



Corn Belt Power member co-ops, local businesses honored at IADG awards

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, and independent telecommunication companies, honored eight distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award at a luncheon held in conjunction with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5.

Iowa Select Farms (Midland Power Cooperative) is the recipient of the "Outstanding Business of the Year" Iowa Venture Award.

Iowa Select Farms, headquartered in Iowa Falls, is the fourth-largest pork producer in the world and the largest family-owned production company in the U.S. It markets over four million hogs and 1.5 billion pounds of pork annually. With over 800 farms in 52 counties, Iowa Select has become a leading employer and economic engine for the state and Iowa's rural communities.

The company recently embarked upon state-of-the-art innovation and investment in single barn and double barn pig finishing facilities, as well as the construction of ten new sow farms aimed at addressing an Iowa sow herd decline that has been ensuing since 1990. Each of these breed-to-wean farms has an economic impact of \$4.7 million annually. This number includes facility construction and maintenance, 18 facility jobs, direct payroll of over \$700,000, and ripples onward to include equipment, feed and grain, energy, internet, taxes, and other consumables.

Businesses served by four Corn Belt Power cooperatives won Venture Awards:

AVEKA (Butler County REC) is a



Above | Iowa Select Farms is the recipient of the IADG Outstanding Business of the Year Award. The company was honored at the annual Venture Awards luncheon during the IAEC annual meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5.

divestiture of the company 3M and is a full-service toll processing and research & development company that focuses on particle technology. Recently, AVEKA underwent a \$2.6 million project in Fredericksburg that included a 50,000 sq. ft. warehouse expansion, new equipment, and facility remodeling. AVEKA is also a model of community engagement, supporting many local causes and charities as well as encouraging their employees to be actively engaged in community initiatives.

Peterson Transportation Inc. (Calhoun County REC) of rural Manson is a long-distance hauler focusing on flat-bed delivery of steel and wood. This 20-year-old company has grown to a fleet of 45 semi-trucks and 125 trailers. Peterson Transportation employs over 70 people, including 55 drivers.

Mid-Iowa Cooperative (Grundy County REC), headquartered in Conrad, Iowa, has been serving its member-owners and other farm customers for over 75 years. In 2019 the Co-op grew its business by

acquiring and merging with East Central Iowa Cooperative. This year Mid Iowa invested over \$18 million, acquiring 40 acres in Grundy County and constructing a new 5-million-bushel grain delivery and storage facility. Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative nominated Mid-Iowa Cooperative for the Iowa Venture Award.

M & C Anderson Pullets (Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative) of Sioux Rapids is acclaimed for their farming practices, including tree planting, water retention, and other conservation methods. This 1,753-acre farm is home to ten specialized bio-security facilities that rear nearly 5 million pullets annually. Owner Colleen "Coke" Anderson has been recognized as a leader in the poultry industry serving on the board and committees of the Iowa Poultry Association and United Egg Producers. In 1999, she was elected as the first woman to Chair the American Egg Board. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative nominated M & C Anderson Pullets for the Iowa Venture Award. ■



Joel Haynes passes away

Corn Belt Power Cooperative was saddened by the sudden loss of longtime employee Joel Haynes on Saturday, November 16.

Haynes, the co-op's outage coordinator, worked at Corn Belt Power for 20 years.

Joel was born March 4, 1974 in Humboldt, Iowa to Kent (Buck) and Stephanie (Miner) Haynes. He grew up in Humboldt, Iowa. Haynes moved to California for a time, and returned to Humboldt where he graduated from Humboldt High School. He played football for Iowa Central Community College, transferred to Iowa State University and finished his schooling as a Lineman in Sheldon, Iowa.

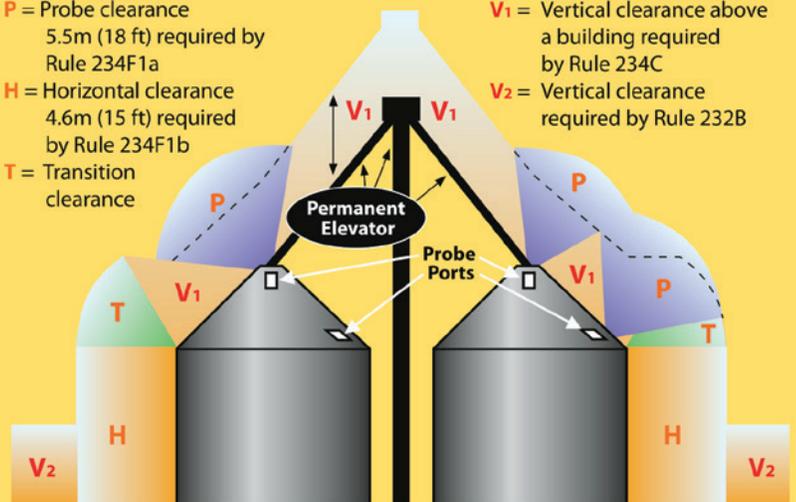
Joel is survived by his wife, Dianna and daughters, Ryan and Reagan, his mother, Stephanie Haynes of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, his grandmother, Marcene Smith of Humboldt, Iowa. His sisters, Celeste (John) Schenone of Lake Havasu City, Arizona and Tammy (Mark) Thompson of Branson, Missouri.

Services were held on November 24 and 25. ■



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

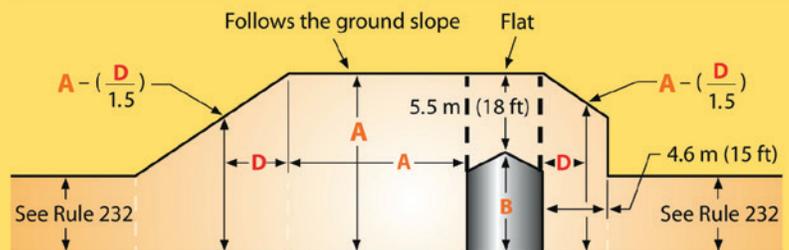
- P** = Probe clearance
5.5m (18 ft) required by Rule 234F1a
- H** = Horizontal clearance
4.6m (15 ft) required by Rule 234F1b
- T** = Transition clearance
- V₁** = Vertical clearance above a building required by Rule 234C
- V₂** = Vertical clearance required by Rule 232B



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

ELEVATION



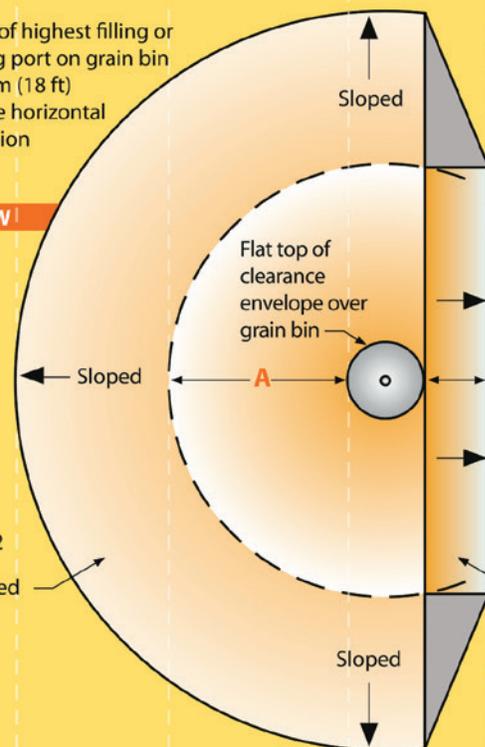
- B** = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin
- A** = $B + 5.5\text{m (18 ft)}$
- D** = Variable horizontal dimension

In the area of sloped clearance, the vertical clearance is reduced by 300mm (1 ft) for each additional 450mm (1.5 ft) of horizontal distance from the grain bin.

PLAN VIEW

LOADING SIDE

See Rule 232
Area of sloped clearance



NONLOADING SIDE

Sloped
4.6 m (15 ft)
Sloped
Rule 232 area
Area of sloped clearance

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Kevin Hapes

Hapes new application support specialist

Kevin Hapes is Corn Belt Power Cooperative's new application support specialist in the information technology department. Hapes has worked in information technology support for La'James College in Fort Dodge since January 2018. He is a graduate of Iowa Central Community College with a degree in computer networking. Kevin's first day was December 16. ■

News in brief

Bruening named Outage Coordinator

Chris Bruening has accepted the position of outage coordinator at Corn Belt Power Cooperative. Chris has been a system operator since joining Corn Belt Power in 2014. He will continue as a system operator until a replacement has been hired and trained.



Chris Bruening

Yearly test takes place at Wisdom

Once a year, employees at Corn Belt Power's Wisdom Station take part in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Operational Test.

2019's Wisdom Unit One test took place Thursday, Dec. 5. Plant Manager Patrick Connor said everything went well.

"The test is an SPP requirement that shows that we are able to achieve our rated load," he said. "Everything went as planned. During the test we're always looking for potential issues. Thankfully, we didn't find any issues."

Connor said the test is a great way for newer employees to get their feet wet.

"We try to schedule it so that the newest operators get at least part of the start up and or shutdown," he said. "When you do testing like this, many times you have some input on when it happens. That allows you to get operators in on the run that may still be in training. Even day ahead runs provide good training. Unit One is the older of the two units at Wisdom Station. It is a 38-megawatt natural gas/fuel oil unit located in Spencer.



Wisdom annual operational test

Above | Grant Jackson, control operator, Corn Belt Power Cooperative monitors Wisdom Unit 1 during the plant's annual required Southwest Power Pool Operational Test. Patrick Connor, plant manager, Wisdom Station reported that everything went well and as planned.



Solar ribbon cutting

Above | Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative cut the ribbon on its new solar project on Tuesday, Dec. 3. The new arrays will generate 900,000 kilo-watt hours each year.

Franklin REC hosts solar open house

More renewable energy is available on Corn Belt Power's system. Franklin REC ceremonially opened three new solar arrays on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Becky Bradburn, the co-op's CEO/general manager, says after the success of the first project, a community solar array, it was time to finish the other three.

"In 2016, Basin Electric Power Cooperative was offering a program to all member cooperatives to purchase all of the energy produced out of a renewable energy project for five cents as long as the project was under 150 KW," she said. "We submitted applications and were accepted for four projects. After building the community solar array at our office, we realized that we were saving an additional five cents per kilowatt hour in demand costs, so it made very good economic sense for us to build the remaining three arrays."

The arrays are being financed as a Tax Equity Partnership Flip (TEPF) with a subsidiary of RECORE, formerly Tidewater Energy Services, Windsor, Virginia, as the tax investor. Franklin REC and Tidewater Energy Services will share in the upfront costs of constructing the array.

The arrays are estimated to generate 900,000 kilo-watt hours in the first year. Our average residential member uses about 21,000 kilo-watt hours per year so these will service 43 homes. ■



2019 Service Awards

- 5 Chris Bruening
- 5 Eric Hankey
- 5 Howard Henkelvig
- 5 Grant Jackson
- 5 Jim Mertz
- 10 Connor Almond
- 10 Adam Bird
- 10 Marena Fritzer
- 10 Justin Hinters
- 10 Carla Hofmaster
- 10 Jacob Olberding
- 10 Mark Saxton
- 15 Kevin White
- 20 Shane Darr
- 20 Scott Gilderhus
- 20 Jon Girres
- 20 Chris Shillington
- 40 Dan Shiflett



December Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Doug Dau, manager, IT and technical support, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, donated his \$100 prize drawing to Immanuel Lutheran youth group, Spirit Lake.



The power of human connections

Jon Girres, left, second row, journeyman electrician, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, demonstrates the Touchstone Energy value of commitment to community by coaching 5 and 6 grade Humboldt Youth Sports Foundation football.

Girres says its fun to see the kids' skills develop in such a short amount of time. He explains, "It's important to me to instill in them a good work ethic like I learned at their age. Coaching football is a fun way to help do that." Girres' son Jacob, third from left, second row, No. 29, is also pictured here.



Christmas donation

Above | Jennifer Arndorfer, human resources specialist, and Sarah Dornath, administrative assistant, organize donations from Corn Belt Power employees that will be given to people in need this holiday season.

Corn Belt Power Cooperative Watts Watt

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