

# FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

The Farmer Electric office will be closed

November 11  
Veterans Day  
and  
November 27-28  
Thanksgiving

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs. If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking. Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right products and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.



## MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER JOE TAYLOR

Joe Taylor is no stranger to rural living. Having grown up on a farm, he saw something in that way of life that, when it came time to raise a family, he wanted the same for his children.

"Living in a rural area is where I've always been drawn to," Joe said. "I enjoy big open skies and the quiet you get. I specifically chose to leave the city for the country when our first daughter was born. There's no other place I'd rather raise a family."

That family includes wife, Melissa, to whom he has been married 17 years; and four girls: Keira, 16; Emelia, 15; Jeneva, 11; and Temperance, 9. It's a household bustling with activity.

"All of my girls are great dancers and enjoy several different styles, from ballet to tap," he said, adding, "...plus cheerleading, choir and band."

At the Farmers Electric Annual Meeting in September, Joe earned a spot on the co-op's board of directors. It's one way he can feel connected to his community, much in the same way as when he was growing up in southern Illinois, milking cows, baling hay and filling orders at the local feed store.

"I was excited to give something new a shot," he said. "I have always enjoyed gaining new knowledge and skills, and this role sounded like it could be challenging and a lot of fun."



Joe Taylor, center, with wife Melissa and daughters Keira, Emelia, Jeneva, and Temperance.

In a quickly changing energy industry, the challenges Farmers Electric will face over the next few decades will certainly require thoughtful consideration from board members as they work in the best interest of co-op members.

"In the next five years, I see the largest challenges being managing the increasing energy demand from data centers," he said. "In the next 10 years I would say keeping up with the growth in our area as urban areas move closer to our service area. Beyond that, I would assume that the way technology has advanced so quickly in the last 20 years that we may see an unbelievable amount of changes in the next 20. I would definitely expect lots more demand for energy than we are currently seeing, which will require more production facilities being built to sustain the growth. It will be an interesting and exciting time."

# 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.

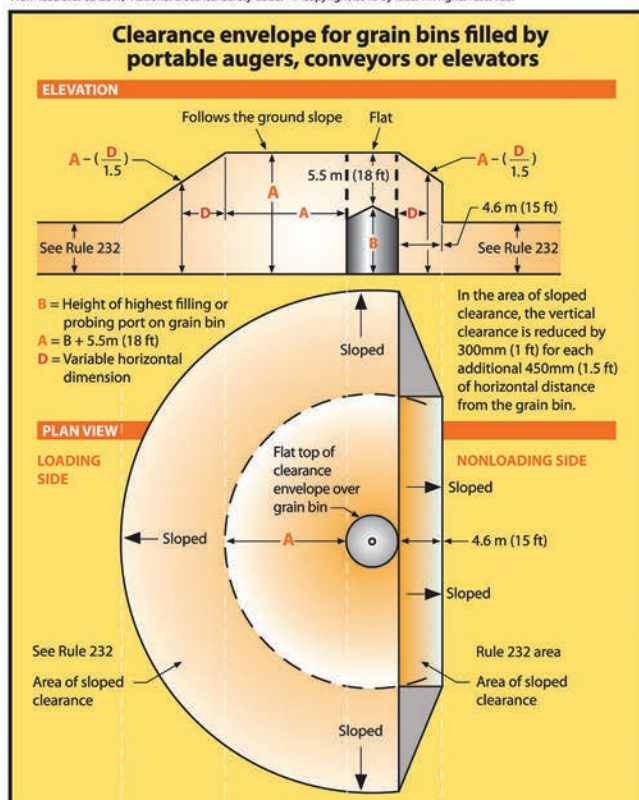
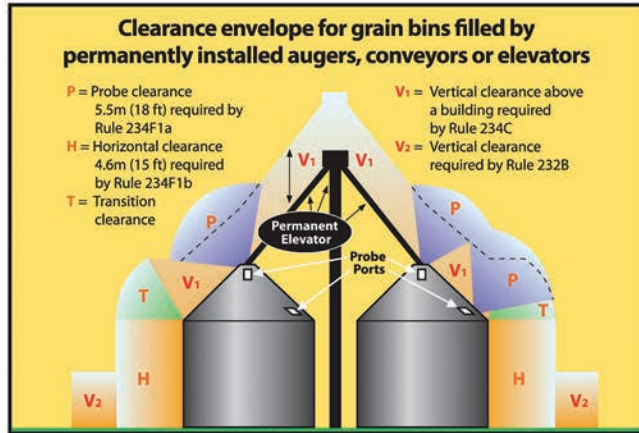
The drawings on this page show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions, please call Farmers at (800) 397-4821.

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

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 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.*



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

NOVEMBER

**NATIONAL CHILD SAFETY & PROTECTION AWARENESS MONTH**

[www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-iowa](http://www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-iowa)



## RISING INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

Over the past five years, Farmers Electric and electric utilities across the U.S. have seen costs for materials and equipment soar. Demand, supply chain challenges, raw materials shortages, increased labor costs, and fluctuating tariffs have all contributed to the higher costs of delivering reliable power.

The impact is rapid increases in the cost of producing power, longer and more unpredictable project timelines and the need for more financing, all of which have driven electric rates up.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), retail prices for electricity have increased faster than the rate of inflation since 2022 and are expected to continue increasing through 2026. Retail energy prices include the cost of generating, transmitting, and delivering electricity to Farmers Electric members, plus taxes and other fees. Additionally, in recent years, the co-op has increased its capital investment to replace or upgrade delivery infrastructure, among other factors.

To help reduce the risk of rising utility bills, take advantage of energy efficiency practices and technology. Simple changes can not only reduce your bill but also reduce pressure on the electric grid and the need for costly generation.

If you need assistance paying your winter heating bills, consider applying for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Find out more at [www.hhs.iowa.gov/assistance-programs](http://www.hhs.iowa.gov/assistance-programs).

## THE SEASON OF GIVING

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, I'm reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another—and at Farmers Electric that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're here to make life better for the people we serve—our members, neighbors and friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than at this time of year.

Take our Operation Round-Up program, for example. Thanks to the generosity of members who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we provide help to local families and organizations in need.

We're also proud to support local

students through the Youth Tour program, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to

Washington, D.C., to see democracy

in action. That's giving in the most meaningful way—by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools teaching youngsters how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too.

You'll also find our team out in the community beyond work—coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, and serving on non-profit boards. Because when you're part of a co-op, giving back isn't a requirement—it's just what we do.

At Farmers Electric, we believe concern for community is more than a value—it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.



**HOLI WESTON**  
CEO



## QUESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS?

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](mailto:customer@iuc.iowa.gov).



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## CRANBERRY-ORANGE SAUCE

- 16 oz. whole cranberries, fresh or frozen
- 1 orange for zest and juice
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1-2 cinnamon sticks

In a medium sized saucepan, add cranberries, sugar and cinnamon sticks, depending on your taste. Add about two tablespoons of orange zest or more if desired. Squeeze juice from orange into pan. Optional: cut orange peel into thin strips and add to pan. Cook over medium heat stirring occasionally until the cranberries burst and the sauce thickens. Serve at room temperature or cool and refrigerate. Remove the cinnamon stick(s) before serving.



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## SHEET PAN CRISPY MASHED POTATOES

- 5 lb. Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and cut into 1.5 - 2 inch pieces
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/3 c. vegetable oil
- 4 T. (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 1/4 c. chopped fresh chives

Preheat oven to 425. Add potatoes to a large pot and cover with water by at least 1". Heavily salt the water and bring to boil over high heat, about 10 minutes. Drain using a colander, then shake the colander as hard as you can until potatoes are roughed up and craggy. Transfer potatoes to sheet pan and let dry for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, pour vegetable oil onto a separate sheet pan and heat in the oven for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and carefully transfer potatoes to the hot oil. Gently mash potatoes with back of spoon, then season with salt and pepper. Scatter butter over the potatoes. Bake 45 minutes or until bottoms of potatoes are golden brown. Toss potatoes and continue to bake 50-55 minutes more, until tops are golden brown. Cool 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper and chives.

## CALL FOR RECIPES

Each month, Farmers Electric invites readers and members to submit their favorite recipe for publication in this newsletter and a chance to get \$5 off their next electric bill.

To enter, mail your recipe with your bill to: Farmers Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 330, Greenfield, IA 50849; or email it to: [HWeston@farmersrec.com](mailto:HWeston@farmersrec.com).

**DECEMBER: Holiday Treats**

**JANUARY: Healthy Start**

## ABOUT US



**Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, governed by an elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
Dan Westphal

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Treasurer  
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Cary Gilman  
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Joe Taylor

Janelle Peiffer  
Kevin Stender

CEO: Holi Weston

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you are ever asked to pay your utility bill through a third-party transaction app, such as Cash App or Venmo, it's a scam. Remember, utilities will never request a payment through a third-party app. Always use authorized payment methods when paying your utility bills.

