

# Help Northern Plains Electric Cooperative Celebrate National Co-op Month!

Throughout the month of October:



## • Donate to our winter hat and mitten drive.

We are accepting new items with tags still attached. The donations will be distributed to area schools in need; grades K-12. Drop off donations at the Cando or Carrington offices.

## • Refreshment Fridays!

Stop by the Cando or Carrington offices every Friday for refreshments, treats and to sign up for door prizes. Our helpful business department will be there to answer any questions and help you learn ways to save on your electric bill.



## • Co-op trivia anyone?

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative will be randomly posting trivia questions on our Facebook page. The first person to answer correctly will get his or her name in a drawing for two winners of a \$75 bill credit.

1515 Main St. - Carrington  
609 4th Ave. - Cando  
Office hours:  
Mon. - Fri.  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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OCTOBER 2019

## By the community, for the community October is National Co-op Month

**W**hen you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, celebrate who we are and, more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Northern Plains Electric Cooperative was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the

annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. We facilitate a grant program, Operation Round Up, to help those individuals and organizations in need. Members who "round up" their electric bills have helped the program donate \$768,462 to 1,064

local charitable causes. We award student scholarships for college and donate money to schools for field trips to the state Capitol and tour power plants/coal mines in the Beulah area. We provide financial assistance through the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program to growing business in our area.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. ■



**October is National Co-op Month.**  
Electric co-ops are proud to power more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.



**JUNE 20 TO 26, 2020**

**HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS**

# Win the Trip of a Lifetime!

## AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian's primary residence must be served by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Brittnee Wilson, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31, 2020. You can email entries to Brittnee Wilson at [brittneew@nplains.com](mailto:brittneew@nplains.com) or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest at P.O. Box 608 Cando, ND 58324-0608.

## ESSAY QUESTION:

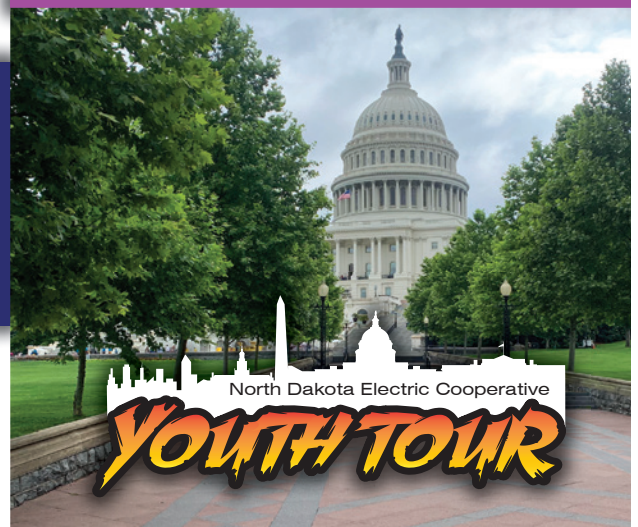
*If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will travel to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?*

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT  
**[www.ndyouthtour.com](http://www.ndyouthtour.com)**

## TOP 3 REASONS

### TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Northern Plains 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





# Woodward Farm

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

Since 2013, Woodward Farm has been capturing North Dakota in a jar. Brenda Gorseth, Woodward Farm LLC's founder and creative force, has perfected made-from-scratch recipes using raw North Dakota materials to create unique jams, relishes and salsas.

The 80-acre farm served by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is located near Cathay. Here, Brenda grows most of the fruits and produce used in her products, and also where she operates from her licensed commercial kitchen. She lives there with her husband, Dan, who helps when needed to make Woodward Farm products unique and flavorful.

They offer more than 15 products, and some taste as unique as their name. Their most popular product, "Man in a Can," is an onion-pepper relish that is great for meat glaze or mixed with cream cheese for a dip. It is aptly named "Man in a Can," because men are the number one customers. Another favorite is the "Ugly Sister Rhubarb Salsa," which is a marriage of flavors of rhubarb, brown sugar, onions and peppers. It isn't pretty, but it's pretty tasty.

In addition to its product line,

Along with her husband, **Dan Gorseth**, **Brenda** operates Woodward Farm near Cathay.





**Brenda Gorseth**, founder and CEO of Woodward Farm, proudly poses next to her product line of unique jams, relishes and salsas made from raw North Dakota materials.

Woodward Farm provides catering for groups, from 10 to 300, using many of Brenda's products and dishes made from scratch. The final component of the business is custom baking. All baked goods are made from scratch by Brenda, and she only uses the freshest ingredients.

As a Northern Plains Electric Cooperative member and known for her amazing talents as a baker, Brenda was asked to create, bake and serve more than 1,700 desserts at a reception for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative annual meeting last fall. Brenda took this opportunity to showcase her talents, as she created a dessert to represent each of the nine states that were in attendance. In the lineup, chokecherry jelly cheesecakes and Juneberry kuchen were the favorites of the night.

Brenda is not only inventive with her cooking, but hands-on, as she wants to give her customers the best experience possible. One way she does this is by opening the farm to organizations and businesses to

enjoy a unique meeting experience. Here, they can tour the kitchen, learn a fun and easy recipe or simply use the space to meet and be pampered with custom-made food in a relaxing atmosphere.

"I'm looking to really push the agritourism part of the business," explains Brenda, inviting groups of 25 or under to the farm. "Whether it's breakfast, lunch or supper, I will spoil them while here. That's my goal - to make them feel special," she says.

She is not exaggerating. I was invited to lunch at the farm when visiting for this interview. I was treated to steaks on the grill, complete with Woodward Farm's "Man in a Can," which is absolutely amazing, fresh yellow beans, corn on the cob from the garden and a delicious trifle for dessert topped with fresh strawberries.

"Whether it's catering, custom baking or a jar of salsa, you will get my best effort every time because my name is my reputation," Brenda says.

Brenda grew up in the kitchen

on her Minnesota farm, learning from her mother and maternal grandmother. As a part of a large family and feeding the farmhands, they were always cooking something in the kitchen. Baking and canning were an integral part of her life for many years. However, Brenda followed a different path into teaching after leaving the family farm. She and her husband lived in many places, but took a leap of faith, finding themselves back in North Dakota, which is Dan's home state.

Brenda did not stray far from her roots, as she often would bake goodies or create a jam recipe for her students to enjoy. "They were actually the ones who encouraged me to create a business and sell to larger outlets other than the local farmers markets," Brenda says. She did just that and hasn't looked back.

Woodward Farm is a member of Pride of Dakota and the North Dakota Farmers Market Growers Association. The business also sells its product line wholesale to many stores in most of the major cities in North Dakota.

Woodward Farm was first built to process and sell produce, but Brenda stumbled upon catering and discovered it is something she loves doing. "I think why I'm successful is because I'm three-pronged: processing, catering and baking. Teaching was a great segue into this business. It's all about managing, kind of like a lesson plan," Brenda states.

You can view Woodward Farm's product line or book your next event by visiting the website at [www.woodwardfarm.com](http://www.woodwardfarm.com) or calling 701-652-5183. Follow activities on Facebook by liking the page, "Woodward Farm." ■



# Aiming at electrical equipment is never in season!

**A**s autumn approaches, along with various North Dakota hunting seasons, please remember that electrical insulators, conductors and electrical equipment are NOT on the hunting season list.

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors this season. Be aware of what's behind that big buck or it might cost big bucks. Repairs can be costly and damages cause outages to our members. As a nonprofit cooperative, owned by the members, we all share in this expense.

This doesn't include the inconvenience and hazards to members down the line who require power for medical equipment or other needs while a lineworker does some hunting of his own looking at spans of line trying to locate the problem.

Hunters and other gun owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles and substations. A stray

bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly to the shooter, and potentially interrupt electric service to large areas.

Sometimes the damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, and is only discovered when an unexplained outage occurs.

Landowners are also encouraged to take note of nonmembers who are hunting on their property, and remind them to be aware of power lines.

We recognize the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities. Enjoy the great outdoors. Just be sure to hunt only what's in season. ■

## HUNTING SAFETY TIPS:

- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and fire.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction – and a serious hazard – to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.





## Operation Round Up awards \$9,800 in grants

**O**peration Round Up wouldn't be possible without you, the Northern Plains Electric Cooperative member who generously elects to have your electric bill rounded up to the next dollar. The donated amount averages about 50 cents a month for each participating member and raises approximately \$37,000 each year.

Since the program's beginning

in October 1998, grants totaling \$768,462 have been awarded to 1,064 local charitable causes.

At its September meeting, the Northern Plains Electric Operation Round Up board of directors approved 19 grants, totaling \$9,800 to help support local worthy causes.

Grants approved in September include:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Jamestown	Christopher and Hiedi Lindner, medical
Eddy County 4-H	Susie Semmons, medical
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cando	Kerry and Roxann Haugen, medical
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cando	Brock Thomas, medical
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cando	Bonnie Nelson, medical
Presbyterian Church of Rolla & St. John	Judy Ravnass, medical
Carrington Youth Center	Bryzon Prosser, medical
First Lutheran Church, Fessenden	Nancy Brame, medical
Benson, Eddy, Griggs, Kidder, Pierce, Rolette, Stutsman, Wells and Ramsey counties. Cando Area Food Pantry, Carrington Daily Bread	Food Banks

Any person or group in the Northern Plains Electric Cooperative service area may apply to receive an Operation Round Up grant.

To request an application or to

opt into the program, contact our business office at 1-800-882-2500 or download the form at our website, [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com). The next round of applications is due Nov. 20. ■

Your Electric Cooperative needs **YOUR HELP**

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative works hard to provide safe, reliable and convenient electric power for you and your family. We also provide programs to help you use energy efficiently.

To help us plan for the future and determine what programs will benefit you most, your cooperative needs your help.

This fall, we will be conducting a survey of our residential consumers. If you receive a survey, please help us by taking a few minutes to complete it. Your answers are very important, so please respond as best as possible and return it promptly. A postage-paid return envelope is included for your convenience. The survey will also be available to complete online.



# Many ways to pay your electric bill

**N**orthern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) wants paying your bill to be as easy as possible. That's why we offer several convenient ways to pay your monthly electric bill with no additional service fees.

NPEC sends bills at the beginning of the month and payment is due upon receipt, no later than the 20th of each month. Bills not paid by the due date are subject to late fees and disconnection of service.

## Pay-by-phone

New to your monthly bill, you will notice a pay-by-phone option. This option is an automated service that is free to members and which takes payments 24 hours a day. Call the toll-free number, 844-749-3052, and follow the prompts that will guide you through the easy payment process. VISA, MasterCard or Discover and e-check are accepted. You must have your Northern Plains Electric account number before calling. Due to privacy reasons, NPEC office employees will not take card information over the phone.

## Mail

You can mail a check or money order payment to: P.O. Box 608, Cando, ND 58324. Please include all of your statement stubs with your payment and the account numbers(s) written on the memo of your check. We ask that you do not tape or staple your payment to your statement.

## Pay online

NPEC now offers two ways to pay online using e-check, VISA,

MasterCard or Discover

- **Pay now:** make a one-time, quick payment by visiting our website, [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com).
- **SmartHub:** Log into your account via SmartHub by visiting our website, [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com), or download the SmartHub app on your Apple or android device. SmartHub allows you to view all your account information, make a payment on your account and the option to set up recurring payments. First-time customers must set up a username and password. Members may also view account information like usage, outage information and more. SmartHub is fast, informative, simple, secure and fun!

## Sign up for auto pay

Auto pay is the easiest way to pay your electric bill. Auto pay automatically transfers funds from your checking or savings account around the 15th of each month. You can sign up by contacting our billing department or through SmartHub. To set up autopay using a credit card, you must go through pay-by-phone or SmartHub.

## Pay in person or drop off

You can pay in person from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at either office in Cando or Carrington. Each office also has an after-hours drop box conveniently placed at the main entrance.

Contact our billing department with any questions 1-800-882-2500. ■

### CANDO OFFICE:

609 4th Ave.  
Cando, ND 58324

### CARRINGTON OFFICE:

1515 West Main  
Carrington, ND 58421

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com)  
[justask@nplains.com](mailto:justask@nplains.com)  
800-882-2500

### BOARD & MANAGEMENT:

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