

SOUTHWEST LINES

SOUTHWEST IOWA
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OFFICE HOURS 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM Find us at www.swiarec.coop.

Storm Safety:

When Thunderstorms, Tornadoes Strike

By B. Denise Hawkins

Beware. Spring can usher in more than April showers. Now through the summer months, thunderstorms can quickly roll in and tornadoes can touch down, often during the afternoon and evening hours, according to researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Severe Storms Laboratory.

Follow these tips from NOAA and the American Red Cross to keep you and your home safe when tornadoes and severe thunderstorms come your way.

- Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged tree limbs.
- Listen to local news or National Weather Service broadcasts to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.
- If in a mobile home, immediately head to a sturdy shelter or vehicle. Mobile homes, especially hallways and bathrooms, are not safe places to take shelter during tornadoes or other severe winds.
- Designate a family meeting place for shelter during and after a storm. If possible, go to your home's basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest level. Also, have a battery-operated weather radio handy along with emergency supplies.
- Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical equipment and corded telephones.
- Remember that there is no safe place outside during a severe storm. If you are caught in a storm while on the road, the American Red Cross urges drivers to turn their headlights on, try to safely exit the roadway, and park. Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt on and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. If thunder and lightning is occurring, avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.
- Stay safe after a storm. Remain indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Also, stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas, power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report them to Southwest Iowa REC at 641-322-3165 or 888-591-1261 (Corning), 641-464-2244 or 888-220-4869 (Mount Ayr), or 712-829-2211 or 888-591-1260 (Stanton) immediately.

Learn more about storm safety at <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/thunderstorms/>
Sources: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Severe Storms Laboratory, and American Red Cross

B. Denise Hawkins writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

• **2014 Annual Meeting:**
September 23 at Lenox
Community Center!!

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• **BEFORE DIGGING...**
CALL 811 – Make sure
underground lines are
located **BEFORE** you start
to **DIG!!**

•••••

• **In case of Down Power
Lines REMEMBER:**
no matter what vehicle
you're in(tractor, car,
pickup, combine) – always
remember to:
– Stay in the vehicle
– Call for help
– If you **MUST** exit the
vehicle (in case of fire)
JUMP CLEAR!
– **Never touch the vehicle
and the ground at the
same time. It could be a
deadly mistake!**
– **Do not touch any wires!**

Corning Office
1801 Grove Avenue
Corning, IA 50841
(641) 322-3165
888-591-1261

Stanton Office
415 Broad Avenue
Stanton, IA 51573
(712) 829-2211
888-591-1260

Mt. Ayr Office
1502 W. South Street
Mount Ayr, IA 50854
(641) 464-2244
888-220-4869

**Manager's
Comments**



Phil Kinser

**Southwest Iowa
REC Mission
Statement:**

Provide safe and reliable electric service, while also advancing community and economic development opportunities, in a manner consistent with sound cooperative business practices and values.

Thank You Iowa Farmers

All the facts add up to a thriving industry — and way of life — for Iowa.

Each year, Iowa farmers produce approximately:

- 3.8 million cattle
- 2.1 billion bushels of corn
- 13.8 billion eggs
- 8.2 million turkeys
- 4.13 billion pounds of milk
- 20.6 million hogs
- 235,000 sheep and
- 525 million bu. of soybeans

Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture; Iowa Farmer Today

Our annual, independent financial audit was recently completed and the books for 2013 have been closed. The financial performance of your Cooperative in 2013 was very good and we were able to exceed all of the requirements placed upon us by our lenders. Fall crop drying and colder temperatures gave us a strong finish to 2013. Kilowatt-hour sales for 2013 were 1.77% above budget and Operating Margins were 4.04% above the budgeted amount. The following table shows where the money we collected from you was spent in 2013:

Purchased Power	56.54%
Operations & Maintenance	14.53%
Consumer Accounting & Info.	4.70%
Admin. & General Expense	6.50%
Depreciation	8.66%
Interest	5.81%
Other Expense	.16%
Operating Margins	3.10%

The 2014 Operating Budget does not include any increase in the base price you pay for your electricity. The cost of wholesale power we purchase from Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) is also projected to be stable. Increases, if any, in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) portion of your monthly electric bill should be minimal. In fact, better than budgeted sales and lower power costs have resulted in a PCA credit the last five billing months (October 2013 through February 2014) thereby reducing the price you pay for electricity.

The first few months of 2014 we have been concentrating on vegetation management (tree trimming and removal), retiring old unused services, line inspection and maintenance, mapping updates, and preparing material orders for construction projects.

The 2014 Capital Budget includes \$3,675,081 in system upgrades and improvements as follows:

- \$343,917 for new services construction
- \$1,735,762 for new tie lines, line upgrades, conductor replacement and line relocations
- \$292,600 for pole replacements
- \$148,002 for new meters, transformers and other special equipment
- \$11,800 for new security lighting
- \$1,143,000 for a new substation

These upgrades and improvements are part of our 2013-2016 Construction Work Plan. In addition to this, we have budgeted \$1,857,507 for ongoing operations and maintenance programs including vegetation management, pole inspection, meter testing, transformer and breaker maintenance, general line maintenance and security light maintenance. All of our programs are designed to continue to provide you with safe and reliable electric service.

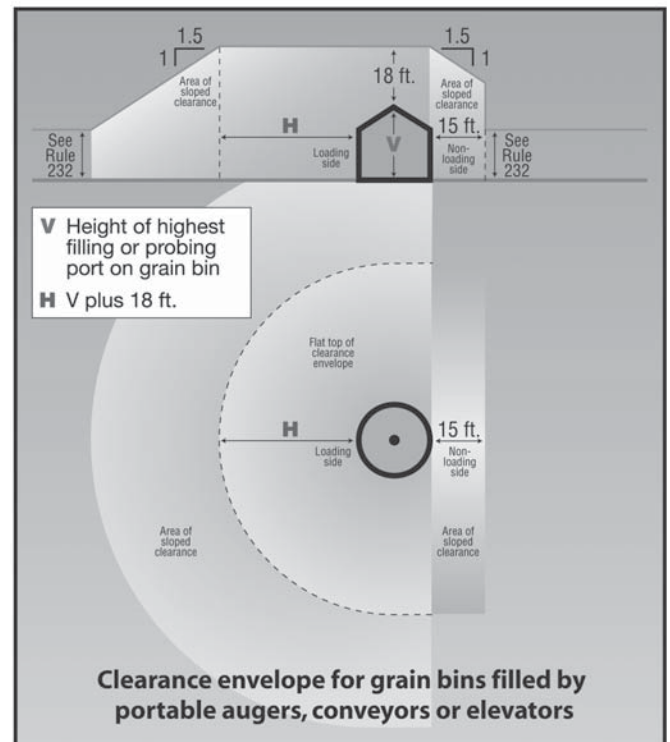
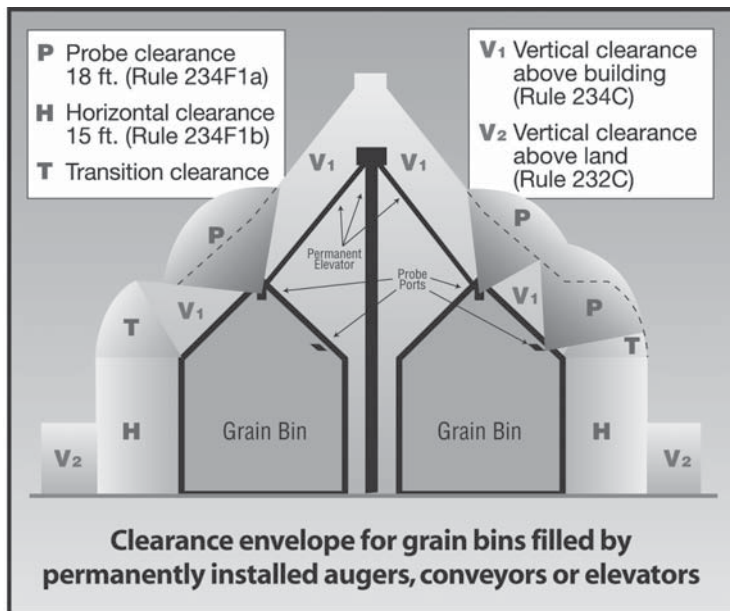
Maintain proper clearance around grain bins

Southwest Iowa REC 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 this page show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact Southwest Iowa REC.

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)C2-2007 "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.* (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

Southwest Iowa REC 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 Southwest Iowa REC.





Employee Spotlight



Name: Mike Stargell
Family: Married to Kim. Children - son Bradley (wife Jamie and granddaughters Taylor & Rylea); and daughter Jordan.
Date of Hire: September 7, 1976
Current Position: First Class Line-man (Corning)
Favorite Recipe: Beef Stew

The RECipe

BEEF STEW

2-3 lbs. cubed beef	2 diced onions (I don't like that much onion)	1 can peas (I use a bag of frozen peas)
1 pkg. carrots sliced	2 cans tomato sauce	
4-5 large potatoes		

Shake beef in a bag with a flour, salt and pepper mixture. Brown in hot fat with onions. After meat is brown put it in a roaster and add carrots with beef bouillon. Cover and bake at 300 degrees for an hour or so. Don't let this dry out so keep adding bouillon as needed, then add potatoes and tomato sauce in with carrots and meat when they are tender. After potatoes are cooked, add the peas and let stand in oven until ready to serve. I usually start this 1st thing in the morning and let it sit all day on low oven to let the flavor go through.

Bonnie Goodvin,

Customer Service Representative in Corning, retired on February 28th after 41-plus years of service to the members of Southwest Iowa REC. A retirement open house was held with approx. 100 people stopping by to wish Bonnie good luck. Congratulations Bonnie!



Thanks.....

The Montgomery County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

would like to extend their appreciation for the gift contributed to the 2014 MCMH benefit raffle.

MCMH Auxiliary Raffle Committee

I just can't say thanks enough. We really appreciate your support with the Electrical Technology Scholarship.

My students also appreciate your support.

Jeff Stuber – Electrical Technology Instructor at Southwestern Community College in Creston



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A well-designed landscape provides both energy efficiency and curb appeal for your home. The type of vegetation you choose is as important as where they are planted. Sunlight streaming through windows and bearing down on the roof can drive up air conditioner use. Using shade trees and shrubs in your landscaping plan can help reduce cooling cost. In the winter, deciduous trees lose their leaves and let in warmth.
 Source: Energy.gov

Introducing Sarah Newton



Sarah Newton began her duties as an Accountant in the Mount Ayr office on March 10th. Sarah resides in Mount Ayr with her husband Jeremy, son Will and daughters Anne and Kate. Welcome Sarah!