

Annual message to members

From Duane Rieckenberg, board president, and Craig Codner, CEO

Butler County REC exists to serve you and has for over 80 years. Service was the reason we started and it's why we continue today, through building line, economic development, renewable energy, governance, and other programs to enrich your lives.

In 2019, our line crews rebuilt 22.5 miles of line to reinforce our system. One of the rewards for a robust system is fewer outages for our members. Our crews were called out less than 90 times for calls after hours. And they completed their work and outage calls with no lost-time accidents. Our record of over 1 million hours of no lost-time incidents continues to benchmark the success of our safety culture. 2019 also brought new faces to our line crew with the addition of three apprentice linemen through a position change and the departure of two crew chiefs.

Economic development vitality is important to Butler County REC because of job creation and our commitment to community. We loaned seven businesses funding in 2019 for building construction and business purchases.

When you drive down Hwy. 3 west of Shell Rock and look to the south, one can see the impact TrinityRail Maintenance Services will have on our service territory. Work began on TrinityRail Maintenance Services in the Butler Logistics Park, Shell Rock, in 2019. Our crews added 11 temporary services for their use, and construction of facilities is expected to be completed in 2020. The company plans to employ over 250 people in over 350,000 square feet of building space.

We are proud of AVEKA Manufacturing Inc., Fredericksburg, for being honored last year with an Iowa Venture Award through the Iowa Area Development Group. AVEKA has over 300 employee-owners throughout their three Iowa facilities. In 2019, the busi-

ness underwent a \$2.6 million project at their Fredericksburg facility, which included a warehouse expansion, new equipment, and facility remodeling.

Butler County REC is your source for energy information. Our solar arrays were installed as a show of support for renewable generation, as well as to assist our members with making more informed decisions regarding renewable energy. When you come to us with questions, it is important for us to provide comprehensive answers.

We are pleased with the performance of our two solar arrays—Solar I at our Horton warehouse and Solar II eight miles north of the town of Bremer. Solar I, online since January of 2017, generated 214,300 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity in 2019. Solar II, energized in April of 2019, produced 186,456 kWh of electricity. To view production from Solar I and Solar II, visit our website at butlerrec.coop, click on the Solar Project tab, choose either array, and click on Output Summary.

It is critical that we have knowledgeable, engaged leaders at every level of governance. We are fortunate that your board of directors, voted into their positions by you, are both. The decisions they make not only affect you, but affect them and almost one-third of our employees, who are members as well. The board of directors is accountable to you. That is one of the benefits of a cooperative—governed by the members.

Our directors know the importance of their position and recognize the confidence you have placed in them. In 2019, two



Duane Rieckenberg,
board president



Craig Codner, CEO

directors earned their Director Gold Renewal Certifications through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and one earned a Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate. These certifications require work above and beyond their required duties and demonstrate a level of commitment that we are proud of.

At the annual meeting in 2019, members voted to allow mail-in ballots for director elections. This year, for the first time, we mailed ballots to each voting member. This gives our entire membership the opportunity to participate in our democratic process and lets everyone's voice be heard.

Butler County REC met all financial obligations in 2019 and was able to return patronage to members. A percentage of the patronage came from our power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, because they were able to meet their financial tier. As a cooperative, margins – retained as patronage capital – are used to help keep your cooperative financially sound and the quality of service as high as possible. That patronage is then paid back to members as determined by your board of directors.

At Butler County REC, safe and reliable service to our members is our primary focus. It was our focus in 1936 and will continue to be our mission well into the future.

Grain bin requirements

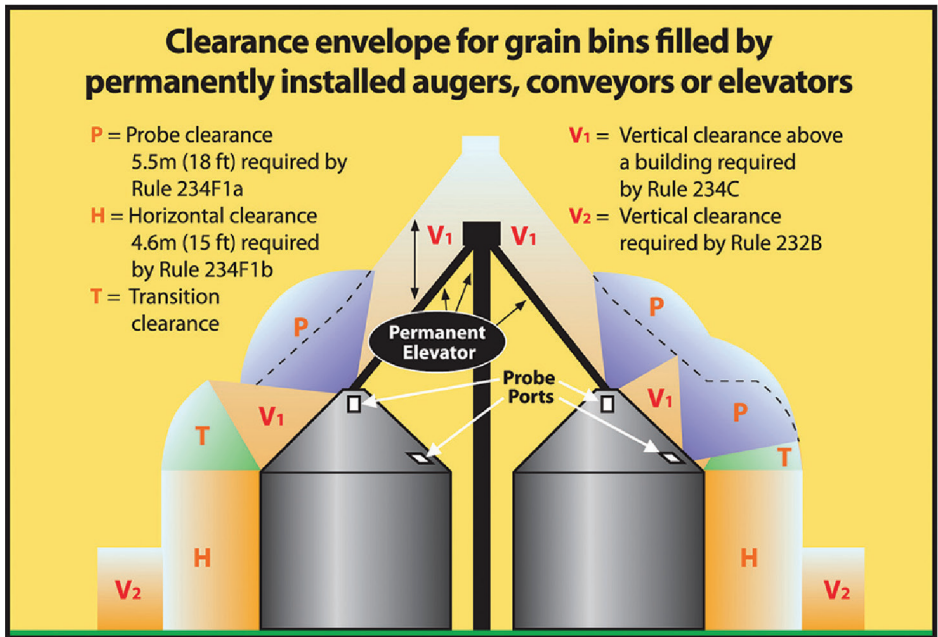
When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact your electric cooperative. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards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

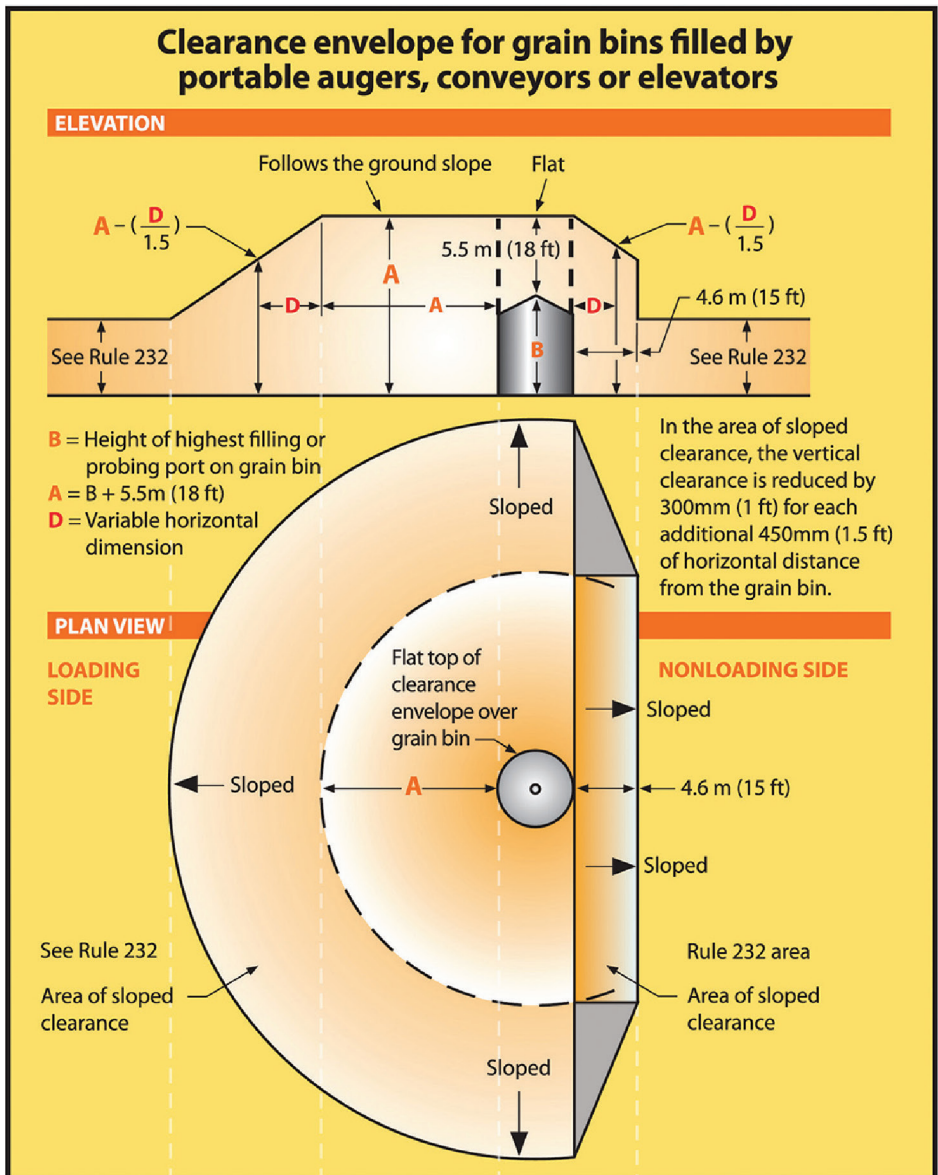
Butler County REC.....	319-267-2726
Corn Belt Power.....	515-332-2571
Franklin REC.....	641-456-2557
Grundy County REC.....	319-824-5251
Prairie Energy Cooperative.....	515-532-2805

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

THANK *you*

RECare donations appreciated

Imagine, in the cold of winter, having to choose between food or your heating bill. In 2019 almost 70 REC members helped their fellow members with their heating bill through RECare, our program of members helping members.

Funds through RECare are distributed by local community action agencies to help pay heating bills and to assist in the weatherization of homes of low-income consumers.

See the inside of your newsletter for more information and an authorization form if you are not a contributor to the program.

If you are a contributor, thank you so much for helping your neighbors.



MOVE OVER SLOW DOWN

As the weather warms up and you're going more places, please remember to move over and slow down when you see a vehicle on the shoulder with lights flashing.

Let's obey the law and keep everyone safe.

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Brandt earns Gold certification

Congratulations to Director Share Brandt for earning her Director Gold credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Share, pictured here with Duane Rieckenberg, board president, has been a Butler County REC director since 2018.

This credential recognizes Share's commitment to her cooperative board education and to the members of Butler County REC.

To receive the credential, Share first earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificates from NRECA. She then had to complete three additional credits from the Board Leadership series. To maintain her status, she must earn three more credits from the NRECA Approved List of Continuing Education programs in a two-year period from her Director Gold credential.



Teach kids about outdoor electrical hazards

It may seem like common sense to keep kites away from overhead power lines, but a child enjoying a breezy spring day might not even notice when they're playing too close to electrical wires.

As warm weather arrives, teach your children how to play it safely around live wires. Some good lessons for them include:

- Stay away from electrical substations. If a kite or a ball winds up inside of one, leave it there. A parent can call the electric cooperative and request its return.
- Restrict kite-flying to open areas like parks and fields with no overhead electrical lines. No matter where your child will launch a kite, it's important to look up and move far away if power lines are nearby.
- Avoid climbing trees whose branches are anywhere near overhead power lines. A child could be shocked or even killed in a tree energized with electricity.
- Never throw anything onto or over a power line. If a kite or other toy gets caught in the wires, leave it there and call the electric cooperative.



Call 911 if you spot a downed line, and don't go anywhere near it.



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smart choices

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