

WITH MEMBERS OF PRAIRIE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Annual meeting set for June 7

Prairie Energy Cooperative will hold its Annual Meeting of the Members on June 7, 2017 – many of our member-owners do not take advantage of this opportunity to see democracy at work. **YOU are the cooperative** – when you signed up for electric service, you became a member-owner and **the annual meeting is your annual meeting**.

Cooperatives were formed in the 1930's to provide rural residents with electricity. Why? The "city" utilities had no interest in providing electricity to rural America due to the high cost and lack of profit. Thankfully, rural residents joined together to help themselves and rural electric cooperatives were formed.

Each year, your cooperative gives its member-owners the opportunity to elect the officials that look out for the best interest of you, the member-owner. Your directors are the voice of the membership and help guide the cooperative. The annual meeting is a great place to get to know who your elected directors are.

The annual meeting is also a great place for you to learn more about the cooperative and to meet its employees. When your annual meeting booklet arrives in May – please take the time to see what your cooperative has to offer and be sure to join us at this year's annual meeting of the member-owners!

Top ten reasons to attend your annual meeting:

10. Enjoy the delicious FREE dinner.
9. Take home a great gift from the cooperative.
8. Hear some great entertainment from Lindsey German.
7. Learn how your cooperative is growing.
6. Hear from our speakers: youth tour; legislative; officers of the board
5. Check out the cooperative's products and services - see how we can save you money. Take a ride on the energy bike!!
4. Be a part of the democratic process.
3. Socialize with other cooperative members – greet old friends and meet new ones.
2. Meet your cooperative employees and directors.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this year's annual meeting at the Belmont-Klemme High School.

And the number one reason you should attend your cooperative's Annual Meeting is:

1. It's your cooperative! You are a member, and as a member you own the business – so find out more about how you personally benefit from being a cooperative member.

Swanson and Lau awarded scholarships for college

Prairie Energy Cooperative is pleased to announce that two area high school seniors are receiving \$1,000 scholarships available from our power providers Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, ND, and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Humboldt.

The first \$1,000 scholarship was awarded from Corn Belt Power and Basin Electric to Lilian Swanson, whose parents are Stuart and Lori Swanson of Galt. A senior at Clarion-Goldfield-Dows High School, Swanson has been active in basketball, chorus, National Honor Society, and 4-H. Swanson plans to study agriculture business at the Iowa State University, Ames, where she will be a student this fall.

Basin Electric along with Prairie Energy awarded a second \$1,000 scholarship to Hannah Lau, whose parents are Mark and Lori Lau of Garner. A senior at Garner-Hayfield-Ventura High School, Lau has been active in basketball, chorus, track, National Honor Society, and Student Council. She plans to attend college to become a special education teacher.



Lilian Swanson



Hannah Lau

Effective with the April bills, our new payment mailing address will be P.O. Box 373, Hampton, IA 50441-0373.

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.

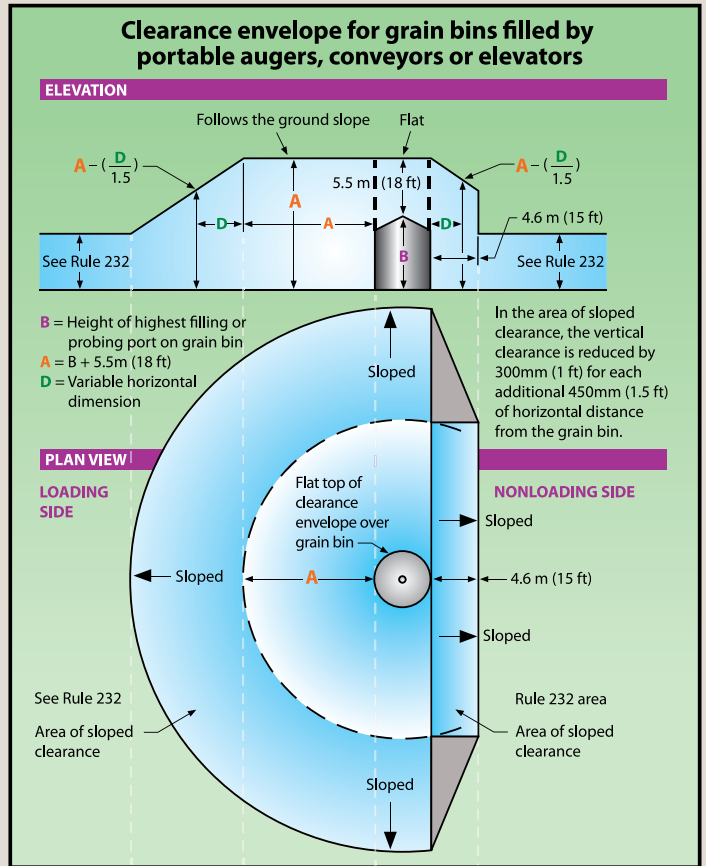
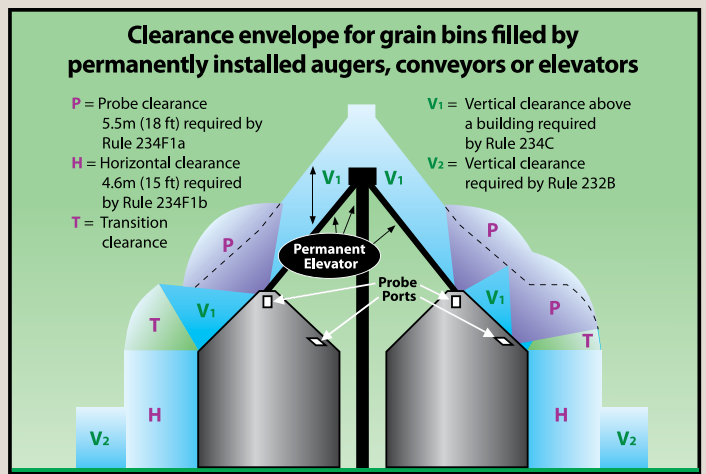
The drawings at the right show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact your cooperative listed here.

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)*

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

C2-2012 "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)

Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2012 Edition of the NESC as corrected. To view the actual drawings refer to 2012 Edition National Electrical Safety Code and the Errata to 2012 Edition National Electrical Safety Code Correction Sheet issued April 29, 2013. 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.



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

25th conference promotes energy efficiency

Iowa's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives celebrated the 25th annual "Momentum Is Building" conference Feb. 9–10 at the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel.

Since the conference began in 1993, its mission has been to provide a forum for energy efficiency and electric technology education. The conference seeks to build relationships with trade professionals who influence electric co-op members' decision-making about home building/remodeling, heating, cooling, water heating, and energy efficiency.

Momentum Is Building continues to offer up-to-date building science information, practical hands-on details, and new technology displays for building trades professionals – including homebuilders, electricians, and heating-plumbing contractors. Rural electric cooperative personnel from across Iowa join their local contractors at the conference.

Nationally recognized speakers shared their knowledge on topics including the future of home building (energy efficiency, installation techniques, and building products), electric and mechanical/plumbing code updates, energy modeling, and safety. Momentum Is Building also includes a trade show where participants visit with companies to learn about new products.

Conference support comes from Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, along with sponsorship by the Iowa Energy Center.



Mike Gerdes, left, from Grundy County REC, and Ross Welterlen, center, from Corn Belt Power Cooperative, speak with a vendor at the Momentum Is Building conference.



**LINEMEN
CARE
ABOUT
THE
COMMUNITIES
THEY
SERVE.**

#ThankALineman

Cooperatives' first responders

Lineworkers are always ready to get the job done, day or night. They serve on the front lines of our nation's energy needs, working in challenging and dangerous conditions to keep the lights on. Whether they are restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of everything we do.

If you see a lineworker, please take a moment to thank them.



WE ALL USE ENERGY DIFFERENTLY

We rely on our electric cooperative for information about safety, efficiency and renewables. We get expert information from our local Touchstone Energy cooperative.

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.





Prairie Energy's line crew, from left, are Kelly Kopaska, Andrew Stupka, Scott Scheffel, Matt McDermott, Darren Johnson, Kevin Rotschafer, Dylan Ptacek, Nick Dennler; Tanner Riedesel, Scott Muhlenbruch, Pat Reiland, Steve Jackson, Ken Norem, Tim Slaichert, Brian Ring, Kenny Monson, and Wes Held.

#ThankALineman on April 10

On April 10, 2017, Prairie Energy Cooperative will honor the line crews who work in all kinds of conditions to build, maintain, and repair the power lines that serve its members. "Lineworkers leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on," said Becky Bradburn, executive VP/GM. "We would not have electric cooperatives without our brave linemen. We are proud to recognize the contributions of these valuable lineworkers to electric cooperatives."

Prairie Energy's crews maintain over 2000 miles of power lines in our service territory. We invite all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineman for the work they do. On April 10, use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support for the men and women who light our lives.

Have a successful planting season rooted in safety

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Prairie Energy urges them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. Working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Prairie Energy for help. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives.

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.



Prairie Energy crews worked in the Duncombe Substation area to replace bad insulators, add lightning arrestors, and place armor rod to the conductors. These improvements will help guard against bending, abrasion, arcing, and compression.

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