

The Communicator

News from your local coop to keep you connected.

April 2025

Keeping Americans Connected with Broadband Built to Last

The idea that all Americans should have reliable access to communications services at a reasonable cost has been a national objective for over a century. Today, the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) helps rural Americans connect to high-quality, affordable broadband and supports critical connections for low-income families, schools, libraries and healthcare facilities in rural communities.

Without USF support, it is difficult to make a business case to invest in many rural areas, to sustain networks once they are built, or to keep service rates affordable. According to an August 2024 survey of more than 200 community-based broadband providers across 35 states, the loss of USF support could be catastrophic for rural consumers, efforts to keep investing in broadband deployment, and the viability of existing rural broadband networks.

Respondents reported that rural consumers could see their bills increase by \$72 per month if USF support were eliminated. In addition, 68% of respondents said they could face the need to cancel deployment projects next year equaling over \$1 billion, representing nearly 80% of these companies' planned broadband investments for 2025.

Even as new broadband deployment programs offer great promise for reaching unserved areas, the USF remains critical to both getting and keeping rural consumers connected to high-quality, affordable services. **Learn more here:** <https://bit.ly/465ddgc>

Universal Connectivity Must Be Sustained



NTCA

THE RURAL
BROADBAND
ASSOCIATION

E-Sports

Congratulations to the Spring Grove Mario Kart Team on making it to the MNVL State Tournament in March! In rural communities, opportunities in cutting-edge industries can feel far away. eSports changes that! Our local students are competing on the same level as big-city schools, gaining skills in teamwork communication, and critical thinking. We believe fast, reliable internet should open doors for everyone—that's why we're proud to sponsor our local eSports team!

The Mindful Moment



For years, Minnesota's Farm and Rural Helpline has offered a unique outlet for farmers and ranchers across the state who are dealing with mounting stress, anxiety and other mental health struggles.

If you are a Minnesota farmer, rancher or employee and are having trouble navigating the stress of financial problems, price and marketing uncertainties, farm transfer issues, production challenges, marital difficulties, and social pressures, there are people and organizations available to help.



READ MORE



Your Local Technology Headquarters

507-498-3456 - contactus@sgc-coop.com - www.yourlocal.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Welcome, Dane!

We're excited to welcome Dane Lamb as our new Sales & Marketing Manager! He's bringing 25+ years of experience in tech companies to the team. Dane's had key roles responsible for creating success in their respective competitive markets. He's looking forward to developing promotional strategies that highlight our great products, supported by our reputation of prompt and friendly service.

And, he has some cool hobbies – he's a pilot for both aircraft and drones, enjoys sailing his Hobie Cat 16, and makes great smoked foods on his pellet grill. We're thrilled to have him onboard!

**Happy
Workiversary!**



Carter - 2 years



Lynn - 1 year



Jesse - 1 year

Privacy Notice

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Free Wi-Fi Features

We are excited to share that virus protection and parental controls are now included with our managed routers at no extra cost! Learn more about these features at **yourlocal.coop/commandiq** or give us a call!