. Learn how to stay safe.

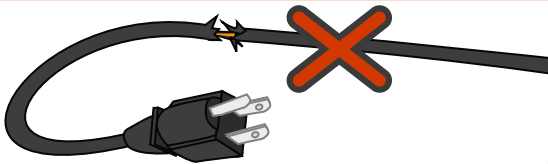
Heating appliances should **never be left unattended** or used while **sleeping**.



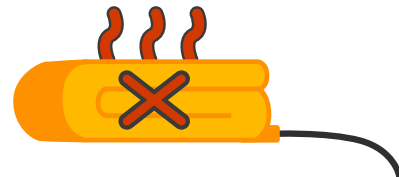
Do not plug electric blankets into an **extension cord** or **power strip**, as they could overheat and **cause a fire**.



**Look** for dark, charred or frayed spots or electrical cords that are cracked or frayed. **Replace** any worn or old heating pads or electric blankets.



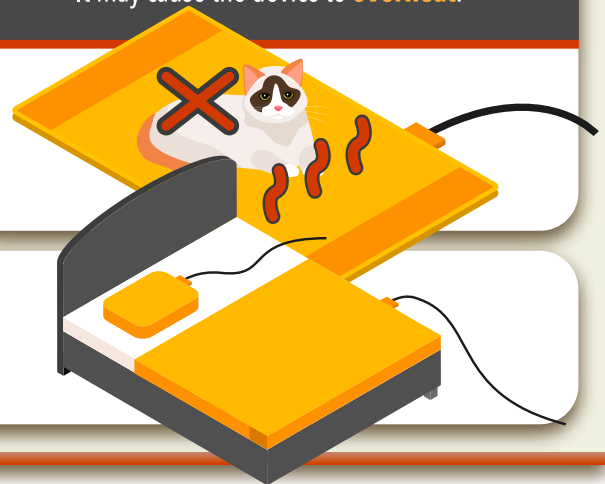
**Never fold electric blankets** when in use. Folded or tucked-in blankets could overheat and **cause a fire**.



When purchasing electronics, including electric blankets, be sure to only **purchase from reputable retailers**. Purchase devices that have been approved by a **nationally recognized testing laboratory**.



Do not allow anything to **rest on top** of a heating pad or electric blanket when it is in use. It may cause the device to **overheat**.



There are **two types** of personal heating appliances, **heating pads** that are placed directly on the mattress and **electric blankets**. They are not meant to be used interchangeably or at the same time.



# Statement of nondiscrimination

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations/policies, USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs, are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal/retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA; not all bases apply to all programs; remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; 2) fax: 202-690-7442; or 3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). ■

## PLAY TO WIN \$25 CREDIT From Northern Plains Electric Cooperative

Congratulations to our latest winner -  
Bernice Selensky from Rugby!  
Thank you for entering the  
November bill insert word search.

*Regularly check bill inserts for future contests.*



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Carrington, ND 58421

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