



# Feldman inducted into Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Hall of Fame

**D**on Feldman, former Butler County REC board member/secretary and president of the board of Corn Belt Power Cooperative, was inducted into the Iowa Cooperative Hall of Fame at the 2024 Annual Business Meeting of the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives.

“A well-deserving induction into the Iowa Cooperative Hall of Fame for Don’s dedication to serving the cooperative system for almost 40 years,” says Dave Holm, Executive Director of the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives.

Don Feldman began his cooperative journey in 1979, joining the board of directors for Butler County REC. Over the years, he demonstrated strong leadership, serving as secretary from 1986 to 2012 and taking on key roles within Northeast Iowa Development Corporation and Five Rivers Development Corporation.



**Feldman honored with Hall of Fame plaque**

**Above |** Ken Kuyper, third from left, retired executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, presents Donald Feldman, second from left, former Butler County REC board member/secretary and president of the Corn Belt Power board of directors, an honorary plaque for his induction into the Iowa Institute of Cooperatives Hall of Fame in Des Moines, Nov. 26. Feldman’s wife Virginia, left, also attended the induction ceremony.



**New IIC inductee**

**Above |** Don Feldman, middle, new inductee into the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives Hall of Fame gathers for a photo with cooperative leaders Craig Codner, left, CEO, Butler County REC, and Ken Kuyper, right, retired executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, who helped honor Feldman at the induction ceremony Nov. 26.

In 1989, Don was appointed Butler County REC’s representative to the Corn Belt Power Co-op board. Recognized for his dedication, he became board secretary in 1993 and, upon the president’s retirement in 1999, was encouraged to take on the role of president, a position he held for 18 years. Don led the cooperative community for over 36 years, retiring in 2018. Throughout his career, Don prioritized cooperative education and development. He earned the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director certification and the Director Gold Board Leadership Certificate.

Don championed educational programs like Youth Tour, scholarships, and Kid’s Day at the Fair, while also emphasizing electrical safety and innovative energy solutions for members. At Butler County REC, he played an instrumental role on the Loan Review Committee, approving numerous loans that bolstered rural jobs and supported small businesses in northeast Iowa. Under Don’s

leadership, the Corn Belt Power board made transformative decisions, such as retiring the Humboldt Generating Station, incorporating wind energy, and joining Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

He was known for fostering a collaborative environment, encouraging all directors to voice their opinions. Don’s vision extended beyond energy generation to governance, as he worked with industry partners to enhance cooperative services. His legacy remains a testament to commitment, unity, and the betterment of rural communities. Joining Feldman as a 2024 Iowa Cooperatives Hall of Fame inductee is former Chief Financial Officer, Keith Spackler for Ag Processing Inc.

“These inductees and their fellow members are great examples of the positive impacts Iowa cooperatives make daily across the state. We thank them for the time and service they have provided to their communities,” Holm says. ■

# Economic development professionals hear from expert economists

Corn Belt Power's Business Development group held a meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11. Present at the meeting was Dr. Ernie Goss, prominent professor and regional economist, whose specialty is making economics understandable and relatable to people from all walks of life.

Dr. Goss shared an economic outlook presentation with the group that focused on the greater United States economy, as well as the rural economy and commodity prices.

Dr. Goss is the director of the Institute for Economic Inquiry and a professor of economics at Creighton University Heider College of Business where he holds the Jack A. MacAllister Chair in Regional Economics. He is also director of The Goss Institute for Economic Research in Denver, Colorado, a bipartisan think tank conducting business and economic research and providing innovative, practical recommendations that affect change and public policy.

As an economist, Dr. Goss is a highly respected, nationally-known expert on the mid-American economy who can articulate how regional economic situations can impact the nation or the world – and vice versa. He is a trusted voice who is often tapped by government and business leaders, economists and the press to shed light on economic issues and trends.

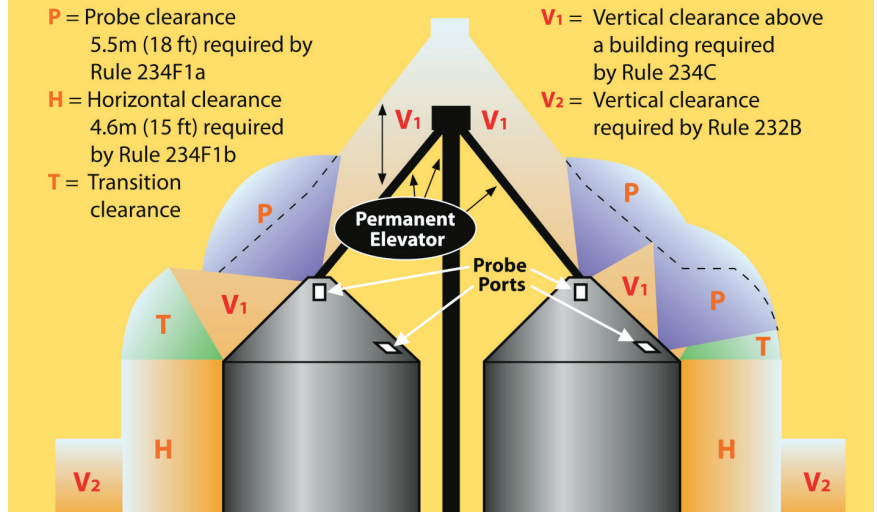
In addition to their regular agenda, attendees also heard from Corn Belt Power's Faith Warden, vice president, finance and administration, on the organization's financial forecast and Mike Thatcher, vice president, power supply, on the changes to the cooperative's rate book. ■



**Dr. Goss**

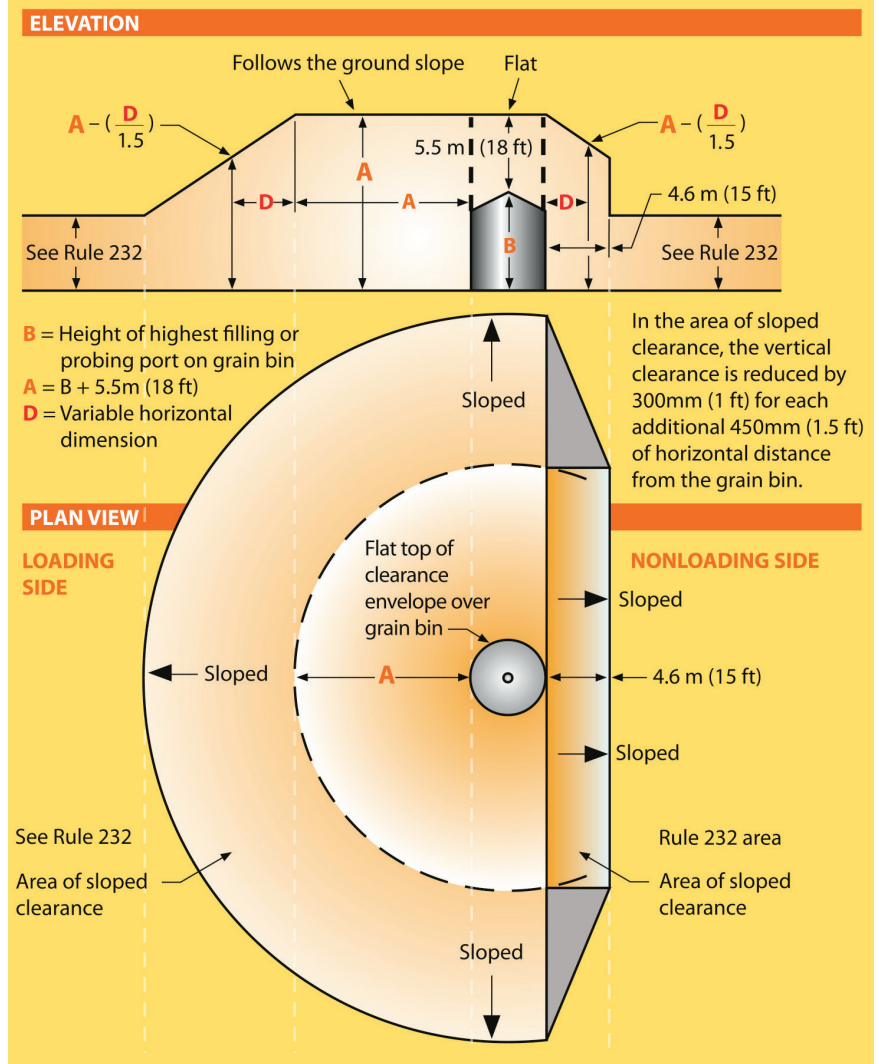
**Above** | Renowned economist Dr. Ernie Goss speaks to business development professionals at Corn Belt Power Dec. 11. Dr. Goss is the director of the Institute for Economic Inquiry at Creighton University Heider College of Business.

## 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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# Electric cooperatives prepare for 2025 Legislative session

The 2025 legislative session is on the horizon and electric cooperatives across Iowa are meeting with lawmakers to discuss next year's priorities.

As the 2025 legislative session approaches, Iowa's electric cooperatives are actively engaging with lawmakers to shape priorities for the coming year. Corn Belt Power Cooperative recently participated in three pre-legislative meetings in Fort Dodge, Clear Lake, and Denison to discuss critical issues impacting the energy sector.

Topics discussed included defined service territory, Right-Of-First-Refusal, integrated resource planning and any potential energy omnibus legislation.

Iowa's electric cooperatives strongly support existing service territory laws, which provide stability, affordable rates and promote rural economic development. Deregulation in other states has led to higher rates and decreased reliability—outcomes Iowa seeks to avoid.

"We support current service territory laws," said Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations, Corn Belt Power. "These laws allow electric cooperatives to maintain a resilient grid, proactively manage vegetation, and enhance reliability for the homes, farms and businesses we serve. Additionally, they enable co-ops to support local economic development, creating jobs and generating tax revenue for our communities."

From 2018-2023, electric outages in Iowa were 65% shorter on average compared



Legislative breakfast

**Above |** Jim Gossett, CEO, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, addresses elected officials and attendees during a legislative forum at Boulders Conference Center in Denison Dec. 13. The event brought together cooperative representatives and legislators to discuss priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Throughout November and December, Iowa's electric cooperatives engaged with legislators to advocate for policies supporting rural infrastructure, energy reliability, and community development, ensuring the voices of cooperative members are heard at the state level.

to deregulated Midwestern states. Iowa outages were 22% shorter than deregulated Midwestern states when excluding major weather events.

From 2018-2023, Iowa electric consumers experienced 34% fewer outages on average compared to deregulated Midwestern states. Iowans experienced 20% fewer outages than deregulated Midwestern states when including major weather events.

Electric cooperatives will also support ROFR legislation. Iowa's electric cooperatives have longstanding, positive relationships with incumbent utility partners who have shown their commitment to Iowa through a strong and established presence. Iowa's electric cooperatives support legislation to

reaffirm ROFR for incumbent utilities in the interest of maintaining quality and reliable electric service.

While many Iowa cooperatives engage in integrated resource planning, mandatory contested case proceedings could delay construction and significantly increase costs. These mandates threaten Iowa's all-of-the-above energy strategy, which is vital for maintaining grid reliability.

"We'd like to thank all of our local legislators who took the time to meet with us ahead of the legislative session," said Cornelius. "These discussions and relationships are crucial to the advancement of our rural service territories." ■

## Corn Belt Power employees answer bell during holidays

Commitment to Community is one of our guiding principles and our employees live it. In November and December, Corn Belt Power employees collected and donated food, toys and household items for a family of eight as part of the Upper Des Moines Opportunity Adopt-A-Family program.

Starting in August, UDMO accepts applications for the Community Christmas Program, Tree of Joy, Adopt-a-Family and several other holiday programs annually.

Visit [www.udmo.com/programs-services/independent-family-support/](http://www.udmo.com/programs-services/independent-family-support/) for more information about the program. ■



Employees donate to Adopt-A-Family

**Above |** Jena Blackett, middle, building custodian, and Jon Zeman, warehouse clerk, deliver Corn Belt Power employee-donated items for the UDMO Adopt-A-Family program Dec. 9.

Justin Hesnard, electrical maintenance foreman, discusses proper safety procedures after Corn Belt Power employees watched a video about electrical burns at the Dec. 13 safety meeting.

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**January Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Ryan Craig**, president/CEO, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, donated his \$100 prize to Bedell Family YMCA.

# Chedda begins Corn Belt Power career



In December, Andrew Chedda joined the ranks of new control operators at Corn Belt Power's Wisdom Station.

Chedda previously worked for Valero and Phillips 66. He also had a successful career in law enforcement.

Chedda and his wife Mio have a son Joshua who is in the Air Force and a daughter Arianna who is relocating to Iowa.

He enjoys exercising, going to the gym, cooking and watching movies.

Welcome to Corn Belt Power, Andrew!

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## Corn Belt Power Cooperative **Watts Watt**

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