

# Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

April 2026

## Help us Find these Former Members

We are looking for the following former members of the cooperative. This month, we are listing names that begin with the letters K through Z. Last month, we published names A through J. The complete list is available on our website.

These members have patronage checks waiting for them at our offices. If a member has passed away, we kindly ask that a family member contact us with the estate information so we can process their patronage refund. Thank you for your assistance

KULISH II	CLARENCE	MORRISON	MEREDITH	RISSER	GAYLAND	SULLIVAN	BRUCE
KURTH	DONALD	MORTENSON	CHRIS	RIVERS	MICHELLA	SULLIVAN	SAMANTHA
LANE	BRANDON	MUHLBAUER	PAUL	ROGERS	WILMA	SULLIVAN	ED
LANGENFELD	DALE	MULKINS	JEFFREY	ROSE	JIM	SWANSON	MERRILL
LAUGHLIN ESTATE	GERALDINE	MURPHY	JOHN	ROSE	BETTY	TAYLOR	JOHN
LEPPEK	REBECCA	NAYLOR	GENE	ROSS	KEVIN	TELLIER	RON
LEWIS	ROBERT	NEWBY	STEVE	RUEFER	DON	THOMPSON	RICHARD
LILLIE	BEVERLY	NIEDERKORN	DAVID	RYCHNOVSKY	LAWRENCE	THOMPSON	LORRIE
LOCKHART	TIM	NIMS	RON	SAYERS	CLEONE	THOMPSON	TODD
LOWRY	MICHELE	OLSON	AMBER	SCARPELLO	RICK	THOMPSON	KATHLEEN
LYNCH	CLEO	O'RILEY	JARED	SCARPELLO	SAM	TRESKA	THOMAS
MANCHESTER	RUSSELL	ORR DYLAN		SCHAEFER	CATHY	TROST	RANDY
MANDERS	CHAS.	OSBORN	ROBERT	SCHAEFFER	KEVIN	TRULLINGER	KENT
MANNING	JACK	OSTRANDER	JOHN	SCHAFFER	WILLIAM	TYSON MEATS INC.	
MARN	LARRY	PARKER	JOHN	SCHAEILZWOOD	JANET	USSERY	TRUDY
MARSHALL	WALDINE	PARTNERSHIP	PRESTON	SCHLAPIA	JASON	VERTREES	GEORGE
MATHANY	JERRY	PATCH	DAVID	SCOTT	WM	VOGT	KENNETH
MAVENCAMP	JOSH	PAXSON	LUKE	SHEIL	MICHAEL	VOLENTINE	TIMOTHY
MAYFIELD	HEATHER	PECKHAM	JERRY	SHOEMAKER	WILLIAM	WALLACE	JAMES
MC KERN	JACK	PENDGRAFT	WM	SHORT	RUSTY	WALLACE	MICHAEL
MCCAY	ROGER	PERRIN	LARRY	SHRUM	CHARLES	WALTERMEYER	JOHN
MCCOY	RALPH	PETERSON	ALAN	SICKELS	SAM	WALTON	JAMIE
MCDANIEL	MELBA	PIERCE	CLINTON	SIEFER	MARTHA	WARIN	ANN
MCDOWELL	CON	PITT	MARION	SLIGH	AARON	WATERS	RUTH
MCENDREE	NELLIE	POLLOCK	JAMES	SLUSARK	ARTHUR	WEATHERMAN	DAVID
MCFARLAND	JEFF	POORE	DONALD	SMIENS	LOREN	WEIS	DONALD
MCI WORLDCOM		POUSH	C.R.	SMITH	DENNIS	WEITZELL	SHARON
MCKENNEY	MIKE	PRESTON MGMT	FIRST	SMITH	RUSTY	WELLS	ALAN
MCLAREN	ERIC	PRITCHARD	BECKY	SMITH	COURTLAND	WERNER	BARRY
MCMANIS	JARED	PYLE	DONALD	SNYDER	KIMBERLY	WEST	TIM
MEANS	JERRY	RAUCH	DON	SPENCER	JACQUELIN	WESTVIEW LLC	FORTY
MEYER	JOYCE	REASONER	DARLENE	SPORTSMAN	LODGE	WHITE	ED
MICHAEL	KARLA	REED	VERNA	STAMPS	DEAN	WILSON	JON
MILLER	DOUGLAS	RETLAND	LARS	STANISLAV	PHIL	WISE	EARNEST
MILLER S	HANE	REYNOLDS	LUELLA	STEELE	DONALD	WOOD	DAN
MILLER	BEN	RHINER	CARL	STEFFEN	RICHARD	WOODSON	MINDI
MITCHELL	DUANE	RICE	VERLYN	STEIN	MICHAEL	WOOTON	TOM
MOEN	BRUCE	RICHIE	DELORES	STEPHENS	WILLIAM	YEARINGTON	JEFF
MORALES	RUDY	RIDGE INC.	WILDBIRD	STIELOW	PERCRY	YOUNG	SHELLY
MORRIS	DICK	RILEY J	ACOB	STUART	JOHN	ZIMMERMAN	CHERYL
MORRIS	KATHERINE	RINGBERG	MARVIN	STUTZMAN	SCOTT		

### Administrative professional's day is April 22nd

Thanks to Southwest Iowa REC's Customer Service Representatives, Accountant, and Director of Finance. Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do!

Kylee Fleharty, Suzy Olson, Sarah Newton, Erin Freilinger, and Chelsea Armstrong.



# Coop Month Column

## A Year of Strong Performance

Your electric cooperative finished the past year in a strong financial and operational position.

Throughout the year, the cooperative continued to manage rising costs in the electric utility industry while maintaining its focus on providing reliable and affordable service to members.

Financially, the cooperative maintained stable operations and generated positive margins. As a not-for-profit organization, those margins are returned to members over time through capital credits while also helping strengthen the cooperative's equity.

**Strong financial management helps keep rates stable while supporting investments in the electric system.**

### Financial Snapshot

- **\$13.9 million** – Total revenue
- **\$384,096** – Operating margins
- **\$494,044** – Capital credits allocated to members
- **\$402,278** – Capital credits returned to members
- **40.95%** – Member equity

Operationally, crews worked throughout the year to maintain and improve the electric distribution system. This work included replacing aging poles, upgrading lines, and building/upgrading substations to help reduce outage times when disruptions occur and expand system capacity.

Vegetation management crews also continued clearing rights-of-way along power lines to reduce outages caused by trees and storm damage.

**Investments like these strengthen reliability and help reduce outage durations.**

### System Investments

- **334 poles replaced**
- **27.5 miles of line upgraded**
- **180+ miles of right-of-way cleared/sprayed**
- **85 new services connected**

These ongoing investments help ensure the electric system remains reliable for the homes, farms, and businesses served by the cooperative.

**Our crews work year-round to ensure reliable power across the system.**

### Keeping the Lights On

- **113 minutes** – Average outage duration per member (excludes Major Storm Events)
- **1.16 outages** – Average outages per member (excludes Major Storm Events)
- **99.98% reliability** – System reliability rate (excludes Major Storm Events)
- **477 outages responded to**

In addition to maintaining the electric system, the cooperative remained active in the communities it serves by supporting local programs and economic development initiatives.

**Electric cooperatives are committed to the communities we serve.**

### Community Impact

- **\$22,150 awarded** to individuals and other local organizations through Operation Round Up
- **Sponsored a student to attend the Youth Tour event in Washington D.C.**
- **17 scholarships awarded totaling \$10,000**
- **32 community events/organizations supported**
- **Loaned \$125,000 to a local business** from the cooperative-managed revolving loan fund to promote economic development

Every investment we make is focused on providing reliable electricity and long-term value to the members who own this cooperative.

Looking ahead, the cooperative will continue planning for the future while focusing on reliability, affordability, and strong financial management.

On behalf of the board of directors and employees, thank you for being a member-owner of Southwest Iowa REC.



Phil Kinser CEO

## 2026 Annual Meeting Plans

Plans are being made for this year's Annual Meeting. Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held at the Lenox Community Center on Thursday, September 10, 2026. The general business session will be called to order at 6:30 p.m. In addition to the reports being presented that cover our 2025 operations, a major item of business will be the election of three directors to serve one three-year term each. Directors with terms expiring at the Annual Meeting in September are:

Region 1, District #2 – Marilyn Werner

Region 1, At-Large – Bonnie Larson

Region 2, District #6 – Kay Fast-Deyoe

A nominating committee will be named at the May board meeting and given the task of nominating qualified candidates to run for each of these positions. Once the slate of candidates is chosen, members will be given the opportunity to vote by mail or at the Annual Meeting on September 10th. A detailed explanation of the nominating and election process will be provided in the next newsletter. [If you are interested in being considered to serve on the nominating committee this year or would like the nominating committee to contact you regarding running for a board seat, please contact Phil Kinser at \(888\) 220-4869 before May 28th.](#)

## Iowa's rural electric cooperatives advocate for lineworker protections during 2026 "REC Day on the Hill"

Green was the dominant color at the Iowa State Capitol on March 17, but it wasn't only for St. Patrick's Day. Nearly 200 advocates were wearing green in support of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives during their 2026 "REC Day on the Hill" advocacy event.

"Our annual advocacy day at the state house is a powerful opportunity to meet face-to-face with our state legislators and share a local perspective on issues that impact the members and communities we serve," remarked Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president and general manager for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC).

Representatives from Southwest Iowa REC joined the statewide advocacy effort. Pictured is the entire group present for the Day on the Hill Event.

The advocates were in full force on the rotunda floor to discuss utility worker protections as outlined in SF 2400. Through this legislation, those who harass, threaten, or assault utility workers out on the job would face stronger penalties. Lineworkers are required by law to enter dangerous situations and work in hazardous conditions, and should be protected to the fullest extent of the law.

Additionally, electric co-op representatives talked with their legislators about concerns with third-party solar provisions outlined in HF 2672. Iowa's electric cooperatives support solar development when it makes sense locally, but allowing third-party programs sets a concerning precedent statewide. Additionally, third-party solar developers would not be held to the same consumer protection standards or regulatory oversight as Iowa's public utilities.

During the event, co-op advocates educated legislators on the benefits of the not-for-profit cooperative business model, including local ownership, member governance, and cost-based rates. Several electric cooperatives displayed booths in the rotunda, which provided information on topics including economic development, investments in technology, electric safety, reliable power generation, and student programs.

Learn more about the legislative priorities of Iowa's electric cooperatives and Iowa Rural Power grassroots advocacy at [www.iaruralpower.org](http://www.iaruralpower.org).



Pictured left to right: Southwest Iowa REC's GM/CEO, Phil Kinser; Representative David Sieck; Justin Murphy, SWIAREC Director of Operations; Sarah Newton, SWIAREC Director of Finance; Southwest Iowa REC Board President, Marylin Werner; Representative Tom Moore. The group was joined by Justin Murphy's daughter, Kaley Murphy, who is seated in the front.

## Celebrating the Unsung Heroes: Power Lineworkers

This Monday, April 13th, we take a moment to appreciate the incredible people who keep the lights on and the power flowing—our dedicated line workers. On Lineworker Appreciation Day, we salute their unwavering commitment and hard work, often under the harshest conditions.

Whether it's the biting cold of winter blizzards or the blazing heat of summer, these heroes show up every day, ready to face the elements and the challenges of working high above the ground. While most of us are bundled up inside during winter storms or lounging in the air conditioning during a summer heatwave, linemen are scaling poles, repairing downed wires, and ensuring that electricity continues to power our homes and businesses.

The job is physically demanding and dangerous. Linemen navigate high-voltage wires with precision and care, facing risks that would deter most. They perform with skill and bravery, often unrecognized, showing up daily to provide the energy we need, regardless of weather or risks.

We might not always notice them, but the hard work of our linemen and women is so important! Whether they're fixing power lines in a snowstorm or restoring power after a tornado, they are truly our heroes. Let's take a moment on April 13th to give a big shout-out and show our appreciation for all they do. Your dedication and bravery mean the world to us—thank you!

## 15-Minute Strawberry Spinach Salad

Strawberry Spinach Salad is a healthy, vibrant, and easy-to-make recipe that comes together in 15 minutes! Featuring Feta cheese, pecans, and a simple Balsamic dressing, this salad will make a perfect side dish for any weeknight dinner. It is also a crowd-pleaser for many holiday occasions, picnics, potlucks, and other friends and family gatherings!



### Ingredients

- 1 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup honey or brown sugar
- 10 oz baby spinach fresh
- 3 cups strawberries cleaned and hulled, sliced
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1/2 cup feta cheese crumbled
- 1 cup pecans, toasted, some of them chopped

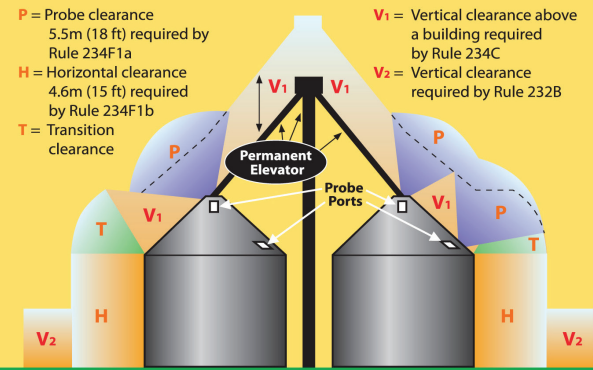


### Instructions

1. In a small saucepan, heat balsamic vinegar and honey over medium heat.
2. Bring to a gentle boil, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook, stirring, until the mixture thickens and reduces by about half (about 10 minutes).
3. Remove from the heat and pour the balsamic glaze into a heatproof bowl to cool. The glaze will get thicker as it cools.
4. Consistency should be thick enough to coat the back of the spoon but should not be overly thick.
5. In a large bowl, combine all the salad ingredients, except the pecans. Toss to combine.
6. Divide the salad into individual serving bowls.
7. Top each serving bowl with whole and chopped toasted pecans.
8. Drizzle the top of the salad in each bowl with balsamic glaze.

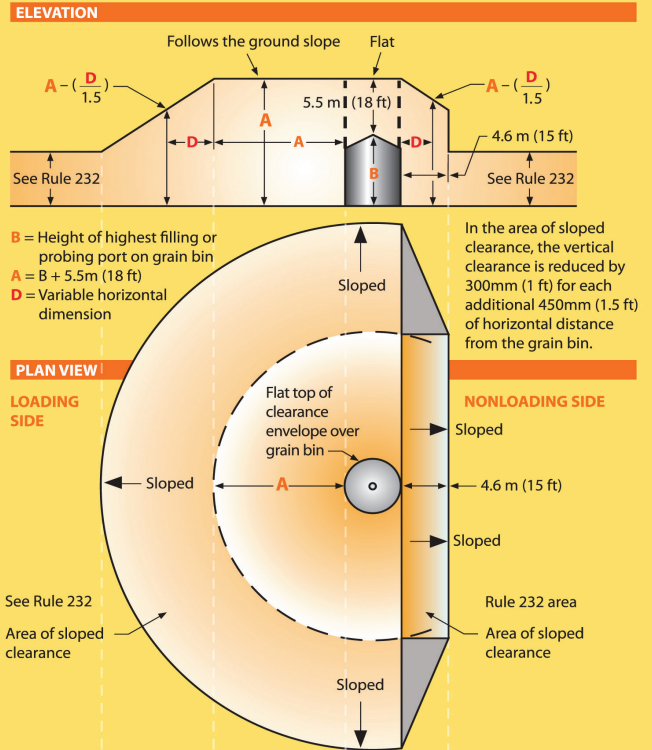
## Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators

- 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
- 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. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved.

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



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved. The IEEE disclaims any responsibility or liability resulting from the placement and use in the described manner.

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 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

**Mark your calendars for**  
**Thursday, September 10, 2026 for this year's**  
**Southwest Iowa REC Annual Meeting!**

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



**Corning**  
 2248 Avenue of Industries., Corning, IA 50841

**Mount Ayr**  
 1502 W. South St., Mount Ayr, IA 50854

**Phone Number: (888) 220-4869**

**Southwest Iowa REC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

### Board of Directors

- Marilyn Werner, President
- Mark Herzberg, Vice President
- Kay Fast-Deyoe, Secretary
- Jason Smith, Treasurer
- Alan Spencer, Adam Boswell, Dana Morgan
- Justin Akers, Bonnie Larson, Dale Walkup
- Phil Kinser, CEO