

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning.



Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.



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

CO-OP PEOPLE:

Welcome Mindy Comstock

Please join us in welcoming Mindy Comstock, billing clerk / customer service to the staff of Farmers Electric Cooperative!

Mindy joined the cooperative in February where her duties include providing a positive service experience for cooperative members with their new member applications, billing inquiries, payments, service orders, usage



amounts and more. She previously worked for Farm Bureau Financial Services as a sales associate.

“Working with the public is something I truly enjoy,” she said. “My many years of customer service taught me the importance of communication and that building positive relationships is key. I took pride in providing excellent customer service by making sure the

Earhart Earns BLC Certification

Farmers Electric Cooperative Director Mark Earhart has earned the Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The Board Leadership Certificate is the second in a series of three certifications REC directors can receive. The program consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues such as risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development.

Earhart previously earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director designation from NRECA. He has been a Farmers Electric director since 2012 and lives in rural Stuart.

Congratulations, Mark!



Mark Earhart (left), is pictured with Farmers Electric Board President Dan Westphal receiving his Board Leadership Certificate at a recent board meeting.

continued on pg. 2

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.

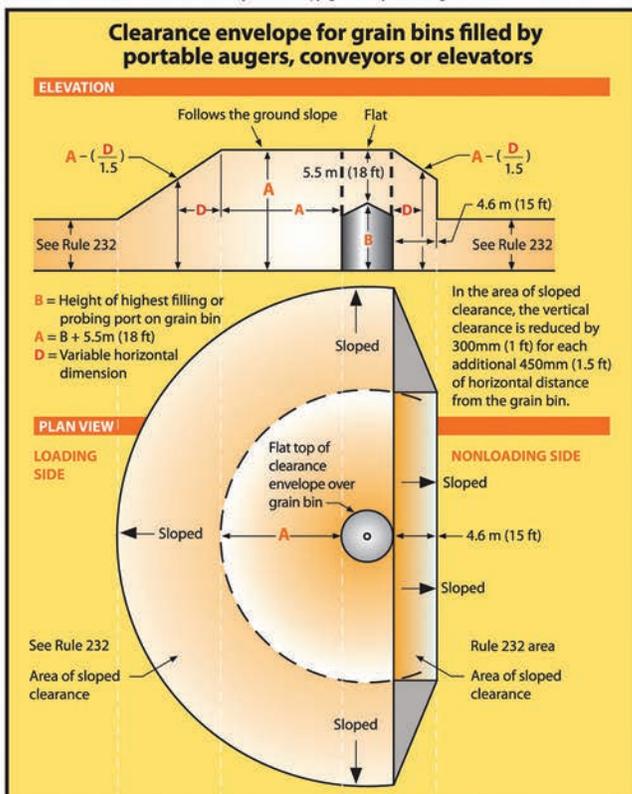
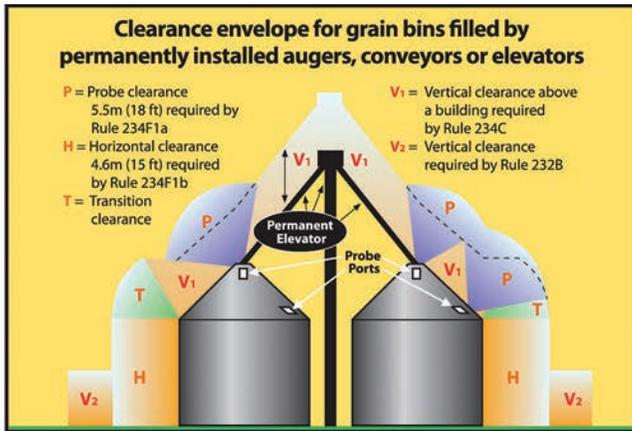
Your cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable

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*

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.



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

Comstock...from pg. 1

clients' billing questions were answered and they understood their insurance coverages."

Growing up on a farm outside Bridgewater, Mindy is a graduate of Nodaway Valley High School. She and her husband, Adam, live in Greenfield and have five children, two grandchildren and a Basset Hound named Buddy. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and attending sporting events in the community.

"I look forward to getting to know the members and learning the ins and outs of the cooperative system," she said.

Next time you stop by the Farmers Electric office, be sure to welcome Mindy!

ATTENTION!
Farmers Electric Cooperative
Scholarship Deadline
APRIL 3

Winter Moratorium Ends April 1

Members of Farmers Electric Cooperative are reminded that the winter moratorium will end April 1, 2023. 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.

One Step Ahead of Mother Nature

As we emerge from winter and enter the spring storm season, Farmers Electric Cooperative is prepping our vegetation management plan. While our utility lines are constantly at risk from severe storms any time of year – particularly from fallen and overgrown tree limbs that can lead to power outages – our crews constantly monitor this threat to your service reliability.

As you can imagine, it's quite an effort, considering our service territory has 1,807 miles of line. Visual inspections to identify problem areas and formulating a plan that includes trimming, removal or chemical treatment can take a significant amount of time, even with the help of the contractors we hire to assist with this work.

The cooperative is responsible for this maintenance in the right of way (ROW), or the about 10 feet on either side of our utility lines. While tree branches and other vegetation higher up is usually the culprit for coming in contact with the power lines and causing blinks or outages, we also pay careful attention to overgrown ground vegetation that can impede our access to the power pole. When

we're out repairing lines that have caused outages, I'm sure you can appreciate that we do all we can to work quickly and safely.



HOLI WESTON
CEO

As a Farmers Electric Cooperative member, you can help by trimming trees and underbrush that could grow to interfere with the utility ROW. For safety reasons, don't attempt to remove or trim trees already near or touching the lines. Rather, call us and we will ensure that a crew takes action to prevent possible power loss. When crews are on your property, please allow them to remove trees and underbrush near power lines.

If your spring plans include landscaping, make sure you consider the mature size of trees and shrubs to determine a proper planting distance away from the ROW and our power lines. Your local nursery can help you determine the best placement based on size and growth estimates, or you can call the cooperative and we can help, too.

We appreciate your help keeping our lines clear so they can provide the power you need every day.

Electronics Efficiency Word Search



Read the energy-saving tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

- Use a **POWER STRIP** with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.
- For devices that require **BATTERIES**, use **RECHARGEABLE** ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.
- **UNPLUG** electronic products that consume energy even when they're not in use, like **PHONE CHARGERS**.
- Use the sleep or **POWER MANAGEMENT** mode on your **COMPUTER** to save on energy costs.

Big Time Brunch



Healthy Freezer Breakfast Burritos

- 1/2 lb. ground turkey breakfast sausage
- 1/4 bag frozen chopped onions
- 6 eggs
- 2 c. frozen hash browns
- 1/2 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled (use regular or turkey)
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 10 flour tortillas
- 1 pkg. Glad Press'N'Seal® cling film



lifemadesimplebakes.com

In a large skillet, over high heat, brown the turkey sausage and onions. Remove from pan. In the same skillet, over medium heat, scramble and cook eggs. Remove from pan. In the same skillet, over medium-high heat, brown the hashbrowns, turning just once after about five minutes. In a large bowl, combine sausage/onion mixture, scrambled eggs, and hashbrowns. Place mixture inside tortillas and sprinkle with cheese. Wrap tightly with Press'n'Seal wrap, and freeze. To prepare: Remove plastic wrap and microwave individually for 1-2 minutes, or until warmed through. *Optional: Brown burrito in a skillet over medium-high heat after microwaving for two minutes per side.*

Shelby Herrick, The Gingham Apron

(1 Hour) Homemade Cinnamon Rolls

- 3 1/2 c. warm water
- 1/2 c. oil
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 6 T. active dry yeast
- 1 T. salt
- 3 eggs
- 10 1/2 c. flour



designatrepeat.com

For cinnamon sugar mixture:

- 1/2 c. melted butter, divided
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 T. cinnamon

Frosting:

- 1 stick butter, softened
- Dash of salt
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 6 c. powdered sugar
- 6 + T. milk

In stand mixer, combine water, oil, sugar and yeast. Let sit for about 10

minutes. Add salt, eggs and flour and mix on medium speed for 10 minutes until evenly moist; let sit for 10 minutes. In separate bowl, combine cinnamon and sugar and divide in half. Spread oil on a clean and dry workspace (make sure entire workspace is oiled). Sprinkle flour over dough mixture, remove from bowl and divide in half. Press out half (do not use rolling pin) into a 9x13" rectangle. Spread 1/4 cup melted butter and sprinkle with 1/2 cinnamon sugar mixture. Roll together tightly and divide/cut into 12 rolls. Place parchment paper on jelly roll pan and spray with oil. Repeat with other half of dough.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Allow to rise to desired size. Bake for 12-14 minutes (should look golden brown). Remove from oven and allow to cool.

Frosting: Place powdered sugar, vanilla, butter and salt into bowl. Slowly add in the milk until desired consistency. Spread frosting onto both trays of cinnamon rolls and enjoy! *Note: Parchment paper is not needed on pan when baking, but it makes for easier removal of rolls and clean-up of pan.*

Shelby Herrick, The Gingham Apron

CALL FOR RECIPES!

APRIL: Pasta

MAY: Beef / Beef Month



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.