



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

May 2022

Iowa's rural electric cooperatives advocate to end rural energy tax during 2022 "REC Day on the Hill"

Nearly 200 employees and elected directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives (RECs) came to the Iowa State Capitol on March 22 to advocate for important issues during the annual "REC Day on the Hill" event. "Our advocacy day on the hill is an important opportunity to personally touch base with our elected officials and share a local perspective on issues that impact rural Iowa and rural economic development," remarked Roger Solomonson, board president of Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).

Representatives from Southwest Iowa REC joined the statewide advocacy effort. Specifically, advocates talked to legislators about a digital sales tax inequity that Iowa's electric cooperatives hope to resolve before the 2022 Legislative Session ends. The inequity stems from an unintentional error made in 2018 legislation that requires Iowa electric co-ops to pay a new 6% sales and use tax on digital goods and services, even though investor-owned utilities are exempt. Since the law went into effect in 2019, the IAEC estimates that Iowa electric co-ops have collectively paid \$300,000 or more annually in taxes, resulting in roughly \$1 million of unintentional taxes paid by rural Iowans through their energy bills.

We thanked House members for supporting legislation to fix this error through HF 2520 and encouraged senators to take up the issue. Following our advocacy event, the Senate passed SF 2372 which is a larger legislative package that addresses various policy issues, including language similar to the House File that would bring an end to this rural energy tax. Iowa's electric co-ops deeply appreciate the work of the House and the Senate on this issue and urge them to come to an agreement about which bill to



Pictured left to right: Dale Walkup, SWIAREC Board Member; Eric Hensley, SWIAREC Member Service Technician; Justin Murphy, SWIAREC Line Superintendent; Marilyn Werner, SWIAREC Board President; Duane Schafer, SWIAREC Operations Manager; Sarah Newton, SWIAREC Director of Finance/Administrative Services; Deena Moore, SWIAREC Board Member; Phil Kinser, SWIAREC Manager / CEO

send to the Governor for her consideration to restore tax equity for co-op member-consumers throughout rural Iowa. Learn more about this issue at www.iaruralpower.org/advocacy. Advocates also educated legislators on the benefits of the cooperative business model, including local ownership, cost-based rates and democratic governance. Additionally, several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including economic development, electric vehicles, digital metering advancements, investments in technology, lineman safety innovations and vegetation management work.



Our offices will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

CEO's COMMENTS:

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

At Southwest Iowa REC, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year. To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As CEO/GM, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. Southwest Iowa REC periodically hosts safety demonstrations at community events and in schools, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices. Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors. Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity. Contact Southwest Iowa REC for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.



Phil Kinser

PLUG INTO SAFETY

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

2022 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 8, 2022. The general business session will be called to order at 6:30 p.m. In addition to reports being presented that cover our 2021 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 #4 – Terry Barnes

Region 2, District #8 – Vacant

Region 2, At-Large – Mark Herzberg



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 8th. 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 26th.

Congratulations to David Head for 10 years of service. David is a lineman in the Mount Ayr location.

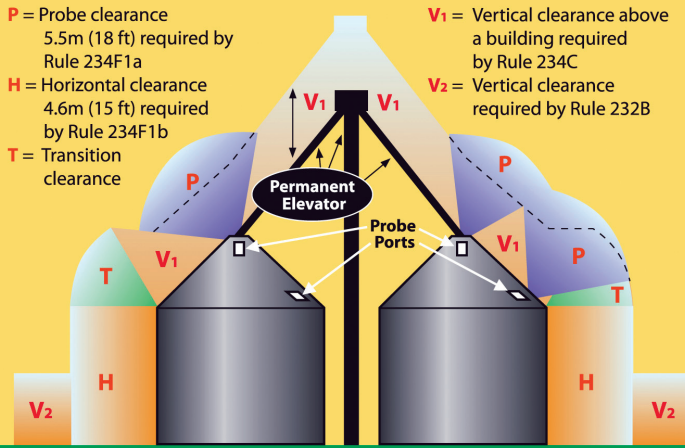


Pictured are David (left) and Justin Murphy, Line Superintendent at SWIAREC, presenting him with his 10-year service award.

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

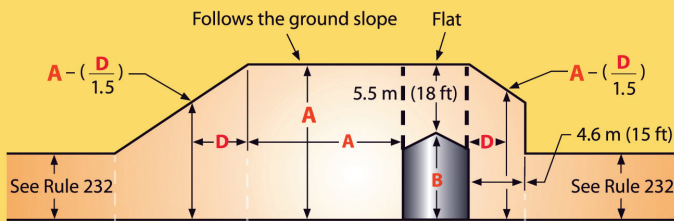
- V₁** = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
- V₂** = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



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

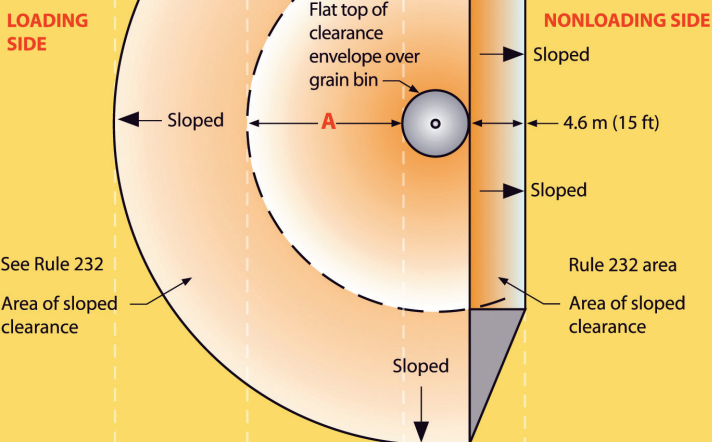
ELEVATION



- 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



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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.

Board Approves Patronage Allocation

In March, the Board of Directors allocated margins for 2021. 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 2021, margins of \$725,111.11 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 2021 should receive a patronage allocation notice in the mail in late May or early June.

Bevington Earns Trip to Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to Henry Bevington of Corning for being selected to represent Southwest Iowa REC on this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Henry, a senior at Southwest Valley High School, was selected by an independent committee through an essay and interview process. He will represent Southwest Iowa REC on an expense paid trip to our Nation's Capital June 18-24 with more than 1,500 students from all over the country. While there, Henry will meet with legislators, tour historic sites, museums and memorials, meet other student leaders and learn more about the history of the electric cooperative business model. Henry is the son of Joe Bevington and Andrea Bevington of Corning.



**SAFETY
FIRST,
SAFETY
ALWAYS**

MAY IS ELECTRICAL
SAFETY MONTH

DANGER



ELECTRICAL HAZARD

Bravo!

Thank you very much for your generous sponsorship. It helps tremendously when preparing for the pageant. Now we are onto nationals. Thanks again,
-2022 Iowa Miss United States Agriculture,
Caroline McAlexander

Operation Round-UP® 2022



Each month, Southwest Iowa REC simply “rounds up” the electric bills of participating member-owners to the next highest dollar. All Operation Round-UP®

donations are placed in a separate fund to be disbursed for charitable purposes only.

A committee comprised of community leaders, Southwest Iowa REC employees and directors receives and evaluates all donation requests. This committee makes recommendations for disbursements to the full Southwest Iowa REC Board of Directors. The REC Board has the final approval of all Operation Round-UP® disbursements. Typically, Operation Round-UP® funding will be used to address individual and community needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health, education and service projects. Operation Round-UP® funds cannot be used for political purposes.

Individuals or organizations requesting donations do not have to be members of Southwest Iowa REC. They do need to be a resident and located in one of the 11 counties we serve. These counties include: Adair, Adams, Cass, Decatur, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Ringgold, Taylor and Union.

Southwest Iowa REC is committed to improving local residents’ quality of life. Operation Round-UP® is an innovative way to continue to make a difference in our local communities. We encourage individuals and organizations with needs to apply for Operation Round-UP® donations. Applications can be requested from any of our three offices or on-line at www.swiarec.coop under the “Community” tab.

Of our 6026 accounts, we’re excited that 4011 are signed up for Operation Round-UP®.

If you’re not currently signed up – why not call today and join in!

Operation Round-UP® = Small Change That Changes Lives



Find us on Facebook

Steak Quesadilla

- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 pound top sirloin thinly sliced
- ½ red onion sliced
- 1 green bell pepper sliced
- 2 teaspoons creole seasoning or Season All
- 1 teaspoon thyme dried
- 1 teaspoon rosemary dried
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 24 slices provolone cheese
- 3 large flour tortillas



- Take half of the creole seasoning, thyme, rosemary, garlic powder, and black pepper then put into a sealable bag. Mix together.
- Add the sirloin strips and mix to coat all over evenly.
- Add the canola oil to a large skillet and heat over medium heat.
- Add the seasoned sirloin strips and cook for 2 to 3 minutes, continuously stirring using tongs.
- Once browned, remove the meat from the skillet and drain any liquid.
- Add the onion, bell pepper, and remaining seasoning. Cook until soft, which will take about 3 to 5 minutes.
- Once done, remove from the skillet and use a paper towel to wipe out the skillet (you can use it again for this next step).
- Place one of the tortillas in the pan and lay 8 slices of cheese on top evenly spaced to cover most of the tortilla.
- Place over a low-medium heat and wait until you see the cheese starting to melt a little.
- Take 1/3 of the meat and 1/3 of the vegetables and spread over the top of the cheese. Continue to cook for another 2 minutes, then fold the tortilla over onto itself to create a half-moon. Press down lightly to close together a little. Depending on how much the outside of the tortilla is cooked, you can cook a little longer – flipping to get the other side. It only needs to warm everything through evenly.
- Remove from the heat and cut in half.
- Serve immediately with some of your preferred salsa, sour cream, chopped tomatoes, and lettuce.

2022 Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Program Delivery Costs = \$.0028/kwh

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: energystar.gov



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