

## Prairie Energy communications improving

Prairie Energy Cooperative is investing in updating our communications to improve the efficiency and reliability of our electric system. There are some questions about these new meter modules and how they work. Here are the most common questions we have received -- and answers:

### When will my meter be installed?

Over the next few months, our meter technician will come to your property sometime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to install your new module. You do not have to be present during the meter change. We will work with businesses to minimize any inconvenience.

### Will I lose electrical service during the installation?

Yes, for a few minutes. You will need to reset electronic devices.

### How will I benefit from this upgrade?

The meter upgrade provides our members with numerous benefits. It will:

- Help secure the overall safety of the cooperative employee team
- Improve electric service reliability and power quality – fewer outages, blinks and surges
- Pinpoint the exact location of outages more quickly, meaning a faster response time
- Improve billing accuracy, eliminating misreads or inaccurate readings
- Help our members troubleshoot high-bill problems

### How much is this going to cost?

By updating our communications over the next five years, there will be no additional costs to the member to install the new system. There is no rate increase anticipated in association with this project. Following the installation, members will receive one bill with two readings: one for the old meter module and one for the new meter module. After that bill only the new meter reading will be shown.



## Winter moratorium has ended

As the winter energy assistance disconnection moratorium ended on April 1, Prairie Energy members who are behind on their utility payments are urged to contact the office as soon as possible to work out payment options to avoid disconnection.

Your not-for-profit electric cooperative is willing to work with members who have fallen behind on payments to find an agreeable solution; disconnection of service is always a last resort. Stop in at the Clarion office or call 800-728-0013 to talk with one of our customer service representatives who will be happy to help.



**Annual meeting set for Wednesday, June 5! See back page for more details.**

# The commitment of a lineworker

National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession.

But these brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Your electric cooperative's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones.

## Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely. Equally impor-

tant is their reliance on a strong support system at home.

A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and outages.

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be even more difficult.

## Community commitment

In your community and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op.

Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards.

**Committed to the job.  
Committed to safety.  
Committed to you,  
our members.**

Lineworker Appreciation Day  
April 8, 2019



## Thank you

Monday, April 8 is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And thank their family members, as well.

## Stay safe during planting season

Long hours and fatigue are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head. Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm.

- If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Stay where you are and call 9-1-1 so the appropriate utility can de-energize the power.
- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from a distance) to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger.
- When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines.



**Contact us for additional electrical safety information.**

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 MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

**Return to your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative**



# 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.

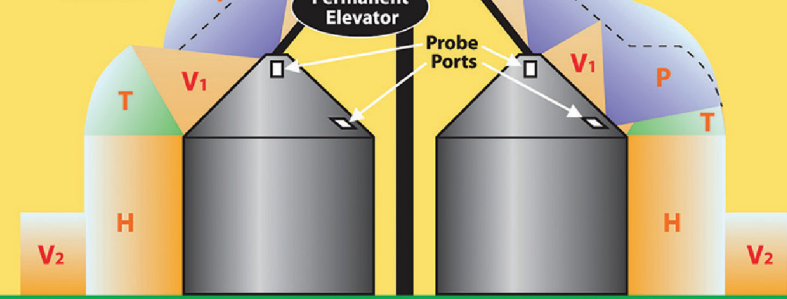
Butler County REC.....	319-267-2726
Corn Belt Power.....	515-332-2571
Franklin REC.....	641-456-2557
Grundy County REC.....	319-824-5251
Prairie Energy Cooperative.....	515-532-2805

**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.

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

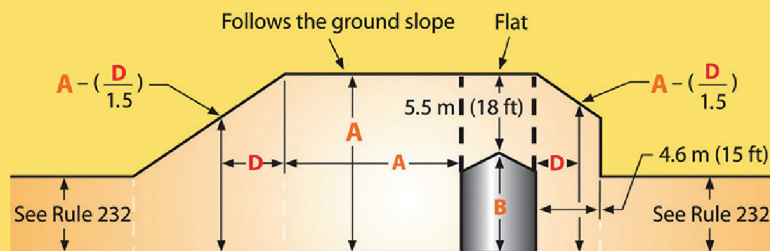
- P** = Probe clearance  
5.5m (18 ft) required by Rule 234F1a
- H** = Horizontal clearance  
4.6m (15 ft) required by Rule 234F1b
- T** = Transition clearance
- V<sub>1</sub>** = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
- V<sub>2</sub>** = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved.

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

### ELEVATION



- B** = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin
- A** = B + 5.5m (18 ft)
- D** = Variable horizontal dimension

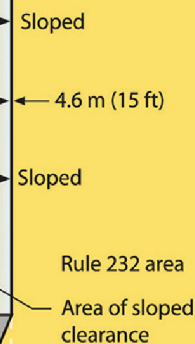
In the area of sloped clearance, the vertical clearance is reduced by 300mm (1 ft) for each additional 450mm (1.5 ft) of horizontal distance from the grain bin.

### PLAN VIEW

#### LOADING SIDE



#### NONLOADING SIDE



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved. The IEEE disclaims any responsibility or liability resulting from the placement and use in the described manner.

# Seeking candidates

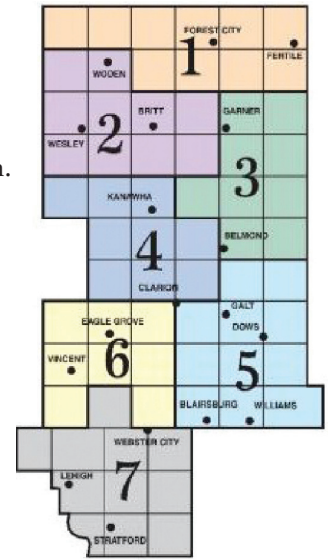
At the June 5, 2019, annual meeting of the members, director terms in Districts 3 and 7 will expire. To be considered eligible for election, members must reside or receive electric service from Prairie Energy at a location within the district in which they are seeking election. If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, contact or send information to one of the following nominating committee members:

**District 3:** Leroy Cooper  
1575 130th St.  
Goodell, IA 50439  
641-762-3542

Gary Steenblock  
1465 130th St.  
Kanawha, IA 50447  
641-762-3238

**District 7:** Darrell Moenck  
2809 270th St.  
Lehigh, IA 50557  
515-570-6005

Sharon Mitchell  
2496 Swallow Ave.  
Duncombe, IA 50532  
515-351-7281



# New electric vehicle charger rebate available

A new rebate for electric vehicle (EV) owners is now in effect for 2019. If you have purchased an EV and have installed a level 2 charger at your residence, you may qualify for a rebate of 50 percent of the charger price, up to \$500.

Members must submit the charger make, model, serial number, specifications and charger receipt along with the EV's VIN. Chargers must be 240-volt hardwired per local codes and are subject to inspection by Prairie Energy Cooperative. Qualifying rebates must be submitted by December 31, 2019. For more information contact Don Kammrad, member service manager, at 515-532-2805.



*Do you have a level 2 charger for your electric vehicle? We might have a rebate for you!*

# Save the date for your annual meeting

Prairie Energy Cooperative's annual meeting for members is set for **Wednesday, June 5**, at the Belmont-Klemme High School.

Enjoy a great meal on us, entertainment by Neil Hewitt and hear updates from your co-op's leaders.



*Come to the annual meeting Wednesday, June 5, to see Neil Hewitt!*

**We look forward to seeing you!**



# American Express now accepted

Prairie Energy now accepts American Express credit cards. Use it to pay your bill online via Smart Hub or Pay Now, or call IVR Pay by Phone (844-241-0265). Other credit cards accepted are Visa and Mastercard.

**iNtouch**® is the official publication of Prairie Energy Cooperative  
2099 Highway 3W • Clarion, Iowa 50525-0353  
Phones answered 24/7: (515) 532-2805 • Pay-by-Phone: 844-241-0265  
Offices hours: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Tim Marienau, CEO

 Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PrairieEnergyCooperative>

**smart choices** 

See the latest issue of our e-newsletter at [www.prairieenergy.coop](http://www.prairieenergy.coop)

  
Pay your bill online with SmartHub