

# FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021



### Office Closed for Holiday

The Farmers Electric office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday. We wish all our members a safe and healthy holiday!

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings. *Source: energy.gov*



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

### NOTICE:

## Considering Solar? Call Us First



If you are a member of Farmers REC, and are considering installing solar, please contact us first before signing any contracts with a solar installer. We want to ensure that you understand how a solar interconnection with our system could impact your current account and billing rate. Contact Holi Weston at 1-800-397-4821 or send us an email by visiting our website, [www.farmersrec.com](http://www.farmersrec.com) and clicking on "Contact Us."

## Linemen Practice Vital Rescue Techniques

In an emergency situation, Farmers Electric linemen must know the quickest, safest and most practical way to rescue their partner if contact with an energized power line is made

With thousands of volts of electricity running

through power lines at any given time, it can take only a split second for a lineman to be rendered unconscious, injured or electrocuted.

Being able to perform a pole top rescue requires hours of rigorous training that emphasizes diligence and safety for all. In a simulated pole top rescue scenario, linemen must climb the pole, secure a rope around a 150-pound dummy, lower it to the ground, and begin lifesaving procedures.



Pictured is Apprentice Lineman Mason Wisse practicing pole top rescue while Lineman Josh Oder looks on to provide guidance and encouragement. Farmers Electric linemen are tested regularly on these vital skills and must be able to perform them correctly in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.

# Contact Us When Planning for New Grain Bin

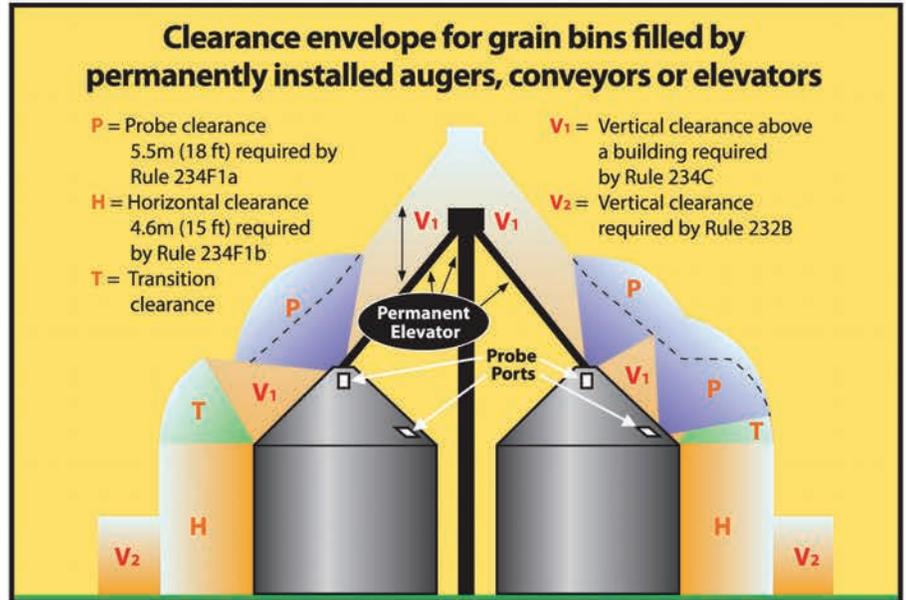
**W**hen you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact Farmers Electric Cooperative.

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.

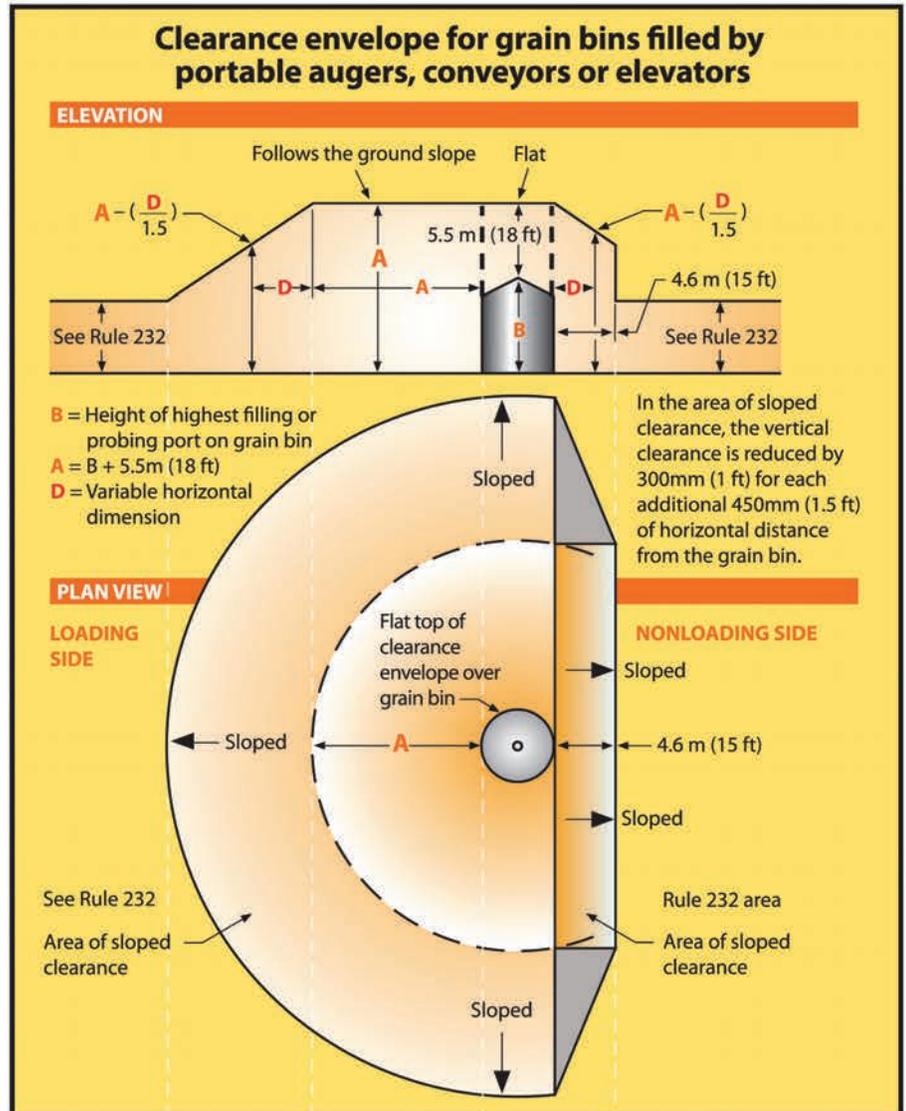
The drawing at right depicts the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact Farmers at (800) 397-4821.

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)

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 the Farmers Electric Cooperative office.



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## NEED HELP WITH HEATING BILLS?

The LIHEAP application period is now open for all households in Farmers Electric service territory. Visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap> for details.





## Westphal Attends 2021 Washington D.C. Flyin

Farmers Electric President and Central Iowa Power Cooperative Board Member Dan Westphal was among a group of representatives from Iowa's rural electric co-ops to visit Washington, D.C., in September.

Every year, RECs from across the country travel to our nation's capital to meet face-to-face with Iowa's Congressional leaders. It's important for electric co-ops like Farmers Electric to advocate on behalf of our members for legislation that is fair and representative of our co-op's values and goals.

Sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the trip is an opportunity to highlight how federal legislation affects RECs like Farmers Electric.

Dan Westphal is pictured, third from right, with the group meeting with Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks. Speaking at far right is Bill Cherrier, Executive Vice President and CEO of Central Iowa Power Cooperative, as well as IAEC Executive Vice President & General Manager Chuck Soderberg, fourth from right.

# Thankful For You

**F**or me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all Farmers Electric employees when I say that we are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

Studies have shown that communities where owners occupy the majority of homes are more successful academically, are more physically fit and have a stronger sense of community. While owning a home may not be possible or desirable for everyone, ownership does matter. It just seems to make sense that we treat things we own with greater care.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your ownership role with your electric cooperative. Every member of Farmers Electric take pride in the fact that you are an owner of your electric co-op. While at times it

may seem easy to take the provision of electricity for granted, we are working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you are well taken care of when it comes to your electricity needs.

Our community is strong. But think about how much greater it can be when we work cooperatively to tackle our challenges. If we act like owners on a consistent basis, we will put even more care and attention into our community, and we will look locally for solutions. Finding local solutions can help keep money – and people – right here in our community.

We all have a role to play. As your local electric cooperative, we promise to do our part for the community. If you have thoughts about how we can do a better job, please contact us through our website or message us from our Facebook page. You are the owners of this co-op, and we welcome your active participation.



**CHARLIE DUNN**  
CEO

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor fall project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five steps for safe digging:



**1. NOTIFY**  
Call 8-1-1 or make a request online 2-3 days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.



**2. WAIT**  
Wait 2-3 days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



**3. CONFIRM**  
Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



**4. RESPECT**  
Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of the project.

**5. DIG CAREFULLY**

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24" on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.





**T**his Thanksgiving, we hope you take a moment to share in the bounty of the season and give thanks for those things you are most grateful for. From all of us at Farmers Electric, Happy Thanksgiving!

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](mailto:HWeston@farmersrec.com). **December:** Favorite Holiday Cookie

## Corn Macaroni Casserole

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. uncooked elbow macaroni
- 1 15 oz. can 15 corn (do not drain)
- 1 14.2 oz can creamed corn
- 1/2 c. (one stick) butter, cubed
- 8 oz. Velveeta® cheese, cut into 1/2" cubes
- Salt and pepper



*bubbapie.com*

Preheat oven to 350 and grease a casserole dish with nonstick cooking spray. Add macaroni, cans of corn, butter and cheese. Season with salt and pepper and mix well. Cover tightly with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Remove foil and stir well. Return to oven uncovered for an additional 30 minutes until bubbly.

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



## Cake Mix Cookies

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (15 oz.) box cake mix (I used Betty Crocker™ Delights Super Moist Spice Cake Mix, but any will work.)
- 1 c. canned pumpkin puree (NOT pumpkin pie filling)
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 c. butterscotch baking chips or any other mix-in you prefer (raisins, dried cranberries, chocolate chips, white chocolate chips, toffee bits, chopped pecans for example)
- Optional frosting
  - 1/4 c. butter, softened
  - 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
  - 2 c. powdered sugar
  - 1/2 tsp. vanilla



Sprinkle of pumpkin pie spice or cinnamon over the top

Preheat oven to 350. In large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, pumpkin and egg and mix with electric mixer. Gently fold in butterscotch baking chips or whatever add-in you're using. Use a cookie dough scoop to evenly scoop 36 cookies onto a greased cookie sheet or a cookie sheet lined with parchment or a silicone mat. Bake 10-12 minutes. Remove from oven and cool for a few minutes before removing to a cooling rack.

Optional frosting: With electric mixer, beat softened (room temperature) butter and cream cheese until creamy (about 2 minutes) at medium-high speed. Add the powdered sugar and vanilla and beat until smooth and creamy. Frost cooled cookies and, if desired, sprinkle the tops of the cookies with a little pumpkin pie spice or cinnamon.



**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.