



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED Volume No. 79 No. 6 | June 2019



Office Closed July 4

The Clarke Electric Cooperative office will be closed

Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day. We wish all our members a safe and fun holiday weekend!

Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

Want to light up your outdoor space without increasing your energy use? Try outdoor solar lights! They're easy to install and virtually maintenance free. Plus, they come in a variety of styles to fit any design aesthetic. Remember, solar lights work best when the solar cells receive the manufacturer's recommended hours of sunlight and are placed in areas where they will receive light throughout the day. Thankfully, longer summer days means your lights will stay on longer into the night. *Source: energy.gov*

Looking Out for You: April Outages

- Maintenance – 1
- Equipment failure – 4
- Unknown – 13
- Lightning – 1
- Trees – 4



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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Welcome, Dominic Cresta!

THERE'S A NEW FACE AROUND THE cooperative office these days. On May 20, Dominic Cresta began his career as an apprentice lineman for Clarke Electric.



Dominic recently received his Associates Degree in Powerline Technology from Northwest Iowa Community College. He is a 2017 graduate from Interstate 35 High School and currently lives in the New Virginia area.

An early encounter with Clarke Electric linemen solidified Dominic's career path.

"When I was a junior in high school, I watched the Clarke Electric linemen working on lines near my family's farm and decided right then that was what I wanted to do," he said. "I love my community and really want to give back. The best way I can do that is by serving the members of the cooperative."

Theft

RECENTLY, CLARKE ELECTRIC had a loaded wire dispensing trailer stolen. The trailer was eventually located in Clarke County but was significantly damaged and missing the two large spools of wire it had been hauling. The cost to the cooperative to replace the trailer and wire was much larger than the scrap value the thieves received for the wire.

The cooperative is owned by its member-consumers, so when someone steals from the cooperative, they are also stealing from you.

Law enforcement officials are investigating the theft. If you have any knowledge of the crime or helpful information, please call Clarke County Sheriff's Office, (641) 342-2914 or the cooperative.



Please be aware of any suspicious activity around the cooperative's substations or other equipment and report what you see right away. Doing so can save you - and your cooperative - from costly replacements.

SAVE THE DATE: 79th Annual Meeting Sept. 16

A COOPERATIVE IS MOST EFFECTIVE WITH STRONG LEADERSHIP. YOUR CLARKE Electric Board of Directors is democratically elected from the membership to represent your interests and to provide long-term vision and direction.

We hold true to our mission to be safety driven, energy smart and community invested. Members will have the opportunity to make their voice heard by voting in the cooperative election Sept. 16.

Reading pays! We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during June to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.

You're More Than a Member-Consumer

WITHOUT A SENSE OF CARING, there can be no sense of community," a quote from author Anthony J. D'Angelo. We feel that quote is representative of our cooperative's mission of "community invested."

To a large degree, this reflects Clarke Electric's philosophy toward our member-consumers and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member-consumer of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1939 Clarke Electric was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none. 19-19-01-02

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they

knew someone who helped create Clarke Electric Cooperative. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, people in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is



constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have requested feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is one of the reasons why we hold annual meetings.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. The cooperative

offers rebates on lighting, geothermal systems, air source heat pumps and other technology that can keep your energy use manageable. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we invest in your local Chamber/Mainstreet and Economic Development offices. We use funds made available through the USDA Rural Economic Development and Grant program to encourage economic development and job creation. We support your kids by donating to your local school events and activities. When we support these efforts and others, we are supporting the community and making it a better place to live for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

Energy Smart: Reduce Energy Use During Peak Hours

PEAK HOURS ARE THE BUSIEST times for Clarke Electric Cooperative, since many people are using electricity at the same time. In addition, it costs your co-op more to generate electricity when demand soars during peak periods – and the cost of your electricity also may rise. By simply using less electricity during peak periods, you can help save your co-op – and yourself – money. Here's how you can help during peak hours, which generally are on the hottest summer days between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.:

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods. Wait to run your dishwasher until you go to bed, for instance.
- If you have air conditioning, turn the thermostat up when you are gone and

at night. Cool only the rooms that you are using.

- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave oven, for example, uses considerably less energy than your stove or cooktop.
- If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you get a highly efficient one. Look for ENERGY STAR® labels when you're evaluating different models.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.

Use the energy you need, but use it wisely! You'll help your co-op avoid building expensive new power plants – and that, in turn, will help keep your electric rates stable.

Safety Driven: When Tornadoes Strike at Night

IN IOWA, LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT of all tornadoes in the past 38 years have occurred between midnight and 6 a.m. Although rare, night time tornadoes are more than twice as likely to be deadly according to a 2018 study from Northern Illinois University that looked at roughly 48,000 tornadoes that occurred in the U.S. between 1950 and 2005.

That's due to several factors. Tornadoes are difficult to see at night, so few if any spotters are out monitoring the storm. Another factor is most people are asleep. Finally, people are usually at home at this time of night which would be inside a structure that's likely not as sturdy as

continued on pg. 4

Grain Bin Notice

WHEN YOU START TO PLAN FOR a new grain bin, please contact Clarke Electric Cooperative.

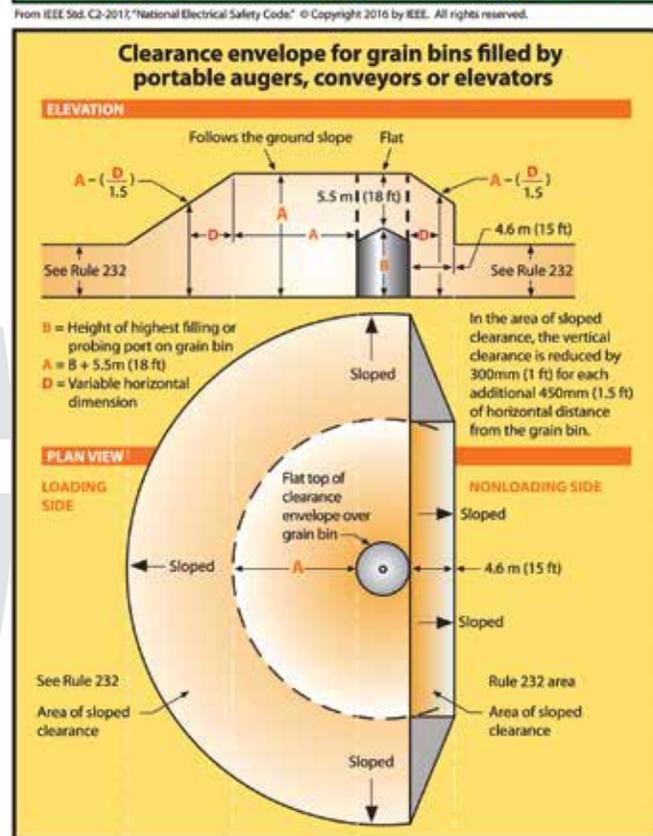
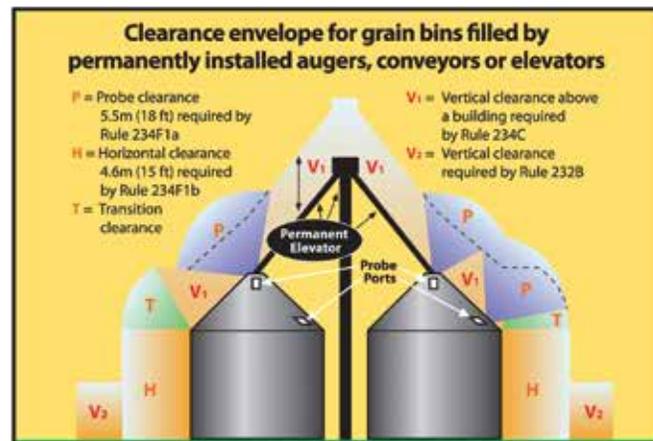
We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

See the drawing for the specific clearances required for both scenarios, below. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact Clarke Electric or Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO).

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)

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 us at (800) 362-2154.



Geothermal Tax Credits Restored in 2019

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN ENERGY EFFICIENT UPGRADE THAT WILL save you money on your electric bills, consider a geothermal heating and cooling system. With a state tax credit back in place, this HVAC option is more affordable than ever!

In May, Governor Reynolds signed HF 779 into law, which reinstated the geothermal tax credit that was eliminated in 2018. Geothermal heat pumps installed on residential property in Iowa are again eligible for a tax credit equal to 20 percent of the Federal tax credit.

With the Federal tax credit set at 30 percent of the installation cost until the end of the year, the state tax credit is currently equal to 6 percent of the installation cost; this state tax credit can be applied retroactively to Jan. 1, 2019.

Geothermal heat pumps have become a popular energy-saving option. To learn more about geothermal heat pumps and the costs involved, please contact Jason Gibbs, manager of Member Services at jasgibbs@cecn.net. We'll explain the installation process and answer your questions because Clarke Electric is here to help you use energy wisely!

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:

- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.



The Cooperative Difference: Patronage Dividends - Your Investment

A S A MEMBER-CONSUMER, YOU have a share in the earnings of your not-for-profit electric cooperative.

Your cooperative's rates are set to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on any loans and provide an emergency reserve. Money exceeding the cost of doing business is returned to co-op members as patronage capital or dividends.

At the end of each calendar year, independent auditors perform an audit of our financial statements in accordance with government auditing standards that confirms our financial position. Our "margin" is calculated by subtracting operating expenses from the total amount of money collected during the year.

The margin is allocated to each member based on the amount each member paid

for electricity. Service charges, membership fees and other payments are not included in the allocation.

This year your board of directors voted to allocate \$917,794 back to the member-consumers as 2018 patronage capital. The board also voted to retire the patronage capital that was allocated in 2001 and a portion of 2002. Longtime member-consumers of CEC will see a credit on their December electric account or as a check for non-member-consumers. Dividends are returned on a 20-year rotation.

When you think about your local electric cooperative, think about being a member-consumer of a local business, because that's what you are. Reap benefits from the co-op services provided today and look forward to a return on your investment in the future.



Opie Advocates for Co-ops in Washington

GENERAL MANAGER DAVE OPIE joined electric cooperatives from Iowa and across the country in Washington, D.C., in May for the 2019 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference.

While there, Opie heard from high-ranking policymakers including several Members of Congress and Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Neil Chatterjee. 43-20-01-03

Not only were rural electric cooperative leaders successful in sharing the cooperative point of view on important federal issues but they were also effective at maintaining and building relationships with Washington policymakers.

Issues discussed included protecting cooperatives' not-for-profit status, rightsizing pension premiums, protecting Iowa's power supply, and improving rural infrastructure and broadband access.

Pictured above is David Opie, seventh from right, standing next to Congressman Dave Loebsack and other electric cooperative representatives from Iowa.

Tornadoes at Night...from pg. 2

their place of work, especially if they live in a mobile home. Here are some tips to remember during tornado season:

- **Stay aware** of potentially changing weather conditions and forecasts before going to bed.
- If there is any threat of severe weather, make sure you have a **weather app** on your phone that will sound an alarm when a storm warning is issued, or keep a **weather radio** on that will sound loudly enough to help wake you up when there is an alert.
- **Practice with your family** so if awakened in the middle of the night, everyone knows exactly where to go and what to do to reach safety. Know where you should take shelter and practice the drill at least once a year.



- If severe weather threatens, **review the plan** to refresh everyone's memory.
- **Stock supplies** such as bottled water, flashlights, blankets, etc., in the identified storm shelter area.

No matter what time of day a tornado may strike, be sure you have a plan in place to help keep you and your family safe.



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