



FARMERS Open Lines ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022



REMINDER! The deadline for 2022 Farmers Electric Scholarship applications is Friday, April 1. High school seniors with a parent or guardian who is a member of Farmers Electric, and resides in Farmers Electric territory, is eligible. More information and application available at www.farmersrec.com.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible. *Source: Dept. of Energy*



 **Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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SAFETY:

Spring Into Safety on the Farm

March 20 will officially mark the first day of spring which means we can finally look forward to warmer weather and getting outside to enjoy it. On the farm, this time of year is critical as ag workers begin to prep for the growing season.

Farming is one of the few industries in which family members are also at risk for injuries. In fact, the Iowa Department of Public Health reports about 1,000 farm-related injuries receive medical attention every year. To help keep your family safe, remember these tips as you begin your spring chores:

ATV Safety. When riding on an all-terrain vehicle (four-wheeler or quad), all body parts need protection, especially the head. Wear a helmet specific to ATV riding, long sleeved shirts and pants, gloves and boots. Also remember the rules of the road: in Iowa, no passengers are allowed on the ATV unless it is designed to carry more than one person, and ATV use on highways is prohibited. No one under 12 can operate an ATV unless on private land.

Tractor safety. Do not let

children play on or in any tractor. Never stand behind a tractor backing up to hitch machinery. Know how to shut off tractors. Never approach a tractor operator without them knowing you are in the area. Discuss how you get the attention of a tractor operator with your family.

Rural roadway safety. Whether in a tractor or a car, be aware of your surroundings on the road during the busy planting season. Make sure lights and signals work properly, adjust

continued on pg. 2



COMMITTED TO GROWING A CLIMATE FOR TOMORROW.

 **NATIONAL AG DAY**
03.22.22

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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.

Safety...from pg. 1

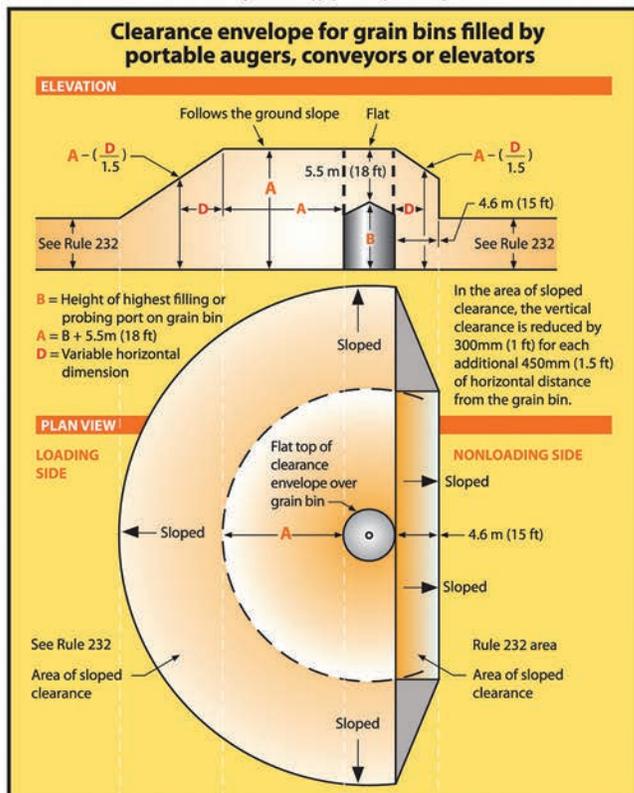
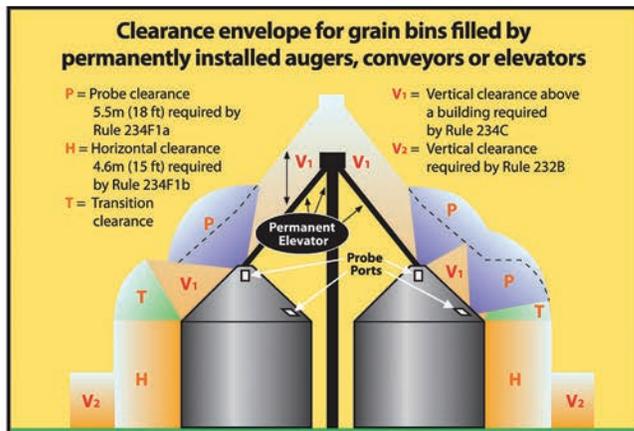
mirrors, and when pulling implements, conduct a pre-ride inspection on anything you may be towing.

Animal safety. Even though an animal may look friendly, all animals need to be treated with respect as they can be unpredictable. Teach children to be alert when around livestock and do so yourself.

Chemical safety. Lock pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and fertilizers away from young children. Heed all warnings listed on chemical labels, store all chemicals in original containers, and seek immediate medical attention if chemical exposure takes place.

Check to make sure you have a First Aid Kit stocked with supplies. Call 911 in case of emergency and consider training in the basics of first response to help minimize the extend of injuries.

**Information provided by Iowa State University Extension & Outreach*



Winter Moratorium Ends April 1

Members of Farmers Electric Cooperative are reminded that the winter moratorium ends April 1, 2022. 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 utility bills should contact their local Community Action Agency 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.

The Time to Serve Your Co-op Is Now

Farmers Electric board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets who give their time and talent to guiding our cooperative's business. We rely on their diverse backgrounds to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That's why when we're seeking new directors who can bring their own perspective, experience expertise and views to our business. Above all else, we're looking for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

What does it mean to serve on the board?

While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, our board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- budgets;
- co-op goals and direction;
- co-op's community/charitable contributions;
- capital investments and upgrades in

equipment and technology;

- renewable investments and energy mix; and
- the co-op's role and involvement in economic development



CHARLIE DUNN
CEO

In addition, board members also regularly meet with state and federal legislators to advocate on behalf of our members when it comes to issues that may affect our co-op.

Opportunity to serve

Our board elections will be held in September in accordance with our annual meeting. Three directors will be on the ballot – one from each district. Directors serve three-year terms.

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. Our board meets once a month, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions.

I invite you to consider giving back to your community by running in our 2022 election. To learn more about the process and 2022 details, please call us at (800) 397-4821.



SURGE PROTECTION

Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines. Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event



REMEMBER: Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

No Fuss Brunch



If you're feeling fancy but don't want much fuss, try a Sunday brunch. It's easy! 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: Favorite Pasta Recipe**

French Toast Bake

- 1 loaf sourdough bread
- 8 eggs
- 2 c. milk
- 1/2 c. heavy cream
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 2 T. vanilla
- TOPPING
- 1/2 c. flour
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. butter cold, cut into pieces



lilluna.com

Cut loaf into cubes and place evenly in a greased 9x13 pan. In a bowl, mix together eggs, milk, heavy cream, sugar and vanilla. Pour evenly over bread. Cover pan with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Mix together flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt in a medium bowl. Cut in butter until crumbly and place in a sealed bag and refrigerate overnight as well. When ready to bake, sprinkle crumbly mixture evenly over the bread. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes to 1 hour depending on how soft you like it.

Farmer's Casserole

- 6 c. frozen, shredded hash brown potatoes
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Jalapeno Monterey Jack Cheese (can sub cheddar or Swiss)
- 2 c. diced, cooked ham (or Canadian bacon)
- 1/2 c. sliced green onions
- 8 large eggs, beaten (or 2 c. egg substitute)
- 2 12-ounce cans evaporated milk (can use whole, 2% or fat free)
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground pepper



recipegirl.com

Grease a 3-qt. rectangular baking dish. Arrange potatoes evenly in the bottom of the dish. Sprinkle with cheese, ham, and green onion. In a large mixing bowl, combine eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour egg mixture over potato mixture in dish. At this point, you can cover and refrigerate until ready to bake (several hours or overnight). When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350. Bake, uncovered, for 45-55 minutes or until center appears set. Let stand for 5 minutes before serving. If baking after casserole has been chilled, you will need to increase baking time to 55-60 minutes.



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.