



Linn County  
Rural Electric  
Cooperative

# ElectriConnection

A monthly publication for our members



JULY 2025



Our annual meeting is the time to vote for new board members who will represent you, the co-op members. Our seven board members live here locally and are elected by co-op members like you. Board members serve three-year terms, and election results are reported at our annual meeting every September.

In preparation for our annual meeting, the nominating committee held their meeting on June 6 to nominate candidates for the board of directors in districts 1 and 5. The nominating committee selected the following members:

#### District #1:

**Rick Hannen, Center Point**  
**Wesley Nelson, Central City**  
**Kenny Squires, Center Point**

#### District #5:

**Ben Garrett, Springville**  
**Lisa Rose, Springville**  
**Brad Steffens, Ely**

To learn more about our annual meeting, visit our website. Candidate biographies will be on our website and in next month's newsletter.

## It's Your Co-op -- How To Vote For Your Board of Directors



Our annual meeting is an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op ~ voting for the board of directors. You can vote one of three different ways:

- 1. SmartHub (app or desktop)**
- 2. Online (through direct vote website)**
- 3. Mail ballot (mailed first week in September)**

Voting will begin in August. Visit our website and next month's newsletter for more details.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

**Take our survey**

We value your opinion and are committed to providing the best possible service to our members. That's why we invite you to complete our online Member Satisfaction Survey.

The survey will be emailed to members the second week of July and will take 3 to 5 minutes to complete.

Your feedback helps us understand what we're doing well and where we can improve. Whether it's about reliability, customer service, communication, or any other aspect of your experience, your input is vital in shaping the future of our services.

If you have any questions regarding our survey, please get in touch with our Member Services department at 319-377-1587.

Thank you for helping us serve you better!

# Who Owns What - Understanding Electric Equipment Responsibilities

Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment.

Linn County REC is always ready to respond quickly to outages and restore power safely. However, it is also important for members to know which parts of the electrical system are their responsibility and which are maintained by the co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

We are responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your home, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters, and pad-mounted transformers. Members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business. They are also responsible for the meter socket, weatherhead, and service mast located outside the house. Always hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

Use the guide shown to help you determine who typically owns the various pieces of equipment. If your meter is located on a pole or pedestal, visit our website for a diagram that shows the equipment owned by the cooperative and the member.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before our line crews can restore power to your home

or business. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

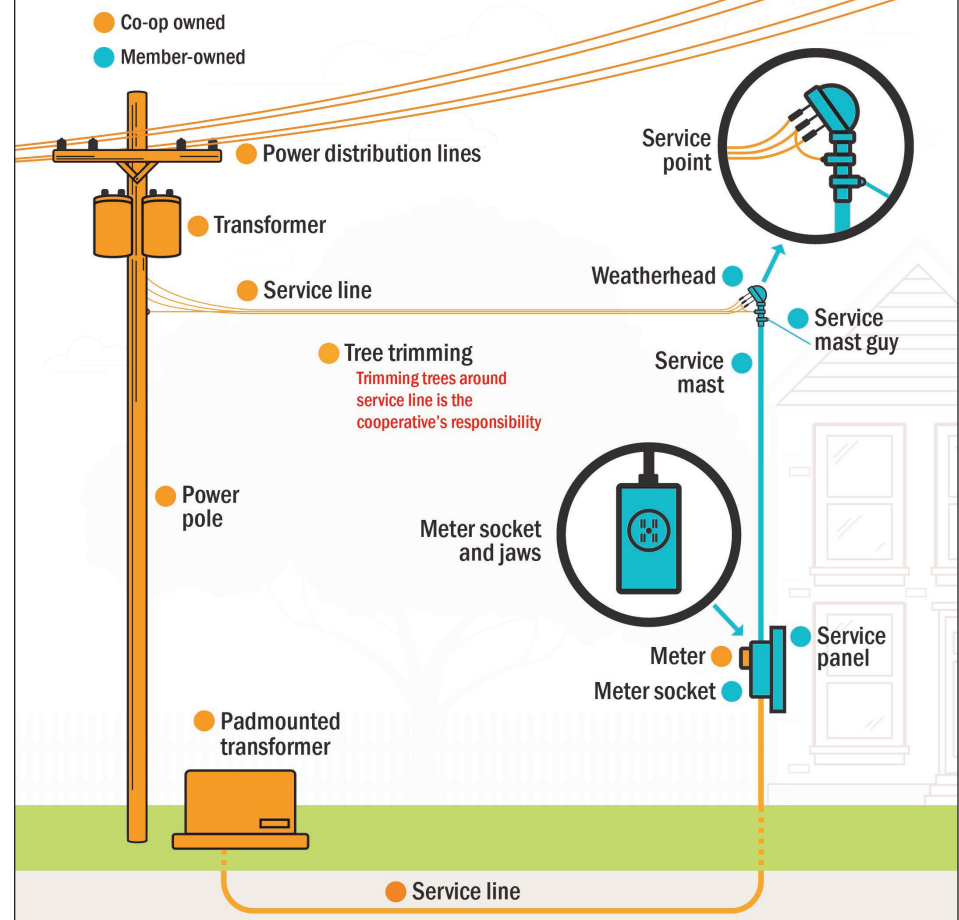
For any questions about your electrical equipment, please contact our Operations department.

Overgrown trees and branches are one of the leading causes of power outages. To minimize storm damage, we trim trees across our service area to ensure safety and service reliability. If you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's close to power lines, contact our Operations department or fill out our tree form on our website.

## Who Owns What?

### Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue) if meter is located on the house. If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

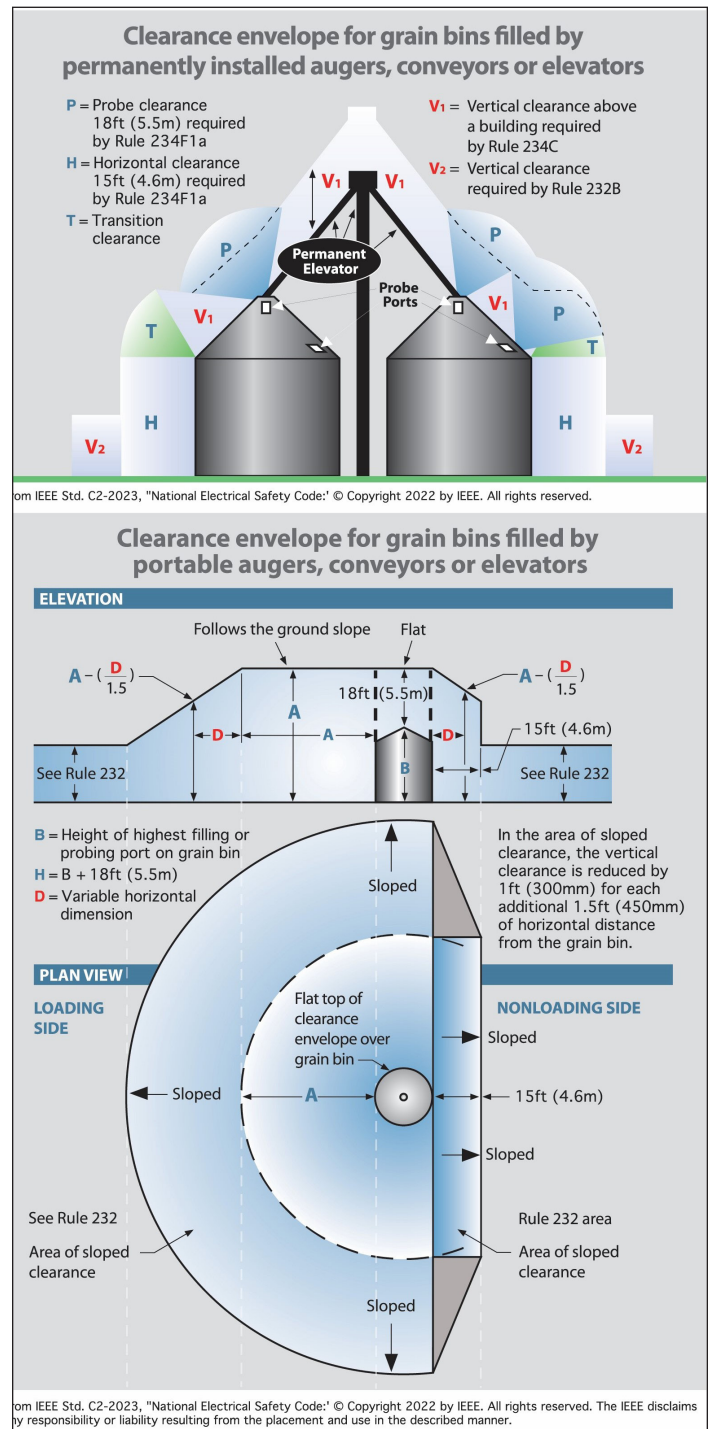


# Maintain Proper Grain Bin Clearance Requirements

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact Linn County REC. Linn County REC and its power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) 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. 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 Sept. 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after Dec. 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

The cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call our office.



**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 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.



# Understanding Your Electric Bill: A Three-Part Series (part two)

Electric bills can be confusing, with numerous terms and numbers. However, understanding your bill is essential for managing energy usage and saving money. In our second article of our three-part series, learn about our different charges and how they may impact your utility bill. Next month, our last article will review our rate structure and how you can use it to lower your energy costs.

## Energy Adjustment Charge

The EAC is for monthly variations in the cost of power and appears as a line item on your monthly bill. It is a positive or negative amount based on the cost of power that is charged to Linn County REC from our power provider (Central Iowa Power Cooperative). This pass-through charge to our members is applied to all our rates.

Your bill amount is reduced if the EAC is negative and increased if the EAC is positive. To calculate your EAC amount, multiply the kilowatt hours (kWh) you consumed for the month by the EAC factor on your bill statement. (This is done automatically on your bill statement)

Some factors that may cause the EAC to be positive or negative:

- **Unscheduled maintenance on a power generation facility**
- **Rising or falling fuel costs to produce electricity**
- **Higher or lower demands for peak power** (hotter summers or colder winters)

## Facility Charge

The facility charge is a fixed charge that covers a portion of the cost to have the availability of services at your account, regardless of how much electricity you use. It includes part of the cost of items such as the poles, lines, transformers, meters, labor, and maintenance required to service your account.

## Monthly Transformer Charge

The monthly transformer charge allows us to collect the additional monthly cost associated with larger transformer services requested or required for an individual account. The charge is \$0.11 per kVa for required or requested transformer services greater than or equal to 75 kVa. This is shown as a separate line item on your bill statement.

## Idle Service Charge

The idle service charge is to recover the costs associated with having electrical infrastructure on site. If you no longer need electricity at your location, you can:

- Have your service removed.
- Pay the monthly idle service charge (facility charge + kVa minimum) to have equipment ready to be energized upon your request.

If you have any questions about your bill or these charges, don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to help you understand your charges and learn how to manage your energy use more efficiently.



## Oreo Ice Cream Cake

1 pkg Oreo cookies, crushed, divided    16 oz hot fudge topping, warmed  
1/4 cup butter, melted    8oz carton whipped topping  
1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream, softened

In a large bowl, combine 3 cups cookie crumbs and butter. Press into a greased 13x9 dish. Spread with ice cream; cover and freeze until set. Drizzle fudge topping over ice cream; cover and freeze until set. Spread with whipped topping; sprinkle with remaining cookie crumbs. Cover and freeze 2 hours or until firm. Remove from freezer 10 minutes before serving.



## Office Closed

Our office will close July 3rd from noon through July 4th in observance of Independence Day. Bill payment kiosks are available 24 hours a day at our Marion office and North Liberty operations center. Calls are answered and crews are available 24/7.

**Have a safe and happy holiday!**

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