

member connection

Washington, D.C. Youth Tour returning in 2022 after two-year hiatus

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric seeking applicants, and will sponsor two eligible students

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is accepting applications from eligible high school sophomores or juniors for an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the 2022 Youth Tour, June 14-19.

The tour is coordinated through the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Participating cooperatives sponsor a member student(s) to travel to Washington, D.C., to learn about cooperatives and our government, tour historical sites, and have fun meeting new friends from Minnesota and other delegates from across the nation.

To be eligible, the entrant must meet the following requirements:

1. The entrant is currently a high school sophomore or junior, and their parent(s)/guardian(s) are a Steele-Waseca member. Dependents of Steele-Waseca employees or directors are not eligible to participate.
2. All entries must include: a) the completed application form below; b) answers to both essay questions typed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper; c) applicant's school and community information typed on a separate sheet of paper; and d) two letters of recommendation (one from an instructor, counselor or administrator, and the other from a church or community leader).
3. Return entries to: Steele-Wase-

ca Cooperative Electric, c/o Youth Tour 2022, PO Box 485, Owatonna, MN 55060. Entries must be received in Steele-Waseca's office on or before Friday, Feb. 18, 2022. The two Youth Tour recipients will be notified by Friday, March 18, 2022.

Each entry will be evaluated by a panel of judges for:

- completeness
- composition
- neatness
- ability to communicate
- school and community activities


Essay Questions:

1. Why would you like to be Steele-Waseca's delegate to Youth Tour 2022? What do you hope to gain from the experience? Answer in 150 words or less.
2. Write a short essay on what commitment to community means to you. Include how you contribute to your

community. Answer in 300 words or less. 1081503

School and Community Information (use a separate sheet of paper to list the following):

- All school activities – include letters and honors earned, positions held, etc.
- All community activities – include all church, community service and positions held.
- Work experience and any other information.

MREA is requiring that each participating cooperative's delegate(s) report to the Crowne Plaza Airport located at 3 Appletree Square in Bloomington for an orientation session on Tuesday, June 14, presently at 9:30 a.m. An afternoon flight to Washington, D.C., will follow the session. 

#swceLIFE+



Washington, D.C. Youth Tour 2022 — June 14-19

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ street \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s) or Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently a high school \_\_\_\_\_ sophomore \_\_\_\_\_ junior at \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian consent: I/we hereby give my/our dependent high school student permission to enter the Rural Electric Washington, D.C. Youth Tour 2022 Contest. I/we understand if they're selected, I/we will be responsible for providing their transportation to the Crowne Plaza Airport in Bloomington and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ SWCE account # \_\_\_\_\_



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

January 2022

Capital Credit Refund

Please check this month's billing statement for your 2021 capital credit refund. If you have any questions regarding your refund, please call Hlou Yang at Steele-Waseca during regular business hours.

inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 SWCE recognizes SageGlass
- 4 Cookin' Connection; SWCE community solar update; Stray voltage questions
- 5 Electric safety presentation in Claremont; Winter driving survival kit; Lemond Twsp Christmas light display;
- 6 Ad Connection; 4-Seasons Vacations
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- 8 Applicants sought for 2022 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour

calendar of events

January

- 12/31 SWCE office is closed in observance of New Year's Day
- 1 New Year's Day 28547
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day



GRE clean energy transition brings era of rate stability

Most Great River Energy member-owner co-ops will see wholesale rates decrease in 2022

At a time when prices are rising on many products and services, Great River Energy (GRE) is holding its wholesale electricity rates relatively flat into 2022 and projecting rate stability into the future.



"We spent over a decade transitioning to a portfolio of power supply and transmission resources to efficiently serve our member-owner cooperatives," said GRE President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. "The benefits of those decisions are now being felt. Wholesale rate stability is incredibly important to our member systems in greater Minnesota that are seeing sharp increases in other costs."

Stable wholesale rate projections are due in part to changes in the way Great River Energy produces and purchases energy. The cooperative plans to elim-

inate coal from its owned power supply resources, more than double its renewables and purchase a greater portion of energy from the Midwest energy market.

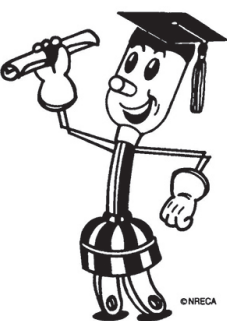
These changes put GRE on-track to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80% by 2023, surpassing Minnesota statewide emissions goal more than 25 years ahead of schedule.

"We are coming off a decade of prudent investments as well as some difficult decisions that have us firmly on a path of stable rates," said GRE Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Michelle Strobel. "This is critical for our member-owners, as wholesale power costs can represent a significant percentage of their overall expenses."

Twenty of Great River Energy's 28 member-owner cooperatives will see their wholesale rates decrease slightly (GRE wholesale rates continued on Page 7)

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric awarding scholarships in 2022 to qualified high school graduates

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is providing \$500 scholarships to qualified high school seniors graduating in 2022.




One scholarship will be presented at each participating school. Scholarship eligibility required by Steele-Waseca includes:

1. Applicants must currently be high school seniors, who will be continuing their education on a full-time basis at a two- or four-year technical school or college.

2. Applicants must be dependents of a Steele-Waseca member.

Each participating school is responsible for administering any other eligibility requirements, the selection of their school's Steele-Waseca scholarship recipient, and the disbursement of the scholarship dollars from Steele-Waseca.

All eligible high school seniors should contact their guidance counselor or scholarship administrator for more information.

In 2021, Steele-Waseca awarded \$500 scholarships to 16 high school senior graduates. The co-op's scholarship program has awarded \$189,750 in scholarships since the program was established in 1954. A portion of the funds to support these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credit equity. 

#swceLIFE+



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2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485  
Owatonna MN 55060-0485

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website: [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop)  
Email: [info@swce.coop](mailto:info@swce.coop)



### Board of Directors

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### Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

### Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

### For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

### Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

### To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

Call **Before** You Dig  
**Gopher State One Call**  
**811 or 800-252-1166**

48-hour notice required for **ALL** underground cable locations

## manager connection



By Syd Briggs,  
General Manager

Although Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's primary goal is the basic provision of reliable and consistent power, we have discovered the need to constantly be aware and somewhat involved in federal and state politics when it involves legislation that affects our members. As the great Athenian Statesman and General Pericles once said, "Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you." Whether legislation is national, state, or local, all legislation has, at the very least, an indirect effect; and eventually in time, it usually has a very direct effect.

At Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, we believe it's critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That's why we work closely with our local elected officials. After all, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our mission is to help the communities in our service area thrive.

Steele-Waseca is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of their community. Our leadership, board directors, and employees live and work in the area we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for the communities, ensuring local legislators know, understand and act on the issues important to our area.

### Providing industry guidance and expertise

Steele-Waseca recognizes our legislators are experts on the legislative process, and are "generalists" on the wide range of issues they have to address through the legislature. We believe all our legislators are conscientious and dedicated to representing all their con-

stituents, which is why we like to stay in contact with each one, in addition to providing guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who've been in the energy industry for many years.

Today's energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts provide briefings and backgrounders to legislators, committees and staff, and we offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings, or gatherings. And because we're involved with economic development and know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion may impact our region.

### Co-op as a convener

In addition, Steele-Waseca periodically invite legislators and their staff to the co-op for tours so they can see firsthand how we operate and can view our operations, equipment, substations, or the co-op's community solar used in The Sunna Project.

### Representing your best interests

Steele-Waseca strives to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the communities within our service area, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our member-owners. This means we are able to cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust us, because we're advocating on behalf of the communities we serve. 33941

We're proud to power your life and bring good things to the communities we serve. We hope you'll continue to advise Steele-Waseca on matters of importance so we can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all.

#swceCOOPERATION

## ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

(2) 15X16 (30') SLIDING DOORS for Morton shed, \$1500. 456-4012.

REAR SPRINGS from '98 Chev. C1500 "heavy half" pickup, \$50. 676-1009.

CIRCLE LK LOT, 0.7 acres; (2) DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS, all well priced to sell. 678-978-7444.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.



### Top bidder

Steve and Doris Stadheim of Ellendale completed their purchase of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's 1936 Ford pickup, Monday, Dec. 6, after having the top bid for the replica of the co-op's "first" service truck.

#swceAPPRECIATION

(GRE wholesale rates continued from Pg 1)

in 2022. The other eight member-owners will see increases, primarily due to reductions in planned energy purchases from GRE.

Great River Energy is owned by and provides wholesale electricity to 28 retail distribution cooperatives serving Minnesota (including Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric) and parts of Wisconsin. Each cooperative serves a unique membership with its own specific needs and expectations.

### Stability in the face of inflation

The U.S. Labor Department has reported that expenses such as food and rent are increasing due in part to housing shortages and supply chain troubles. Consumer Price Index increases are also exceeding economists' forecasts.

"These economic challenges underscore the value of cooperatives," said GRE Vice President and Chief Corporate and Member Services Officer Mark Fagan. "Cooperatives are not-for-profit, member-owned businesses that

SNOWBLOWERS; REPAIR SMALL ENGINES. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales. 334-6377.

55-, 30-, & 15-GAL. BARRELS, \$10 any size. 451-7695/Gary.

1998 FORD F-150, 5L, V8, 155,000 mi., some rust. 456-1597.

**Ads need to be received in the Steele-Waseca office by Wednesday, Jan. 5, to ensure being printed in the February 2022 Sparks newsletter.**

## Did you know?

Heating your home accounts for up to 48 percent of your utility bill.

### A few tips to help you save:

Clean or replace your furnace filter once a month (or as recommended).



Caulk and seal windows to avoid air leaks.



Keep draperies and shades open during the day and closed at night.

#swceTRUST



Visit [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov) for more ways to save!

can adapt to changing member needs or unexpected economic trends."

GRE's budgets, rates and major business decisions are voted on by a board of democratically elected directors, all of whom are cooperative members and ratepayers.

"Our member-owners are clear about what they want from Great River Energy: affordable rates, reliable service and environmental stewardship," Fagan added.

### Effect on regional economy

The benefits of price stability extend beyond cooperative members and can have a stabilizing effect on the larger economy, according to Brian Hanson, who serves as president and chief executive officer of APEX, a northern Minnesota economic development nonprofit organization.

"Businesses are seeking ways to manage rising expenses right now," said Hanson. "Price stability for a major expense such as electricity is one less barrier to innovation and growth. That's what creates jobs and fuels healthy economies." 1029690

This is the fourth consecutive year in which Great River Energy's budgeted average wholesale rate has not increased for all-requirements member-owner cooperatives. GRE is the second largest electric power supplier in Minnesota, and one of the largest generation and transmission cooperatives in the nation.

#swceTRUST



ad connection

give away

(3) TREES FOR WOOD, you cut down the trees—you can have the wood, Cedar Lk. 330-3141.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

VENT-FREE HEATER w/thermostat. 663-1275.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, top \$ pd for cars & trucks. 332-2300.

BARN, GRANARY, &/OR OUTBUILDINGS, I remove to repurpose the lumber; OLD TIN; BARN SIDING; LUMBER. 330-0258/Tim.

DOLE MOISTURE TESTER in gd shape. 390-5508/cell or 451-3501/home.

VRY OLD STAMPS, used or unused, premium prices paid for items bought, call for quotes. 676-0970.

3.5"-4" GREEN-TREATED ROUND WOOD POSTS. 210-8425.

GUNS; AMMO; JD MOWERS; TACKLE; ESTATES. 279-0431/Mark.

UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS, \$ paid on delivered. 330-3178.

WILL TAKE USED LAWN, GARDEN EQUIPMENT. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

WOOD SPLITTER. 330-3387.

AG RELATED ITEMS FOR EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS at family owned & operated business in Nfld including hand tools, livestock items, & machinery. 581-9248.

for sale

USED ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS, AUTO & TRUCK PARTS, 30-day warranty on eng. & trans. 332-2300.

(2) 7.50 X 16 3-RIB FRONT TRACTOR TIRES ON 6-HOLE RIM, exc. cond., \$125 per tire & rim; MIRRORS for 2016 Silverado, \$50 for both. 334-5412.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

ALFALFA/GRASS MIX HAY BALES, full size, sm. sq., great quality, no rain. 451-2978.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125. 451-7946.

ANTIQUE WICKER ROCKER, rounded back, \$50. 451-5456 after 5 p.m.

4X5 MIXED GRASS HAY ROUND BALES & CORNSTALK BALES, net wrapped, no rain. 451-5131.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit [www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com](http://www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com) for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

16' SIOUX CATTLE GATE, heavy gauge, \$200; 14' CATTLE GATE, \$50 (\$225 for both). 390-5508/cell or 451-3501/home.

(4) BEVELED GLASS OCCASIONAL TABLES w/wicker bottom shelves: (1) couch table, (1) coffee table, (2) end tables. 465-8566.

AQUA-VU SCOUT 2 FISHING UNDERWATER CAMERA, \$70. 451-1749 or 200-9046.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

WINCO GENERATOR, 25,000W, \$500. Email: [eakerdr@gmail.com](mailto:eakerdr@gmail.com).

BUILDABLE RIGHTS in Rice County, Webster Twp. 612-919-4130.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Ellendale. 456-1460.

FIREWOOD, \$75/qtr cord, \$280/full cord; ONIONS, POTATOES, & BUTTERNUT SQUASH, \$1/lb. 651-357-5092/Paul/Nfld area.

2018 THOR FREEDOM ELITE CLASS C MOTOR HOME, 27', 22,000 mi., vry gd cond., (1) slide, \$68,000. 515-975-8122.

(2) TRAILER TIRES ON RIMS, ST175/80R13, 5-bolt rim, both for \$75. 491-4565.

SEASONED FIREWOOD, mostly oak, \$100 per standard pickup load. 323-1539.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

FIREWOOD: oak, sugar maple, ash & elm mixed, most has dried for 2 yrs, split well & all < 20", \$100/truckload. 332-7590.

GREENWORKS 12" 8-AMP ELEC. SNOW SHOVEL in vry gd cond., \$50/obo. 213-0443.

1994 20' INNSBRUCK BUNKHOUSE CAMPER, gd shape, \$2500. 334-2673.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVL & STUMP GRINDING, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; 2007 FRONT CHROME BUMPER for an F-650, like new. 456-1609.

CANON MX340 PRINTER, copy/fax/scan, comes w/(4) blk PG-210XL cartridges, & CL-211 color cartridge, \$250. 334-3804.

HEREFORD BULLS & HEIFERS; KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP. 451-2722.

ALFALFA HAY, big squares, \$110/bale; OATLAGE, round bales, wrapped, \$50 bale. 456-8639.

9T GRAIN BIN w/elec. auger, best offer; STORAGE FOR RENT: boats, trailers. 475-2322.

SAXOPHONES: tenor, bari, bass, & alto (new); CLARINET, new; BCS SHREDDER/CHIPPER. 340-0506.

TREK 7100, men's, 700x35c, hybrid, 21-spd, F.S. Fork, \$200; TREK NAVIGATOR 300, women's, 24-spd, 26x195 cruiser, \$200. 330-3178.

LOTS OF ANTIQUES. 451-2687.

9'2" BOSS DXT V-PLOW with wings, \$6700. 334-7177.

TOLEDO PIPE-THREADING MACHINE, elec. on cart, 1/8"-2" w/oiler, cutter, & reamer, \$400/obo. 323-4362.

ROOSTER, 6-mths-old, \$5; 8' DUMP TRAILER, \$1500; '98 FORD ESCORT, \$100; '96 RAM 3500, V10, \$1500; '99 RAM 2500, 5.9 Cummins, auto trans., 4x4, \$3500. 271-6592.

1938 FORD PICKUP, 4L, V6, 5-spd overdrive, runs & drives like a modern pickup, pws, \$26,500. 327-3626.

ANGUS QTRS. 952-292-1352.

MIXED GRASS HAY, sm. sq., no rain, hvy bales. 210-1158.

DEWALT 1/2" DRILL COMBO, \$60; MIRA-FOUNT FROST-FREE CATTLE WATERER, \$200; A-C WD TIRES & RIMS, 14.9x28, \$800; A-C D ROAD GRADER, some assembly req., \$3000. 330-3945.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, to learn more about their tour information.

*4 Seasons Vacations, Inc.*  
TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

member connection



Pictured from left, SageGlass Maintenance Facilities Manager Ryan Moore; Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Steve Nordahl; SageGlass Product Manager Maure Creager and SageGlass Senior Controls and Automation Engineer Al Anderson. (Michelle Vlasak/southernminn.com)

SageGlass honored with environmental leadership award for shift from coal to wind

By MICHELLE VLASAK  
[michelle.vlasak@apgsomn.com](mailto:michelle.vlasak@apgsomn.com)

Since the company started in 1989, SageGlass has focused on being energy efficient and sustainable.

The first to develop electrochromic technology, SageGlass no longer uses lignite coal to power the plant since entering the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Wellspring renewable wind energy program last fall. In mid-October, Faribault's SageGlass — leading manufacturer of electronically tintable glass for windows, skylights and curtain walls — earned the co-op's Environmental Leadership award.

Those instrumental in the implementation of renewable energy into the factory were present Tuesday morning to celebrate the achievement, as Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's Steve Nordahl presented the award and plaque.

"It means a more sustainable future for us and our children, and grandchildren because we're utilizing renewable sources for powering our factory," said Al Anderson, SageGlass senior controls and automation engineer, of the program. "I think we make a great product and it's great we're using green energy, it shows that we walk the walk and not just talk about it."

The company announced its triple-pane glazing product, the world's most energy-efficient window glass, in 2010. Soon, Paris-based world leader in building materials, Saint-Gobain, invested \$80 million into the company. By 2012, Saint-Gobain acquired 100% of SageGlass.

Anderson said Nordahl introduced SageGlass to the program, and he quickly jumped on board, especially since it goes hand in hand with the pledge Saint-Gobain signed last Sep-

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The most common renewable power technologies are:

Solar, wind, biogas, geothermal, biomass, low-impact hydroelectricity and emerging technologies like wave and tidal power.

Benefits are:

Generating energy that produces no greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and reduces some types of air pollution; diversifying energy supply and reducing dependence on imported fuels and creating economic development and jobs in manufacturing, installation, and more.

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency

tember to be carbon neutral by 2050.

"We quickly embraced it," said Anderson of the Wellspring renewable wind energy program. "I think it's a very good program, it's all about sustainability."

According to SWCE, the Wellspring renewable wind energy program is a voluntary

program that offers wind-generated electricity to co-op members. Electricity provided by wind is a coordinated effort between Great River Energy and its 28 member co-ops, including Steele-Waseca and Dakota Electric.

Emma Wilhelm, SageGlass senior global marketing manager, said this achievement is

also important for customers, who want to know more about how products are produced. Even if customers aren't asking, SageGlass' leaders feel it's important to incorporate in the company's message, especially for employees and those who come to visit.

Members who sign up for Wellspring typically have a minimum of one-year commitment to the program, but Anderson says SageGlass has committed to program for 10 years.

"It's not permanent, but it's long term," added Anderson.

SageGlass Maintenance Facilities Manager Ryan Moore says it's great to partner with a local power company, and feels they are more powerful together than separate.

Reach reporter Michelle Vlasak at 507-333-3128. ©Copyright 2021 APG Media of Southern Minnesota. All rights reserved.

(Permission to publish the above article granted by APG Media of Southern Minnesota. To find out how your business or home can be powered by 100% renewable electricity, contact Steve Nordahl at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric. #swceINNOVATION



cookin' connection  
Breakfast Sausage

Christy Strobel

Kilkenny

- 1 lb. pork grindings
- 1 tsp. sage
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne red pepper
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Mix the sage, red pepper, and the pepper into the pork grindings. Make into patties. Brown, serve, and enjoy.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 23 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during November 2021. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop). #swceINNOVATION

Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

December issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

No members found their account number

Numbers not found:

- Michael Lynch
- Laurie Wray
- Betsy Chambers
- Becky Quaintance
- Bradley Grafe



Sparks in brief . . .

• Want easy energy payments? Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• If you have changed or added phone numbers, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

• Need a new water heater? For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• November temps – The average high temperature for November was 45° F, while the average low was 27° F. This resulted in 871.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 47° F and average low of 29° F, which resulted in 801.5 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• ENERGY STAR® Rebates – All ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at [swce.coop](http://swce.coop). For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 800-526-3514.

• SWCE's tree service contractor – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems. You may also visit: [www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com](http://www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com).

health & safety connection

Making a Winter Driving Survival Kit

Use an empty three-pound coffee can or any similar container with a plastic cover to store the following items:

- Small candles and matches
- Small, sharp knife and plastic spoons
- Red bandanna or cloth
- Pencil and paper
- Large plastic garbage bag
- Safety pins
- Whistle
- Snacks
- Cell phone adapter to plug into lighter
- Plastic flashlight and spare batteries

Reverse batteries in the flashlight to avoid accidental switching and burnout. Warm batteries before using them. Store safety items in the passenger compartment when severe winter weather threatens in case the trunk is jammed or frozen shut. Choose small packages of food that you can eat hot or cold.

Suggested food items:

- Raisins in small packets
- Semi-sweet chocolate in pieces for sharing
- Miniature candy bars
- Chewing gum
- Wrapped hard candies
- Food bars
- Canned soup, meat and poultry

Store bulky and heavy items in an accessible place:

- 30-foot cord to use as homing line when you must exit the vehicle
- Booster cables
- Basic tools
- Sand, cat litter or other grit in a plastic milk carton
- Shovel
- Tow cables or chain
- Sleeping bag or blankets
- Road flares and reflectors
- Snowmobile suit and heavy boots

Emergency Phone Calls

If you become stranded in any part of Minnesota, and you have a cell phone, call 911 to summon help. In other states, you may be able to dial 911 or 0 to reach an operator. When you talk with authorities:

- Provide information on your location, condition of all persons in the vehicle and the problem you are experiencing
- Follow instructions; you may be told to stay where you are and wait for rescuers
- Do not hang up until you know who you have spoken with and what will happen next
- If you must leave your vehicle, write down your name, address, phone number and destination. Place the piece of paper inside the front windshield for someone to see



Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management

#swceLIFE+



Electrical safety training in Claremont

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Safety Coordinator/Member Service Representative Jack Schwab (standing right) utilized a Claremont Fire Department volunteer to demonstrate the use of a hot stick during an electrical safety presentation, Nov. 17, at the fire department. The cop presented the department with a hot stick at the conclusion of the program. Pictured below Schwab highlights electrical safety measures to the firefighters to consider when dealing with accidents involving electric vehicles. #swceLIFE+



Safe Electricity.org



1/3 of Christmas Tree  
fires are caused by  
electrical malfunctions.

Information collected from The National Fire Protection Association.

sparks • january 2022

Lemond Township Christmas  
Light Display

7324 SW 74th Ave., Ellendale  
(Just east of the Lemond Town Hall)  
0.2 miles off Steele County Road 4  
Nightly 5-10 p.m., thru New  
Year's Eve

Grab your hat, boots, and mittens.  
Enjoy this public walk-thru display  
with your family and friends.  
Organizers are not responsible  
for accidents.