

# FARMERS Open Lines

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022



The Farmers Electric office will be closed Friday, April 15 for Good Friday. We wish all our members a safe and happy holiday weekend!

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on games consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.



Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy

 Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

### LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY:



### LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 11

Farmers Electric thanks our lineworkers and all lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our communities.

### THANK YOU

Chad Berry	Joe Blankenship
Trey Eddy	Darrian Fischer
Nathan Hubenka	Nick Kintigh
Tyler O'Connor	Josh Oder
Paul Paxton	Paul Weber
Mason Wiese	Ross Wright

We  Trees, Too.

But trees and power lines are a dangerous mix. Farmers Electric trims trees to:

- Help us restore power quickly and safely
- Keep our crews and members safe
- Improve service reliability

### THANK YOU!

## Condolences

Our entire team here at Farmers Electric was deeply saddened by the destruction and the lives lost during the March 5 tornadoes near Winterset. We send our heartfelt sympathies to everyone impacted. A HUGE thank you to the linemen, first responders, volunteers, and everyone who gave their time in a challenging situation. We are so thankful for a community that rallies together!



We also mourn the passing of former board member and friend Darrell Jensen, who passed away March 7. Darrell, 67, was a co-op member for 35 years, and a board member for 12 years. He also served as a board member of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives for five years.

He was an avid runner, biker, and outdoorsman who enjoyed taking hunting trips to Canada and Mexico.

Darrell is survived by his wife, Julie, and his sons, Luke (Kayte) and Jacob (Kaitlyn); grandchildren, Liam, Levi, and Lincoln; sisters, Ardith Jensen and Marilyn Barr.

# Show You Care with RECare

**A**s a cooperative, Farmers Electric adheres to a set of seven guiding principles that form the foundation of our business model. The seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community, gives Farmers a chance to encourage our members to help their neighbors and community by participating in RECare.

With RECare, a one-time or monthly contribution can help offset high bills for those who need it most. RECare funds can also be used to weatherize the recipient's home and help make electricity usage more efficient. Your donation is directed to local community action agencies for distribution to low-income families near you.

## Member Authorization Form

Yes, I want to help Farmers members through the RECare program.

Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

I would like to make a monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I understand this amount will be added to my electric bill each month.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out this form and mail to: RECare, c/o Farmers Electric Cooperative, 2389 Hwy. 92, Greenfield, IA 50849; or visit [www.farmersrec.com](http://www.farmersrec.com) to fill out an online form.



## Pole Inspections

**T**he cooperative has contracted with Osmose Utilities Services to conduct pole inspections across our service territory.

They will be working in the following areas:

- Grandriver Township 75-30
- Union Township 74-30
- Lincoln Township 73-30
- Highland Township 72-30



## Complaints?

**F**armers Electric Cooperative makes every effort to resolve all complaints brought to its attention. Contact us at 2389 Hwy. 92 in Greenfield, or 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 (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](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov).

## Peiffer Earns CCD

**B**oard member Janelle Peiffer has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The CCD is the first of a three-part director education program and consists of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills of rural electric cooperative directors and prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership.

Janelle was elected in 2020 and is serving her first term on the Farmers Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. She is a stay-at-home mom with a background as a childcare consultant for Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Iowa/Orchard Place. Congratulations, Janelle!



Janelle Peiffer is pictured with Farmers Electric Board President Dan Westphal.

## Work Zones are a Sign to Slow Down

### National Work Zone Awareness Week

Awareness Week is April 11-15 and is a great time to remind members of Farmers Electric Cooperative to move over and slow down when approaching co-op utility trucks working alongside the road.

According to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, there were 762 fatal crashes in work zones resulting in 842 deaths in the United States in 2019. In addition, 135 roadway workers were killed in work zones. The vast majority of people killed in work zones were motorists, passengers and pedestrians.

These statistics demonstrate the importance of work zone safety and participating in National Work Zone Awareness Week to spread the message that everyone has a role in getting roadway workers home safely.

In accordance with Iowa state law, motorists must move over and slow down when approaching ANY vehicle stopped on the side of the road with its flashing lights activated, including passenger cars with hazard lights. Those who fail to obey the law could receive a traffic ticket or even lose their driver's license.

Please give our employees the room they need to work safely; their jobs are dangerous enough already.

# The Power Behind Your Power

**I**t's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough, but it's a job that must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

**The work can be heavy, in more ways than one.** Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's like carrying six gallons of water! And lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall and must be able to work quickly and safely.

**Lineworkers must be committed to their career because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle.** The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is consistently listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

**Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions.** Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000

hours of training? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness.

**Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000**

**electric lineworkers.** Farmers Electric employs 12 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping the power flowing to our members 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,807 miles of power lines across six counties. Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without them, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing. Afterall, they are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11 and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



**CHARLIE DUNN**  
CEO

## REC Day on the Hill

**F**armers Electric joined representatives from Iowa's rural electric cooperatives across Iowa March 22 at the State Capitol in Des Moines.

REC Day on the Hill, sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, provides an opportunity for Farmers Electric to personally visit with elected officials and advocate for important local issues that impact our membership.



Pictured from left: Board members Kevin Stender, Mark Earhart and Cary Gilman; Farmers CEO Charlie Dunn; Board Member Janelle Peiffer, Rep. Ray Sorensen, Board members RoxAnn Rhoads, Dan Westphal and Kris Petter.



## Spicy Sausage Pasta

1 lb. smoked sausage, cut into 1/4" slices

1 1/2 c. diced onion

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 c. low-sodium chicken broth

1 (10 oz.) can RO-TEL® Diced Tomatoes and Green Chiles, mild

1/2 c. heavy cream

8 oz. penne pasta, uncooked

1/2 tsp. each salt and pepper (or to taste)

1 c. Monterey Jack cheese, shredded, divided

1/3 c. thinly sliced scallions or green onions



[dessertnowdinnerlater.com](http://dessertnowdinnerlater.com)

Add olive oil to an oven safe skillet over medium-high heat until just smoking. Add sausage and onions and cook until lightly browned, about 4 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add broth, tomatoes, cream, pasta and salt and pepper and stir. Bring to a boil, cover skillet and reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer until pasta is tender, about 15 minutes. Remove skillet from heat and stir in 1/2 c. cheese. Top with the remaining cheese and sprinkle with scallions or green onions. Broil until cheese is melted, spotty brown and bubbly.

## FINALLY GETTING TO THAT DIY LANDSCAPING PROJECT?



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

**T**raditionally, April brings a ground swell of outdoor work which often includes digging. Whether it is a small project or a large home improvement project, National Safe Digging Month is a way to remind us all to call 811 before starting any digging project.

Did you know that every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811? The risk of injury, or even death is serious. Beyond that, consider the costs of repair, fines and even inconvenience. From putting in a fence, planting a tree or building a deck, locating electric, gas and water lines before you dig will save a lot of time, money and pain later.

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

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](mailto:HWeston@farmersrec.com). **May: Beef**



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

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### Board of Directors

Dan Westphal, President	Steve Chandler, Vice President
Kevin Tanner, Secretary	RoxAnn Rhoads, Treasurer
Cary Gilman	Janelle Peiffer
Mark Earhart	Kris Petter
Kevin Stender	

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.