

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 330

Greenfield, IA 50849

FarmersREC.com | (800) 397-4821

Rewards of Efficiency: Unlocking Savings with Federal Incentives

You know that happy feeling when you find money you forgot you had in a coat pocket or a pair of jeans? You count your cash and celebrate! Found money is awesome!

You can experience that same joy from an unexpected source. Thanks to federal energy efficiency incentives, Uncle Sam could be paying you serious bucks for energy-efficient efforts that you've already done or are planning to do.

If you make qualified energy-efficient improvements to your home after Jan. 1, 2023, you may qualify for an annual tax credit up to \$3,200. You can claim the credit for improvements made through 2032.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, the credit equals 30% of certain qualified expenses, including:

- Qualified energy efficiency improvements installed during the year such as exterior doors, windows and skylights; insulation and air sealing materials or systems
- Residential energy property expenses
- Home energy audits

There are limits on the allowable annual credit and on the amount of credit for certain types of qualified expenses. The credit is allowed for qualifying property placed in service on or



after Jan. 1, 2023, and before Jan. 1, 2033.

The maximum credit you can claim each year is:

- \$1,200 for energy property costs and certain energy efficient home improvements, with limits on doors (\$250 per door and \$500 total), windows (\$600) and home energy audits (\$150)
- \$2,000 per year for qualified heat pumps, biomass stoves or biomass boilers

The credit has no lifetime dollar limit. You can claim the maximum annual credit every year that you make eligible improvements until 2033.

For complete eligibility requirements, visit www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/energy-efficient-home-improvement-credit.

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.

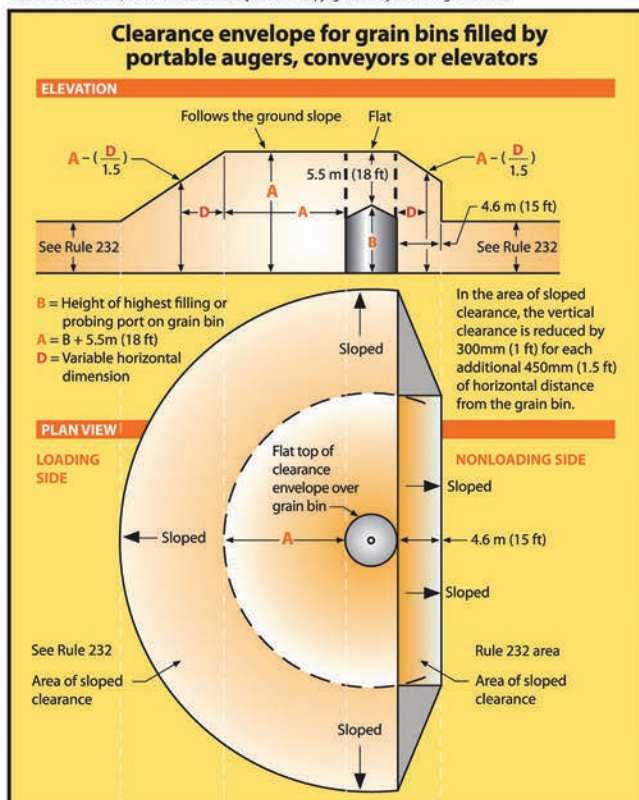
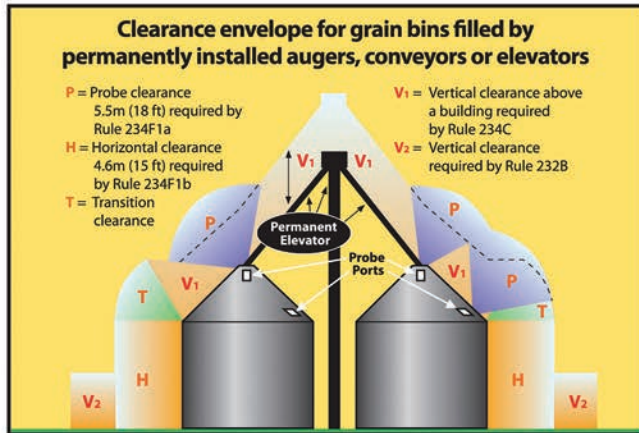
Your cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable

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*

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.



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 Commission.)

Farmers Electric Cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Commission 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



The Iowa Utilities Commission requires all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its membership. If a member has a problem with his/her service, please call or write Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849 or call (800) 397-4821.

If your complaint is related to service disconnection, safety or engineering standards, or renewable energy and Farmers Electric does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling (515) 725-7300, or toll-free (877) 565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or sending an email to customer@iuc.iowa.gov.

Child Safety & Protection Month

November holds significant importance on the calendar as National Child Safety and Protection Month.

This time of year serves as a reminder to refocus our attention on the protection of our most cherished treasures: children. In an age defined by the swift pace of digital connectivity, ensuring the safety of children has become increasingly important as time and technology evolves.

This month, our goal is to equip parents and caregivers with the knowledge to keep them safe, by tackling pressing concerns head-on and offering valuable tips that will not only bolster child safety but also provide peace of mind for all.

Here's a few reminders:

- Never store nonfood items in food storage containers. Children can confuse the contents with food and accidentally ingest it;
- If you have stairs in your home, install safety gates at the top and bottom of the stairs to protect your babies and toddlers from falling;
- Choose household plants that are nontoxic, as little ones love to stick everything in their mouth; and
- Store the Poison Control Center's phone number (1-800-222-1222) on your phone and in an easy-to-remember place at home.

Grateful for our Co-op Community

I love the feeling of being able to walk into my favorite shop, restaurant or store on the square knowing that the profit, product and labor make positive impacts on my community. The spirit of main street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is in Farmers Electric Cooperative.

That feeling I get when I frequent local businesses in our community is the same feeling I get when I walk into work every day. It is a feeling of pride; I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves the community in which we live, instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory.

Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our community and its members.

When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and

reliably, we return it back to our members (that's you!) in the form of capital credits. This means after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of going into a shareholder's pocket.

And because we are owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community is prosperous. We do this by investing in economic development and community service projects that benefit all, not just our members.

I hope that you view this co-op not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our community.

We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way too!



HOLI WESTON
CEO



BE AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY MVP

Read the sentences below and unscramble the bolded letters to complete the energy efficiency tips.

Check your work in the answer key.

Turn off **glhsit** when you leave a room

Unplug smaller electronic devices like phone **reahgcsr** when you're not using them.

Reduce your **nesecr** time to save energy and spend more time outdoors.

Turn off the **reatw** while brushing your teeth.

Keep doors and **swdwnio** closed when your home's heating/cooling system is running.

When it's cold, wear an extra layer of **tohgncil** inside instead of adjusting the thermostat.

Answer Key: 1. lights 2. chargers 3. screen 4. water 5. windows 6. clothing



HAPPY Thanksgiving



Ham Balls

- 2 1/2 lbs. ground ham
- 2 lbs. ground pork
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 2/3 c. crushed graham crackers
- 1 1/2 to 2 c. milk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 cans tomato soup
- 2 1/4 c. brown sugar
- 3/4 c. vinegar
- 2 tsp. dry mustard



dancearoundthekitchen.com

Combine meats, eggs, cracker crumbs, milk and salt, if desired, and mix well. Form 25 small ham loaves or balls of about 1/2 c. each. In medium bowl, combine soup, brown sugar, vinegar and mustard. Pour over meat and bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. This makes a large amount. May be divided and frozen.

Tisha Davis, Greenfield

Oriental Salad

- 1 head cabbage or 1 pkg. coleslaw mix
- 2 pkgs. chicken Ramen noodles
- 1 c. salted sunflower seeds
- 1 c. slivered almonds
- 2 bunches green onions-chopped
- Dressing:
 - 1 c. vegetable oil
 - 1/2 c. sugar
 - 1/3 c. white vinegar
 - 2 packets noodle seasoning



dinneratthezoo.com

Break up noodles in bowl. Add chopped cabbage, sunflower seeds, almonds and green onions. Combine dressing ingredients and pour over salad mix. Refrigerate three hours to soften noodles.

Judy Williamson, St. Charles



December: Holiday Treats

Submit a recipe for a chance to win \$5 off your next electric bill. Mail your entry with your utility bill or email it to: HWeston@farmersrec.com



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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.