

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

May 2025

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Annual meeting held

The Butler County REC board of directors met in the afternoon of Wednesday, March 26, to conduct the business of the annual meeting.

That morning, election tellers and Dennis Puckett, corporate attorney, opened and counted the almost 500 mail-in ballots to establish the results of the election. The tellers were Timothy Dillon, Randal Johnson, Troy Marshall, Jon Oltmann, Ken Pecinovsky, and Dennis Wiebke.

The election results were announced during the meeting. Members re-elected were Allyn Harms, Clarksville, and Gary Poppe, Nashua. Tom

Risse (*pictured*), Sumner, was elected to his first three-year term, filling the seat of Steve Boevers, Readlyn, who retired from the board after 12 years of service.

Following the meeting, the board of directors held their reorganizational meeting and elected the following officers: Gary Poppe, Nashua, president; Share Brandt, Allison, vice president; Troy Feldman, Greene, treasurer; Tim Schrage, Allison, secretary; and Allyn Harms, Clarksville, assistant secretary-treasurer.

The annual report, included in your April *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine, is also available on our web-

site at butlerrec.coop, About Us, Board and Mission.

Thank you to the members returning their ballots, to the tellers for their assistance, and to Steve Boevers for his years of service. We appreciate you!



Boevers retires from board

Steve Boevers, Readlyn, Butler County REC director, has retired from the board after 12 years of dedicated service.

During his tenure, Steve earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Director Gold certifications from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Thank you, Steve, for your commitment and service to our members!

Small business owner?

Do you own a small business served by Butler County REC? If so, let us know!

This summer when we hold our member appreciation events, we will provide a listing of small businesses in our service area that we deliver power to. If you would like your business included, please email us at anne@butlerrec.coop with your business name, address, phone number, email address, and website URL.



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.

Butler County REC.....319-267-2726

Corn Belt Power.....515-332-2571

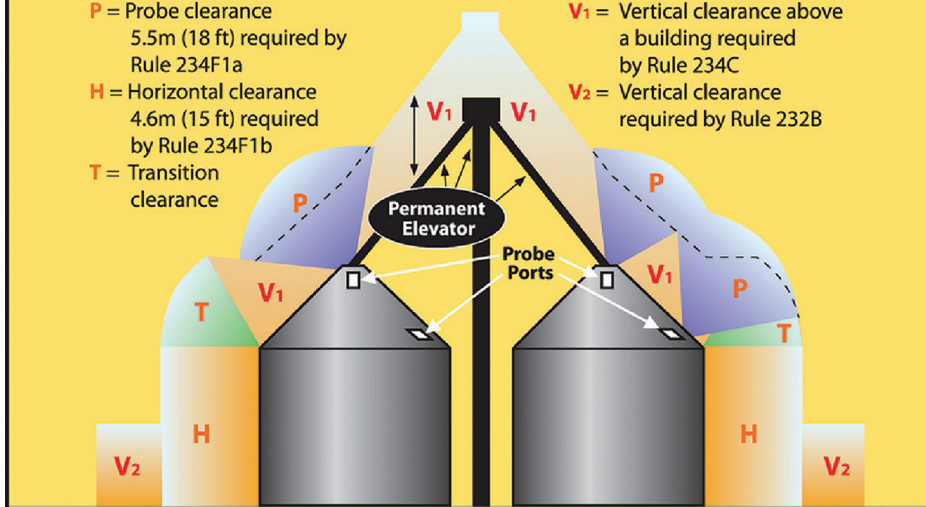
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b. *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute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

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

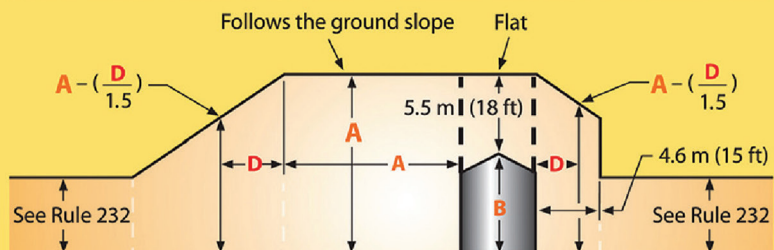
- V₁** = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
- V₂** = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



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

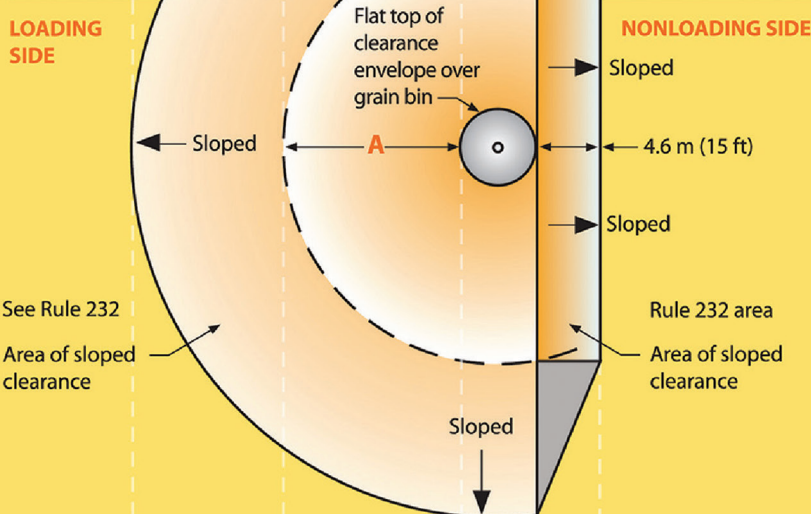
ELEVATION



- 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



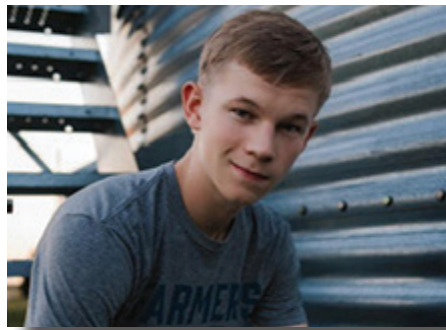
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Winner of scholarships announced

Congratulations to Nashua-Plainfield High School senior, Caleb Sinnwell! Caleb (*right*) was chosen as Butler County REC's 2025 \$1,000 Basin Power scholarship recipient. He will be pursuing a two-year powerline technology degree from Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon.

After learning he was awarded, Caleb said, "Thank you, Butler County REC, so much for the amazing honor! It is greatly appreciated."

Caleb has been involved with several organizations, including Ghost Army lobbying to bring awareness to the WWII secret army unit, his local VFW and other military/veteran organizations, and coaching and umpiring.



In addition, he developed a website, "With the Flip of a Switch on the Rural Frontier: REA Lights the Way," on the history of rural electric cooperatives. For his work, Caleb earned a bronze medal at the National History Day National Contest. The website can be viewed on Butler County REC's website, www.butlerrec.coop, under About Us.

He will also receive a \$500 scholarship from Butler County REC as our 2024 Youth Tour attendee.

Caleb is the son of Heather and Josh Sinnwell, Nashua.

Butler County REC years of service awards: 2024

40

Jane Bradley
executive assistant

30

Lori Beach
financial accountant

20

Ben Bowman
crew chief

15

Gary Doehrmann
accountant

5

Zach White
crew chief

Joel Noeling
first class lineman

Tyler Retterath
first class lineman

Help Us Shine the Light on Community Volunteers in June

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Butler County REC encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations in June and select three winners who will each receive a \$3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

"We've been truly inspired by the growth of this contest in our first five years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're excited to once again give out three charity donations of \$3,000 each this year to recognize local volunteer efforts across the state."

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Butler County REC, you're a co-op member-consumer and we invite you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians. Nominees from previous years can be nominated again for another chance to win.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine and on social media.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider honoring a local volunteer by making a nomination.



COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Effective May 22, 1991, the Iowa Utilities Commission passed a ruling requiring all non-rate regulated utilities to post the following notice to its memberships: If a member-consumer has a question or concern regarding his/her electric service, please write or call your local electric cooperative at the following address or phone number:

Butler County REC

521 N. Main Street, PO Box 98
Allison, IA 50602-0098
(319) 267-2726
www.butlerrec.coop

If your complaint is related to your cooperative's service rather than its rates, and your cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Commission by calling 515-725-7321 or toll-free 1-877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or by email to customer@iuc.iowa.gov.

We're Here to Help You Save By Abby Berry, NRECA

As the temperatures become hotter and your air conditioner becomes busier over the next few months, at Butler County REC we want to make sure you know about a range of energy-saving offerings designed specifically with you in mind. By taking advantage of these programs and services, you can manage your summer energy consumption and costs.

Budget billing. When you sign up for budget billing, your energy bill is calculated by averaging your previous 12 months of use. With budget billing, your monthly energy costs are easier to budget and manage.

Home energy audit. Butler County REC's energy advisors are available to conduct a free energy audit of your home to identify areas where energy is wasted and provide recommendations on ways to improve efficiency and lower your monthly bills.

Rebate program. When you make upgrades or purchases to reduce home energy use, those smart decisions should be rewarded. We offer rebates on energy-efficient appliances, heating and cooling equipment, and more. Visit www.butlerrec.coop to learn about our rebate program.

You have the power. The best way to lower energy use during summer months is to raise the thermostat to the highest setting that's comfortable. Ceiling fans can also help you feel cooler, but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. On warm summer nights, fire up the grill to keep additional heat out of the kitchen. Remember to change air filters often so your cooling system doesn't have to work harder than necessary.

Don't let energy bills take a toll on your summer fun. Butler County REC is here to help manage your energy use. Contact us to learn more about practical strategies to lower your use, trim your bills, and make this summer a breeze for both you and your wallet: 888.267.2726; butler@butlerrec.coop; or www.butlerrec.coop.



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



We are grateful for the almost 70 members who contribute to RECare, our members-helping-members program. These funds are distributed by local community action agencies to help pay heating bills and to assist in the weatherization of homes of low-income consumers.

If you are interested in contributing, please use the authorization form on the left.

INtouch® is published monthly for members of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative
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OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
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