

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

April 2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Letter to members *From Duane Rieckenberg, board president, and Craig Codner, CEO*

Powering lives was one of the many reasons the original Butler County REC board of directors began their mission in 1936. It is also one of the many reasons we continue their mission today. From your cell phones to your computers to your appliances, we are proud to provide the power that makes your life a little easier.

Power of Membership One advantage of being a Butler County REC member is patronage. In 2022, the board of directors elected to pay \$1,171,689.68 to current and former members. While investor-owned utilities pay dividends to shareholders, we pay patronage to the members we serve.

To show members our appreciation, in 2022 we held a member appreciation event in each of the four counties in our service territory. We served over 1,000 meals and had such a great time meeting and speaking with so many of you. The employees and board look forward to our 2023 events this summer!

Power of Community Our Butler County REC communities are an important part of who we are, which is why we are committed to providing loans through our USDA loan fund programs and investing in our industrial parks. Shell Rock Soy Processing, located in Butler Logistics Park, Shell Rock, was named Iowa Area Development Group's Business of the Year. Katie LaBree, business development manager, was named to the Empower Rural Iowa executive committee by the governor and selected to participate in Leadership Iowa. These accomplishments bring resources and knowledge to continue development in the communities we serve.

We also donated to 57 organizations in 2022; held our annual employee raffle, with matching donations totaling \$1,400

given to a local community closet; and donated hats and mittens to a shelter and food and funds to a food pantry.

Power of System Our members' lives are impacted by our system, whether it is strong or weak. We are fortunate to have a strong system that includes almost 10 miles of new or rebuilt line and 2.5 miles of underground line constructed in 2022. We are also in the beginning stages of a FEMA-approved project in which our system will benefit from 21 miles of overhead line strengthening.

Last year we began deployment of a new RF metering system. These meters provide a number of system enhancements, including timelier member information and faster outage response and isolation. These enhancements extend to our SmartHub billing and payment system, offering members the opportunity to view usage, pay a bill, and contact us.

We also added two substations and a switching station to the Butler County REC system in 2022. The Bauman and Whalen substations and Feldman switching station came online in the Butler Logistics Park to help power this growing industrial area.

Power of Employees and Board In a business that involves potential danger, such as electricity, safety has to be the priority. Again in 2022, the employees of Butler County REC had no lost-time accidents.

The REC family welcomed a new member last year when Alesha Wedeking joined us as our billing clerk.

Our employees are invested in their volunteer time, volunteering over 1,150 hours to their communities last year,



*Duane Rieckenberg,
board president*



*Craig Codner,
CEO*

including eight employees who served a free meal on Kids' Day at the Butler County Fair. Our employees are involved in their churches, fire departments, schools, and a number of other community organizations.

Your board continually shows commitment to their education to ensure you receive the best possible service. In 2022, four directors earned Director Gold Renewal Certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and one director earned a Board Leadership Certificate.

The nine directors elected by the membership are nominated and voted for by you. This is not an opportunity to take lightly, as it helps to steer the cooperative into the future. We encourage you to become involved in our member-owned business by running for the board and also by voting for directors.

We look forward to what is to come for the members, employees, and board of Butler County REC. To stay up-to-date, read your InTouch newsletter, visit our website at butlerrec.coop, and follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/bcrec and Instagram at instagram.com/butlercountyrec.

In 2023, we promise to continue our mission. Powering our members' lives. Powering YOUR life. That's why we are here.

Grain bin requirements

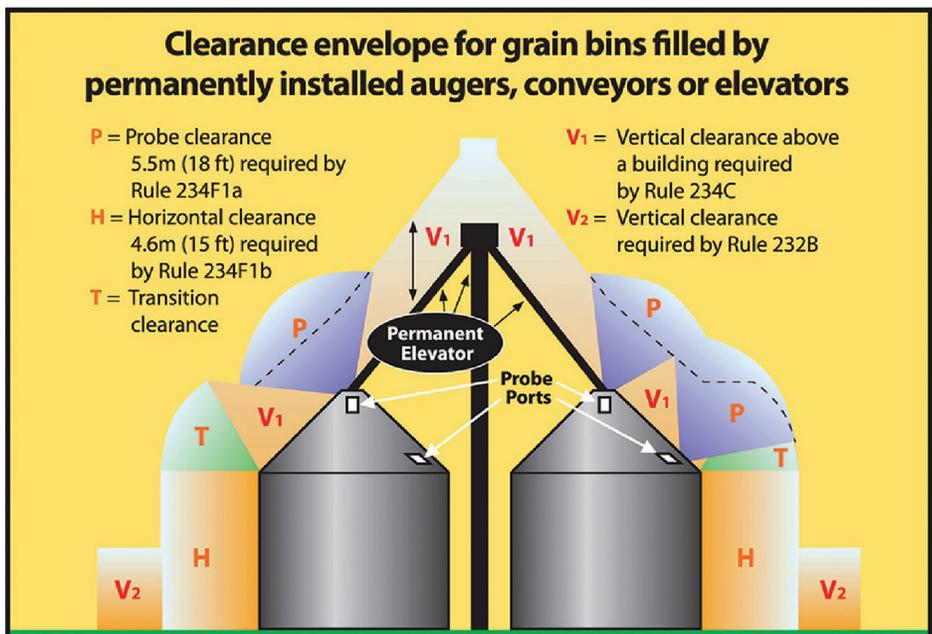
When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact Butler County REC. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards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

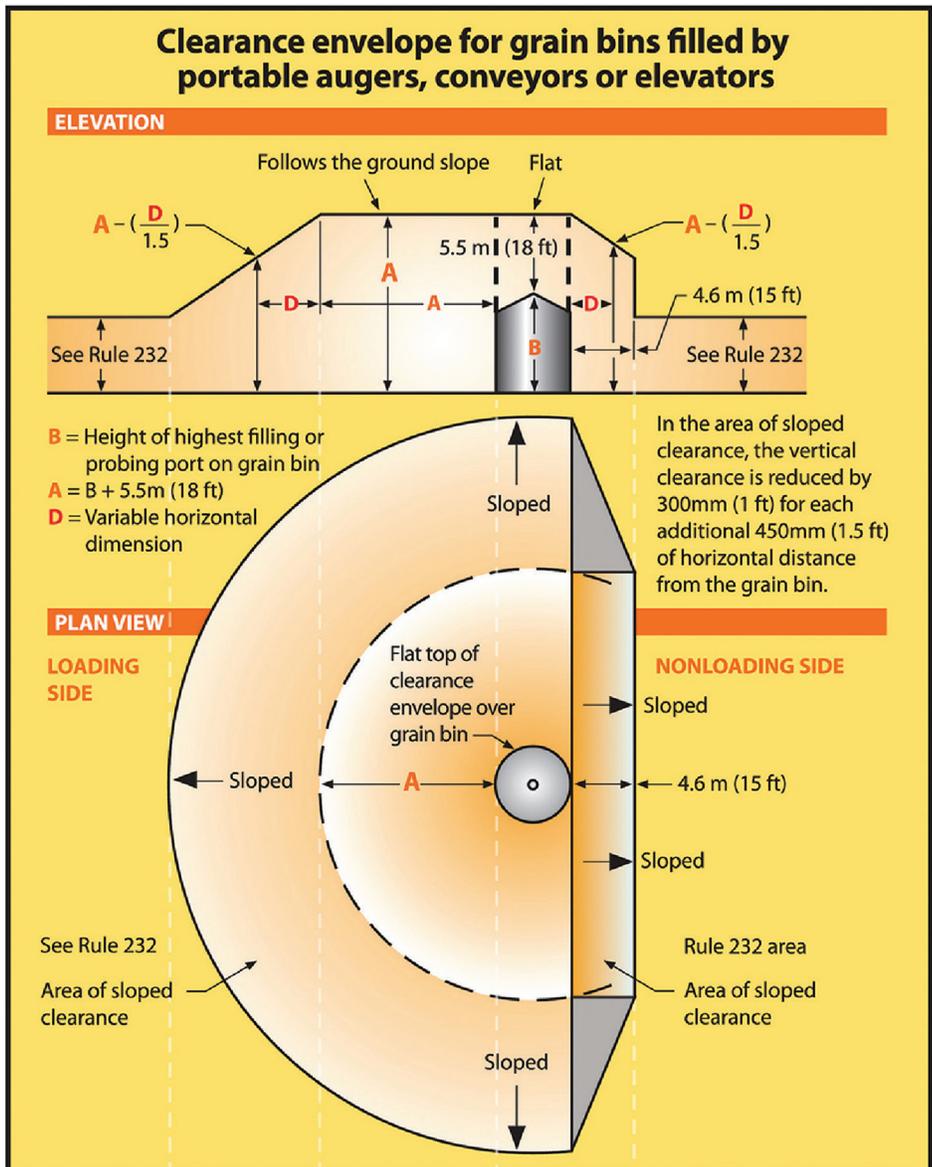


According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (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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Tame the humidity in your home

Condensation, “fog,” or frost on your home’s windows is a sure sign that they’re too inefficient to keep cold air out in the winter and in during the summer.

Like any excess moisture, it can eventually lead to mold and mildew. It also can damage your windows over time.

One solution: Replace drafty, single-pane windows with more energy-efficient double-pane versions. If that’s not an option right now, install storm windows to add an extra layer of glass, and try taming the humidity inside your home. Here’s how:

1. Install ventilating fans in every bathroom, and turn them on before every shower. Let the fan run until the “fog” clears out of the bathroom.
2. Use the hood fan over your stove when you cook. Cooking sends moisture into the air—along with lingering odors. Again, run the fan just long enough to clear the air.
3. Vent your clothes dryer to the outside. Periodically check the duct for leaks and for obstructions.
4. If you run humidifiers inside the home, don’t overdo it. It’s possible to add too much moisture to indoor air.



CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.
Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023

RECare MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

Butler County REC has always extended a helping hand to those in need. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC established RECare, a program of members helping members.

RECare provides 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 Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative

Basin scholarship awarded

Alaina Steffen (*right*), a senior at Dike-New Hartford High School, has been awarded the \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship from Butler County REC. Steffen will attend Iowa State University, Ames, this fall and major in mechanical engineering.

Her goals include creating “improvements that are not just better for people, but also the environment.... A huge career goal for me is to inspire other women to pursue engineering and discover the opportunities the STEM field has to offer.”

When awarded the scholarship award, Alaina commented, “Thank you so much for your generous gift of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship! It will be beyond helpful along the way to achieving my engineering goals and education at Iowa State. Your generosity and dedication to my and other students’ futures is greatly appreciated. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity. It is much appreciated!”

During high school, Alaina has been very involved in a number of organizations, her church, and sports. She is the daughter of Michael and Megan Steffen of New Hartford.

Congratulations, Alaina, and best of luck!



Survey to take place in April

Butler County REC is a member-owned utility that’s purpose is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. As a member-owned entity, we rely on your feedback to ensure we are meeting your needs and providing the best service possible. This is where surveys come in.

By surveying members, we can identify areas we are excelling and areas we need to improve. This feedback can be used to make important decisions about how to allocate resources and improve operations.

In April, many of you will be randomly selected to take part in a satisfaction survey. This is an anonymous survey that will help us better serve you. If you’re selected, please take the time and share with us your honest feedback. By understanding your needs, we can provide stronger service and ensure the long-term success of Butler County REC. If you have questions regarding this survey, please contact our office at 888-267-2726.

Recipe published

Congratulations to Dode Westendorf, Waverly, winner of a \$25 bill credit from Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine for her Corn Beef Log dip recipe, published in the February 2023 issue!

Meter update

Butler County REC’s meter deployment that began in July of last year is almost complete. Over 7,000 meters have been deployed, and the remaining meters to be installed are for our 3-phase commercial and industrial accounts. Installation will take place this spring.



Cooperative contractor appreciation lunch and learn held

Contractors providing service to our members are considered our extended workforce. That’s why Butler County REC; Grundy County REC, Grundy Center; and Prairie Energy Cooperative, Clarion, held a contractor appreciation lunch in February at the Greene Community Center.

Ross Welterlen, Corn Belt Power Cooperative’s energy management engineer, spoke to the contractors about the cooperatives’ rebate programs for members. Attendees also received two hours of Iowa Plumbing & Mechanical Systems Board approved training from John Von Harz of Resource Refinery. Contractors earned continuing education units in the HVAC/R trade discipline, which are required for licensing in the state of Iowa.

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