

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

2014 – 2015 Iowa Home Energy Assistance Program

The 2014-2015 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

Besides meeting the income guidelines, you must furnish the social security numbers of all household members and a copy of recent heating and electric bills. You must also show proof of income for all household members age 19 and over. If you receive alimony or child support, it will need to be verified too.

If you are employed, you should bring copies of your check stubs for the 3-month period before the date of application or a copy of your federal income tax return if you are self-employed. If you are on a fixed income – Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program (FIP), Veteran’s Assistance, Unemployment Insurance and pensions, you will need to take copies of your three most recent check stubs. For FIP recipients, bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

In Iowa, applications for the program will be accepted on a first-come/first-served basis from November 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015. The start date is October 1, 2014, for elderly (60 and over) and/or disabled applicants.

For more information about the program or to find out where to apply, write: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319. You also can call your local community action agency for more information.

LIHEAP Income Maximums

Household Size	Three-Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$ 4,376	\$ 17,505
2	\$ 5,899	\$ 23,595
3	\$ 7,421	\$ 29,685
4	\$ 8,944	\$ 35,775
5	\$ 10,466	\$ 41,865
6	\$ 11,989	\$ 47,955

Note: For a household with more than six members, add \$1,523 per 3 months – or \$6,090 annually for each additional family member.

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

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- **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

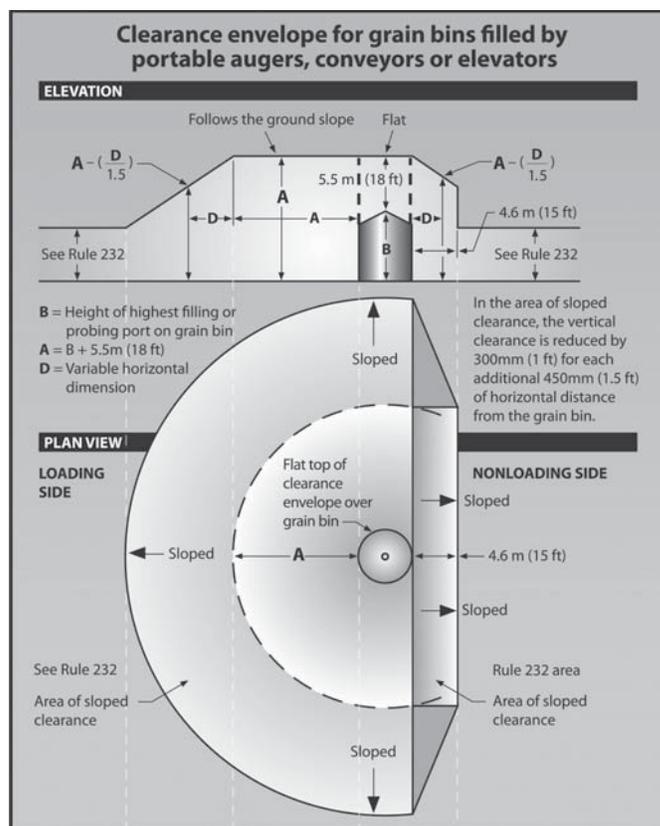
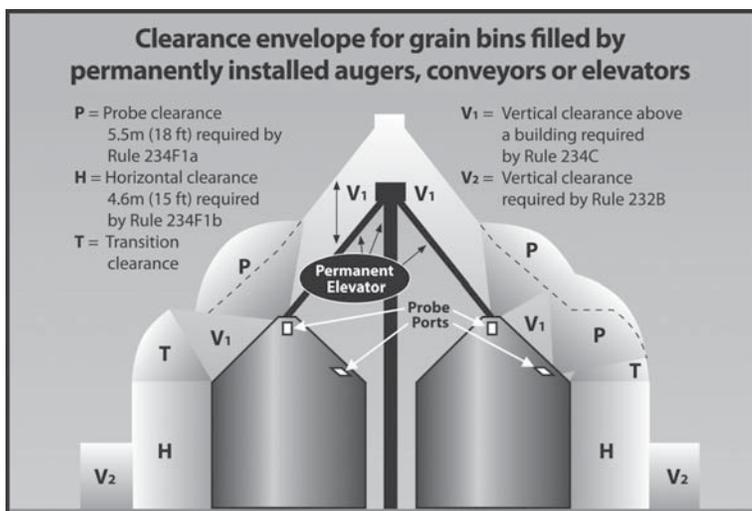
Maintain proper clearance around grain bins

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) C2-2012 "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.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy and help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: Department of Energy



Employee Spotlight

Name: Scott Geer
Family: Married to Sue. One son, Keagan, and one daughter, Sydnee (Nick) Hatjinos who are expecting a child in March.



Date of Hire: August 5, 1987

Current Position: Lineman – (Stanton)

Favorite Recipe: Cheeseburger Soup

The RECipe

CHEESEBURGER SOUP

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 lb ground beef | 1 ¾ lbs peeled potatoes (diced) |
| 1 tsp dried parsley flakes | 1 tsp dried basil ¼ cup flour |
| 1 med size white onion (diced) | 1 ½ cups milk 2 cups Velveeta cheese |
| 4 Tbsp butter, divided | ¾ tsp salt ¼ cup sour cream |
| 1 cup sliced baby carrots | ¼ tsp pepper |
| 3 cups chicken broth | |
| 2 stalks of celery (diced) | |

- In a 3 quart sauce pan, cook hamburger over medium heat, drain and set aside. In same pan, sauté onions, carrots, celery, basil and parsley in 1 Tbsp butter until vegetables are tender.
 - Add broth, potatoes, and beef and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10-12 minutes or until potatoes are tender.
 - In a small skillet, melt remaining butter. Add flour, cook and stir for 3-5 minutes. Add to soup, bring to a boil, cook and stir for 2 minutes.
 - Reduce heat to low, add cheese, milk, salt, and pepper. Cook and stir until cheese melts.
 - Remove from heat and blend in sour cream.
- Yields 8 servings.**

Operation Round-UP® 2014



Each month, Southwest Iowa REC simply “rounds up” the electric bills of participating member-owners to the next highest dollar. **All Operation Round-UP®** donations are placed in a separate fund to be disbursed for charitable purposes only.

A committee comprised of community leaders, Southwest Iowa REC employees and directors receives and evaluates all donation requests. This committee makes recommendations for disbursements to the full Southwest Iowa REC Board of Directors. The REC Board has the final approval of all **Operation Round-UP®** disbursements.

Typically, **Operation Round-UP®** funding will be used to address individual and community needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health, education and service projects. **Operation Round-UP®** funds cannot be used for political purposes.

Individuals or organizations requesting donations do not have to be members of Southwest Iowa REC. They do need to be a resident and located in one of the 11 counties we serve. These counties include: Adair, Adams, Cass, Decatur, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Ringgold, Taylor and Union. Southwest Iowa REC is committed to improving local residents' quality of life. **Operation Round-UP®** is an innovative way to continue to make a difference in our local communities. We encourage individuals and organizations with needs to apply for **Operation Round-UP®** donations. Applications can be requested from any of our three offices or on-line at www.swiarec.coop under the “community” tab.

Out of our 5,883 accounts – we're excited that 3,703 are signed up for **Operation Round-UP®**.

If you're not currently signed up – why not call today and join in!

Operation Round-UP® = Small Change That Changes Lives

RECare – Customer Contribution Fund

Southwest Iowa REC's **RECare** program makes it easy to help Cooperative neighbors in need this winter. With rising heating fuel prices this season, more and more lowans are seeking assistance with energy, heating and weatherization costs. While some federal and state dollars exist to help those in need, there are still shortfalls.

Consider a monthly contribution to Southwest Iowa REC's **RECare** program. Your contribution – whether it is \$1 or \$10 a month – when combined with those of other generous members, can go a long way in helping those who can't afford winter's heating bills. To help, fill out the form:

Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of “members helping members” and contribute to RECare.

_____ I will make a 1-time contribution to **RECare**. My check is enclosed.

_____ I will contribute \$_____ per month to **RECare**. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Account # _____

Mail to: **RECare – SW Iowa REC**

1801 Grove Avenue;
 Box 367; Corning, IA 50841

OR **RECare – SW Iowa REC**

1502 W South Street;
 Box 391; Mt Ayr, IA 50854

OR **RECare – SW Iowa REC**

415 Broad Avenue; Box 460;
 Stanton, IA 51573