



PHOTO BY HANNAH NORDBY

Community partnerships provide youth opportunities in Hettinger

Area youth are zeroing in on consistency, discipline and practice to hit new targets, thanks to a shooting sports program in Hettinger. It was organized by the Adams County 4-H Leaders Council, and funded in part by a grant conferred by the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) and other community partners. Slope Electric is a member of RDFC. In this month's local pages, learn how 4-H and shooting sports are helping area youth learn skills, build character and grow as leaders — all while having fun.

Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc.

OUTLOOK

116 E. 12th St. • New England, ND 58647 | 701-579-4191 • www.slopeelectric.coop

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4-H opportunities help club members find niche

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Slope Electric member and 4-H leader **Eric Schuler** instructs a club member how to stand, aim and shoot. He says consistency, discipline and practice are the keys to hitting the target.

How many times have you heard a kid exclaim, “There’s nothing fun to do!”

Adams County 4-H Leaders Council in Hettinger is working with Slope Electric Cooperative and other community partners to change that attitude ... by giving area kids opportunities that teach skills, build character and develop future leaders.

And yes ... give kids something fun to do, too.

In 2019, Adams County 4-H Leaders Council brought disc golf to Mirror Lake Park, thanks in part to a grant provided by the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC). Slope Electric is a member of RDFC.

Last year, the council started the Adams County Shooting Sports program with assistance from another RDFC grant. Funds were used to purchase supplies including bows, arrows, targets, a net to set behind the targets, and a repair kit.

Hannah Nordby, Adams County extension agent for North Dakota State University, says the program started with community interest. From January to March, she introduced archery at Hettinger Public School, using supplies borrowed from the state.

Before COVID-19 hit and the program was tabled, about 12 to 14 youth participated at each session. That told Nordby the interest was there, and they should pursue developing the program and purchasing their own supplies.

Hannah is quite familiar with Slope Electric Cooperative. The daughter of Slope members Donald and Sarah Nordby, Hannah grew

PHOTO BY HANNAH NORDBY



PHOTO BY BRIDGETTE SCHULER

Sophomore **Bowden Hasbrouck** (right) has served as president, vice president and treasurer of the High Plains 4-H Club at various times. Through his local 4-H club, which promotes community service, he's assisted with the annual Helping Hettinger Day: asking local businesses for sponsorships and doing project planning. 4-H has given him the opportunity to take on leadership roles that help improve the quality of life in and around Hettinger — and his participation and commitment will look great on a resume. In this photo, Bowden was setting up Frisbee golf with **Blake Larson**.

up on a ranch near Amidon. Her Grandpa Doug served on the board many years ago, and when Hannah was in high school, she applied for and received a scholarship her senior year. And after she traveled to Taiwan and Thailand through the International Farmers Youth Exchange program to learn about agriculture and self-help across the globe, Hannah shared some of her experiences in the February 2019 local pages of *North Dakota Living*.

Hannah worked with Slope Electric staff to secure the first RDFC loan for the disc golf course. When researching funding options to develop the shooting sports program, she again turned to Slope Electric to see if it might be a fit. Acting on the seventh cooperative principle

“concern for community,” Slope staff helped Hannah fill out the RDFC application.

The grant was conferred last fall and the program launched in December, with assistance from state 4-H personnel, who established the structure, expectations and volunteer training.

The first practice of the 2020-2021 season was held in December at the Hettinger Armory; the temporary space was provided by the City Council. As the pandemic evolves, Hannah says they will continue fundraising to purchase more equipment and find a more permanent place to practice.

Also last fall, she hosted some trap-shooting practices to assess interest for shotgun shooting.

Again, community interest seemed high, so Hannah is coordinating volunteers and scheduling trap-shooting practices starting this summer.

“It’s been exciting to see the program growing and the kids getting better,” she says.

Eric Schuler is a volunteer who helped launch and develop the area program. A Slope Electric member from Hettinger, Eric is trained and certified to teach shooting sports. His wife, Bridgette, is a 4-H leader for the High Plains 4-H Club, in which her sons, Bowden and Riley Hasbrouck, are members.

Bowden, 16, and Riley, 14, were some of the first participants to enroll in Adams County Shooting Sports. For as long as they can remember, they’ve hunted deer with their dad and shot 3D targets with Eric in the yard.

Bowden says target shooting is relaxing and fun, and it makes him more consistent in the field. He hunts deer, pheasants, grouse and doves, and eats what he brings home. Once the game is cleaned, Riley is the wild game chef who prepares the meat. His favorite ways are wrapping it in bacon; or patting it dry, adding seasoning, coating it in flour and cooking it in pan.

When the brothers practice shooting targets in their yard, Riley laughs and confesses it’s not always a friendly competition. Either will win on any given day, depending on who has the best “smack talk” and gets into the other one’s head.

They keep their competition at home, for now. At shooting practices with their 4-H peers, the Hasbrouck brothers are two



PHOTO BY HANNAH NORDBY

Parent **Scott Fitch** provides guidance at a shooting practice. Hannah Nordby says volunteers including Fitch and Eric Schuler provide knowledge, enthusiasm and willingness to teach area youth — and ultimately power their small-town community.

of the more seasoned members. Alongside Eric and other parent volunteers, they mentor and encourage the younger participants to be consistent with their draw and stance.

Eric says kids can start shooting bows when they are 8 years old. At that point, some have played with toy bows and arrows, but haven't developed the physical strength to pull the 35 pounds needed to take down an animal in the field.

Bowden and Riley's sister, Alyvia, is one of those young shooters who may not want to shoot a deer just yet, but has watched her brothers practice and is interested in the sport. One advantage for beginners in the program is, thanks in part to the RDFC grant, they have access to high-quality equipment. It ranges in price and can be an investment



PHOTO BY BRIDGETTE SCHULER

Some 4-H specialties, like communication arts, offer skills that can be supplemented through a school speech class. Other areas, like shooting sports, offer something that is unique in rural areas and may be difficult to find instruction elsewhere nearby. Here, **Riley Hasbrouck** participates in an outdoor shooting challenge.

for families who aren't sure they want to pursue the sport.

Once participants develop in strength and skill, they can hunt or attend 4-H state meets and other competitions.

"It can also just be a fun Sunday evening of practice," says Eric, who notes the older club members become role models to more than their siblings.

"4-H is a family in itself," he says.

Bowden says it's fun to see the younger kids learn the basics and develop in skill. For him, already a seasoned hunter, the Adams County Shooting Sports program opens doors to more fun, friends and opportunities.

"I want to get into competitions and see what I can do; meet more people and have more opportunities," he says. "Out in the

field, all of this practice will help make me consistent with shots and get the job done."

Slope Electric Cooperative is proud to play a small role in helping these kids develop skills and become leaders. Hannah says she is grateful for the recent RDFC grant, and that the past two grants Adams County 4-H Leaders Council received have "absolutely" improved the area's quality of life.

"Whether it's the disc golf course that encourages physical exercise and a way for area youth to have fun, to shooting sports that serve as an outlet for a new or growing interest, the 4-H program is providing more opportunities," she says. "The more options you have, the more people can hone in on what they enjoy and find their niche." ■



PHOTO BY BRIDGETTE SCHULER

What is 4-H?

A member of the High Plains 4-H Club in Hettinger, eighth-grader **Riley Hasbrouck** (second from right) has shown goats and pigs at the Adams County Fair. One year, his goat didn't want to cooperate and started to run, and Riley fell and did a summersault. "It all turned out good!" he says. Another year he showed a stubborn pig that tried to run away. He laughs about those memories now, as he shares the overall impact of his 4-H experiences: He loves to raise and show his animals, spend time with friends and have a great time.

4-H is America's largest youth development organization — empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime. In North Dakota, 4-H is offered in every county, where kids get hands-on, real-life experiences through

projects, activities and events. 4-H is the only research-based youth organization in the state and is conducted by North Dakota State University Extension.

Hannah Nordby, extension agent for Adams County, says there is something for everyone.

"I would wholeheartedly say that if there is something that interests a youth, 4-H probably has a program, project area or contest," she says.

For more information visit www.ndsu.edu/4h/, call Nordby at 701-567-2735 or email hannah.nordby@ndsu.edu.



Slope Electric Cooperative is a member of the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC). As a result, communities in our service area were eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$2,000 for community-based projects. RDFC has made these funds available in order that more people become aware of their larger loan program that funds community-based projects and non-profit entities with low interest loans.

RDFC awarded four \$500 grants

RDFC awards grants in Slope's service area

in Slope's service area last fall to the following recipients:

- Adams County 4-H Leaders Council; funds helped purchase supplies for a new shooting sports program.
- Slope Farmers Fair Association; funds will be used to supply hot water to aid in the preparation of food for community medical benefits and other community events including 4-H and the Slope County Fair.
- Hettinger County 4-H Council; funds will be used to replace

structures for displaying 4-H exhibits for clubs including Flickertails of Mott, Western All Starts of Regent, and Prairie Clovers of New England, and Dakota Sunrise of Regent.

- Badlands Saddle Club; funds will be used to upgrade the announcer's stand and safety fence.

For an application, assistance or questions concerning RDFC, please contact Lori Capouch at 701-667-6444 or lcapouch@ndarec.com. ■

Are you interested in serving on the Nominating/Resolutions Committee?

The Slope Electric Board of Directors will appoint the Nominating/Resolutions Committee at their Jan. 28, 2021, Board meeting. Each Director shall appoint one member from his/her District, and the Board at large will select up to two additional committee members from the District(s) with director election(s). The committee member names are then published in Slope Electric's local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine.

The Nominating/Resolutions Committee meets twice. The first meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, to explain the functions of the committee, including policies that will aid you in selecting qualified members to be nominated. The cooperative will pay you a per diem, along with reimbursing you for mileage for both meetings. The second meeting will be held Thursday, March 25. The purpose of this meeting will

be to make the actual nominations for the election to be held at the cooperative's annual meeting, and to approve resolutions to be printed in the annual meeting report.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Nominating/Resolutions Committee, please notify the office at 701-579-4191 or email comments@slopeelectric.coop prior to Jan. 28, 2021. To serve on the Nominating/Resolutions Committee, you must be an active member of Slope Electric with your name being listed on the membership.

Two directors' terms from Slope County will expire in 2021.

Members can also be nominated to serve as director by filing a petition with 15 members' signatures. Filing must be done 30 days prior to the annual meeting and posted at the office. Members may also be nominated to serve as Director from the floor at the

You can make a difference!



annual meeting. To serve on the Slope Electric Board, you must be a bona fide resident receiving service from Slope Electric at your primary residence, and you must be a named member of the cooperative. ■

Slope Electric promotes Dean Volk to chief of staff

Slope Electric Cooperative has promoted Dean Volk from operations manager to chief of staff.

A native of Linton, Dean Volk left a warehouseman position with KEM Electric Cooperative in 1991 to accept an apprentice line technician position with Slope Electric Cooperative in New England. A graduate of the Bismarck State College lineworker program in Mandan, Volk worked to fulfill the time and educational requirements necessary

to earn journeyman status.

For 21 years, he helped build and maintain the cooperative's power system until February 2012, when he was promoted to operations manager.

For the past 8 years, he has planned maintenance and construction projects to meet members' needs and help strengthen the system.

Slope Electric Cooperative congratulates Dean Volk on earning the chief of staff position. ■



Cooperative offers scholarship opportunities

Slope Electric Cooperative is offering \$6,000 in college scholarships to area students whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the co-op.

Slope Electric will award two \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at the annual meeting. All area high school seniors who are dependents of a Slope Electric member are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend Slope's annual meeting, accompanied with at least one parent or guardian, and are encouraged to RSVP prior to the meeting. No application is required.

Slope Electric will also award six \$500 scholarships through area high schools to seniors who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. One graduating senior will be selected from each school in Slope's service area: Bowman, Hettinger, Lemmon, Mott-Regent, New England and Scranton.

Students should contact the school counselor for requirements.

Slope continues to award a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Scholarships are awarded to a high school senior or college freshman already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program, and who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. The student must attend an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Completed application is required.

In addition, Slope Electric is awarding a \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction.

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a lineworker, and who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. Completed application is required.

Plus, Slope is awarding a \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services.

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a mechanic, and who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. Completed application is required.

Students can get the applications from our website, www.slopeelectric.coop, or call the office in New England.

Applications can be filled out online and emailed to comments@slopeelectric.coop, or printed and mailed to Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Scholarship Committee, PO Box 338, New England, ND 58647.

Please return completed applications to Slope Electric Cooperative by Jan. 31, 2021. ■

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOV. 19, 2020

- Approved the agenda with two additions.
- Approved minutes of the Oct. 29, 2020, Board meeting.
- Approved one capital credit estate retirement.
- Approved special equipment for transformers.
- Co-General Managers/CEOs gave updates on the COVID-19 pandemic and Slope's power suppliers.
- Heard reports from Directors who participated in various meetings.
- Discussed attendance and voting at the upcoming Statewide annual meeting; assigned voting delegate and alternate.
- Reviewed and Updated Board Policy 02-09 Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors
- Reviewed and Updated Board Policy 02-10 Election of Board Officers.
- Appointed delegates and alternates to serve on Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative and Maintenance Solutions Cooperative boards
- Recognized O&M Revenue Deferral
- Reviewed the 2021 draft budget.
- Discussed members needing to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- Discussed two donation requests.
- Discussed upcoming meetings and director attendance.
- Reviewed and accepted the October financial report.
- Heard senior staff reports.
- Heard legal department report.
- Held voucher review.
- Scheduled the next Board meeting for Dec. 17, 2020.
- Held Executive Session.
- Adjourned.

Small donations make big difference

Slope Electric Cooperative held an Operation Round Up board meeting on Nov. 12 by conference call. The board reviewed 1 application, and awarded a total of \$1,000 to one individual within the Slope service area. The money will be used to pay medical bills associated with an illness.

Members, with only one co-op grant conferred, there is more help available! Do you know a person or group who could use a helping hand?

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 11 by conference call. If you know of a person, family, group or community project needing assistance, please fill out an application and submit it by Jan. 28.

To download the application or learn more about this charitable program, visit www.slopeelectric.coop and click Your Community and Operation Round Up. Or, call the cooperative at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 and request an application. ■



116 E. 12th St. - PO Box 338
New England, ND 58647-0338

Phone: 701-579-4191
or 800-559-4191
Fax: 701-579-4193

Email us:
comments@slopeelectric.coop

UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 or 811

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through

the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: 202-690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider.

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Steve Wegner, Vice President
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