



COMMUNICATOR

South Dakota's Broadband Initiative

Surveys sent out to Ag Producers

The state's Broadband Initiative, led by the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT), partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Field Office in South Dakota to survey agriculture producers across the state for the second time to assess the availability of high-speed broadband Internet services in rural areas.

Approximately 6,500 surveys were mailed this month to South Dakota agriculture producers encouraging participation in this Internet Usage Survey. The survey requests information from agriculture producers asking if they subscribe to an Internet service, how they utilize the service, how availability, speed, and affordability impact their utilization. The results of the survey will guide state policy decisions encouraging providers to expand areas of service or enhance the quality of high speed broadband internet services in South Dakota.

The ultimate goal of the Broadband Initiative is to increase the usage of high-speed broadband Internet to all of South Dakota with an emphasis on rural areas. Assessment of the availability and utilization of high speed broadband Internet services within agriculture, the primary economic driver across the state, is extremely important to this project. If producers did not receive the survey or misplaced it, they can request a copy be mailed to them by calling 1.800.338.2557 or they can simply take the survey online by visiting <http://broadband.sd.gov/AgricultureSurvey.aspx>. Survey results will be available online in the spring.

"Based on comments received from the 2012 survey, we learned many respondents were just beginning to subscribe to Internet services. This is the primary reason we are again asking for participation in the survey; we want to measure changes in the availability and utilization of high speed Internet services and assess the impact these services have on our agriculture community and rural areas across the state. High-speed broadband Internet services can expand educational opportunities, improve public safety, enhance health care delivery and bring economic growth to the region. Utilization also improves producers' ability to market livestock, forage, and grain providing a competitive advantage and improving the state's rural economy," stated David Zolnowsky, BIT Commissioner.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

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RCTCA
PO Box 197
New Effington, SD 57255

RC Communications
PO Box 196
New Effington, SD 57255

RC Technologies
PO Box 33
New Effington, SD 57255

RC Services
PO Box 34
New Effington, SD 57255

Contact Numbers
(605) 637-5211
(800) 256-6854



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

RC Sponsors FRS Youth Tour

Literary contest will determine winner

More than one hundred students, from throughout rural communities in the United States, will meet in Washington D.C. for the 19th annual Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour May 31 - June 4, 2014. Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association (RCTCA) and its subsidiary RC Communications (RCC) are sponsoring a student from their calling areas to attend.

The tour features a comprehensive overview of the telecommunications industry, including careers in telecom, the critical role telecommunications plays in rural America, and how legislative and regulatory decisions affect the industry. Participants will also be given the rare opportunity to spend four days in the nation's capital visiting some of the nation's most historic sites, including the Vietnam, Korean and World War II memorials, the Supreme Court, the Smithsonian Museums, Arlington National Cemetery and the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials.

The participating student must be a high school student, age 16 or 17 years old at the time of the youth tour and be within the RCTCA/RCC local telephone service areas, which include Claire City, New Effington, Peever, Summit, Veblen, and Wilmot. The student chosen to represent RCTCA/RCC will be picked through an essay contest. Students who are interested must submit a maximum of two typewritten pages based on the following topic: How life without the internet would affect your daily life.

A cover page should include the following information: Title of essay, name, address, and phone number. Students are asked to send the essay by noon, Friday, March 21, 2014 to: Sara Broz, Sales & Marketing, RCTCA/RCC, P.O. Box 197, New Effington, SD 57255.

Billing Name and Address Notification

FCC rules information can be released to interexchange carriers

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has ruled that under certain circumstances the Billing Name and Address of all telephone customers (including unlisted and unpublished customers) can be released to interexchange carriers for use other than marketing purposes. The most prevalent requirement for releasing billing name and address information is to ensure proper billing for certain types of calls.

For instance, calls such as collect, third number billed or calling card calls may be carried by an interexchange carrier who is not your pre-subscribed interexchange carrier or who does not have a billing contract with RC. Under these circumstances, the carrier does not know who to bill the call to, and therefore, must request the Billing Name and Address information from RC in order to bill the call. RC must provide the information to the requesting carrier. Your Billing Name and Address information can also be released to telecommunications service providers for other reasons, such as verification for presubscription, servicing your account, to prevent fraud or when you move from one location to another.

If you have an unlisted or nonpublished telephone number, you have a choice. If you do not want your Billing Name and Address released by RC for third party billed calls, collect calls and calling card calls, we need written notification from you. If you provide such notification, your ability to make calling card calls or to receive collect calls or third number billed calls could be denied. Should you have questions regarding this matter, please call the RC office.

Stay Connected with RC E-Vmail

Messages on your computer or cell phone

Listen to your voice mail messages from anywhere you have access to e-mail or your cell phone with RC's Electronic Voicemail!

Pick up your messages while surfing the Internet at home, by e-mail at work or via text message to your cell phone. Once you open the e-mail and listen to the message, you can save it or delete it by using the links right in the e-mail message. Clicking on the Delete Message link will automatically remove the message waiting indication from the line. The message is simply an AVI file, making it possible for you to forward the message to anyone via e-mail.

If you are a RC Voice Mail subscriber, call RC with one or multiple e-mail addresses you would like your messages forwarded to. It can be used with any type of e-mail account (i.e. your tnic's e-mail, gmail, hotmail, etc.). Stay connected to your home by having your home voice messages sent to your office e-mail address or cell phone via text message.

There is no additional charge to add this feature if you are a current voicemail subscriber. To learn more, contact RC's business office today, and never miss an important phone call or message again! Bundle your services in order to receive voicemail for the discounted rate of 50¢.