

SPARKS of news

Board room highlights

At their most recent meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved work orders and special equipment totaling \$78,719.33 being submitted to RUS for reimbursement.
- Approved retiring patronage to the estates of deceased members, totaling \$4,469.24.
- Approved a donation of \$250 to Bridge of Hope from Operation Round-Up
- Approved the submission of the 2019 CFC Officer's Compliance Certification by staff.



(L to R) Rick Whalen, economic development director, and Jeff Spear, owner, JT Machine & Tool Co.

JT Machine & Tool Co. receives loan

At Franklin REC we are committed to our communities and to economic development.

Recently, through our USDA loan program, we helped fund a project for JT Machine & Tools Co., Hampton, for an expansion.

Contact Franklin REC at 641-456-2557 for more information on our program. Let us help you make your business dreams a reality.

Thankful for our employees



We appreciate our lineworkers every day, but on the second Monday of April each year we observe National Lineworkers' Appreciation Day. Thank you to our crew for their hard work and commitment to our members and for facing challenges with safety as a priority. (Front row, l to r) Andrew Preston, Al Fink, Shayler Beadle. (Back row, l to r) Justin Wenzel, Chace Klein, Tom Demro.



This year, April 22 is Administrative Professionals' Day. We want to thank (l to r) Emily Rush, Christy Mason, Brenda DeYoung, and Madison Mason. They assist our members with billing, rebates, FirstCall, and Exede questions, along with many other tasks. We appreciate their dedication to our members and for making sure the office is organized and running smoothly.



New employee

Shayler Beadle joined Franklin REC in December of 2019, as an apprentice lineman. He is a graduate of Aplington-Parkersburg High School and Minnesota West Community College. Shayler was a temporary apprentice at Federated Rural Electric Association in Jackson, MN, before coming to Franklin REC. He enjoys golfing in his free time. Welcome to Franklin REC, Shayler!



Earns certificate

Congratulations to Andrew Preston, Franklin REC lineman, for earning his apprenticeship certificate. A graduate of Nile C. Kinnick High School, Yokosuka, Japan, and Marshalltown Community College, Andrew came to us from Alliant Energy. He enjoys everything about his job but especially troubleshooting to restore members' power. Andrew is married with three boys.

Grain bin requirements

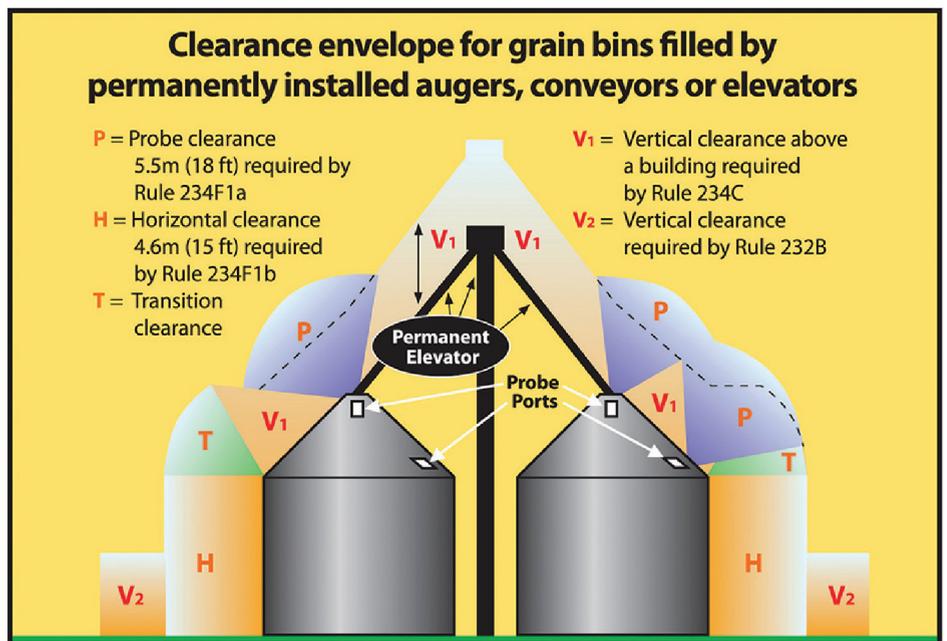
When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact your electric cooperative. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

The drawings at the right show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact your cooperative listed here.

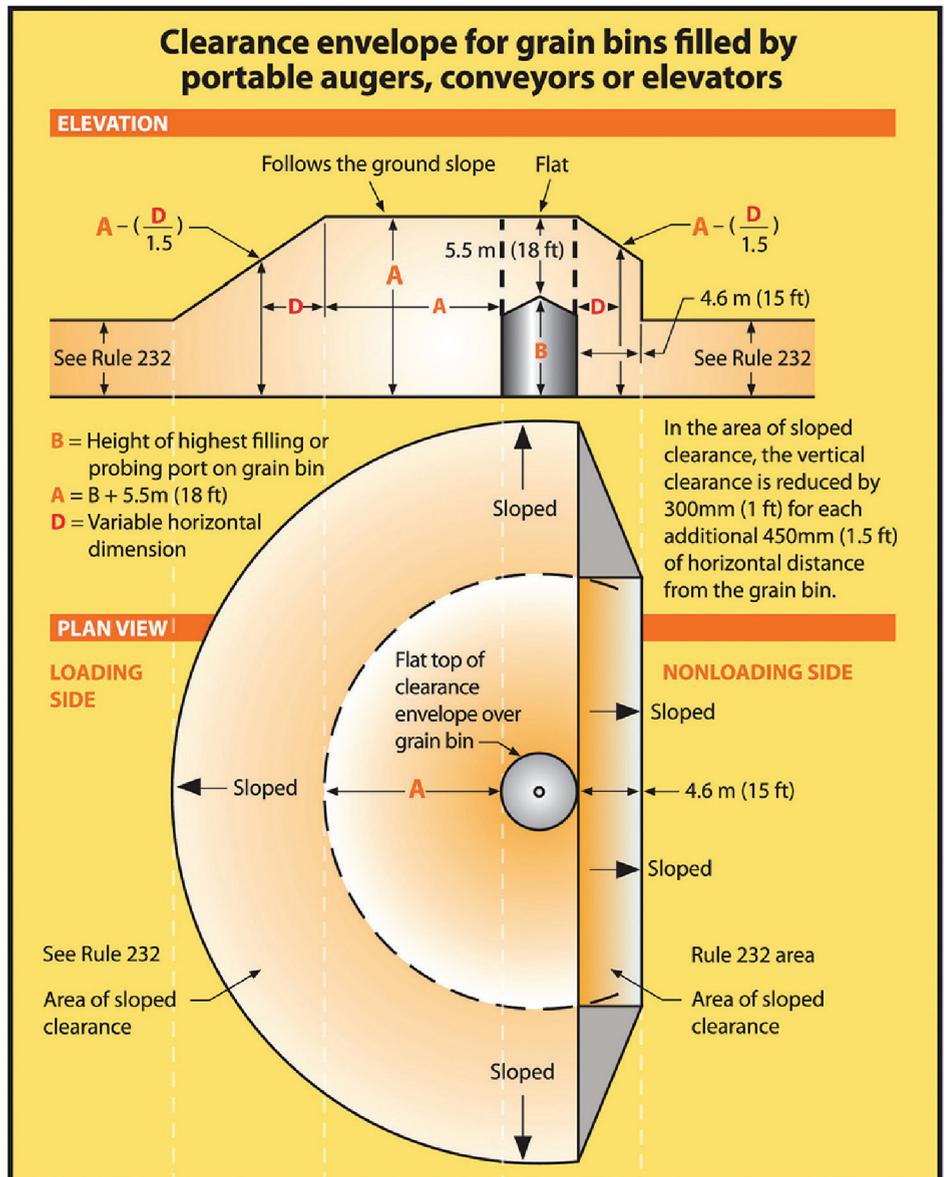
Butler County REC.....	319-267-2726
Corn Belt Power.....	515-332-2571
Franklin REC.....	641-456-2557
Grundy County REC.....	319-824-5251
Prairie Energy Cooperative.....	515-532-2805

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. (The Iowa Utilities Board has adopted this language.)

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 of 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 for damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.



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Plant safely

Planting season is a draining time for farmers, and in the rush, your focus on safety can fade to the background.

Before beginning work in a field, take time to note the location of power lines and equipment. Remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.

Stay focused on the location of the tractor and its equipment while in the field. Consider using a spotter to alert you if you come close to making contact.

Your machinery does not have to touch electrical lines for electrocution to occur, so keep at least 10 feet of space between machinery and overhead lines. Assume that all lines are energized, and if you come across a downed pole or wire, never attempt to move it yourself.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911. Warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power. Never try to disentangle equipment.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. If this happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

LINeworkERS KNOW HOW TO GET THE JOB DONE.

LET'S THANK THEM FOR POWERING OUR LIVES.



Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 13, 2020

Remember to #ThankALineworker on April 13

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, your electric cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

RECare MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

Your rural electric co-op has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. 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 weatherization of homes of low-income consumers. You may make a one-time contribution or a monthly pledge that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others.

RECare Authorization Form

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Account Number _____



Return to your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Meyer to retire from board of directors



Longtime director, Gordon Meyer, has announced his intention to retire from the Franklin REC board of directors.

A cooperative member since 1971, Gordon has served Franklin REC members since April of 2008. He considers our community solar and the three new solar arrays as the board's greatest accomplishments during his tenure.

Gordon and his wife Mavis have two married sons, Chad and Kevin, and four grandchildren.

When asked why someone should serve on the Franklin REC board, Gordon said, "It is a very rewarding experience."

Thank you for your service and dedication, Gordon!

Gordon Meyer, retiring Franklin REC board director

Energy-efficient landscaping

A well-planned landscape can enhance the beauty of your home and boost energy efficiency for years.

The biggest consideration in summer landscaping is shading your home from the heat. These tips will help you cut back on your cooling costs:

- To the south of your home, plant tall trees to provide shade. If you plant these trees far enough away (2 to 5 times the length of a grown tree), you will still be able to allow sunshine to warm your home in the winter.
- To the west of your home, shorter trees and shrubs will provide protection from the afternoon rays of the sun, which fall at shorter angles.
- Bushes around the perimeter of your home provide shade and absorb the sun's rays. Avoid dense plants in areas where humidity is a problem. Air needs to be allowed to flow freely to keep the soil from becoming over-saturated.

The biggest consideration in landscaping to increase winter efficiency is creating windbreaks to stop wind chills from having as much of an effect on the temperature around your home. Here are some important tips on planting windbreaks:

- Dense trees, such as evergreens and shrubs, make the best windbreaks.
- Do not plant trees too close to the south of your home if you plan on using sunshine to help heat your home. A good rule is to plant your trees at a distance of 2 to 5 times the tree's mature height.
- If snow drifts are a problem, plant shrubs on the windward side of your windbreak to help trap snow.

Contact us at 641-456-2557 or visit EnergyEdCouncil.org for more tips on energy safety and efficiency.



ALWAYS call Iowa One Call at 8-1-1 for utility locates at least 48 hours before digging. It's the law.

Rebate changes now in effect

As stated in our January newsletter, on April 1, 2020, the following rebate adjustments became effective:

- **Central Air:** < SEER 15 \$50/unit; > SEER 16 \$100/unit
- **Lighting:** We no longer rebate CFL bulbs. We rebate LED bulbs and fixtures for retrofit only, not new homes or structures.
- **Water Heaters:** We no longer rebate solar water heaters.

We have added an electric vehicle (EV) charger rebate and an additional \$100/ton to the air source rebate if you install automatic gas backup (subject to future load control).

Take a look at our website, franklinrec.coop, for more information or give us a call at 800-750-3557 or 641-456-2557.

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