



March 2025

Reap What You Sow: Stay Safe During Planting Season

Long hours and fatigue are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head.

Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before acting around electricity. Safe Electricity offers farmers the following reminders:

- If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact has been made with a live line (even when your tractor or truck makes contact), you are now a “pathway to ground” and you could get electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the appropriate utility to de-energize the power.
- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from a distance) to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene.
- When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- Even if there is no contact, an electrical current can jump or arc so keep equipment at least 10 feet from surrounding power lines at all times.
- Remember, non-metallic materials (such as tree limbs, ropes and hay) can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust/dirt accumulation.
- Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least 50 feet away; call 9-1-1 to have the operator dispatch the utility.
- Every day, map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines.
- When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.
- Train anyone working with or for you (including seasonal employees) to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Also design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.
- According to American Family Insurance, “know your PTO.” To stay safe when working with a power take off (PTO), always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and remove keys before getting off the tractor. Also, never step across a rotating power shaft.

For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.



Local Organizations Can Apply for Funds

Are you a local organization that helps improve the lives of the residents of Watonwan, Cottonwood and Martin counties? Your organization can apply for funding from the South Central Electric Association Trust.

The South Central Electric Association Trust distributes funds contributed by South Central Electric members through its Operation Round Up® program. The independent Trust Board, which consists of South Central Electric members, evaluates local funding requests and distributes the funds.

The South Central Electric Trust has provided over \$140,000 to local organizations and student scholarships since the program began in 2015. The Trust Board is seeking applications for its spring round of funding. Local organizations that improve the lives of area seniors, educate, provide emergency response, community service and other charitable programs may be eligible for funds. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, March 21, 2025.

Download your application from South Central Electric's Operation Round Up page on our website: www.southcentralelectric.com or call South Central Electric at 375-3164 to request an application.



Protect your home and family with a Briggs & Stratton home standby generator

You can be confident that South Central Electric works hard every day to keep your lights on. For those times when mother nature strikes, we still have you covered with our generator program. You can purchase a whole home Briggs & Stratton Power Protect generator from South Central Electric. If you lose power, the generator automatically takes over. When power is restored, it automatically shuts down. Power when you need it without the hassles of portable or PTO generators.

Estimated Cost of \$9,000 to \$12,500 includes the following:

- Briggs & Stratton® Power Protect DX with industry leading 10-year warranty.
- Minnesota winter ready with battery warmer, oil heater & battery charger.
- Automatic transfer switch.
- **Electrician installation.**

Generators run on LP or Natural Gas. Estimate does not include costs of gas installation from your gas provider.



Call our office to learn more at
(507) 375-3164

Generators run on LP or Natural Gas. Estimate does not include costs of gas installation from your gas provider.



2025 REBATE PROGRAMS

The recipient must be a South Central Electric member. Any checks or credits will be made in the name or account of the member. The program will end when funds are exhausted; additional rebates may be added at a later date. The completed applications will be processed on a first come first served basis as they are received in our office. Rebate applications can be requested by calling the St. James office or available online at www.southcentralelectric.com.

REBATES:

Please see rebate applications for details.



Must be an Energy Star® appliance to qualify.

- Dehumidifier** **\$20** Credit applied to the energy bill
- Air Source Heat Pumps** (ducted) **\$300** HSPF rating over 9.5 **\$500**
- Ductless/Mini-Split Heat Pump**..... **\$350**
- Ground Source Heat Pump**..... **\$300/ton** (Limit 10 tons)
- Air Conditioner Tune Up** **\$30**
- Managed Electric Heat**..... **\$20/kW**
Radio controlled, qualifies for a discount of **\$.031/kWh** on system usage.
Stored or dual fuel heat. Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.
- LED Yard Light**..... **\$25/ea.** limit 3

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL REBATES:

Rebates are available on a custom basis. Rebates will be based on kW reduction on retrofit projects. To be eligible for a rebate the project must have a minimum savings of 1kW. We do not have rebate programs for new construction. Call SCEA for information on these rebates.

SCEA WATER HEATER PROGRAM

SCEA's peak shave water heater program provides members with a Marathon water heater at a discounted price for participating in the load management program.

The cost for water heaters is \$750. This is a great value for members. SCEA pays the cost of the electrician to wire the water heater and radio control. The member would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.

ANNUAL MEETING



**TUESDAY,
APRIL 1, 2025**

Windom Community Center
1750 Cottonwood Lake Dr.
Windom

Dinner:

5:30 – 6:25 pm

Official Meeting:

6:30 pm

*Prize drawings for
members attending
the annual meeting!*



**ALWAYS CALL
BEFORE YOU DIG**



Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.

Life is fast, and it can be hectic, but it doesn't all have to be complicated. Paying your South Central Electric bill shouldn't be a complex task, and with our SmartHub web and mobile app, it won't be.

You may have heard about SmartHub, our innovative tool for account management, but what can it do for you? SmartHub can help you take control of your South Central Electric account like never before, giving you more time to focus on other responsibilities.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, view your usage, contact customer service and get the latest news.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks...or taps, if you're using the app. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous summer, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual use. You can see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

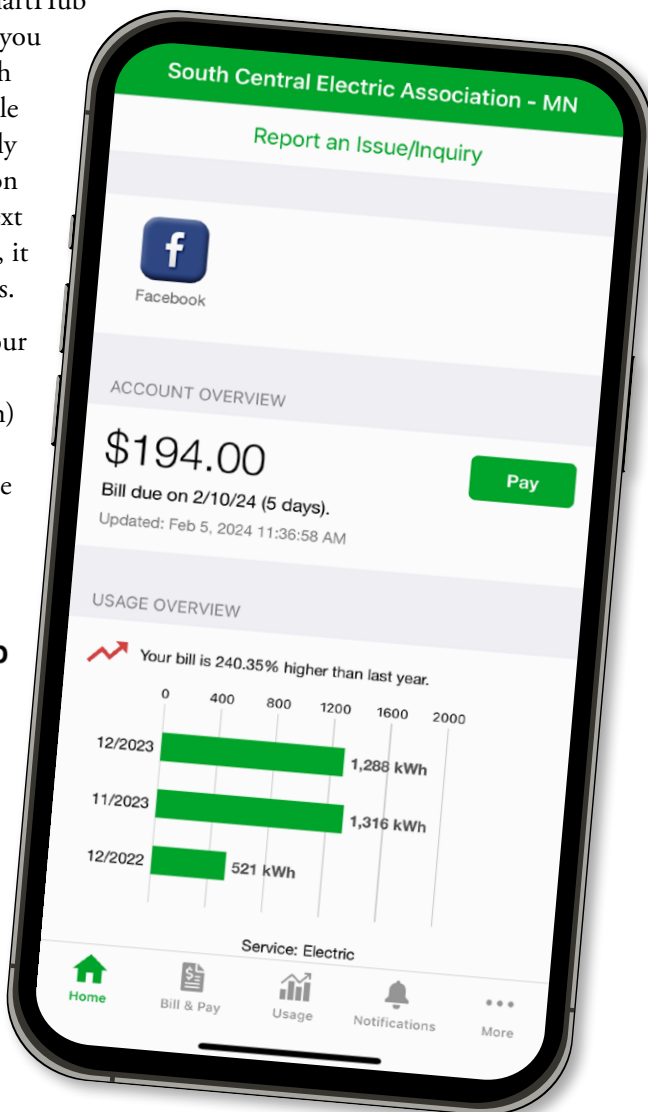
Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

Access SmartHub by visiting our South Central Electric website (www.southcentralelectric.com) or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).



SmartHub
Utilities

Plenty of things in life are complicated. Manage your South Central Electric account simply, quickly and easily with SmartHub.



Official monthly newsletter

South Central Electric

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Ron Horman, General Manager

Board of Directors

President, Ron Jorgenson

Vice President, Michael Miest

Secretary, Brad Asendorf

Treasurer, Matt Peters

Brent Imker, Director

Mark Sandberg, Director

Bill Kunz, Director

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Please see our website for a summary of the board meetings.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

**VISIT
OUR WEBSITE!**

www.southcentralelectric.com

FOLLOW US
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