

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



HAPPY Easter

The Farmers Electric Co-op office will be closed April 18 for Good Friday. Have a wonderful Easter holiday!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn your suds into savings! Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.



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

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 14

WIRED FOR SERVICE.



Please join Farmers Electric in celebrating our linemen!

From left: Casey Kindred, apprentice lineman; Trey Eddy, lineman; Nick Kintigh, line foreman; Darrian Fischer, lineman; Paul Weber, line foreman; Joe Blankenship, lineman; Mason Wisse, apprentice lineman; Mike Auten, apprentice lineman; Paul Paxton, lineman/staking technician; Chad Berrey, lineman; Ross Wright, lineman; Sam Dolan, apprentice lineman; and Dave Shike, director of Operations. Not pictured: Josh Oder, lineman.

Earhart Earns Director Gold

Farmers Electric Cooperative Director Mark Earhart has successfully completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Director Gold Program.

The Director Gold credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Certified Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificate, and who desire a tangible credential that demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and



Board President Dan Westphal presents Vice President Mark Earhart with the NRECA Director Gold Certificate.

performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability. It is the highest credential available for cooperative directors through the NRECA. Congratulations, Mark!

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.



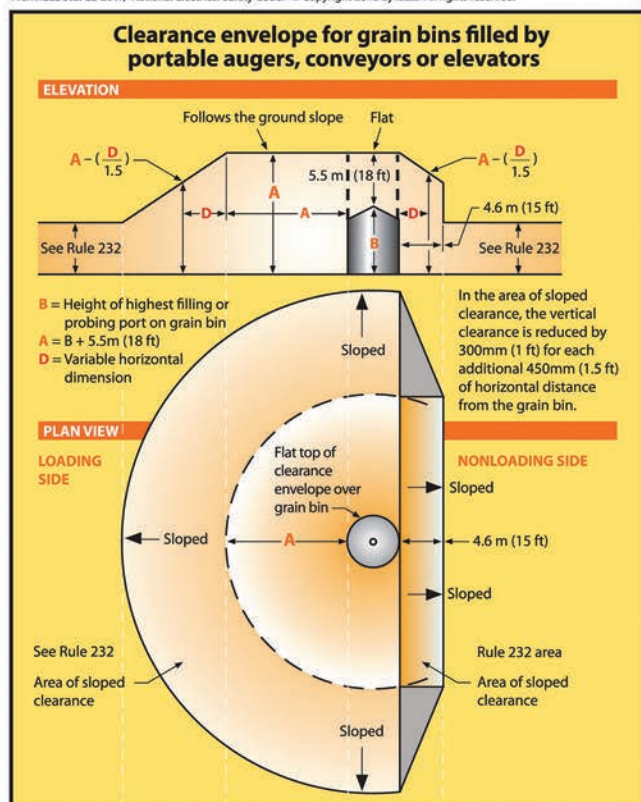
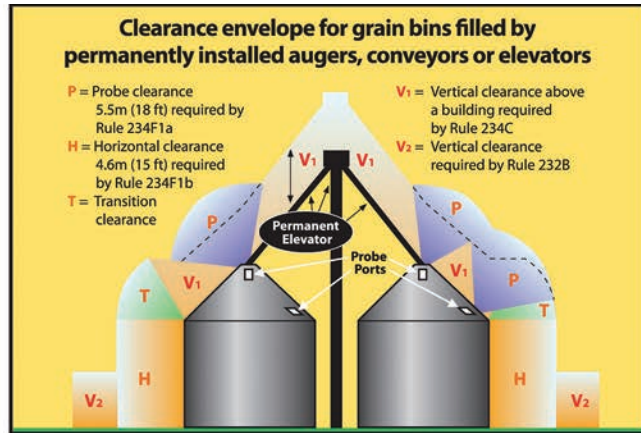
The Iowa Utilities Commission requires all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its membership.

If a member has a problem with his/her service, please call (800) 397-4821 or write:

Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 330
Greenfield, IA 50849.

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) 725-7321, or toll-free (877) 565-4450; sending an email to customer@iuc.iowa.gov or by writing to:

1375 E. Court
Room 69
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069



Osmose to Begin Pole Inspection

Farmers Electric Cooperative has contracted with Osmose Utilities Services to conduct pole inspections across our service territory. Please keep an eye out and give them plenty of room as they work along roadways.

Each year your cooperative performs this critical function in order to identify poles in need of replacement sooner rather than later.

Specifically, Osmose will use equipment to determine the degree of wood decay and damage to each pole. If a pole has been affected by wood-destroying fungi or insects, Osmose will tree the wood to provide an effective defense against any further pest damage to get the longest life possible out of the pole.

We appreciate our members' patience as we continue this work again this year. Our goal with this program is to provide you with the best and most reliable service possible.



Photo: Osmose Utilities Services, Inc.

REC Day on the Hill

Board members and staff from Farmers Electric Cooperative were at the State Capitol March 19 for the annual REC Day on the Hill. They joined more than 120 employees and directors from electric cooperatives across Iowa to provide a local perspective on issues that impact rural Iowans and rural economic development.

During the event, attendees educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model, which includes



local ownership, democratic governance and cost-based rates. Farmers Electric believes in a balanced approach in addressing energy issues as we work to power homes and empower our communities.

Show You Care with RECare

Even though summer is on the way and will bring warmer temperatures, many Farmers Electric members are struggling to catch up on winter heating bills.

As an electric cooperative, Farmers Electric is invested in helping our communities thrive, and that means supporting our low-income members, too.

RECare is a nationwide program exclusive to rural electric cooperatives that encourages fellow members to make a one-time or monthly donation that can help alleviate the stress for other members struggling to pay their winter heating bills. Funds may also be used to weatherize the recipient's home to make electricity use more efficient in both winter and summer temperatures.

And don't worry; your donation is directed to a local community action agency for distribution to low-income families in your community.

You can feel good that the dollars you donate are helping your friends and neighbors. It's an easy way to show you care!

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 to fill out an online form.



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

Mail your entry with your bill to: P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or e-mail it to: HWeston@farmersrec.com.

MAY: Beef/Hamburger recipes

JUNE: Cool Summer Salads



No Watch Oven Goulash

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 10.75 oz. can condensed tomato soup
- 1 c. uncooked elbow macaroni
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 American cheese singles
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 tsp. dark brown sugar
- 2 c. water
- Chopped onion and/or green pepper (optional)



momscravings.com

Brown ground beef with onion and/or green pepper (if desired). Drain. Place cooked ground beef in bottom of casserole dish. Add rest of ingredients in order listed, tearing cheese slices into small pieces. Stir ingredients together. Cover. Bake at 350 degrees for 60-70 minutes. Uncover. Rest for 3-5 minutes before stirring and serving.

Landy Ogburn, Greenfield

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers may contact you and offer to restore power quickly or in a preferential order if you make an immediate payment. These scams typically occur after major storms that cause widespread outages. *Farmers Electric will never request or require payment to restore power after a natural disaster or storm.* If post-storm repairs to customer-owned equipment are necessary, we will advise you to work with a licensed contractor. If any charges are applicable, you will be billed through your account. *Source: Utilities United Against Scams*



Garden Chicken Pasta Salad

- 8 oz. rotini pasta – cooked, drained
- 2 c. broccoli florets
- 1.5 c. Three Cheese (or regular) Ranch dressing
- 6 oz. honey roasted chicken breast
- 1/2 c. each: green pepper, red pepper, slivered onions



food.com

Toss all ingredients together and refrigerate. Makes 10 cups.

Sharon Wood, Wiota



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.