

# InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

May 2026

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Butler County REC annual meeting held

A WORD FROM



**Craig Codner, CEO**  
ccodner@butlerrec.coop

Wednesday, March 25, your Butler County REC board of directors met to conduct the business of the annual meeting.

Prior to the meeting, election tellers, along with corporate attorney Dennis Puckett, opened and counted over 400 mail-in ballots to establish

the results of the election. The tellers were members Roxann Bjelica, Tom Bjelica, Joyce Dolan, Marilyn Heitz, Dean Johnson, and James Wessels.

Results of the election were announced during the meeting. Members re-elected Tim Schrage, Allison, and Grant Greenzweig, Charles City, and elected Mark Chambers, Marble Rock, to fill the seat of retired director Gerald Schmitt.

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

The annual report was included in your April *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine and is also available on our website at butlerrec.coop,

About Us, Board and Mission.

Thank you to our members who returned their ballots, to the tellers for their assistance, and to Gerald Schmitt for his service to our members. We appreciate your commitment to your cooperative!



**Mark Chambers, newly elected board director**

## Member appreciation events to be held in June

We are excited to see you next month to celebrate our 90th year of serving members! Join us:

**Monday, June 1:** Butler County Fairgrounds, Maifield Livestock Building, 101 S. Main St., Allison

**Tuesday, June 2:** Floyd County Fairgrounds, Schwartzrock Community Center, 2516 Seven Mile Road, Charles City

**Thursday, June 4:** Big 4 Fairgrounds, Event Center, 499 Greenwood Ave., Nashua

**Monday, June 8:** Bremer County Fairgrounds, Ron & Judy Leistikow Event Center, 300 39th St NE, Waverly

From 5-7 p.m. we will be serving grilled hamburgers, beans, and potato chips from West Forty Market in Greene, Butler County Bakeshop cookies, Hansen's Dairy ice cream, lemonade, and water. Join us for a sit-down meal or stop by for a drive-through meal, grab your swag bag, and register for prizes.

Each family will receive the gift of a bamboo pizza paddle, along with the chance to win a bill credit.\* Kids will be eligible to win a set of four walkie talkies.

Members needing assistance to the venues from their vehicles will be offered a golf cart ride.

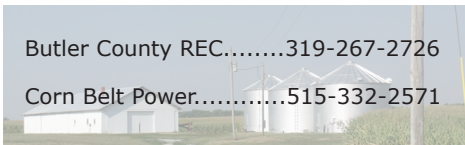
\*Members only entered into drawing—must be the name on the account/bill holder's name. Members allowed to win only one bill credit.

*We look forward to a relaxing night of good food and good company!*

# 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 on 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.

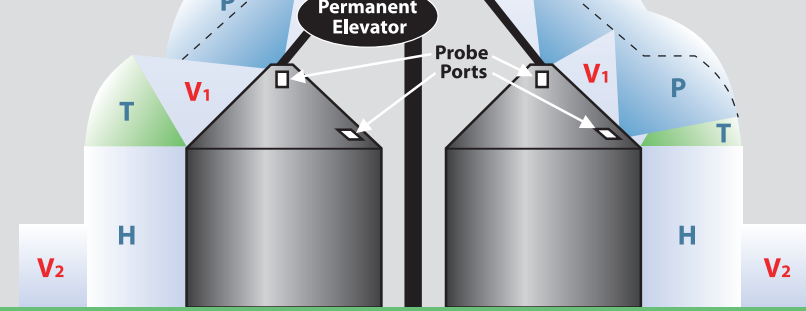


**According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199-25.2(3)b.** An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2023 "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 Commission has adopted this language.)

**Disclaimer:** These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2023 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.

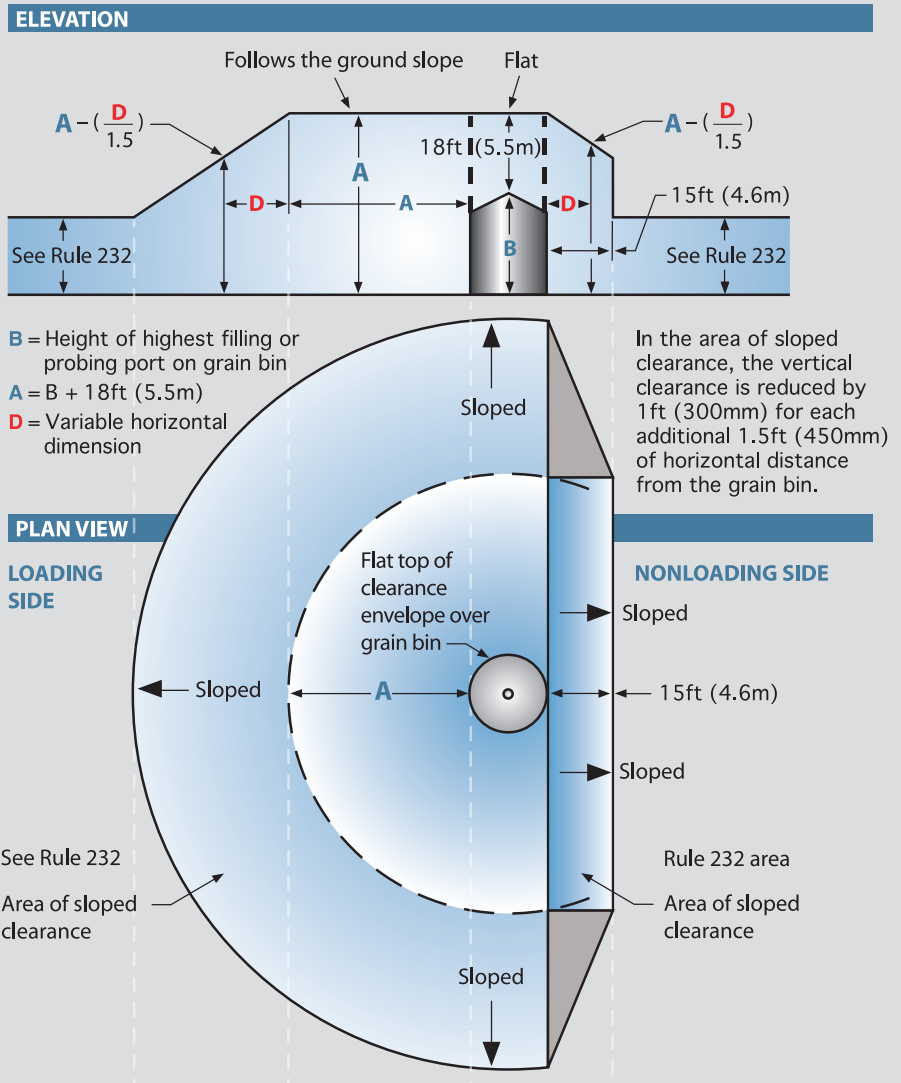
## Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators

- P** = Probe clearance  
18ft (5.5m) required by Rule 234F1a
- H** = Horizontal clearance  
15ft (4.6m) required by Rule 234F1a
- T** = Transition clearance
- V<sub>1</sub>** = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
- V<sub>2</sub>** = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



From IEEE Std. C2-2023, "National Electrical Safety Code:" © Copyright 2022 by IEEE. All rights reserved.

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



From IEEE Std. C2-2023, "National Electrical Safety Code:" © Copyright 2022 by IEEE. All rights reserved. The IEEE disclaims any responsibility or liability resulting from the placement and use in the described manner.

## Schmitt retires from board

Gerald Schmitt, Rockford, Butler County REC director, has retired from the board after 30 years of dedicated service to our members.

Schmitt was a part of several advancements in the cooperative, including beginning service to three of our municipals, becoming a Touchstone Energy partner, offering scholarships, and the addition of several substations.

Thank you, Gerald, for your commitment to our members!



Gerald Schmitt

## Butler County REC years of service award: 2025

5

Katie LaBree  
business development manager



## Youth Tour winner announced

Butler County REC is proud to announce that Kennedy Backer, a junior from Waverly-Shell Rock High School, will be representing the cooperative at the 2026 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-20.

Kennedy is the daughter of members Jamie and Corey Backer of Shell Rock and is active in Future Farmers of America; Butler County Fair Junior Fair Board, serving as president; and her church's youth group. She has also received two National Honor Society academic awards.

While on the Youth Tour, Kennedy will join students from more than 40 additional Iowa electric cooperatives and over 1,800 students from across America to explore our nation's capital. The fast-paced informative week gives the students a better understanding of the role electric cooperatives play in our country.

Congratulations, Kennedy! Have the best time!



Kennedy Backer,  
2026 Youth Tour Participant

## Help us shine the light on community volunteers in June

It's time to shine the light on our community volunteers! Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Butler County REC encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest this summer by nominating local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations during the month of 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 people who have been nominated over the years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're excited to make 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 from June 1 to June 30. If you receive electricity from Butler County REC, you're a co-op member-consumer and we invite you to nominate a friend, neighbor, or relative 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. Non-winning nominees from previous years can be nominated again for another chance to win.

Our 2026 winners will be announced in September and featured in *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine



and on social media.

Go to [www.IowaShineTheLight.com](http://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!



**Butler County REC  
will be closed for  
Memorial Day  
on Monday, May 25.**

*Remember and honor those who served.*

### **Tune up your a/c before first heat wave**

Don't get caught off-guard when you flip on your air conditioner on summer's first hot day—and it doesn't work.

Start with the simplest step: change the air filter. Next, clear away any debris from the outdoor unit. Then, inspect indoor vents to ensure they aren't blocked.

Each year, call a licensed technician for a professional inspection.

Taking a few minutes for basic maintenance now can keep your home comfortable when summer temperatures climb.

## **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**

## **Prepare for summer storm outages**

Summer thunderstorms can arrive quickly, with strong winds that can knock down power lines and cause electricity outages.

Taking a few simple steps in spring can help households stay safe and prepared if the lights go out.

- Start by assembling basic supplies— flashlights, fresh batteries, a portable phone charger, and a battery-powered lantern.
- Protect your electronics with surge protectors.
- Review safety guidelines for portable generators.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed during outages.

Preparing ahead of time can reduce stress during severe weather.

## **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](http://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 515-725-7300 or toll-free 1-877-565-4450; by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319; or by email to [customer@iuc.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iuc.iowa.gov).

INtouch® is published monthly for members of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative  
521 North Main • PO Box 98 • Allison, IA 50602  
PHONES: 319.267.2726 or 888.267.2726 • PAY-BY-PHONE: 855.918.3803 • FAX: 319.267.2566  
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
WEBSITE: [www.butlerrec.coop](http://www.butlerrec.coop) • E-MAIL: [butler@butlerrec.coop](mailto:butler@butlerrec.coop)  
Craig Codner, CEO • EDITOR: Anne Gardiner, CCC



Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/bcrec](https://facebook.com/bcrec)



Follow us on Instagram at [instagram.com/butlercountyrec](https://instagram.com/butlercountyrec)



Pay your bill online with SmartHub

**smart choices** Sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.butlerrec.coop](http://www.butlerrec.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.