



Logging Camp Ranch

BY ANNE HANSEN

Nestled near the Little Missouri River valley, the Logging Camp Ranch is a working cattle ranch in the picturesque Badlands, where people come for sport, to play, to learn, to relax and to experience the beauty of a natural environment that inspires by providing rich experiences.

“We invite guests to come and learn what it is like to enjoy the natural beauty of the ranch,” said John Hanson, owner and operator of the Logging Camp Ranch.

Experiences at the ranch

Guests of the Logging Camp Ranch come for many reasons.

Hanson noted that whether is it experiencing ranch life firsthand, hiking or just relaxing, there is a common thread between the people who visit: a love for nature.

“We invite you to share in the beauty of the Little Missouri River valley, the cedars and pines, the abundant wildlife, and the rugged buttes and canyons of the Badlands,” Hanson said.

A childhood dream realized

In 1983, Hanson returned to the fourth-generation ranch.

“There was a realization when I had returned that we needed to make some changes if we wanted to see our ranch succeed,” Hanson said.

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

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The Logging Camp Ranch is a fourth-generation ranch, which welcomes visitors to its cabins in the Badlands each year.



Besides using the pine forest located on the ranch for firewood and the occasional fencepost, there was no real utilization of the ground or area, Hanson noted. It was this initial thought that led Hanson on the quest to learn more about logging.

“My ag banker and myself went on a road trip to learn more about the timber industry, and I eventually was lent the money to purchase a sawmill,” Hanson said.

After the purchase of the sawmill, Hanson worked hand in hand with a friend to better learn the craft, eventually learning how to split pine logs to be used for buildings. It was during this time that a childhood dream was reignited to build a log cabin on the ranch.

“As a kid, we all had dreams of what we wanted when we grew up, and mine was to have a log cabin,” Hanson said.

Besides the want, there was a need for a small cabin, too. Due to the regular grind of ranching, the sawmill was primarily used during the winter. Hanson began saving enough pine logs, little by little, to build a small cabin where he could stay warm during the winter.

It might have been happenstance that while Hanson was putting the roof on his dream cabin, a lone hunter drove down the road and asked if he could rent the cabin during the fall. On that day in 1984, Hanson’s life plan changed, and he began planning for a new income stream of renting cabins to hunters in the area and utilizing the land for recreational purposes.

Hanson built more cabins, and through the help of Slope Electric Cooperative, brought electricity and water to the locations. Hanson credits Slope Electric Cooperative for helping him fully power his dreams.

“There is value in dreams. My own life experiences prove it,” Hanson said. “In life, I have lived by a quote by Henry David Thoreau, ‘If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined.’”

Today, thousands of people across the United States visit the Logging Camp Ranch, which has resulted in thousands of friends, experiences and memories, Hanson said. ■

Manager's message:

Are you ready to serve?



Travis Kupper

In a notable inaugural speech, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." His words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents

to the common good.

On a smaller scale, I think the same can be said about our co-op, specifically with regard to our board members. Slope Electric Cooperative's board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skillsets. Our board is made up of farmers, ranchers, business owners and much more. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in the co-op's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community, because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

What does it mean to serve on the board?

Serving on Slope Electric Cooperative's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that, in turn, benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. Slope Electric Cooperative board members typically provide input and guidance on:

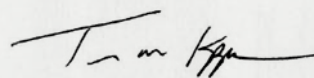
- Budgets
- Co-op goals and direction
- Co-op's community/charitable contributions
- Capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- Renewable investments and energy mix
- Co-op's role and involvement in economic development

Opportunity to serve

Slope Electric Cooperative's board elections will be held in June. While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to be a director, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We continue to look for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way, I hope you are learning more about our board and how you can contribute.

To learn more about Slope Electric Cooperative's director election process and 2022 details, please visit www.slopeelectric.coop. ■



Members receive NDSU Harvest Bowl Award

BY ANNE HANSEN

March is National Agriculture Month, and Slope Electric Cooperative salutes our farmers and ranchers who make agriculture one of North Dakota's top industries.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) also acknowledges the agricultural impact on the state and recognizes leading agriculturalists through the NDSU Harvest Bowl.

"The Harvest Bowl is a weekend event, where we are able to recognize agriculture and athletics, and the connection between," said Duane Hauck, NDSU Harvest Bowl chair. The Harvest Bowl recognizes dedicated agriculturalists in all of North Dakota's

53 counties and 10 counties in western Minnesota annually with the naming of County Agriculturalist Honorees.

The County Agriculturalist Honorees are selected through the local NDSU Extension offices.

"Each county agent nominates an individual or couple based on active community leaders, people who are innovative and active in promoting the ag industry, and are highly respected individuals," Hauck said.

Four Slope Electric Cooperative members were recognized during the event.

Spotlight: Stuart and Katie Dilse

The Dilse family raises spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, peas, chickpeas, canola, soybeans, sunflowers and corn near Scranton.

"Our small grain diversified farm runs on heart, muscle and passion," Katie said. "We have a solid team who cares deeply about taking care of our land and enjoying the little moments of working together."

The couple has been working together on the farm for more than 25 years.

"Often in agriculture, we do what we do without recognition. Our fulfillment comes from impacting world food, and raising our sons in wide-open spaces," Katie noted.

In addition to their no-till

operation, their sons have converted idle farming land to a tourist destination, called Pumpkin Junction. The pick-your-own pumpkin patch attracts customers from a 150-mile radius.

"To be recognized by the Harvest Bowl and to receive this honor as a couple touched us both deeply. To work hard together and be supported by the North Dakota State University agriculture world, together, will always be one of the most tender moments we've experienced in our career," Katie said.

Although their contribution to the ag industry has been great, their community involvement is another reason why the couple received the



Stuart and Katie Dilse

award. Stuart is a township supervisor and member of Dakota Western Bank's board of directors. Katie is an international keynote speaker for corporate and production agriculture conferences.

Spotlight: Jamie and Nikki Enerson

Jamie and Nikki Enerson raise hay and corn near Hettinger, using no-till farming practices, and also raise cattle. They have been farming for 15 years.

In addition to farming, Jamie is a supervisor on the Adams County Soil Conservation District board and Nikki works at West River Health Services.

Spotlight: Scott and Laurie Monke

For 25 years, Scott and Laurie Monke have been farming and participating in their local community. The family raises durum, spring wheat, canola, sunflowers and corn on a fifth-generation farm near New England, using minimum and no-till farming practices and certified seed. They also buy, background, breed and sell heifers.

The couple was awarded for not only their passion for the ag industry, but also their community involvement.

"It was a surprise, and an honor," Scott said of the award.

Scott is a member of the Hettinger County Crop Improvement Association, past member of New England Public School board, National Pasta Association board, and is president of the U.S. Durum Growers Association and is the Rifle Township clerk/treasurer.

In addition, he helps with the Hettinger County 4-H archery program. Laurie owns a cleaning business, works part time at the New England Clinic and is a Tupperware consultant.

Over the years, the farm has partnered with Slope



Scott and Laurie Monke

Electric Cooperative to become a better business, including the addition of grain bin technology.

Spotlight: James and Wanda Powell

Bowman County honorees, James and Wanda Powell, raise a variety of crops, including spring wheat, durum, peas, canola, flax and corn in the Bowman, Rhame and Amidon area. Along with their two sons, they use minimum-till farming practices and precision technology, including variable rate seed fertilization.

Besides raising their crops

and their five children, James and Wanda have been involved in many community endeavors. James sits on the North Dakota Wheat Commission, North Dakota Grain Growers and the Slope/Bowman County Crop Improvement Association. James has been on the boards of the N.D. Barley Council and Pea and Lentil Association as well. ■



James and Wanda Powell

Lineworkers attend AT&S Conference

BY ANNE HANSEN

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) hosted its 58th annual REC Apprenticeship Training and Safety (AT&S) Conference Jan. 12-14 in Bismarck. The conference is sponsored by the NDAREC AT&S program, with cooperation from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship.

The conference drew representatives of NDAREC member-cooperatives, Bismarck State College lineworker students and electric industry personnel for classroom sessions, equipment evaluations and award ceremonies. Training topics included N.D. Department of Transportation updates, protective grounding, lineworker safety and tool training, transformers connections, conducting a thorough accident investigation, and more.

“Participants increase their knowledge and skills of the trade by attending the AT&S conference and, in turn, improve the safety, resilience and reliability of the electrical system,



which directly impacts the quality of life for our members,” said Christina Roemmich, director of safety services for NDAREC.

During the conference’s award banquet, Slope Electric Cooperative received two safety awards:

- Outstanding Safety Performance Award, which recognizes outstanding performance in safety, without a lost-time accident for five consecutive years.
- Circle of Honor Award, which recognizes outstanding performance in preventing vehicle accidents, in which the cooperative hasn’t had an accident for five consecutive years. ■



A phone survey may await you!

Slope Electric Cooperative will be completing a random residential telephone member satisfaction survey. Performed by Odney Advertising and Ironwood Insights, this survey will take place in March. If you receive a call from Odney Advertising or Ironwood Insights on behalf of Slope Electric Cooperative, please take time to answer the questionnaire. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes. By participating in the 2022 member satisfaction survey, Slope Electric Cooperative receives better insight into how we can better serve you, the member-owner. ■

Safety Starts with ME

Electricity is a powerful resource and is the backbone of our daily lives. Although it powers our lives, it has become so commonplace that people sometimes forget the importance of using it safely. But no one makes electrical safety more of a priority than your local Touchstone Energy® cooperative, Slope Electric Cooperative.

“Safety is embraced as a core value at Slope Electric,” said Dean Volk, manager of operations. Slope Electric Cooperative’s actions and decisions reflect a commitment to safety at all levels of the cooperative and our employees help our members create a safe work environment and system.

Slope Electric Cooperative’s employees are the experts who practice safety and rely on it every day.

“It is important to tap into their knowledge with these tools and tips to reduce preventable

accidents and help keep every co-op member safe in and around their homes,” Volk said.

That is why Slope Electric Cooperative is launching a new safety campaign – Safety Starts with ME – which will

highlight what each of our employees does to keep our members safe.

How can you help? If you see something that you think is unsafe, say something and let us know.

Keep informed on safety measures by reading about them monthly in *North Dakota Living*, on Facebook, Instagram or our website. ■



Slope Electric wins Local Pages Award

During the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperative’s (NDAREC) annual meeting, Slope Electric Cooperative received the Local Pages Award.

NDAREC General Manager and Executive Vice President Josh Kramer and NDAREC Professional Development Committee Chair Connie Bitz presented the award during a ceremony on Jan. 19.

This award honors a cooperative for excellence in the areas of content, use of photography and page composition for their local pages, which appear monthly in *North Dakota Living*.

Slope Electric Cooperative Manager of Member Relations Brooke Waltner accepted the Local Pages Award on behalf of Slope Electric Cooperative and noted, “The local pages are truly a group effort.” ■



Brooke Waltner accepts the Local Pages Award on behalf of Slope Electric Cooperative.

Report from Jan. 27 **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Regular meeting held at the Enchanted Castle in Regent.

- Approved the agenda
- Approved minutes of the Dec. 16, 2021, board meeting
- Heard co-general managers/ CEOs updates
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative update
- Reviewed board member reports
- Heard operation report, including line patrol and thermal inspections.
- Heard member relations summary
- Reviewed the legal counsel report
- Approved proposed letter for an audit for Slope Electric Cooperative
- Approved mutual aid agreement
- Discussed Nominating Committee
- Held an executive session

Spring into energy savings

We'll soon be celebrating the first day of spring. With the start of a new season comes a fresh opportunity to find ways to save energy and money.

Here are a few simple tips to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of your home as warmer temperatures arrive:

- 1. Service your air conditioner.** Easy maintenance, such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters, can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15%. Use the first day of spring as a reminder to check your air conditioner's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.
- 2. Open windows.** Opening windows creates a breeze to naturally cool your home without using air conditioners. This is an ideal tactic in spring when temperatures are mild.
- 3. Use ceiling fans.** Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.
- 4. Cook outside.** On warmer days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of an indoor oven.
- 5. Caulk air leaks.** Using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out – and cash in your wallet.
- 6. Set the thermostat.** On warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not at home can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10%.
- 7. Seal ducts.** Air loss through ducts can lead to high electricity costs, accounting for nearly 30% of a cooling system's energy consumption. Sealing and insulating ducts can go a long way toward lowering your electricity bills.
- 8. Switch on bathroom fans.** Bathroom fans remove heat and humidity from your home, improving comfort. ■



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