



Scott Meinecke (second from right), Iowa Association of Electric Cooperative safety instructor, presents the Certificate of Achievement to line employees (left to right): Tony Sienknecht, Steve Ralston, Erik Freese, Rod Curren, Karl Nielsen and Aaron Bird.

## Grundy County REC receives safety award

Grundy County REC recently received a Certificate of Achievement from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The co-op was awarded national recognition for dedication to employee and public safety and commitment to regulatory compliance and loss control practices.

We thank our committed employees for working hard to maintain our safety accreditation!



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Line crew assists city of Dike

In March, Grundy County REC linemen were asked to provide their assistance in replacing a pole for the city of Dike. After isolating the pole, they kept the majority of the town energized while the pole was being replaced. Upgrading the pole along with installing some new conductor will help increase reliability and provide better service to their customers.



Pictured: Steve Ralston, line foreman; Eric Freese, apprentice lineman; and Shane Metz, city of Dike.



Left to right: Apprentice Lineman Erik Freese, First-Class Linemen Aaron Bird and Karl Nielsen, Lead Lineman Tony Sienknecht and Line Foreman Steve Ralston.



First-Class Lineman Karl Nielsen checking out the remote-control function.

## New digger derrick truck arrives

The co-op recently took delivery of a new 2018 Freightliner digger derrick truck. This new four-wheel drive truck replaced a 2003 model that had become costly to repair and maintain. One of the features that our linemen are excited about is the new remote-control boom operation. This new truck will play a vital role in maintaining our distribution system helping to ensure that our line crews work as efficiently and safely as possible.

# Grain bin requirements

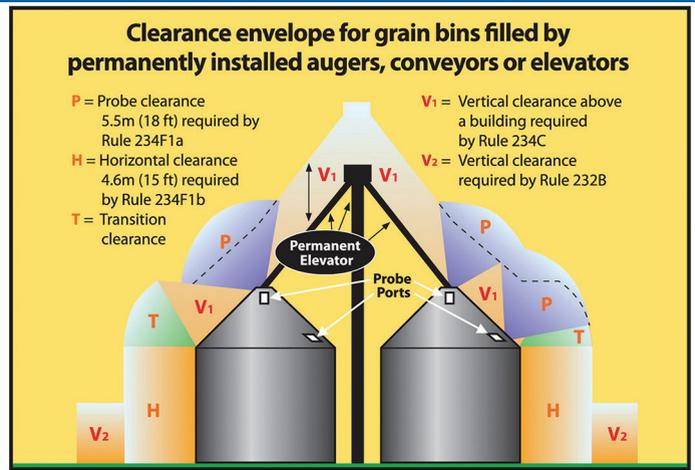
When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact your electric cooperative. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards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

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

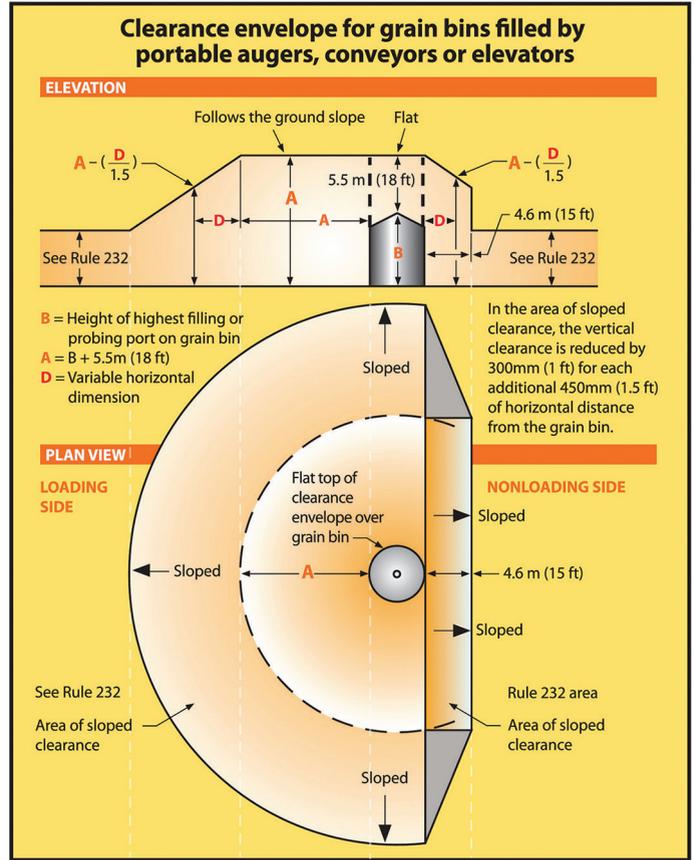
The drawings at the right show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact your cooperative listed here.

**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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## 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**

# Annual contractor conference promotes energy efficiency

Iowa's electric cooperatives celebrated the 26th annual "Momentum Is Building" conference Feb. 8–9 at the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel.

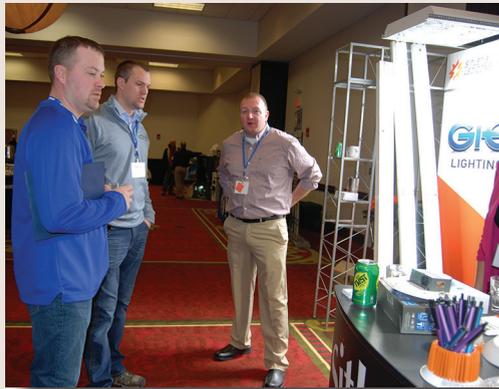
Since the conference began, its mission has been to provide a forum for energy efficiency and electric technology education. The conference seeks to build relationships with trade professionals who influence electric co-op members' decision-making about home building/remodeling, heating, cooling, water heating and energy efficiency.

Momentum Is Building continues to offer up-to-date building science information, practical hands-on details and new technology displays for building trades professionals. Rural electric cooperative personnel from across Iowa join their local contractors at the conference.

For many years, Momentum Is Building has allowed building trades professionals to find out what's new in the industry—techniques as well as products. Attendees also obtain continuing education credits they need to stay current in their professions.

Nationally recognized speakers shared their knowledge on topics including meeting consumer expectations with high-performance homes and heating and cooling systems, air quality and ventilation; building homes to Touchstone Energy standards®; and CEU sessions for electricians and heating–plumbing professionals. Momentum Is Building also includes a trade show where participants visit with companies to learn about new products.

Support for the conference comes from Iowa's rural electric cooperatives.



*Mike Geerdes (left), member service manager, Grundy County REC, and Keaton Hildreth (center), member services, Calhoun County REC, speak with a lighting vendor at the 2018 Momentum is Building conference.*

# Geothermal federal tax credit reinstated

Orphaned by Congress in 2016, the 30 percent geothermal tax credit has been reinstated retroactive to Jan. 1, 2017. This means if you bought a geothermal heating, cooling and hot water system after Jan. 1, 2017, you qualify for the credit.

To receive the tax credit, the equipment must meet EnergyStar requirements at the time of installation and be installed in the United States in a home owned by the taxpayer. Be sure to speak with your tax consultant to make sure you are meeting all of the requirements.

The tax credit will be at 30 percent until December 31, 2019. In 2020, it will begin to phase out, dropping to 26 percent and to 22 percent in 2021, ending December 31, 2021.

Although the tax credit will expire, the benefits of installing a geothermal system will not. With geothermal you can expect lower utility bills—typically 30-70 percent annual savings compared to ordinary systems, long life span—usually 20 years if maintained, and improved comfort – even heating and cooling with no hot or cold blasts of air.

Contact your Touchstone Energy cooperative to discuss whether geothermal is the right choice for you.



## Remember to #ThankALineworker





President Kevin Pruisner (r) presents Director Slinker with his Certificate of Achievement.

## Slinker earns certificate

Director Earl Slinker earned a certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for maintaining his Director Gold status. Directors must earn three credits from the approved list of Continuing Education Programs within a two-year period from the time their last Director Gold credential was awarded. Congratulations to Director Slinker for his commitment to advancing his knowledge and performing his fiduciary duty to the best of his ability!



## Corn Belt Power Cooperative orientation

New director David Schmidt, Warehouseman Scott Kuiper and General Manager Vicki Daily recently attended an orientation day at the Corn Belt Power Cooperative headquarters in Humboldt. Above, Corn Belt Power Chief System Operator Brian Gibson explains control center operations.

Preceding the tour, attendees also heard information on Corn Belt Power history, generating sources, substations and transmission lines, finances and public relations.

## Consider a geothermal heat pump

Geothermal heat pumps are among the most efficient and comfortable heating and cooling technologies available because they use the earth's natural heat to provide heating, cooling and water heating.

While Iowa experiences seasonal temperature extremes, from scorching heat in the summer to sub-zero cold in the winter, just a few feet below the earth's surface the ground remains a relatively constant temperature. In Iowa the average ground temperature is around 50 degrees. That means in the summer it is cooler than the air temperature, and in the winter, it is warmer than the air temperature. Installing a geothermal heat pump system can be the most cost-effective and energy-efficient home heating and cooling option. Geothermal heat pumps are a particularly good option if you are building a new home or planning a major renovation like upgrading your HVAC system.

Grundy County REC also offers rebates as well as an electric heat rate. Our rebates for the geothermal heat pumps are \$300 per ton as well as a bonus of \$50 if you install a desuperheater, which preheats your water for the hot water heater.

As we stated in the middle pages the federal tax credit has been reinstated so if you have been thinking about installing a geothermal heat pump now is the time. If you have any questions on the rebates or geothermal heat pumps, feel free to call Michael Geerdes at the Grundy County REC office.



Member installed geothermal heat pump with desuperheater hot water heater.

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