



# HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

## Scholarship Applications Due April 26

One of Pella Cooperative Electric's principles is a concern for community. Through this principle, we believe in empowering our youth through scholarship opportunities to students looking to pursue a higher education.

PCEA awards \$1,000 scholarships in our service territory annually - one per school district - to encourage and recognize the achievements of area students.

These districts include:

- Grinnell
- Knoxville
- Lynnville-Sully
- Newton
- North Mahaska
- PCM
- Pella Christian
- Pella High
- Pleasantville
- Twin Cedars
- Home school student in any of the above districts



To apply, visit [pella-cea.org/scholarships](http://pella-cea.org/scholarships) and download the application to complete. Return all application materials by either mail or email to:

### MAIL

Pella Cooperative Electric  
Attn: Emma Henning  
PO Box 106  
Pella, IA 50219

### EMAIL

[ehenning@pella-cea.org](mailto:ehenning@pella-cea.org)

For students not in either of the Pella districts, applications are due to the PCEA office by April 26, 2024 by 4:30 p.m. Pella students should have applied through Dollars of Scholars by February 28.

## Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2615 Washington St.  
PO Box 106  
Pella, IA 50219

1-800-619-1040  
[www.pella-cea.org](http://www.pella-cea.org)  
[service@pella-cea.org](mailto:service@pella-cea.org)



Open weekdays: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm;  
excluding holidays



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*Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, governed by an elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See [pella-cea.org](http://pella-cea.org) > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.*

# Celebrating Our Linemen on April 8

On April 8 if you see a lineman out and about, take a minute to thank him! America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Linemen serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 8, Pella Cooperative Electric, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep our 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, linemen are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations, birthdays or even pandemics. A service oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineman. PCEA is proud to honor the linemen who maintain miles of power lines in our service territory.

We invite all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineman for the important work they do to power our lives.



## Board Briefs

- The Board of Directors approved the annual reliability, meter testing, and maintenance reports to be filed with the Iowa Utilities Board.
- The operations department updated the Board of Directors regarding the ongoing construction to replace the 69kV transmission line along Hwy 163.
- The Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$202,000 from 2023 margins.
- Jon Van Woerkom was recognized for receiving his Board Leadership Certificate from NRECA.

## 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](https://www.energy.gov)



# Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperatives Advocate for Power Reliability During 2024 "REC Day on the Hill"

The sun was shining on more than 200 employees and elected directors from Iowa's locally owned rural electric cooperatives (RECs) as they convened at the Iowa Capitol on March 12 to advocate for important issues during the annual "REC Day on the Hill" event.

"Our annual advocacy day at the capitol is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact rural Iowans and rural economic development," remarked Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).

Representatives from Pella Cooperative Electric joined the statewide advocacy effort.

Advocates asked elected officials to ensure reliable electric service for Iowans by supporting an "all-of-the-above" electric generation strategy. Specifically, Iowa's electric cooperatives believe it's time to update the state's 2001 advanced ratemaking principles (ARPs) to stipulate an all-of-the-above approach and include nuclear and energy storage technologies.

Also related to reliability, advocates talked with their legislators about Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs) and the potential pitfalls of requiring Iowa utilities to file IRPs as part of contested case proceedings before the Iowa Utilities Board. IRPs will increase administrative and legal fees which must ultimately be paid by ratepayers. In other states, IRPs have served as a pathway to the premature closure of carbon-based power generation facilities which negatively impacts electric reliability.

Additionally, co-op representatives discussed the issue of "right of first refusal" which allows incumbent, established utilities to have the first option to construct, maintain and operate electric transmission projects. Iowa's electric co-ops are best prepared to respond locally to weather-related outages because we have a proven track record of restoring power quickly and safely. During the advocacy event, representatives educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model, which includes local ownership, democratic governance and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda which provided information on topics including economic development, digital metering advancements, investments in technology, safety innovations, energy efficiency efforts and vegetation management work.

Learn more about the legislative priorities of Iowa's electric cooperatives and Iowa Rural Power grassroots advocacy at [www.iaruralpower.org](http://www.iaruralpower.org).



*From left to right: Duane Ver Ploeg, Senator Ken Rozenboom, Carroll Hoksbergen, Jolyn Hartson, and Bryce Arkema.*

# Happy Easter!

Our office will be closed March 29 in Observance of Good Friday



# Making Plans for a New Grain Bin?

## Make Sure You're Compliant

Thinking about building a new grain bin? Before you start planning, contact Pella Cooperative Electric and we'll help you with your plans to ensure compliance with Iowa State Code.

PCEA 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, as well as permanent equipment.

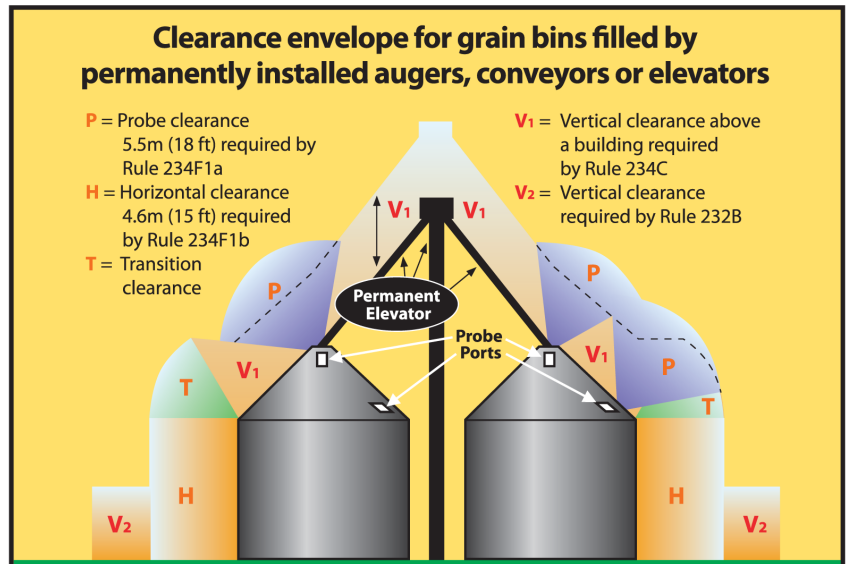
Electric wires should be at least 15 feet from the non-loading side of the grain bin; at least 18 feet from the highest filling or probing port on the bin; and a clearance of at least the bin height plus 18 feet from the loading side of the grain bin. Electric service cannot be provided to a grain bin installation that does not meet these clearances.

The drawing at right shows the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact PCEA.

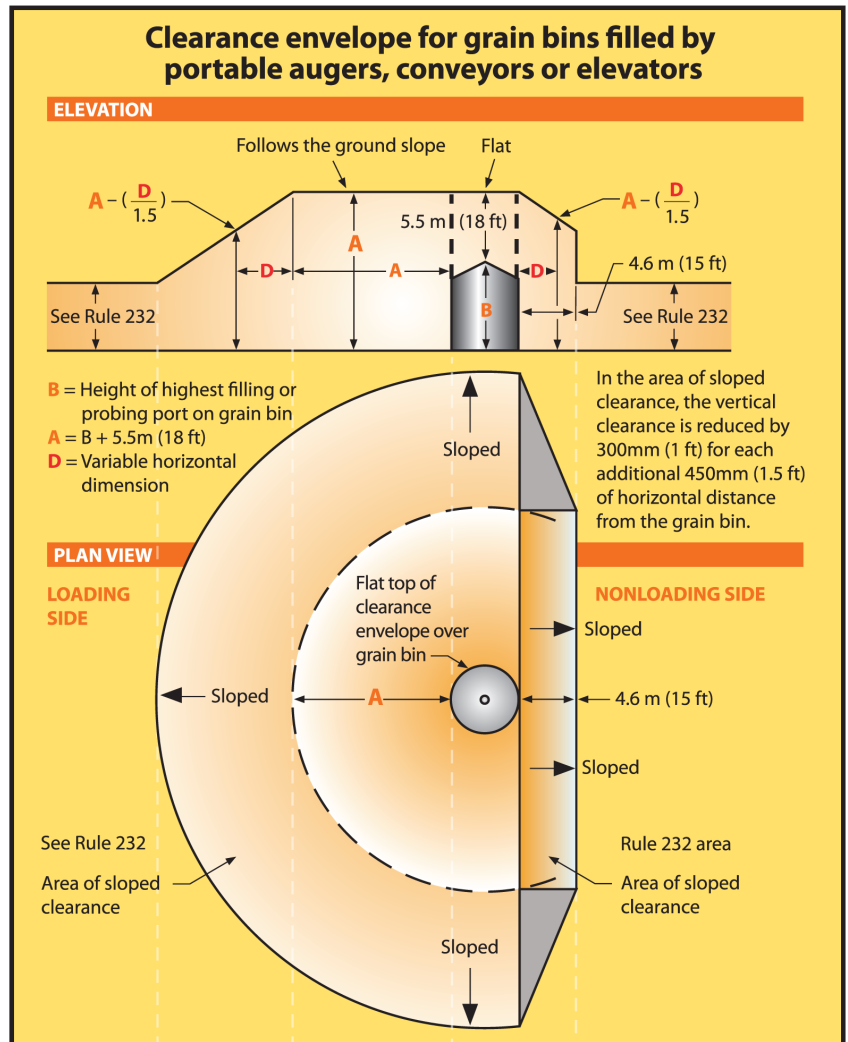
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 25.2(3) b. *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electric 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. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board).*

If the electric wires around your existing or proposed grain bin do not meet the requirements shown in the diagrams, or if you have any questions, please contact our office at (800) 619-1040.

*Disclaimer for Artwork: 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.*



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