

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020



Upcoming Office Closings

The Farmers Electric office will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy! Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimney and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Source: www.energy.gov



Need Help with Heating Bills?

The LIHEAP application period is now open for all households in Farmers Electric service territory. Visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap> for details.



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

YOUR COOPERATIVE:

Kinyon, Kline Join Cooperative Staff

Farmers Electric Cooperative is happy to announce two new faces who have joined the staff.

Lori Kinyon began her duties Sept. 28 as the Director of Finance and

Accounting. Lori and her husband, Jamie, live in the Orient/Hebron area and are members of Farmers Electric. They have three children, Abby (Eric) Sink of Corning, Logan (Daren Chambers) of Lacona, and Trevor, a student at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge.

Lori grew up on a farm in the Creston area. She holds a B.S. degree in Accounting from Northwest Missouri State University and an MBA from Drake University. She has over 20 years of accounting experience and has been the Director of Human Resources for an organization with 300 employees for the past 10 years.

In her spare time Lori enjoys trail riding on her quarter horses, watching her children compete in rodeo events, fishing and gardening.

Gavin Kline is the cooperative's newest apprentice lineman. He started as summer help in July and was hired full-time in September. Gavin grew up in Afton and graduated from East Union Schools in 2018. He then continued his education at Northwest Iowa Community College where he earned his powerline degree.

In his spare time, Gavin enjoys farming and building derby cars.

Please join us in welcoming Lori and Gavin to our cooperative family!



Lori Kinyon



Gavin Kline

Call Us If You're Planning to Build a New Grain Bin

Today's regulatory environment and higher industry standards place new regulatory pressures and expectations on electric cooperatives. Regulations may come in the form of new rules, new orders from courts or executive branch agencies or new legislation. Farmers Electric receives assistance from the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives with various tools for compliance with regulatory requirements in a manner that allows us to deliver reliable, safe and cost-effective service.

Disclaimer: The drawings at right 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 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.

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact Farmers

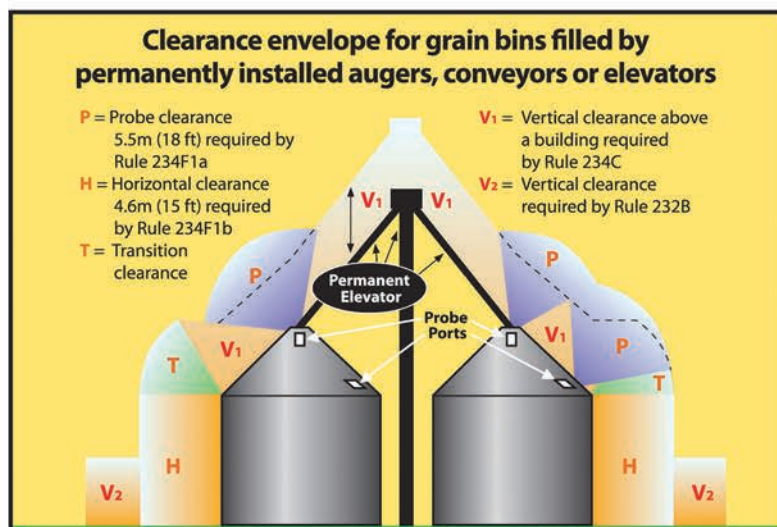
Electric Cooperative.

The electric 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.

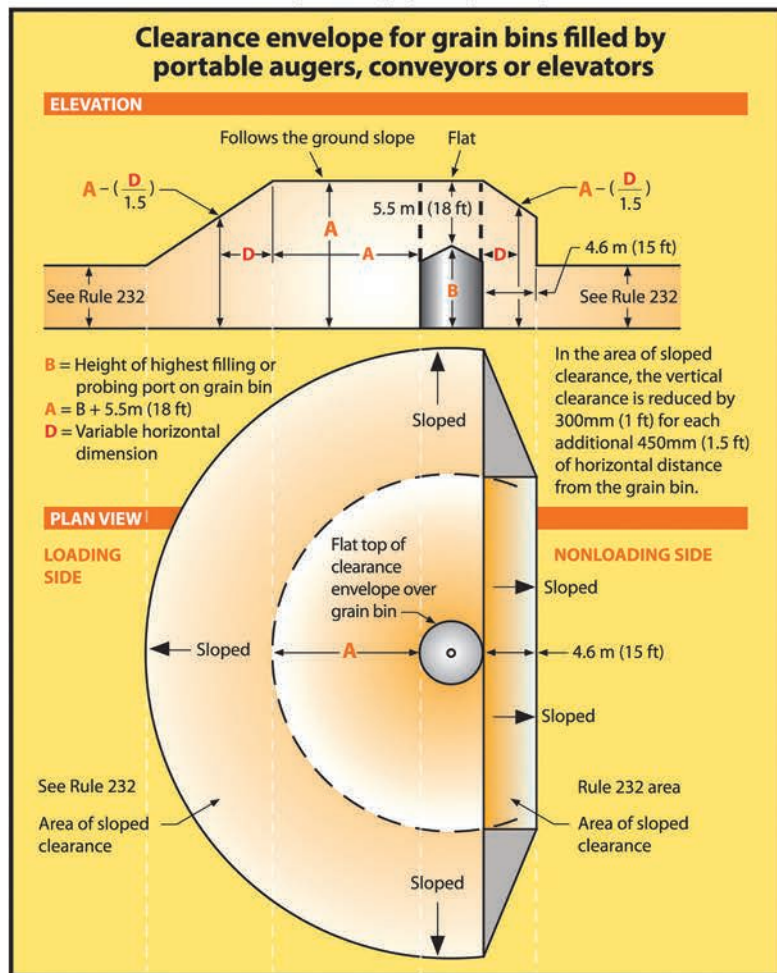
The drawing at right depicts the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact Farmers at (800) 397-4821.

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)

The 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 call the Farmers Electric Cooperative office.



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Call 8-1-1 Before You Dig

If you're trying to cram in those last few outdoor projects before the snow flies for good, your cooperative wants to remind you to call 8-1-1 before you begin digging.

Any project that requires you putting the shovel into the ground must be preceded by a phone call to 8-1-1. It could be installing a new mailbox, fence, planting a tree, doing some landscaping or installing a deck.



Don't assume digging even a small hole isn't dangerous. There are so many underground utilities and some of them are close to the surface. Striking one of these lines can cause injury or death, not to mention fines and repair costs. A quick call to 8-1-1 can avoid any unnecessary danger. After all, it's free and it's the law.

Once you call, an operator will ask a few quick questions and then notify natural gas and power utilities, communications companies, and the proper city personnel for your town. Within 48 hours (excluding Saturday, Sunday or legal holidays), the utilities will come out and either mark their underground facilities with color-coded marks or flags or notify Iowa One Call that it has no lines in the area.

If a contractor is performing the work for you, make sure they have called Iowa One Call prior to excavating.

Giving Back to Our Community

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about Farmers Electric's concern for our community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It's who we are as a co-op.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, we've risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission of helping our members during this turbulent time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made me pause and think

about the role we play in our community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission—to be a catalyst for good.

We also have a strong commitment to safety—not just for our employees, but for our community as well. You'll see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, or volunteering at charitable events. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is—after all, without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community. Because we live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO

Concern for Community in Action

Farmers Electric board members attended the dedication of Ava's Garden at the Winterset Public Library Sept. 18.

The garden is the recipient of funds from the co-op's Operation Round Up program. These funds, in addition to several others, made it possible for sidewalk accessibility to the Storybook Gardens.

Located between the public library and the historic water tower, the raised garden beds were started several years ago by a local veterinarian, Dr. Eric Hollen, as part of the Master Gardener program. He wanted to share his love of gardening with Ava, his wheelchair-bound granddaughter.



The Master Gardeners tend the beds and contribute the produce to Matura to distribute to their clients. Pictured is Farmers Board Members Janelle Peiffer, Steve Chandler, Robert Newton (retired), and RoxAnn Rhoads.



Game day may look a little different this year, but that's no reason not to pull out all the stops for your family enjoying the big game at home. Whether your team wins or loses, you can still make sure your snacks score a touchdown! Try this month's quick and tasty recipes to fuel the fans in your family.

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.

Loaded Tater Tots Skewers

INGREDIENTS

Bag of frozen tater tots
Bacon, chopped
Cheddar cheese, grated
Ranch dressing seasoning packet
Skewers
Green Onion (optional)



Photo: madewithhappy.com

Preheat oven to 425. Spread tots in single layer on baking sheet and cook according to directions until golden brown. When done baking, let cool for approximately 2-5 minutes. Load skewers with tater tots, approximately six per skewer. Place back on baking sheet. Sprinkle ranch seasoning, bacon and cheese on tater tots and place back into oven for an additional 10 minutes or until cheese is fully melted and golden in color. Top with green onion if desired.

Jalapeño Popper Crescent Ring

INGREDIENTS

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 c. diced, cooked chicken
1 c. grated cheddar cheese
3 small jalapeños, diced
2 cans (8 oz.) Pillsbury™ refrigerated crescent rolls
Ranch dressing, for serving



Photo: tablespoon.com

Preheat oven to 375. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Combine cream cheese, chicken, cheddar, and jalapeños in a medium mixing bowl and stir well. Unroll crescent rolls and lay the long end out in a ring, overlapping them to form the base. The center circle should be about 5 inches in diameter. Spoon the filling mixture along the base of the crescent ring. Bring each dough triangle up over filling, tucking dough under bottom layer of dough to secure it. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Serve hot, with ranch dressing for dipping.

Heat your home efficiently.

Right about now you might be thinking your furnace could use an upgrade. Ever thought about an energy-efficient electric heat pump? Call our office to find out more about how the switch can save you money and keep you comfortable all winter long. **Visit our website to learn more about going electric – and find rebates on new equipment.**



Farmers Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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.