

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020



Office Closed

The Farmers Electric Cooperative office will be closed Friday, April 10 for Good Friday. We wish all our members a safe and happy Easter holiday.

Scholarship Deadline

A reminder that students thinking about applying for this year's scholarship should have their applications to the cooperative office no later than Wednesday, April 1. The application and more information can be found at www.farmersrec.com

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in a refrigerator makes the appliance work harder and uses more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.



P.O. Box 330
Greenfield, IA 50849
FarmersREC.com | (800) 397-4821

YOUR COOPERATIVE:



Please be aware that Farmers Electric, in conjunction with our power supplier, will be conducting a survey of a random sample of our residential members this spring. This survey asks about your home, your appliances, energy efficiency measures, and your opinions about energy use and related topics. Only a small portion of our residential members will receive a copy of the survey in the mail.

If you receive a survey, we ask that you take 10 minutes to complete it and return in the postage-paid envelope provided or complete it on-line at the web address found on the questionnaire. We appreciate your help!



THANK YOU!

The employees of Farmers Electric Cooperative want to sincerely thank all our members for their patience during winter storm outages this season. It means so much to have your support!

Ag Day Expo March 23

Farmers Electric Cooperative wants to see you at the annual Ag Day Expo! The Expo will be Monday, March 23 from 4-7 p.m. at the Adair County Fair Grounds. This year's theme, "Food Brings Everyone to the Table" highlights the role agriculture plays in everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. National Ag Day helps Americans:

- Understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced;
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy;
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products; and
- Acknowledge and consider careers in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

Stop by the Farmers Electric Cooperative booth for more information on our energy efficiency rebates and other services. We'll also have free popcorn!

The Ag Expo is sponsored by Adair County Cattlemen, Adair County Corn & Soybean Association, Adair County ISU Extension and Outreach, Adair County Fair Board, Adair County Farm Bureau, Adair County Pork Producers and the Greenfield Chamber/Main Street and Development.

Call 811 Before You Dig

Did you know that every nine minutes an underground utility is damaged because someone didn't call 8-1-1 before digging? More than expensive damage to buried utility lines, digging without knowing where lines are located can result in injuries or even death.

Follow these steps before digging:

1. Notify your local one-call center (8-1-1) or make an online request at www.call811.com.
2. Wait at least two business days for utility operators to respond to your request.
3. Confirm that the utility operators have responded to your request by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the one-call center notified.
4. Respect the flag markers that serve as your guide throughout your project and are valid for 20 calendar days from the date the notice is made.
5. Dig carefully! Avoid digging near the flags (within 18"-24" on all sides). If that's not possible, consider moving your project to another part of your yard.

Planning to Build a New Grain Bin?

If you're considering a new grain bin this spring, remember that it's important to first contact Farmers Electric Cooperative.

Your cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

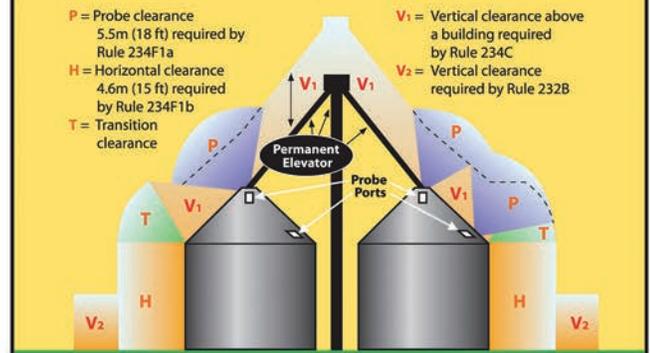
The drawings on this page show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions, please call Farmers at (800) 397-4821.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b.: *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997.* (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

Farmers Electric Cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please contact the cooperative.

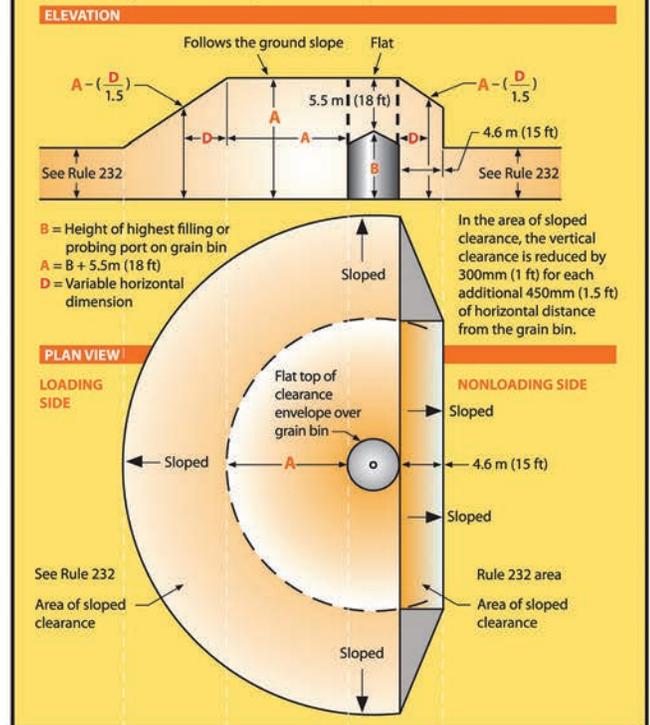
Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that

Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators



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Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors or elevators



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publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.

Conference Builds Momentum for Energy Efficiency



As the residential building and commercial construction industries increase their emphasis on new and emerging energy efficiency technology, it's easy to get confused about what's right for you - and your budget. Holi Weston, Farmers Electric Director of Member Services & Communications, is a knowledgeable professional who can help you navigate your options and even save you money.

Every February, Weston joins hundreds of representatives from Iowa's electric cooperatives, building trades and construction industry professionals at the Momentum is Building conference in West Des Moines. The conference not only promotes energy efficiency, but also gives participants a chance to network, see the latest energy efficient building products and technologies, and hear from nationally known speakers to gain insight into new techniques and products.

"This is one conference I look forward to every year because it puts us all in one room together

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Safety is More Than a Word

From the top down, each and every employee of Farmers Electric Cooperative participates in monthly safety meetings to work on one of our greatest challenges: keeping our employees safe.

When the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchanged launched the Commitment to Zero Contacts initiative in 2018, your cooperative was one of the first to jump on board.

This important program provides a toolkit of resources and ideas to help eliminate serious injuries and fatalities due to electrical contact and enhance co-op safety programs. As CEO, I was proud to sign my name to the pledge form demonstrating my - and our cooperative's - commitment to the program.

Being a lineman consistently ranks among the most dangerous occupations in the United States. We don't take our commitment to safety lightly and it's important that we resist becoming complacent in our efforts - whether during a simulation exercise or actually out in the field. Our linemen know they must be diligent every step of the way, both for themselves and their fellow workers.

Our office staff, too, benefit from understanding industry safety practices. While the linemen

have a much more rigorous safety training schedule due to the nature of their work, our employees participate in safety meetings to learn about things such as fire safety, storm safety, CPR, and more. These lessons are important to repeat time and again so if something tragic should happen, we can think and act quickly, calmly and without hesitation.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO

Throughout our office, we have pictures of family members and friends displayed in our areas. More than a personal touch to remind us of those we hold dear, these pictures remind us of why we do the work that we do. And they remind us that there is a lot riding on us being able to come home at the end of the day.

Our cooperative strives to set a good example when it comes to safety. You can often find us at schools or community events talking about, and demonstrating, ways you can keep yourself, and your family, safe in your everyday tasks. We believe that having an open and honest dialogue is the first step to keeping ourselves and our loved ones from harm. If you are interested in having someone from our office come out and talk to your school or group, please give us a call. We're here to help keep you safe.

Complaints Resolution Process

Farmers Electric Cooperative makes every effort to resolve all complaints brought to its attention. You can contact us at 2389 Highway 92 in Greenfield, or you can call (800) 397-4821.

If your complaint is related to service disconnection, safety or engineering standards, or renewable energy rather than its rates, and Farmers Electric does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the



Iowa Utilities Board by calling (515) 725-7321, or toll-free 1-877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines IA 50319-0069; or by email to customer@iub.iowa.gov.

Simple Salads

No matter how you prefer your salad - sweet, savory, full of healthy benefits or even as a dessert - we can probably all agree that it's the ingredients that make it so good. Dressed up as a main course or dressed down and simplified as a side, salads have endless possibilities of combinations for us to create our own definition of the perfect salad. Get creative and make your own or try one of this month's recipes for your next gathering.

Each month, Farmers Electric Cooperative places a call for recipes in various categories. Winners receive a \$5 credit on their account, with their recipes appearing in the next month's issue. Mail entries with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mail them to: HWeston@farmersrec.com.

APRIL RECIPES: CHICKEN

Creamy Grape Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1/3 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 4 c. seedless red grapes
- 4 c. seedless green grapes
- 4 c. seedless black (or blue) grapes
- 1/4 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans (or walnuts)



tasteofhome.com

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, sour cream, white sugar and vanilla with electric mixer until smooth. Gently fold in grapes until evenly coated. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour or overnight. Before serving, sprinkle with brown sugar and chopped pecans or walnuts.

Pea Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 8 slices bacon, cooked and chopped
 - 1 1/2 lb. frozen peas, thawed
 - 1/2 c. red onion
 - 1 c. mayonnaise
 - 1/4 tsp. black pepper
 - 1 T. sugar
 - 1/4 tsp. sea salt
 - 2 T. apple cider vinegar
 - 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- Mix together and chill.



spendwithpennies.com

Momentum...from pg. 3

to have those important conversations about how to promote energy efficiency as a viable option for our cooperative members," Weston said. "That way, I know when I'm working with a member I'll have the most up-to-date and accurate information for them to make smart decisions."

Momentum is Building is sponsored by Farmers Electric as part of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa. A grant from the Iowa Energy Center also supports the conference.

SPRING CLEANING SAFETY TIPS

Don't rush because you're tired or in a hurry. Take a break, drink some water and rest periodically.

Don't carry too much stuff at once, particularly on stairs.

Use proper lifting technique to move large pieces of furniture and appliances: keep your back straight and lift with your legs.

Be safe while on ladders and stepstools. Have someone holding it steady, and don't lean too far to either side.

Keep stairs, landings, and walkways clear of boxes, bags and clutter.

Always follow cleaning product label safety instructions and recommendations for use.



Open Lines is a monthly publication of Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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The mission of Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., is to deliver safe, reliable, affordable electricity and other services to improve the quality of life within our communities. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.