



**Capital
Electric**
COOPERATIVE

MARCH 2024

Debbie Pearson, left, and her daughter, Summer Pearson, right, along with Debbie's husband, Karry, and their other daughter, Autumn, own and operate Pearson's Green Acre Meats. The business is located on their farm southeast of Wilton.



Pearson's Green Acre Meats

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Cutting the beef into the many types of steaks and other products is mostly handled behind the scenes by the experienced employees.

Pearson's Green Acre Meats

BY WES ENGBRECHT

Sometimes, it becomes difficult to find and purchase food that isn't shipped into our area from unknown sources. We hear people talk about not trusting the quality of that food. What are our options to ensure the food we feed our families is safe to eat and healthy for them?

As a Capital Electric Cooperative member, Pearson's Green Acre Meats takes the guesswork out of that equation. The Pearson family, led by Debbie and Karry Pearson, has been farming the land southeast of Wilton for three generations. One of their daughters, Autumn, handles the cattle-raising side of the operation. Their other daughter, Summer, manages the business side.

During their time on the farm, the family raised an untold number of cattle and harvested thousands of bushels of a wide variety of grains.

After much contemplation, the Pearsons decided it was time to add meat processing and sales to their

farming business two years ago.

"We have been considering starting this business, as we felt the need to add more North Dakota-raised beef to the state. Our beef is a very high-quality product, and we want people to have access to it," Debbie says.

"We are providing our customers with what they want and need. I enjoy working with them daily to make that happen," Summer adds.

Customers from around the state and other states are searching for high-quality custom processing. They bring their deer, elk, pork, goats and sheep to the Pearsons for their expertise. Green Acre Meats also provides custom butchering for beef and pork.

"We have had great reviews from our custom butchering and processing customers. Our processors work hard to provide them with what they want, and we are fortunate to have these guys working for us," Summer says.



Welcome to the store! The Pearsons' retail storefront welcomes customers to the shop, where they will find high-quality cuts of beef and many other beef products.

Many local customers visit the retail beef shop for the freshly packaged product. In the display cases, they will find freshly ground beef, numerous cuts of steak and roasts, as well as many other products, such as beef sticks, ribs and soup bones. You can also purchase meat bundles, such as half sides. When it comes to beef, the Pearsons have it covered.

"We work hard to keep our prices competitive, and they are often lower than other shops and retailers. We want to be sure our customers are happy with the quality and the price," Debbie explains.

Other than the home shop, Green Acre Meats sells beef at local farmers markets and at ACE Hardware in north Bismarck during the winter months. As members of the N.D. Department of Agriculture's Pride of Dakota, they gain support in many areas.

"We benefit greatly from the Pride of Dakota's programs, which include marketing with their trusted label, networking with other members, trade show assistance and more," Debbie says. More than 500 North Dakota businesses are represented under the Pride of Dakota umbrella.

The Pearsons raise only Black Angus cattle for their meat-processing business.

"We find the quality of meat to be unmatched with this breed. Angus is the only breed we have been raising for many years. In addition to the quality, we can ensure the meat contains no added hormones or antibiotics," Summer adds.



Summer Pearson stands in the cooler with a hanging beef. The cattle are born, raised, slaughtered, processed and sold from the shop on their farm.

Pearson's Green Acre Meats advertises on social media and the radio. Word of mouth goes a long way, too. It also provides a full range of information at www.pearsonsgreenacremeats.com.

The Pearsons have been Capital Electric members for many years and Debbie is quick to express her appreciation.

"We have always appreciated the service we have received from the co-op. The lineworkers have been responsive anytime we have had issues," she says.

Capital Electric proudly provides electric service to the Pearson farm and business. North Dakotans benefit from homegrown products, and we are thankful for their efforts to add value to our local economy! ☺

Connecting with past scholarship recipients

BY WES ENGBRECHT

In true cooperative fashion, an annual scholarship is given to a local high school or college student. Basin Electric Power Cooperative sponsors this scholarship program and allows Capital Electric Cooperative to award a scholarship to a student who is a dependent of one of our members. Along with the details of their academic accomplishments and

extracurricular activities, each student must address a co-op related topic in an essay.

The following students received scholarships in recent years. We take you back through the years, recognizing their accomplishments as they move ahead with their careers and lives.

Natasha Hesse

Our scholarship recipient in 2016 was Century High School senior Natasha Hesse. Since she graduated, Hesse has fulfilled her goal to attend South Dakota State University's (SDSU) nursing school.

"My dad brought the scholarship opportunity to my attention during my senior year. He noticed the ad in *North Dakota Living* and thought it would be a good idea to apply. I'm very thankful to the co-op for choosing me. The scholarship was very helpful as I started my college career," she says.

Today, Hesse is a registered nurse, working in the Birth Center at Sanford Health in Bismarck. At Sanford, she assists new mothers and newborns in delivery and postpartum care. She has worked hard and is excited about what the future holds for her.

"I love my job and hope to move into a leadership position in the near future," she says.

COVID-19 interrupted her last semester of education and clinical experience at college.

"I basically hit the ground running at Sanford. I aided in the COVID response, which was an eye-opening and very intense experience for me. Beyond the goal of providing the very best care to patients, the nurses worked hard to help them feel connected with their families during a time of forced separation," she says.

Hesse's return to Bismarck was quite positive.

"I am now living close to my family, married my high school sweetheart and I've made a home with him here," she says.

Looking back at Hesse's scholarship application, we take note of these meaningful words from her high school counselor: "Natasha is a very strong student academically, along with being an incredible humanitarian. She is the type of person who is going to change the world!" It's easy to tell this is true!

Capital Electric is proud of what Hesse has accomplished and is pleased to have provided help

in making her college career and professional life a success!



**Natasha
Hesse**

Lauren Fleming

In 2018, Lauren Fleming was a sophomore studying biology at Wayne State College in Wayne, Neb. When she applied for the scholarship, her plans were to complete her undergraduate degree and continue her education in medical school.

Ours was one of the first scholarships for which she applied and received.

"Being awarded your scholarship gave me a boost to apply for others. It helped with my undergraduate tuition and I'm very thankful to Capital Electric for awarding it to me," she says.

Fleming is now in her final year at the University of North Dakota's School of Medicine in Grand Forks.

"As I move forward into my medical residency, I plan to specialize in neurology. I believe there is a need in this area, and I have an interest in working with people to improve their lives," she explains. "I will be the type of doctor who listens first, responds next and consults with scans and other tests, once I know more about the patient."

"It seems the days move slowly while you are working hard to complete your degree, yet the years since high school seem to fly by. I look forward to continuing this career path as I serve patients to make their lives better," she says. Fleming would like to start her medical career in the Midwest.

As we reviewed Fleming's scholarship applications, we were positively affected by her words relating to the cooperative business model.

"An important aspect of the cooperative business model is that each member has one vote, no one has priority and no one is left out. This allows everyone to have an equal voice and opportunity to share their



opinions," she wrote. We wholeheartedly agree with that statement, Lauren.

Capital Electric is pleased to have been part of Lauren's college career and we wish her the best as she moves forward in medicine.

Faith Harron

"We are an impossibility in an impossible universe." These words were written by Ray Bradbury, and were thoughtfully spoken by Century High School student Faith Harron the last time we met her. We were more than pleased to include this quote in the article we wrote at that time, and it became obvious when meeting her again that Harron continues to have the same thoughts on the meaning of life.

Harron's college career at Stanford University culminated in degrees in mechanical engineering and Slavic languages and literatures, with a focus on the Russian language. Accomplishments such as these were formed from her aspirations at a younger age, and these were just a few of her many passion areas. Her many interests and being open to all sorts of opportunities has helped her accomplish a wide range of impressive goals in just a few short years.



Currently, Harron’s career has settled with the Boston Consulting Group in Boston.

“Every consulting project is something new, but I like to describe it as solving problems for businesses. Though I’ve worked across a few different industries, most of my time has been spent at the intersection of people and technology, focused on upskilling. Education, especially for K-12 students in STEM, has always been a passion of mine and it’s fun to explore that interest in the business world, too. You’d be surprised how many strategies that work to engage students are just as effective with senior business executives,” she says.

Other extremely impactful aspects of her life include applying both her degrees and her love of teaching to her work in Tajikistan, where she spent time with local instructors to create a hands-on makerspace for fifth-grade students over the course of a summer.

The makerspace allowed students to learn and practice new STEM activities, from harnessing the power of the sun to using a 3D printer.

“I learned so much from my time in Tajikistan, everything from counting and joking with students in Shugni, the local language, to building sustainable educational programs, to the traditional style of dance. Everyone I met was extremely welcoming and happy that I was genuinely interested in hearing more, and while I might have been there in the first place to teach, I had so many opportunities to learn, too,” she says.

Almost six years later, the makerspace program is

still running with teachers Harron helped train. She gets photos every few months of student projects and their completion certificates. The realization of how we can impact others positively is a personality trait we should all hope to attain.

As Harron contemplates life, she focuses on people. Friends, family and others, especially those in need, have taken residence in her heart. She extends this to her workplace, too.

“In a world that’s so fast-paced, with so many things yearning for our attention, I like to sometimes take a moment to remain grounded in the present by noticing something that might usually slip past me. For example, I will notice how the sun reflects off the edge of the glass in the window in my office and creates a small rainbow on the wall. Sometimes, I’ll point this out to co-workers, so they become aware of it as well, and we share a moment of remembering how beautiful the world can be,” she thoughtfully mentions.

“My goal was to complete my college career debt-free, which ended up happening with the support of scholarships like this one. When I learned of this opportunity in *North Dakota Living*, I jumped at the chance and quickly submitted my application. To be chosen as the recipient made me so grateful and I’ve always done my best to move forward with that gratitude in my heart,” she says.

Capital Electric is pleased to know our contribution to Harron’s college (and future career) has been a positive one. We are proud of what she has done so far and will continue to accomplish in her life! ☺



- Learn about co-op issues.
- Elect board directors to represent you.
- Enjoy a free meal.

Save the date for your annual meeting

June 11

Bismarck Event Center

Online voting for directors

Sign up for SmartHub to vote online!

In addition to traditional in-person voting at our annual meeting June 11, Capital Electric Cooperative will again offer online voting through SmartHub, a web and mobile app that allows members to access their bill, manage their account and monitor electric usage. To register for the free resource, visit www.capitalelec.com and click on “New User? Register to use SmartHub!” at the top of the home page. You will need to enter your billing account number, last name and email address to sign up.

Are you interested in serving as a director for Capital Electric?

Place **YOUR** name on the ballot today!

Capital Electric Cooperative will hold its 78th annual meeting at the Bismarck Event Center on June 11.

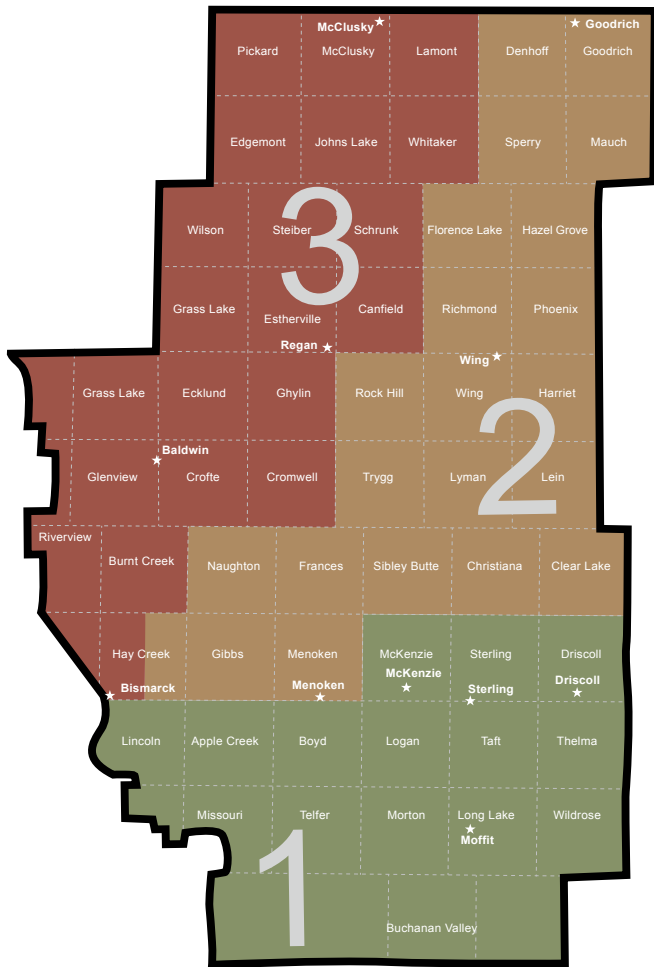
This year, three seats on the co-op's board of directors will need to be filled. Directors whose terms are expiring in June are Dwight Wrangham, Deon Vilhauer and Rex Hollenbeck.

The nine members who make up the Capital Electric board of directors set policies and make decisions that guide the cooperative into the future. With the annual meeting just a few short months away, now is the time for members to start thinking about whether they have the time and desire to serve their electric cooperative.

In accordance with Article 4, Section 3, of the co-op bylaws, current Capital Electric members can have their names placed on the ballot to be voted upon for the open board positions in either of these two ways: 1) accepting a nomination by the Nominating Committee or 2) submitting a petition signed by at least 15 current members of the cooperative, not less than 55 days prior to the annual meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for Capital Electric's board of directors or wish to have a member considered for nomination, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (listed below) on or before March 29. Committee members will have information on the requirements a member must meet in order to serve on the co-op's board of directors. Pursuant to the bylaws, the Nominating Committee must post a list of nominations not less than 65 days prior to the annual meeting.

Official notice of Capital Electric's annual meeting will be mailed to members in May. ©



The following members have been appointed by the board of directors to serve on the Nominating Committee:

Brian Bitner
751 80th St. SE
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-226-3456

Ann Reich
4401 Lookout Trail
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-214-7259

Scott Meske
4609 Patriot Dr.
Bismarck, ND 58503
608-516-9307

Becky Hanson
2981 Warwick Lp.
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-391-3378

Dan DeRouchey
5201 Autumblaze Way
Bismarck ND 58503
701- 833-1093

Gary Hansen
1423 Eagle Crest Lp.
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-471-3558

Jill Trygg
19201 197th St. NE
Baldwin, ND 58521
701-391-0345

Mark Steele
5303 Onyx Dr.
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-527-0468

Julie Roswick
4315 England St.
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-226-4504

Board minute excerpts JAN. 26

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative was held on Jan. 26. The meeting was held in person at Basin Electric Power Cooperative's transmission system maintenance facility, Menoken, pursuant to due notice to all directors.

Also present were: Manager Paul Fitterer, Business Manager Luke Steen, Operations Manager, Manager of Engineering, Greg Owen, Jeff Holzer, Energy Services Manager Josh Schaffner, Manager of Communications and IT Wes Engbrecht and Attorney Zachary Pelham of Pearce Durick PLLC (arrived at 9:10 a.m.), who acted as recording secretary.

Financial Review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Kyle Tschosik and Sara Vollmer reviewed the December 2023 check register and expenditures. They advised all checks and expenditures were in order.

Management Reports (Business Department, Operations Department, Engineering Services, Energy Services, and Communications/IT):

Business Department Report: Steen presented the December 2023 financial and statistical report to the board.

Revenue was behind budget for the month of December, as \$3,638,451 was generated, in comparison with the budgeted figure of \$3,768,296 (unfavorable variance of \$129,845 or 3.4%).

Capital Electric's December load factor was ahead of budget by 7.9%.

The operating margin for December was \$714,052, ahead of the budgeted amount of \$12,516. The total margin for December was \$3,588,342, which was ahead of the budgeted \$1,834,192.

Capital Electric began billing 20 new services in December, bringing our active services to 22,237 versus 21,953 at this time last year, or a net increase of 284 accounts over the last 12 months.

Total cash on hand on Dec. 31, 2023, and accounts receivable balances as of Jan. 25 were reviewed.

Estate Retirements: Nine estate retirements totaling \$10,332.66 were approved.

Quarterly Write-offs: Write-offs of \$4,965.27 for the fourth quarter were approved. The total 12-month write-offs are \$18,829.37.

First Community Credit Union

Authorization: A change in signature authorizations for accounts with First Community Credit Union was approved.

Operations Report: Holzer reviewed the written report from the operations department. Holzer reported Rick Dressler has fully retired, mutual aide was rendered to Northern Plains and Dakota Valley

electric cooperatives for the December ice storms, and milder weather has allowed for crews to continue meter exchanges.

Physical Inventory: The 2023 line material inventory adjustments were approved as presented.

Safety Report: The safety report was reviewed. There were no lost-time accidents since the last board meeting.

Engineering Services Report: Owen reviewed the written report from engineering services. Thirty-eight work orders were completed in December. Owen reported on ongoing and upcoming projects.

Apple Creek Substation Resolution: The board executed a resolution to request Central Power Electric Cooperative to construct an additional transformer bay in the Apple Creek Substation.

Energy Services: Schaffner reviewed the energy services report. Thirty-eight service orders were completed in December. Schaffner reported on efforts to work with members interested in converting to the coincident peak rate.

Communications and IT: Engbrecht reviewed the communications and IT report. Engbrecht reported on the Rural Development Finance Corporation grant presented to the city of Lincoln to help purchase a new police vehicle.

Capital Electric Annual Meeting: The Nominating Committee slate was approved as presented. A resolution was also approved, allowing for submission of absentee ballots at the annual meeting by mail or electronically.

Policies: Policy IV-01-12 EV Charging Rate Schedule "EV" was closed to new entrants as of Feb. 1.

The following policies were amended to reflect rate changes effective in May:

- Large Commercial Service Above 1,000 Kilowatts (KW)
- Rate Schedule 50 Commercial Service – Primary Metered
- Rate Schedule 60 Rural Commercial Service Above 50 KW and Up to 1,000 KW
- Rate Schedule 69 Rural General Service 10-50 KW
- Rate Schedule 61 Urban Commercial Service Above 10 KW and Under 50 KW
- Rate Schedule 62 Urban Commercial Service 50-1,000 KW
- Rate Schedule 130 Irrigation
- Rate Schedule 91 Public Street and Highway Lighting
- Rate Schedule 131 Off-peak Irrigation
- Rate Schedule 106 Pasture Wells
- Rate Schedule 14 Rural General
- Rate Schedule 20 Urban Residential
- Rate Schedule 13 Urban General

Basin Electric Power Cooperative:

Vilhauer introduced Basin Electric Director Troy Presser, who represents District 3, which includes Capital Electric's territory. Discussion with Presser and the board took place on various issues, including Dakota Energy matters, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hearings, Dakota Gasification Company and the Nemadji power project.

Central Power: Dave Charles reported on the Jan. 17 meeting. Fitterer reported on the annual meeting in March and, by consensus, Director Rex Hollenbeck will be Capital Electric's member of the Resolution Committee, with Lyndon Anderson serving as alternate.

Industry Update: Fitterer reviewed materials related to power markets and general cooperative news. Weiland reported on a recent event held by the Dakota Resource Council on electric cooperatives.

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC): Deon Vilhauer gave an update on NDAREC. Fitterer reported on the annual meeting to be held Feb. 13-14.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association: Fitterer reviewed reports on advocacy efforts and the CEO conference.

National Information Solutions Cooperative: Fitterer reviewed strategic planning reports. ☺

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

7401 Yukon Drive
Bismarck, ND 58503

Website: www.capitalelec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Deon Vilhauer, Pres.	Bismarck
Dave Charles, V. Pres.	Bismarck
Kyle Tschosik, Sec.-Treas.	Bismarck
Lyndon Anderson, Asst. Sec.-Treas.	Baldwin
Rex Hollenbeck	McClusky
Dwight Wrangham	Lincoln
Kayla Pulvermacher	Lincoln
Sara Vollmer	Wing
Bret Weiland	Bismarck

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday : 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Office phone: 701-223-1513
Toll-free: 888-223-1513
Pay-By-Phone: 1-877-853-5928
DAY—NIGHT—WEEKEND
TROUBLE CALL: 223-1513

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