



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



August 2025

Contact Us

Office:
1102 Egret Drive
P.O. Box 127
Sibley, IA 51249

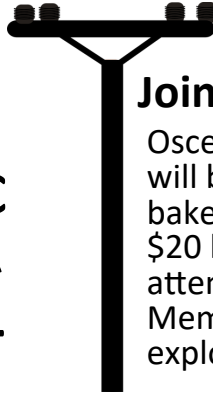
Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Phone:
Local: 712-754-2519
Toll Free: 888-754-2519

On evenings, weekends or holidays an answering service will accept power outage or emergency type calls only.

Online:
osceolaelectric.com

2025 Osceola Electric MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT




Join us for supper on August 11!

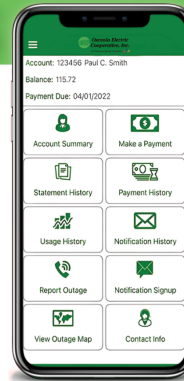
Osceola Electric Cooperative board and staff will be serving burgers, potato salad, and baked beans from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. \$20 bill credit will be given to members in attendance along with a chance to win prizes. Members will also have the opportunity to explore our new Web Portal and Phone App.

COMING

Manage your Osceola Electric account *the way you want* with the new **FREE Mobile Customer Access**.

 Signup starts August 11th

 5 - 7 PM at the Member Appreciation Supper



SOON

- Online Bill Payments
- Convenient and Secure
- Easy to Use, No Contact
- Easy Account Management Tools
- View Usage
- View Statement
- View Past Payments

Available on iOS and Android. Search for **Osceola Electric Cooperative** in your app store. After installing the app, create your account or login with your existing online credentials.



Take the Quiz

Read through the newsletter and submit the quiz on the back for a chance to win a \$10 bill credit.

OEC Recipes

Submit your favorite Rice Casserole Recipe for consideration to be printed in our November Newsletter. Submission deadline is October 20. Printed recipes are worth \$10 bill credit.

**Osceola Electric
Cooperative
will be closed
September 1
in observation of
Labor Day.**

Celebrating Local Volunteers

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, our Shine the Light contest celebrates our cooperative commitment to the community. During the month of June, member-consumers, employees and retirees of Iowa's electric cooperatives were invited to nominate local volunteers who are making a positive difference in their communities.

Congratulations to Ashton Fire Chief, Andrew Gacke on being nominated for the Shine the Light contest. Kyle Huss nominated Andrew for making a positive difference in the Ashton community. Kyle wrote in his nomination essay:

"Andrew has been committed with improving our small town fire department ever since becoming Chief in 2018. He has put in countless hours of applying for grants, reaching out to businesses and locals for fundraising efforts to improve the Fire Department's trucks and equipment. The

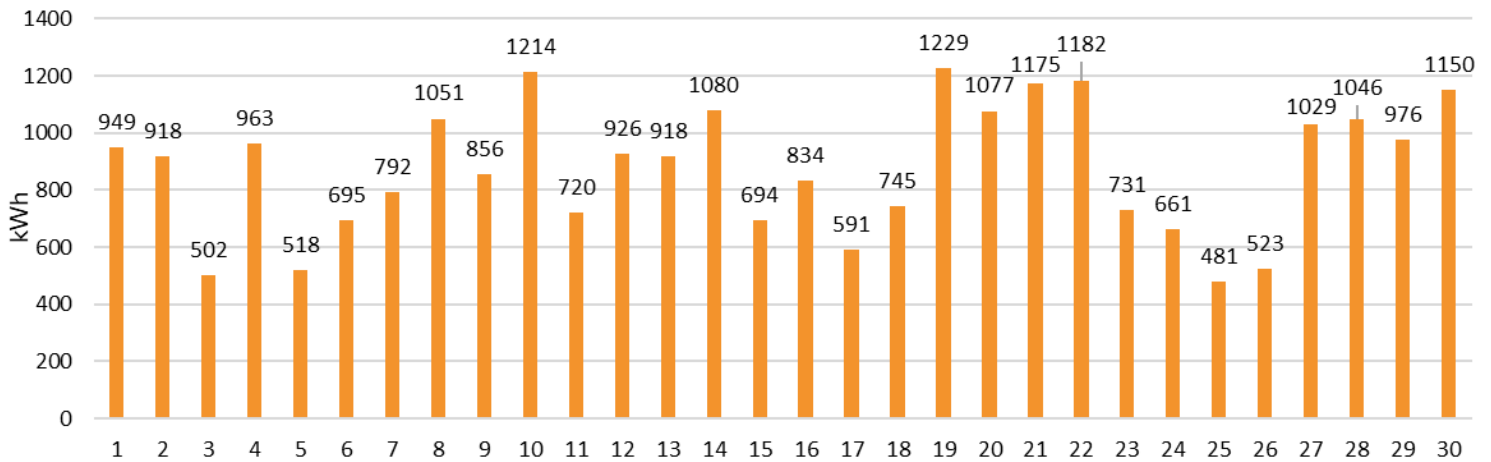
department has added two newer fire trucks now and upgraded the fire gear and SCBAs. Also, he has spent many hours volunteering doing all the paperwork, reporting, keeping the trucks and equipment running in top shape, going to county fire meetings, maintaining the building, and much beyond."



Congratulations Andrew, and thank you for making a positive difference in our community!

A list of 88 volunteer nominations can be found in the August issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine.

June 2025 Solar Park Production



Three Smart Home Technologies to Help You Save Energy

Smart technologies make our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient. By connecting your home Wi-Fi network, smart devices automate everyday tasks like lighting, heating, cooling and home security—they can even communicate with other smart devices in the home.

While not all smart home products are specifically designed with energy savings in mind, there are several smart technologies that can help you lower home energy use. Here are the top three smart home devices to help you save.

Smart Thermostats

Smart or not, your thermostat is the most effective tool for controlling energy use, as heating and cooling typically account for the largest portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere on the go. Many smart thermostats include learning

capabilities and will adjust the thermostat based on previous behavior and patterns.

According to the Department of Energy, smart thermostats can reduce heating and cooling bills by more than 8% annually, and with models as low as \$65, they typically pay for themselves in one year.

Smart Lighting

Smart LED bulbs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and can be scheduled or turned off (or on) remotely through a smart phone app. Smart bulbs are available in a range of shapes, brightness levels, colors and more, so shop for the products that work best for your home lighting needs.

Many smart bulbs include motion sensors that turn on or off based on room activity, further optimizing home energy use. If you're new to smart lighting, try a home starter kit. Prices for kits range from \$70 to \$300+ depending on how many bulbs you need.

Smart Plugs

Smart plugs are inexpensive gadgets that can help you save energy. Many electronic devices consume power even when they are turned off (known as “phantom load”), which can take a toll on your energy bills. Smart plugs are simply plugged into an electrical outlet and connected to your Wi-Fi network. When set up, the smart plug can cut power (or return power) to non-smart devices, like coffee makers, phone chargers and other items that draw phantom load.

Many smart plugs can be paired with popular smart hubs, like Alexa or Google Nest, or controlled through the plug's associated app. Smart plugs are simple to use and a set of four can be purchased for as little as \$25.

If you're looking for new ways to save energy, try these budget-friendly, convenient smart home technologies.



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Concern For Community

Osceola Electric Cooperative (OEC) is guided by seven cooperative principles. OEC's seventh principle is Concern for Community. We are owned by our members; we all live within our service territory. We all want our communities to be successful.

OEC has two partners that we work with to triple our donations. CoBank is a national non-profit bank owned by the Rural American Cooperatives it services. CoBank has established the Sharing Success program to match donations made by their customer-owners. Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) started a matching program for its member-owners. Both CoBank and BEPC allow customers to apply for up to four matching grants equaling \$2,500.00 dollars each. OEC turns ten thousand dollars of local dollars, with our partners that seed money grows into thirty thousand dollars to be donated to these four organizations.

This year OEC Board of Directors selected the Osceola County Fair Board, Osceola County Fire Departments, Sibley-Ocheyedan Booster Club and Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn Community Schools.

Both school donations are for scoreboard upgrades.

Osceola County remains a great place to live and work thanks to these community minded residents and organizations.

Not pictured: Harris Fire Department, May City Fire Department, and Ocheyedan Fire Department. Ashton Fire Department is pictured on the front.



Sibley Fire Department



Sibley-Ocheyedan Athletic Boosters



Melvin Fire Department



Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn Community Schools



Osceola County Fair Board

Sheet Pan Fajitas by Lindsey Helmers



- 1 lb flank steak or boneless skinless chicken breast
- 3 large bell peppers sliced thinly
- 1 large yellow onion sliced
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tbsp fajita seasoning
- 1 Tbsp lime juice
- 2 Tbsp fresh cilantro finely chopped

Preheat oven to 400°. Pat steak or chicken dry with paper towels. Slice into thin strips going against the grain, 1/4” thick for steak or 1/2” thick for chicken. If any pieces are too long slice them in half lengthwise. Add steak or chicken, sliced peppers, onions, olive oil, fajita seasoning and lime juice to a large mixing bowl. Toss well to combine, transfer to a large sheet pan and spread into an even layer. (if your baking sheet doesn’t have a great non-stick surface spray with cooking spray first). Roast sheet pan fajitas in the oven for 15-18 minutes until steak/chicken is browned and vegetables are tender. Don’t over cook or steak will dry out and get tough. Remove from oven and toss with fresh cilantro before serving.

Grain Bin Clearances

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact your electric cooperative.

The electric cooperative 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.

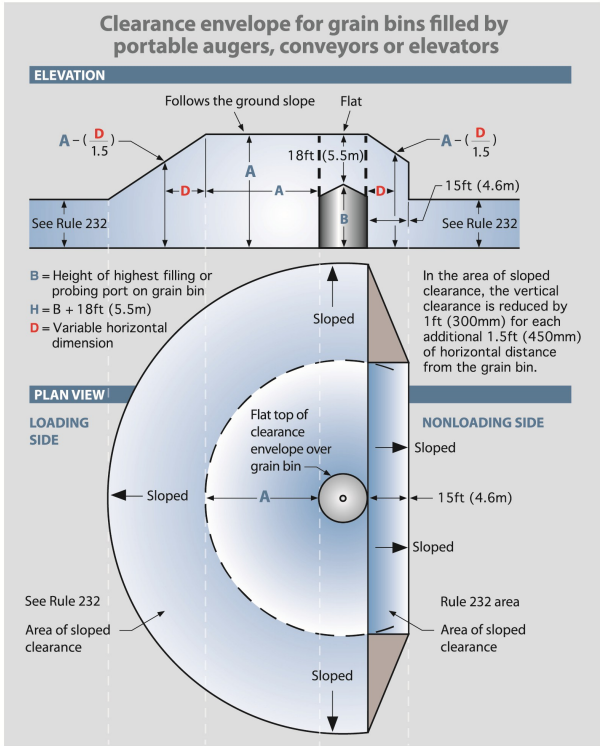
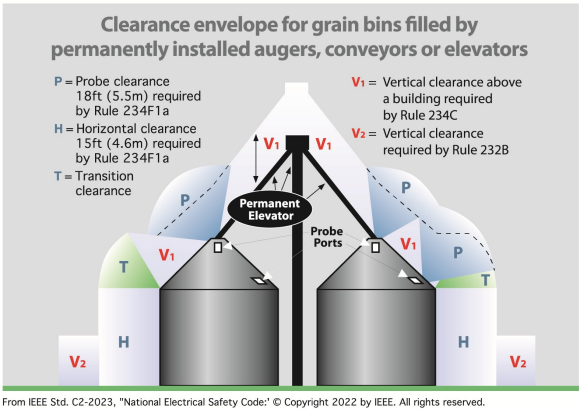
The attachment to this letter shows a drawing of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact your electric cooperative.

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 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 Commission 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 your local electric cooperative.



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IOEC Quiz

- Send in your completed quiz for your chance to win!
- IOEC will draw 3 members to receive \$10 credit towards their electric bill. Congratulations to last month’s winners: Linda & Mike Schaa, Dean Ramsey, & Donald Keninger
- 1. Starting August 11 members can sign up to manage their OEC _____ online or on their phone.
- 2. The average consumption, farm in June 2025 was _____.
- 3. One of the organizations OEC donated to was _____.
- Name: _____
- Account #: _____

Operating Statistics	June	2024	2025
	Billed consumers, farm	1,153	1,150
	Billed consumers, non-farm and others	123	126
	Kilowatts sold, farm	2,651,014	2,503,005
	Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	6,946,924	6,540,350
	Average consumption, farm	2,299	2,176
	Average Consumption, non-farm	56,479	51,908
	Average statement, farm	\$270.35	\$276.00
	Average statement, non-farm and others	\$4,258.51	\$4,192.08
	Total minimum bills	22	21
	Outage time per consumer—minutes	32 7/9	7 2/3
	Annual Meeting	March 2026	