

FARMERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Open Lines

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings. *Source: energy.gov*



THANK YOU, LINEMEN!



Thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do!

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Mike Auten | Nick Kintigh |
| Chad Berrey | Josh Oder |
| Joe Blankenship | Paul Paxton |
| Sam Dolan | Dave Shike |
| Trey Eddy | Paul Weber |
| Darrian Fischer | Mason Wisse |
| Casey Kindred | Ross Wright |



ADVOCATING FOR OUR MEMBERS

Farmers Electric representatives joined more than 200 REC co-op advocates in support of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives during the 2026 REC Day on the Hill.

Pictured, from left: Mark Earhart; Cody Miller, Clarke Electric Cooperative; Rep. Ray Sorenson; Kevin Tanner, CEO Holi Weston, Kevin Stender, Janelle Peiffer and Dan Westphal.



BUILDING A GRAIN BIN?

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

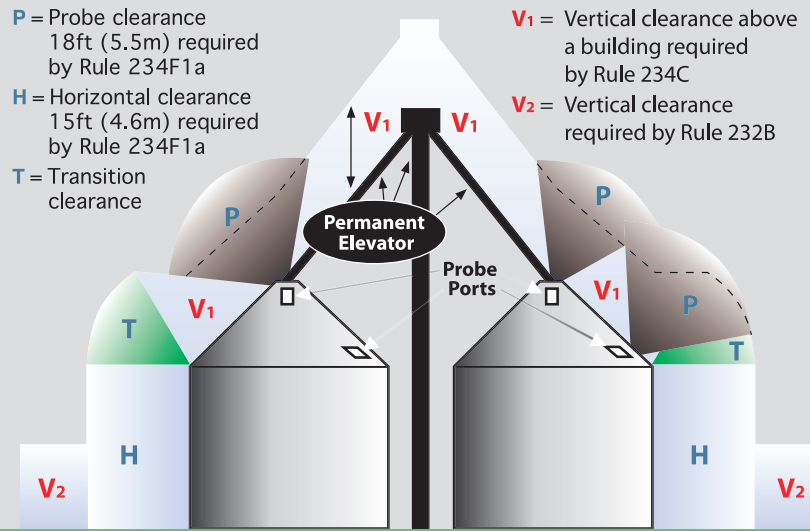
We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

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) C2-2023 "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 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 call us.

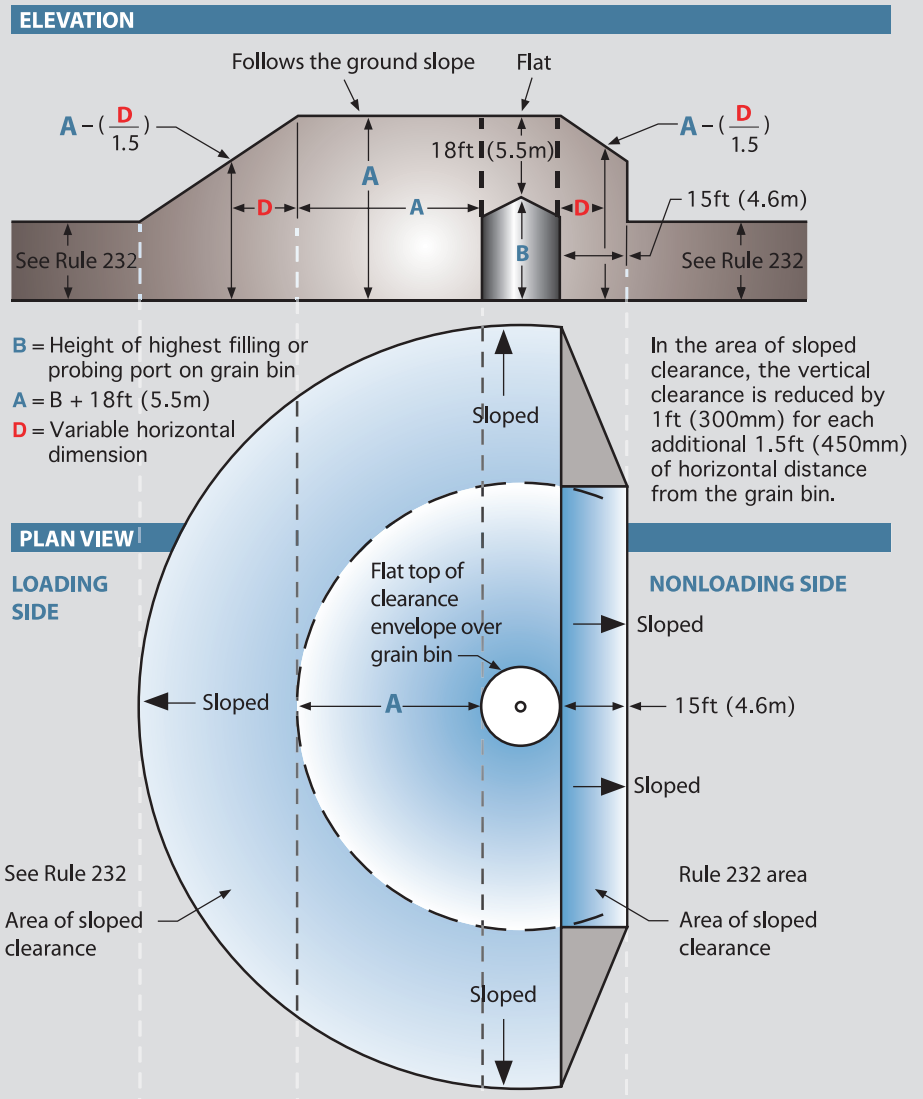
These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2023 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, IAEC 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.

Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators



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Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors or elevators



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WHAT IS BACKFEED?

Backfeed is a dangerous condition that occurs when electricity flows in the opposite direction of its intended path—typically when a portable generator is connected to a home’s wiring without proper isolation from the electric system. During an outage, this can send power from your generator back onto utility lines, energizing lines that Farmers Electric linemen expect to be de-energized.

From our perspective, backfeed presents a serious safety hazard. It can injure or even kill linemen who are working to restore power, as well as damage transformers, meters, and other equipment. It also increases the risk of fire and can harm your own appliances once normal power is restored.

If you plan to use a generator, safety must come first. Always use a properly installed transfer switch or interlock device to prevent backfeed. Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet—this practice, sometimes called “backfeeding,” is unsafe and illegal in many areas. Operate generators outdoors in well-ventilated spaces, far from doors and windows, to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords and follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

Taking these precautions helps protect you, your neighbors, and our linemen who work to restore your power safely.

READY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

As CEO of Farmers Electric Cooperative, I have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men and women who make that possible every single day—our lineworkers.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people see an inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crew is always ready when it matters most, even when it means leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.

One thing our cooperative is particularly proud of is supporting our apprentice linemen as they receive the education and on-the-job training needed to become journeymen. In recent months, three of our four apprentice linemen on staff successfully

completed their apprenticeships. You’re in good hands when these skilled and experienced linemen head out for a day of building, maintaining or repairing our 1,801 miles of electric line to ensure your power is reliable.



HOLI WESTON
CEO

We understand any time the lights go out can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, dangerous. Our crew approaches each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On April 13, 2026, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.



FINALLY GETTING TO THAT LANDSCAPING PROJECT?

Always contact 811 before putting a shovel in the ground or you could disrupt power.

Call 811 or visit iowaonecall.com before digging.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



simplyscratch.com

COWBOY PASTA

- 1 lb. hamburger
- 2 cans ranch style beans
- 2 (12 oz.) VELVEETA® Shells & Cheese Dinner
- 1 can of diced tomatoes and green chilis, optional
- Salt and pepper for taste

In large frying pan, brown hamburger and drain; add beans, cover and cook on low to medium heat. Prepare Shells & Cheese Dinner according to package. Add cooked Shells & Cheese to meat mixture. Add diced tomatoes and green chilies if desired and salt and pepper to taste. Heat through and serve warm.

Donna Bane, Lorimor

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



When widespread outages occur, scammers may target affected utility customers, urging them to provide personal information to restore service. If this happens, remember to contact Farmers Electric through official channels (phone number on bill or web site). Your safety and personal information is worth pausing to verify unknown senders.



slurrrp.com

PASTA BAKE

- 1 lb. hamburger, browned
- 1/2 lb. Italian sausage, browned
- 16 oz. rotini or penne pasta, cooked
- 2 T. butter
- 1 egg, beaten
- 16 oz. cottage cheese
- 12 oz. shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- 1/4 c. grated parmesan cheese
- 24 oz. tomato pasta sauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brown hamburger and Italian sausage together over medium heat. Add pasta sauce and heat through. Place cooked pasta into a large bowl. Add butter, egg, cottage cheese, parmesan, and 8 oz. of mozzarella. Add meat and sauce mixture and stir thoroughly. Put into 9x13 baking dish. Top with remaining mozzarella. Bake for 30-40 minutes until bubbly. Serves 8. TIP: For browned and bubbly cheese, put it under the oven broiler for 3-5 minutes. Watch it closely to prevent burning. Optional: garnish with parsley flakes.

Tiffany Jensen, Winterset

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.

MAY: Beef Month

JUNE: Salads

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.

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