



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

May 2023

For almost thirty years, the Momentum is Building Conference has provided both electric cooperatives and contractors an opportunity to come together to provide rural Iowans with safe, efficient and cost-effective home comfort solutions.



Iowa-based builders and contractors were invited to learn about energy efficiency technologies at the 2023 Momentum is Building (MIB) Conference, which was held Feb. 16 and 17, 2023 at The Meadows Events Center in Altoona, IA.

A major draw for electricians, plumbers and HVAC professionals is the opportunity to earn CEU credits at the conference.

MIB attendees can also network with industry professionals, hear from recognized energy efficiency and building trades experts and gain insight on trending technologies. Sponsored and organized by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency (ICEE), the annual Momentum is Building Conference also connects Iowa's



construction industry with the local services and resources available from Iowa-based electric cooperatives, who serve nearly 650,000 Iowans across 99 counties. Southwest Iowa REC invites several area contractors to Momentum is Building each year. This year there were seven area contractors hosted by SWIAREC.



ATTENTION MEMBERS: Use Caution When Burning Ditches this Spring

Burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause extensive damage to Cooperative property, resulting in electric service problems. Members involved in such fires may be invoiced for damage they cause to Cooperative property.

TWO TIPS FOR SAFE BURNING

- 1 Green, or newer, poles are more susceptible to burning—use extra caution.
- 2 Always be aware of the locations of poles, anchor guy assemblies, underground cabinets, and other important Cooperative equipment when burning.



Our offices will be closed Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

Electric Co-ops Will Never Gamble on the Reliability or Affordability of Your Power



Chuck Soderberg

By Chuck Soderberg, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

In late February, the Des Moines Register's Editorial Board published a reckless column calling for MidAmerican Energy and other Iowa electric utilities to abandon coal, "even if doing so also means taking some gambles on brownouts and blackouts, price volatility and newer technology."

I'm here to tell you that Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives will never gamble on our responsibility to provide reliable and affordable service to member-consumers. Our mission to power lives and empower communities guides the decision-making of our elected co-op boards, not a newspaper's editorial board.

Electricity has become an essential service in our lives. Your electric cooperative is committed to providing power around the clock for your elderly neighbor on a fixed income to the local ethanol plant and every other member in between. Your community relies on electricity to power critical services and the local economy and we don't take that responsibility lightly.

We've talked before in the pages of this magazine about how the transition to a renewable energy economy will take decades. Last summer's generation shortfall warning from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) underscored the need for a diversified energy mix to ensure reliable electricity. And we all heard about the devastation that resulted from emergency blackouts during the February 2021 polar vortex crisis in Texas as demand for electricity greatly exceeded supply.

Your electric cooperative uses an "all of the above" generation strategy to ensure availability of power when you flip the light switch or turn the thermostat dial. Here are two realities we must work with in the electric industry today:

1. Many renewable energy sources like wind and solar are intermittent; they don't generate electricity when the sun doesn't shine or the wind doesn't blow. Other generation sources like coal, natural gas and nuclear are dispatchable, which means we can turn them on and ramp up production when needed.
2. Generally speaking, electricity must be simultaneously generated as it is consumed. This requires supply to be in constant balance with electric demand and we must be able to dispatch more electric generation quickly when needed, usually on very hot or very cold days as people increase the use of air conditioners or electric heat. Battery technology has yet to be developed which can adequately store electricity from intermittent sources on a utility scale for a long range of time.

While we invest in battery technology advancements to make renewable sources more dispatchable for utility scale, Iowa's electric cooperatives continue to maintain a variety of generation sources to protect the reliability and affordability of your power. Electric co-ops are transitioning to more renewable sources of generation when it is feasible to do so.

And we will continue to advocate for an "all of the above" energy strategy with state and federal policymakers because we refuse to gamble reliability, affordability or the trust you place in us.

PLUG INTO SAFETY

ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH
Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.

2023 Annual Meeting Plans

Plans are being made for this year's Annual Meeting. Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held at the Lenox Community Center on Thursday, September 7, 2023. The general business session will be called to order at 6:30 p.m. In addition to reports being presented that cover our 2022 operations, a major item of business will be the election of three directors to serve one three-year term each. Directors whose terms expire at the Annual Meeting in September are:

- Region 1, District #2 – Marilyn Werner**
- Region 1, At-Large – Ken Peppmeier**
- Region 2, District #6 – Kay Fast**



A nominating committee will be named at the May board meeting and given the task of nominating qualified candidates to run for each of these positions. Once the slate of candidates is chosen, members will be given the opportunity to vote by mail or at the Annual Meeting on September 7th. A detailed explanation of the nominating and election process will be provided in the next newsletter. If you are interested in being considered to serve on the nominating committee this year, please contact Phil Kinser at (888) 220-4869 before May 25th.

Fast Earns CCD



The first part of NRECA's three-part Director Education Program, the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program consists of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership. Upon completion of all five CCD courses, directors are awarded the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate by NRECA. Once the CCD is completed, participants can then pursue the Board Leadership Certificate. Pictured above is Southwest Iowa REC's Board President, Marilyn Werner, presenting Board Member, Kay Fast, with the CCD Certificate. Congratulations Kay!

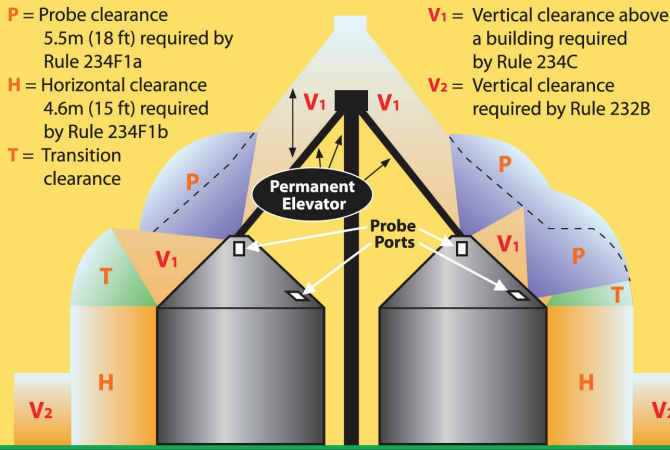
Board Approves Patronage Allocation

In March, the Board of Directors allocated margins for 2022. Margins are the “bottom line” on our financial operating statement when all the expenses of providing electric services to our member-owners are deducted from the revenues taken in. After the annual independent audit of the books, these margins are allocated to the various reserve accounts and also as patronage capital to the member-owners who received service from the Cooperative during the year the margin was created.

For 2022, margins of \$303,184.15 will be allocated to the member-owners based upon the amount each paid for electricity in proportion to what the other member-owners paid. The payment of patronage capital is deferred until a future point in time when the financials of the Cooperative allow a refund. Member-owners who purchased electricity from us in 2022 should receive a patronage allocation notice in the mail in late May or early June.

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

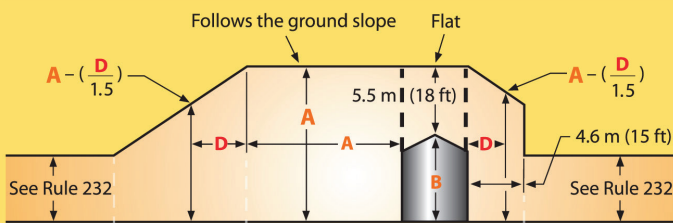
- P** = Probe clearance
5.5m (18 ft) required by Rule 234F1a
- H** = Horizontal clearance
4.6m (15 ft) required by Rule 234F1b
- T** = Transition clearance
- V₁** = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
- V₂** = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



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

ELEVATION

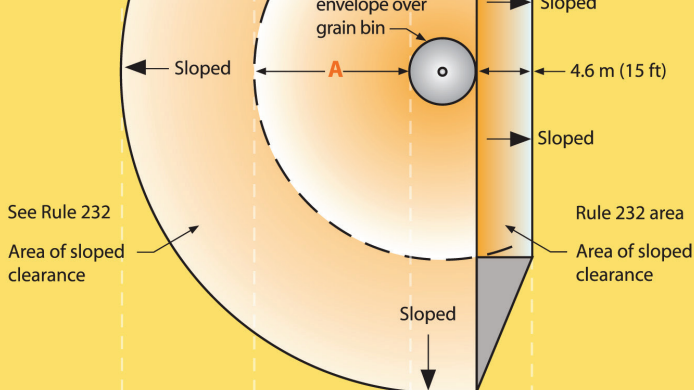


- B** = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin
- A** = B + 5.5m (18 ft)
- D** = Variable horizontal dimension

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

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

**SAFETY
FIRST,
SAFETY
ALWAYS**

MAY IS ELECTRICAL
SAFETY MONTH

DANGER



HEAT PLUS METER READINGS



The Heat Plus rate season will end May 31, 2023. It is important that members do not turn off power to those meters because we still need to be able to read them each month. The Heat Plus rate will begin again on October 1, 2023.

Bravo!

We want to personally thank you for your monetary donation to the Corning Youth Club. We appreciate your support for our youth!
 –Corning Youth Club Board Members



Please make room for roadside crews

By Abby Berry

When the power goes out, so do Southwest Iowa REC's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work.

We deeply care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask that you move over into the far lane.

Iowa's Move Over Law, which was established in 2002, requires motorists to change lanes to give space for vehicles stopped along the side of the road. Anyone who violates the law could face a fine of up to \$10,000. Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe. There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.



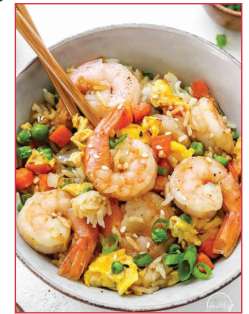
Easy Better-Than-Takeout Shrimp Fried Rice

One-skillet, ready in 20 minutes, and you'll never get takeout again!! Homemade tastes WAY BETTER!! Tons more flavor, not greasy, and loaded with tender shrimp!!

- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons canola or vegetable oil
- 1 pound medium-large fresh shrimp cleaned (approximately 15-20 count shrimp)
- 1 cup frozen peas and diced carrots blend I don't thaw and use straight from the freezer
- 1/2 cup corn I use frozen straight from the freezer
- 2 to 3 garlic cloves finely minced or pressed
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 3 large eggs lightly beaten
- 4 cups cooked rice I use white, long-grain or brown may be substituted. To save time use two 8.8-ounce pouches cooked and ready-to-serve rice
- 2 to 3 green onions trimmed and sliced into thin rounds
- 3 to 4 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon salt or to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper or to taste



The RECipe

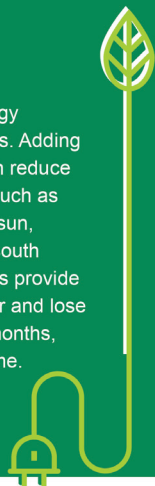


- To a large non-stick skillet or wok, add the oils, shrimp, and cook over medium-high heat for about 3 minutes, flipping halfway through. Cooking time will vary based on size of shrimp, don't overcook. Remove shrimp with a slotted spoon (allow oils and cooking juices to remain in skillet) and place shrimp on a plate; set aside.
- Add the peas, carrots, corn, and cook for about 2 minutes, or until vegetables begin to soften, stir intermittently.
- Add the garlic, ginger, and cook for 1 minute, stir intermittently.
- Push vegetables to one side of the skillet, add the eggs to the other side, and cook to scramble, stirring as necessary.
- Add the shrimp, rice, green onions, evenly drizzle with soy sauce, evenly season with salt and pepper, and stir to combine. Cook for about 2 minutes, or until shrimp is reheated through. Recipe is best warm and fresh but will keep airtight in the fridge for up to 5 days or in the freezer for up to 4 months. Reheat gently as desired.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



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Southwest Iowa REC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.