

## Lineworker Appreciation Day: Monday, April 12



### Thank you to all our Prairie Energy linemen!

*Top L to R: Chase Messerly, Steve Jackson, Nick Dennler, Scott Muhlenbruch, Tyler Hennigar  
Middle L to R: Tim Slaichert, Matt McDermott, Jared Hannasch, Hunter Venz, Dylan Ptacek  
Bottom L to R: Pat Reiland, Wes Held, Austin Codner, Scott Scheffel, Andrew Stupka*

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Prairie Energy, you would probably picture one of our linemen. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

Being a lineman is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training; ongoing education; dedication; and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging and dangerous job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April every year to celebrate and recognize those who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Prairie Energy, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineman, we hope you'll thank them for their exceptional service.

# Grain bin requirements

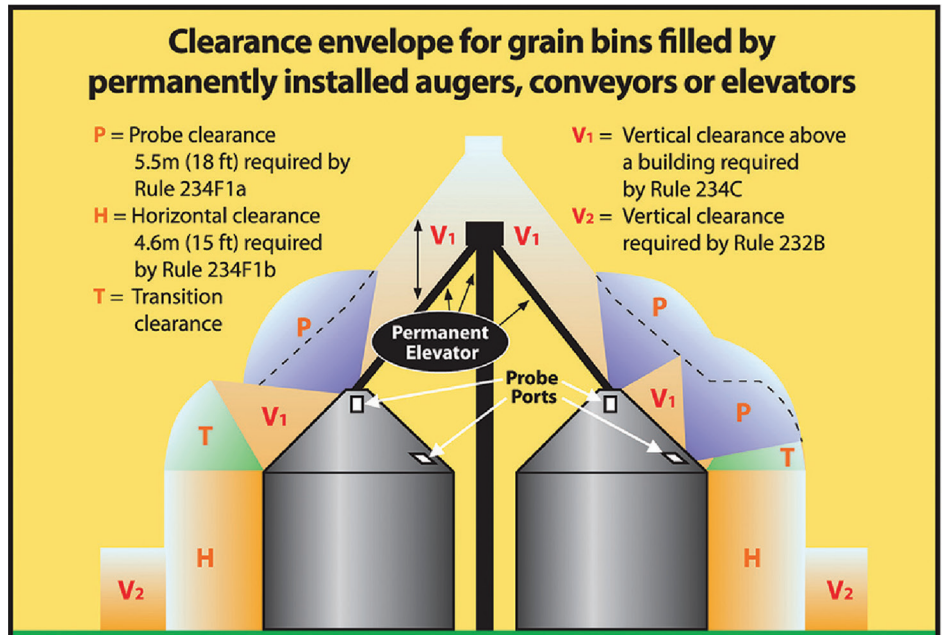
When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact your electric cooperative. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards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

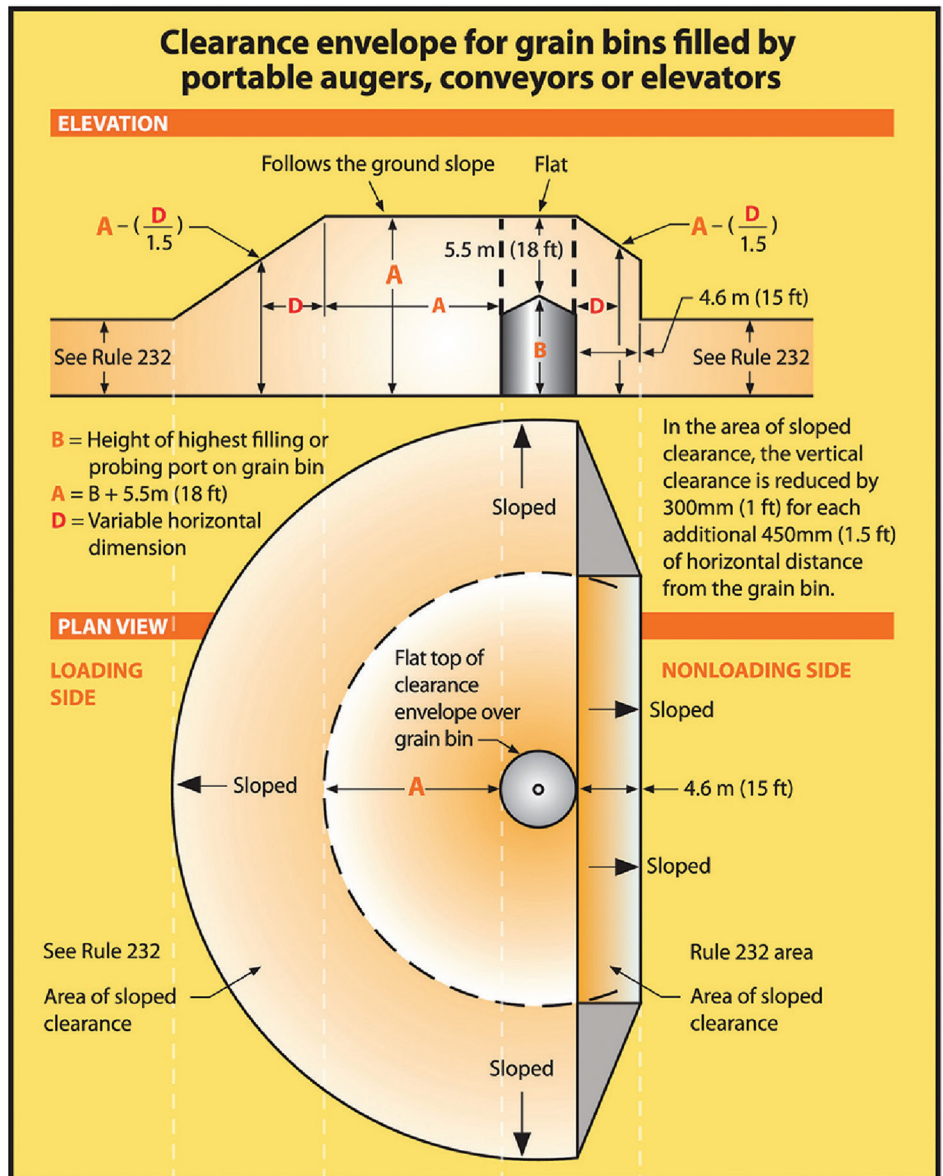
Butler County REC.....319-267-2726  
 Corn Belt Power.....515-332-2571  
 Franklin REC.....641-456-2557  
 Prairie Energy Cooperative.....515-532-2805

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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# LINEWORKERS BRING THE LIGHT.

## Lineworker Appreciation Day

On April 12, remember to  
#ThankALineworker.

## Thank a lineworker on April 12

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training; ongoing education; dedication; and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

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On April 12, or any time you see a lineworker, thank them for their exceptional service.

## Farmers: Stay safe during planting

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, your cooperative urges farm workers to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines.

- Always be aware of the location of power lines.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds.
- Remember that electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting material or objects.
- If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it.
- If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call for help.
- If leaving the cab is necessary, as in the case of fire, hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.



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 \_\_\_\_\_



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## Rotschafer retires

Kevin Rotschafer began his employment with Prairie Energy Cooperative on December 7, 2004, as a lineman. When asked what his favorite thing was over the past 17 years working here at Prairie Energy, Rotschafer replied, "Working with the guys, the crew, and being able to get members back on during storms – seeing those lights come back on when you throw a switch."

As for what he'll miss the most? "Working with the guys. You develop a huge friendship when you're a lineman – they're family. You watch out for them and they watch out for you."

Kevin's retirement plans include spending time with the grandkids and finding a hobby to keep busy. Everyone at Prairie Energy thanks Kevin for his many years of service and wishes him all the best in his retirement!



## New employee joins line crew

Hunter Venz joined the Prairie Energy line crew as a lineman on March 8. Originally from Mason City, Iowa, Venz attended Northwest Community College's powerline program and obtained his lineman degree. He moved to Kentucky in 2004, working as a lead lineman and eventually foreman, but decided it was time for a change and to move back closer to his family. "Home is home," said Venz.

When asked why he wanted to be employed by Prairie Energy and what he looks forward to the most in his new role, Hunter replied, "I want a good stable career, and I'm looking forward to meeting new people in a different area and joining a good team to work with."

Outside of work, Venz enjoys fishing, hunting, sport shooting, and barbecuing. Welcome to the team, Hunter!

## Energy Trail Tours postponed to 2022

Out of an abundance of caution and with the health and safety of member-owners in mind, the 2021 Energy Trail Tours have been cancelled. Prairie Energy offers two tour opportunities each summer in partnership with our wholesale power provider, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO).

"Generation facilities such as Oahe Dam and Powerhouse and Antelope Valley Station, of which both serve as destinations on the annual Energy Trail Tour, remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future," stated NIPCO's tour coordinator Angela Catton. "The decision to cancel the July tours ensures the ongoing health and safety of tour participants as well as employees of the power plants that work in them."



Energy Trail Tours give cooperative member-owners a first-hand opportunity to learn from those directly involved with the process of power generation and delivery. Catton added, "Participants of the tours build lasting friendships with other members of our cooperative family through shared experiences and personal interaction over the course of travelling, together, on a motor coach for three days."

Plans are underway for 2022 with more information to be shared with our membership in January. Energy Trail Tours remain a popular member-engagement activity for our co-op.

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