

FARMERS Open Lines ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



Office Closed

The Farmers Electric office will be closed Friday, April 2 for Good Friday. We wish all our members a safe and happy holiday weekend!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature of 35-38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency. Source: www.energy.gov



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

COOPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS:

Linemen, Petter Earn National Recognition



Congratulations to Farmers Electric's linemen for earning the Certificate of Safety from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). Pictured at left is Director of Operations **Dave Shike** with the certificate.

RESAP is a service of the NRECA that strives to promote the highest standards of safety among electric cooperatives. Shike earned the recognition for his dedication to employee and public safety and commitment to regulatory compliance and loss control practices.



Board member **Kris Petter** successfully earned the first of a three-part board education program, the Credentialed Cooperative Director designation from the NRECA. The program consists of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership. Kris is pictured receiving his certificate from Board President **Dan Westphal**.



Scholarship Deadline April 1

www.farmersrec.com

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.

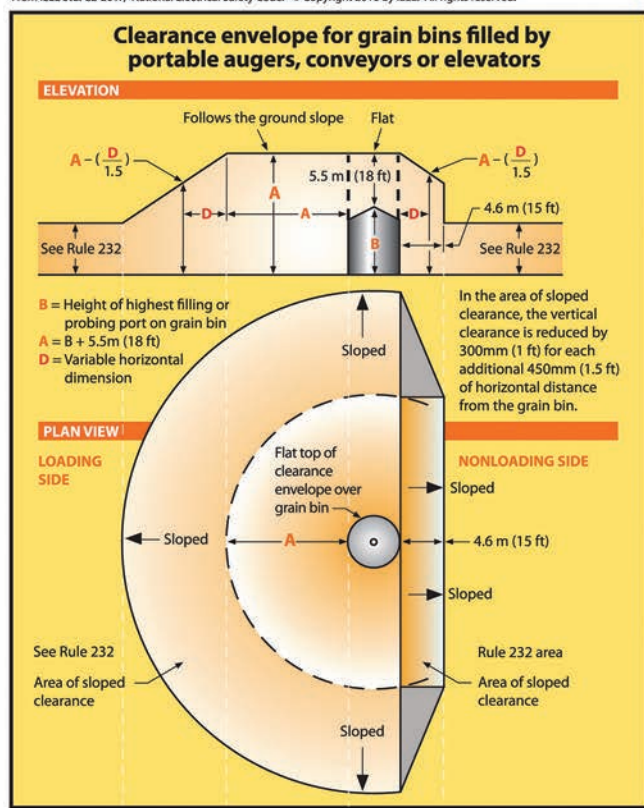
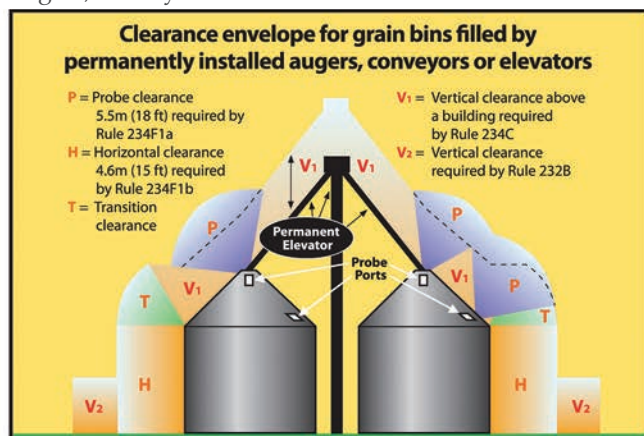
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b.: *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (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 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.



Go fly a kite in March, just be aware of power lines!

- Fly your kite in an open area, far away from overhead power lines and electricity facilities like substations.
- If the wind pushes your kite near a power line, let go of it.
- Never attempt to remove a kite or any object caught in power lines.
- Never fly a kite that is damp or wet.
- Avoid flying kites with metallic wires or parts.

Winter Moratorium Ends April 1

Members of Farmers Electric Cooperative are reminded that the winter moratorium ends April 1, 2021. If your account(s) is past due and you have not made a payment arrangement by this date, your service may be disconnected.

Under Iowa's winter moratorium law, qualified customers for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or Weatherization Assistance Program are protected from the annual shutoff of natural gas or electric service from Nov. 1 to April 1. Iowa customers seeking LIHEAP financial assistance for



before April 30 to discuss eligibility guidelines. The LIHEAP program pays only a portion of utility bills to qualified low-income members.

To avoid disconnection, you must pay your electric bill in full by April 1 or request a reasonable payment agreement for your past due account(s). Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) rules regarding natural gas or electric service disconnections and payment agreements can be found in chapters 19 and 20, Utilities Division (199) of the Iowa Administrative Code.

If you have questions, please call our office at (800) 397-4821.

Get to Know Your Co-op Network

Every day, Farmers Electric is hard at work to make sure all our member-consumers have the electric power they need at the best possible price. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

Our cooperative is a member of Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), a generation and transmission cooperative that supplies power to us and 12 other RECs and municipal utilities. CIPCO is structured with a board of directors representing each cooperative owner. For Farmers, Board President Dan Westphal serves as our voice on the CIPCO board.

It also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital, we turn to either the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. Both of these organizations are also cooperatives. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and CoBank is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

As you know, every month we generate an electric bill that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail. We use National Information Systems Cooperative

(NISC) to process electric bills as well as provide you with SmartHub, your online portal to payment, energy use, efficiency tips and more.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and workmen's compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO



Finally, Farmer Electric is a member of Touchstone Energy®, a nationwide alliance of more than 700 local, member-owned electric cooperatives in 46 states. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of informational materials. It also allows us to benchmark our performance in comparison with other co-ops so that we can learn from

others as we constantly strive to serve you better.

So, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible.

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.





A LITTLE "BITE" OF EVERYTHING... Brunch

Typically reserved for Sundays, special occasions or holidays like Easter and Mothers Day, brunch can also be "dressed down" for casual weekends. A mixed menu of breakfast items, roast meats, fruits and desserts make a plentiful table everyone can enjoy.

Each month, the 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. Plan now to participate by mailing your entry with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mailing it to: HWeston@farmersrec.com. **APRIL:** Pasta

Brunch Casserole

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. sausage (browned and drained)
6 slices cubed bread
4 eggs (beaten well)
2 c. milk
1/4 lb. cheddar cheese
Onions and green pepper to taste (chopped and sauté)
1 tsp. prepared mustard
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Pour into 9x13 baking dish. Refrigerate overnight (covered). Bake uncovered at 325 degrees for 1 hour. Allow to set before serving. May substitute browned hamburger or diced ham for sausage.



Photo: playpartyplan.com

Vicky See, Peru

Pancake Pizza

INGREDIENTS

3 c. pancake batter
6 c. sausage gravy
12 eggs scrambled
1 c. cheese
1 lb. bacon (fried and crumbled)

Mix pancake batter, put into greased 9x13 pan and bake at 350

for 15 minutes or until done. Layer with scrambled eggs, cheese, and sausage gravy. Put bacon on top. Serve warm with pancake syrup.



Photo: thepreparedpantry.com

Kerri Packnett, Alton

Want a chance to get \$5 off your next electric bill? Enter a recipe in our recipe contest each month!



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An electric heat pump is the most energy-efficient home cooling and heating option available today – and can reduce your energy consumption and utility bills during even the warmest months of the year. **Visit our website to learn more about going electric – and find rebates on new equipment.**

800-397-4821
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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.