



Electric co-ops discuss priorities

as Iowa's 2026 Legislative Session begins

More than 150 senior staff and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives attended a legislative “welcome back” reception in Des Moines at the start of the 91st Iowa General Assembly January 13. At the event, co-op advocates discussed priorities face-to-face with their state legislators.

The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) hosted the reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

“Hosting this annual reception at the start of the legislative session is a way for Iowa electric cooperatives to form long-term relationships based on trust and open communication,” remarked Leslie Kaufman, IAEC executive vice president. “With many new legislators and new faces in leadership this session, we value every opportunity to talk about the cooperative business model and the needs of our member-consumers.”

Representatives from Iowa’s locally owned electric cooperatives covered several important issues that could impact the



Sharing the Cooperative Message

Above | Iowa State Rep. Ann Meyer (Fort Dodge) speaks with Prairie Energy Cooperative employees and directors including, Scott Hasty, Ryan Eekoff, Kate Garner, Ted Hall and Chad Chapman.

affordability and reliability of electricity for the members and communities we serve.

“With many new legislators and new faces in leadership this session, we value every opportunity to talk about the cooperative business model and the needs of our member-consumers.”

- Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president, IAEC

Electric cooperatives will again focus on protecting Iowa’s defined electric service territories, an important law that helps ensure every corner of the state receives consistent, cost-effective electric service. Another legislative challenge that could resurface involves third-party or “community solar” proposals that would attempt to allow non-utility solar developers

to provide retail electric service inside an established utility’s service area, in direct conflict with service territory law.

Iowa’s electric co-ops are also seeking to further protect utility workers, who encounter threats, harassment and assaults while on the job. Strengthening penalties for violence against utility workers reaffirms our commitment to the safety of cooperative employees and our communities.

In the coming months, Iowa’s 91st General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related matters that are central to Iowa’s rural economy. Iowa electric cooperatives will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues as we work to power lives and empower communities.

Learn more about our advocacy efforts at www.IARuralPower.org. ■



Welcome Back Reception

Above | Steve Boedecker, left, director, Corn Belt Power and Calhoun County ECA, and Jim Miller, right, Calhoun County ECA, meet with newly elected state Rep. Wendy Larson at the Welcome Back Reception Jan. 13.

Local dentistry takes advantage of program



Co-ops contribute to FIND program

Above | Corn Belt Power Cooperative and other FIND program contributors gather for a photo after donating matching funds to the Filling Iowa's Needs for Dentists program in late December 2025. FIND is a state and local collaboration to connect dentists to underserved communities. The program recruited Dr. Abby Thomas, center, to the Algona Louscher Family Dentistry office and Dr. Darrian Ward, fourth from right, to their Emmetsburg office. Corn Belt Power, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, and the Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation contributed \$2,000; Palo Alto Hospital, Emmetsburg Municipal Utilities, and Algona Municipal Utilities contributed \$1,000; and Midland Power and Kossuth Area Development Group contributed \$500 to the program.

Louscher Family Dentistry is proud to announce that two of its newest team members, Dr. Abby Thomas and Dr. Darrian Ward, have been selected for the Filling Iowa's Need for Dentists (FIND) program. Both recent graduates of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Dr. Thomas and Dr. Ward are committed to serving rural and underserved populations in North Central Iowa.

The FIND program is a collaborative effort to recruit and retain dentists in Iowa's rural communities. As program awardees, Dr. Thomas, who will primarily serve patients at Louscher's Algona location, and Dr. Ward, who will be based at the Emmetsburg office, will receive funding

assistance to help offset their dental school student loan payments.

A hallmark of the FIND program is the requirement of local matching funds, demonstrating the community's commitment to supporting new dentists. Several organizations and utility partners stepped forward to provide the necessary \$5,000 match for each dentist, totaling a \$10,000 investment in local dental care.

The contributors for both locations are as follows: Corn Belt Power, Iowa Lakes Electric, and the Iowa Area Development Group Community Foundation contributed \$2,000 each; Palo Alto Hospital, Emmetsburg Municipal Utilities, and Algona Municipal Utilities contributed \$1,000 each;

and Midland Power and Kossuth Area Development Group contributed \$500 each. The FIND awards for Dr. Thomas and Dr. Ward would not have been possible without this generous support.

About the FIND Program:

The Fulfilling Iowa's Need for Dentists (FIND) Project is a state and local collaboration that is committed to connecting dentists and underserved communities with the resources needed to increase access to care. The project includes dental education debt repayment through the Delta Dental of Iowa (DDIA) loan repayment program.

Learn more about this project at www.iowafindproject.com. ■

Corn Belt Power sees another sales record

For the fifth consecutive year, Corn Belt Power set a new sales record in 2025, delivering 2.181 billion kilowatt-hours to its member systems—an increase from 2.105 billion in 2024. Despite heating and cooling degree days aligning closely with previous record years, energy demand continues to rise across Corn Belt Power's system, a trend expected to persist in the coming years.

Through its load management program, Corn Belt Power helped member systems save just over \$4.4 million in 2025 by reducing demand during peak hours. This system delivers direct financial benefits to member cooperatives and the consumers they serve. A detailed breakdown of sales and performance will be presented at Corn Belt Power's annual meeting on April 8. ■

2.105
billion kilowatt-hours
2024 record sales

2.181
billion kilowatt-hours
2025 record sales

Slowikowski to speak at Corn Belt Power annual meeting



Eddie Slowikowski

Above | Eddie Slowikowski will keynote Corn Belt Power's annual meeting at the Briggs Woods Conference Center in Webster City, April 8.

Corn Belt Power will welcome Eddie Slowikowski as keynote speaker at its Wed., April 8 annual meeting at the Briggs Woods Conference Center in Webster City.

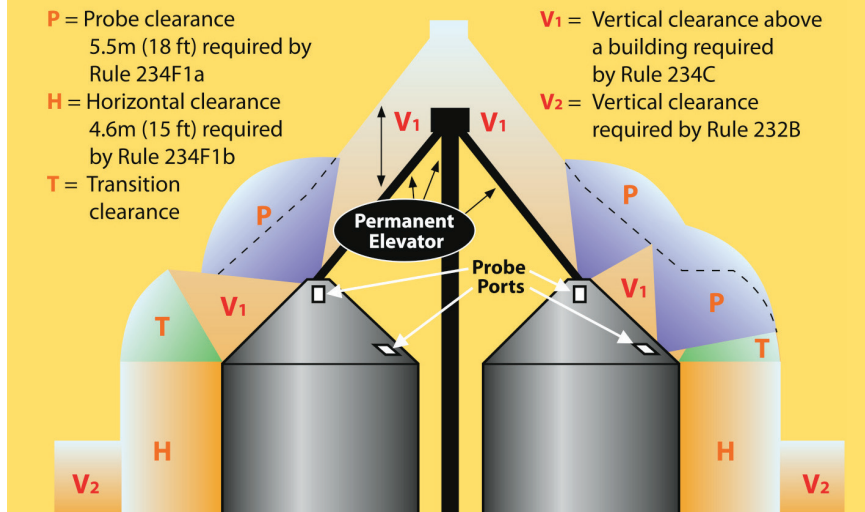
Eddie is a former world-class runner and gold medal winner for the USA Track & Field team. With a time of 3:58, he is the 169th American to run a mile in under four minutes.

Eddie was a three-time Division I NCAA All-American and national cross country champion out of Loyola University in Chicago. Eddie was a former reporter in training at CNN before launching his own business. Today, Eddie is a highly sought-after speaker, consultant and author.

Eddie is known throughout the industry as an inspired performance expert. His widely acclaimed "Four Minute Formula" has been utilized by people from all walks of life. Through years of training as an athlete and running his own successful speaking and consulting business, he knows what it takes to be elite. Eddie has always had the can-do spirit of an entrepreneur in all walks of life. Best of all, Eddie can channel that sense of accomplishment through interactive storytelling and raw emotion to audiences everywhere. He can make you laugh, cry, dance and learn — all in one presentation.

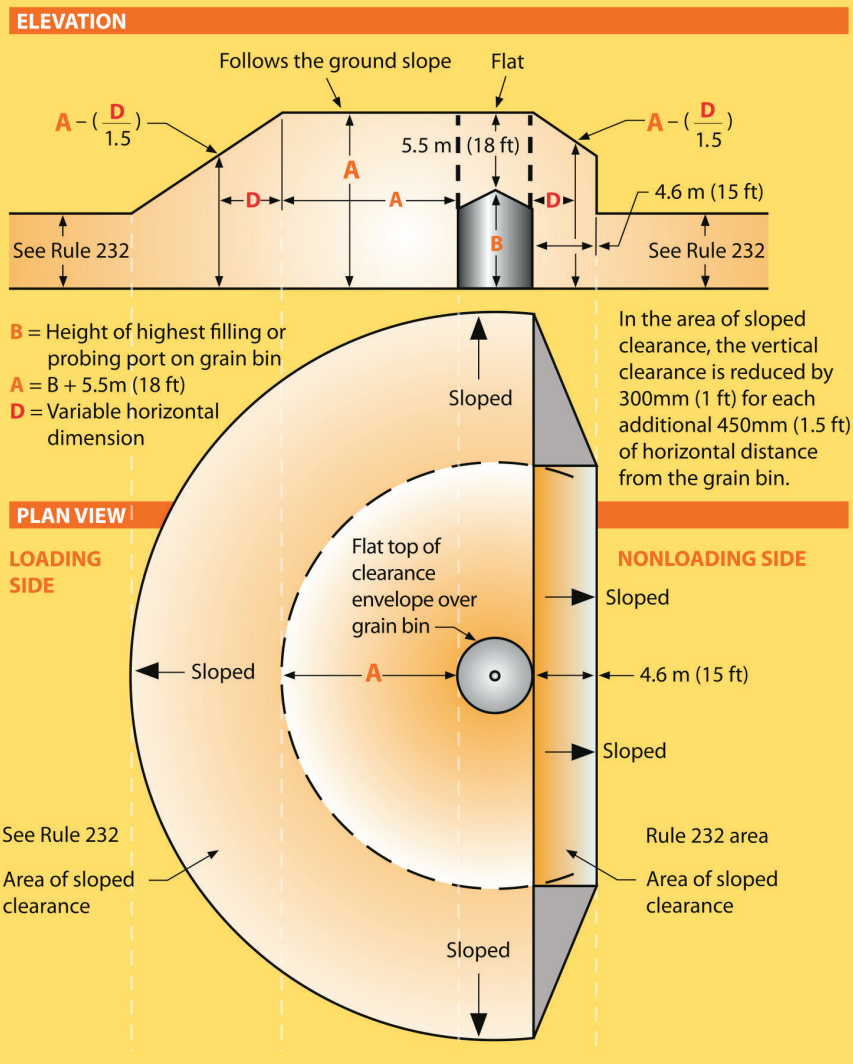
Eddie speaks to tens of thousands of people year in and year out. The one constant through it all remains his high-energy message and interactive style. Eddie uses music, sound effects, dancing and audience interaction to bring his memorable presentations to life. ■

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



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



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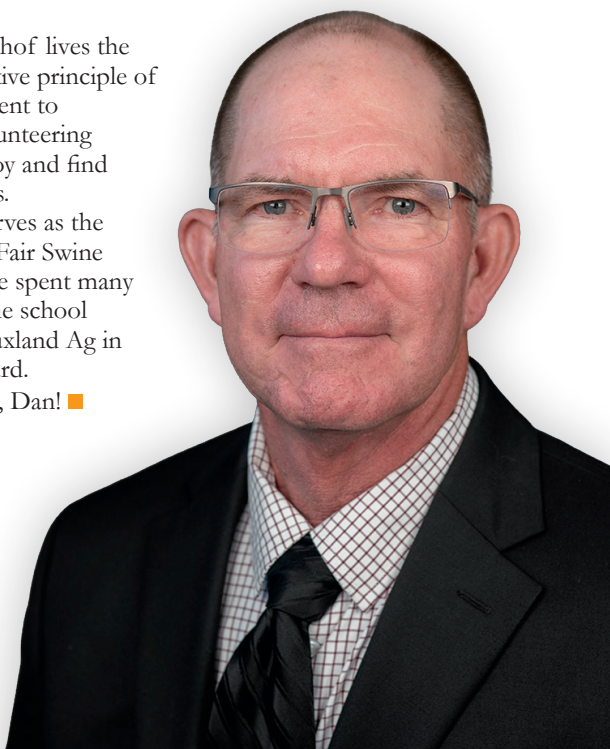
January Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Madison Alert, communications specialist/key accounts representative, Franklin REC, donated her \$100 prize to the Franklin County ISU extension office.

Winterhof wins grand prize

Dan Winterhof lives the cooperative principle of commitment to community. "Volunteering is something I enjoy and find rewarding," he says.

Currently, he serves as the Cherokee County Fair Swine Superintendent. He spent many years serving on the school board and the Siouxland Ag in the Classroom board.

Congratulations, Dan! ■



SEVEN ON 7.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

EPISODE 35
<https://qrto.org/DaKX4a>
FROM CO-OPS TO CAREER GOALS WITH LINKEDIN LEARNING

Corn Belt Power Cooperative **Watts Watt**

Watts Watt is published monthly for employees and associates of Corn Belt Power Cooperative, 1300 13th St. North, Humboldt, Iowa 50548-0508. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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