

NEW REBATES TO START APRIL 1, 2010

PULL THE PLUG appliance recycling program will provide REC members an opportunity to recycle operable old refrigerators, freezers and window air conditioners. You will receive an incentive payment for these appliances, and better yet you will be saving on your utility bill by not having the old inefficient appliances around consuming valuable energy anymore. In order to participate in the program, REC members must contact the REC and request collection of certain operable appliances. The REC will verify that the caller is a member and that the appliances to be collected do operate. If the appliances do not operate, the recycling company will not pick them up. After the information is collected by the REC, that information will be electronically mailed to ESI (the recycling company). Within one (1) business day after the receipt of the information, a representative from ESI shall contact the REC member to verify that the information is correct. They will also inquire whether the REC member wishes to dispose of any other appliances which are ineligible for payment of the incentive fee under the program, and if so establish payment terms. Any payment for the ineligible appliances shall be negotiated between the REC member and ESI. ESI will also establish an estimated appliance collection date, which shall be within 3 weeks of the initial contact. On the Friday before the scheduled arrival date, ESI shall contact the REC member to confirm the date and the estimated time of arrival for collection. On the collection date, ESI shall contact the REC member one or two hours prior to the scheduled arrival to verify a more precise collection time. All contact by ESI with the REC members shall be by telephone and if an email address is provided and the REC member agrees to utilize electronic communications, by electronic mail. If the REC

member indicates to ESI during its initial contact that the REC member will be unavailable on site at the time of collection, ESI shall mail to the REC member prior to the collection date a sticker to be placed on the eligible appliance(s) to be collected.

REC members will be paid incentives according to the following:

Window air conditioners- \$25

Refrigerators- \$35

Freezers- \$25

Maximum of three total appliances per year per residential address.

NOTICE: Appliances must be left on the curb or at a readily accessible location at each REC member's residence on the scheduled collection date. Representatives from ESI will not enter into the homes of any REC member to collect any appliance. Central Iowa Power Cooperative and REC disclaim any and all liability for any claims or causes of action arising out of or occurring as a result of an appliance or ineligible appliance being placed outside by an REC member. On the initial contact by ESI with the REC member, ESI shall provide recommended safety procedures in connection with any appliance or ineligible appliance to be placed outside by the REC member. The REC member shall be solely responsible for securing the appliances and ineligible appliances or otherwise addressing any safety concerns arising from having an appliance or ineligible appliance being left outside and possibly accessible to the public.

FARMERS ELECTRIC AG DAY

We would like to thank everyone that stopped by our booth at Ag Day.
It was nice to see all of our members.

The winner of our drawing was Marie Goodwin. Congratulations Marie!

It's time for you to send a new message to Congress!

Even if you've already communicated with Congress about our country's future energy policy through the Our Energy, Our Future™ program, it's once again time for you to get involved. Unelected bureaucrats at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wrongly believe that they are empowered to regulate carbon dioxide under the federal Clean Air Act, which could result in significantly increased power bills for you. The Clean Air Act originally was passed in 1970 to curb harmful pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, which it does effectively. The law never was intended to deal with carbon dioxide, and today the EPA is overstepping its authority. It's the role of Congress to legislate a greenhouse gas policy that's fair and affordable for all Americans.

Please visit www.ourenergy.coop to tell Congress that they need to step up immediately to prevent the EPA from misusing the Clean Air Act as a tool for regulating greenhouse gas emissions.



Our Energy, Our Future

A Dialogue With America

REC Consumer Contribution Plan

Farmers Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in winterizations of homes of low income consumers. You may make a one time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill.

You may also make your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. If you do wish to contribute to a matching fund, please state the name of the company or person matching your contribution. Even a dollar a month will help others! You care we care, RECare.

Consumer Authorization Form

Name _____ Account No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail to:

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

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.


- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.
- I will contribute \$ _____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.
- My gift is a matching fund gift.
The matching fund is _____

Farmers Open Lines

A monthly publication of



Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Office Hours:

7:30a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

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To report a power outage call
any of the above numbers.

CO-OP CORNER



Farmers Electric Cooperative owns and maintains 33,788 power poles on the system. The average cost for Farmers Electric Cooperative linemen to change out a single phase pole is \$355.73 and \$627.98 for a three-phase pole. The length of poles on the system range from 30-foot meter poles to 75-foot poles going over the lake to the pumping station at Three Mile Lake. The Cooperative also has a 90-foot, two-piece steel pole in our Casey Substation.



It looks like the long winter is about to end—finally. The geese are flying north, I have seen a robin on the deck and there are patches of green grass showing up. We received some good news in early March when it was announced that FEMA will be providing financial assistance for the December (Adair and Cass

Counties) and January (Adair, Cass and Madison Counties) winter storms. What this means is that FEMA will provide 75% of the repair cost plus the State (Homeland Security) will provide 10% of the repair costs; this is good news for the Cooperative membership. As I mentioned last month, the December storm cost approximately \$85,000 for repairs and the January storm could reach \$1,000,000.

Cleanup from the January storm will continue for the next couple of months; there is wire to resag, neutrals to put up and poles to be set. We have rented an additional bucket truck to help with the repairs.

While we are talking about costs, our 2010 budget does not call for any rate increases this year. The budget does call for increased emphasis on tree clearing (as it did last year); there is still much work to do with trees near our lines. As the last ice storms demonstrated, the more trees we get away from the lines, the fewer problems we will have. Please keep this in mind when we ask permission to cut and trim trees on your property.



Below are some interesting quotes I recently ran across in some trade journals:

- “Although increasing renewable generation is the right and necessary long-term energy policy, abandoning new fossil-fueled generation both harms renewable development and, in the near

term, puts reliability at risk” by *Steven Greenwald and Jeffrey Gray.*

- “The U.S. faces a 19% increase in energy demand over the next two decades. Renewable energy sources, however, will not soon replace most conventional energy sources. Despite considerable publicity on their behalf, renewable will remain a small fraction of our energy mix for the foreseeable future” by *Thomas Tanton.*
- “In 2008, goods and services produced in the U.S. accounted for 30% of all of the world’s production as measured by gross domestic product. In the same year, the U.S. share of global greenhouse gas emissions was only 19.3%. Richer countries are actually cleaner and healthier countries” by *Thomas Tanton.*
- “According to the National Academy of Sciences, 60% of oil in the marine environment is the result of natural oil seepage through the ocean floor. Reducing oil reservoir pressure through extraction of petroleum will decrease oil pollution from natural seepage” by *Thomas Tanton.*
- “The 600 coal plants distributed across the country are the cornerstone of the most reliable electric power system in the world. Given its abundance, cost, versatility and established infrastructure, coal is essentially irreplaceable as a baseload fuel in the U.S. If utilities did not have access to coal, they would be unable to meet the needs of our electricity dependent modern society and maintain our quality of life” from *Energy Facts Weekly.*



Did you know the Cooperative’s 2010 budget is over \$12,000,000? Approximately 65% of the budget goes to purchased power, 14% to operations and maintenance, 4% to customer accounts & customer service, 5% to administrative & general, 6% to depreciation & amortization, 6% to interest on long term debt and .17% to operating margins.

2010 REBATE INCENTIVE DEADLINES

The grace period for purchase and installation of energy-efficient measures and the rebate requests have been shortened from last year. This year, incentive requests and all rebate paperwork for equipment installed after January 1st, 2010, must be submitted to Farmers Electric Cooperative within 6 months of the installation. This will give Farmers Electric Cooperative office staff time to make sure all information on the rebate form is filled out correctly and submit the forms to CIPCO before their deadline. All equipment installed after January 1st, 2010 will need to comply with the incentives and rules in effect on that date.

Grain Bin Clearance

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact your electric cooperative. The electric 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.

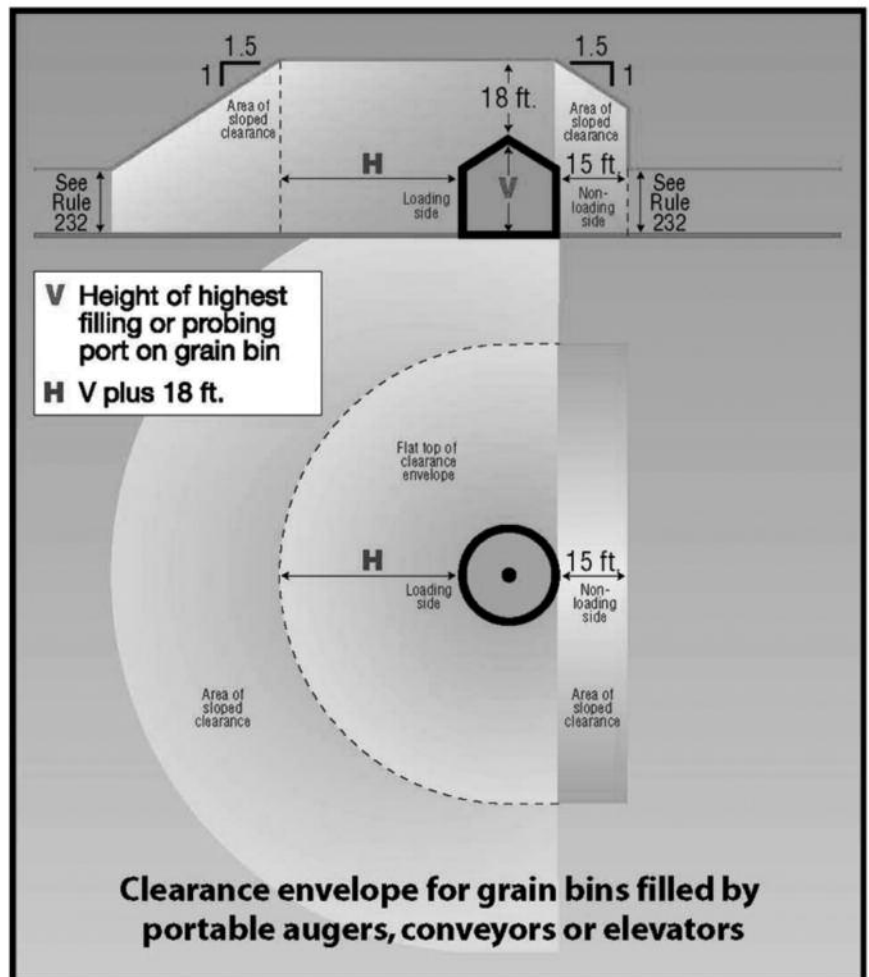
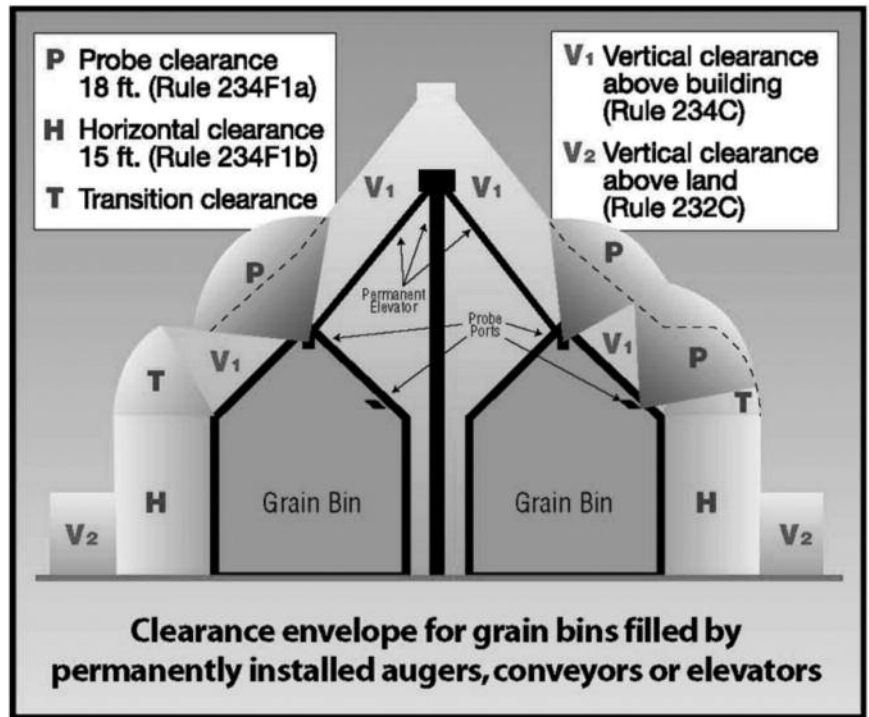
The drawings at right show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact Farmers Electric Cooperative.

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) C2-2007 "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)

The 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 call:

Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Greenfield, Iowa

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