

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

## Finding the value of electricity

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Leroy D. Walls, President**
- David Bequeath, Vice President**
- John R. Dively, Secretary**
- Robert Guyer, Asst. Secretary**
- Dean Brant, Treasurer**
- Timothy Newman**
- Ellis Sollenberger**

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday  
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER**

814/766-3221  
1-800-270-3177



**Rick L. Eichelberger**  
General Manager & CEO

**NOWADAYS**, cellphones and personal digital devices are a part of our culture. Everyone, it seems, is connected on the go — whether they're just making phone calls, text messaging, or checking email. Such communication freedom is a luxury we pay for, generally without grumbling.

So why is it that when it comes to electricity — a

necessity in our modern world — many of us complain when the electric bill comes every month? We expect electricity to be there at the flip of the switch, and when it's not, we get angry or frustrated.

Hey, I'm no different — I expect the lights to come on every time, too. And as the CEO of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, I have a special responsibility to make sure your electric service is safe, reliable and affordable. But I also believe that when compared to other commodities, electricity remains a great value.

For example, over the past 10 years, gasoline has shot up 13 percent on average annually, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A loaf of white bread rose 4 percent annually, and a dozen eggs jumped 7 percent per year.

In comparison, electricity has increased just 3.7 percent a year nationally for the past decade and locally at New Enterprise Rural Electric only 1.1 percent a year for the past decade. When you consider how reliable elec-

tricity is, the value goes up even more. New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative members experienced 139 outages in 2011 that on average lasted only 1 hour 9 minutes each — something we're proud of, especially considering electricity is a 24-hour-a-day commodity and we are only on site in our trucks five days a week for eight hours each day. Of course, we're working hard to reduce even those brief interruptions, increase our service reliability and control costs through innovative technology.

Those cellphones I mentioned earlier? Nearly a third of all U.S. households have four electronic devices, such as cellphones, plugged in and charging, according to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In the past 30 years, the amount of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 to 31 percent. More homes than ever use major appliances and central air conditioning. Digital video recorders (DVRs), computers and multiple televisions have become ubiquitous.

Clearly, our appetite for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. So the next time you flip a switch, use your toaster or run your washing machine, remember the value electricity holds. And know that we at New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative are looking out for you by working together to keep electric bills affordable, controlling costs through innovation, and putting you, our members, first. 

### October Co-op Calendar

October 25 - Disconnect accounts with past due balances (last day to make payment arrangements with Brawna at extension 224 is Oct 23).

October 26 - Regular payment and meter reading due date.

# Local farming co-op serves near and far

BY WENDY CONLEY

**OCTOBER IS** National Cooperative Month. The International Year of Cooperatives is 2012. An electric cooperative is the only cooperative serving people all across the United States, right? No, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative is only one type of cooperative. Just a mile or so up the road from the co-op is another co-op — the Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op Association.

The mission of this co-op is: “To understand our members’ and customers’ needs, resource the highest quality ingredients and supply to our members and customers in a cost-efficient manner.”

If you are in need of feed, seed, fertilizer, chemicals, and general farm or animal supplies, make one stop at your local Bedford Farm Bureau Cooperative. The Bedford location was established in 1942 by a group of local farmers. As business thrived over the years, they had the need to expand their services. The New Enterprise location was opened in 1984. As Agway Cooperative was closing its business in 2006, Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op came in and purchased the Curryville location. They service three states and 28 counties with each location serving a 100-mile radius. Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op employs 36-38 full-time employees and three part-time employees. Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op understands the importance of giving back to its communities. It proudly supports 4-H, FFA, local fire departments and ambulance services.

Jim Shade, general manager, notes that as a cooperative, it is member-owned. Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op has 580 members who have paid \$10 to become an active patron of the cooperative. Membership gives the member the opportunity to run for a seat on the board of directors, voting entitlements, a copy of the bylaws and an option to buy stock in the cooperative.

The cooperative is managed by a board of directors. Board members serve a three-year term. Every year, four directors are elected or re-elected. One



**ANOTHER CO-OP:** October is National Co-op Month, and we want to recognize a neighboring co-op — the Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op Association, which is also a member of the New Enterprise REC.

of the duties of the board of directors is approving patronage checks to be disbursed among their active members based upon their dollars spent at any location. The board meets once a month for their regular meetings. An annual meeting for members is held the third Thursday each October.

Jim reports that cost effectiveness comes from buying and selling locally from the cooperative’s members. They can buy locally without having the cost of buying and transporting from outside vendors. Members can bring in their grain and have the co-op roast, grind and roll the grain into feed. It also offers grain storage for members. Grain harvesting starts in September and runs through November, so this service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, if necessary. Another service offered is a soybean roaster, which helps cows digest their feed more efficiently.

In-house employees evaluate live-stock and farming needs to come up with a custom-blend feed for a farmer’s animals. They have the ability to add

chocolate, baked goods, and other items to feed depending on the animals’ nutritional needs. Feed is available by feed sacks or bulk delivery.

The cooperative also takes soil samples to determine what the soil is lacking in nutrients to improve the crop growth. Three fertilizer blending facilities will custom blend fertilizer to meet crop nutrient requirements once the soil sample has been analyzed.

The Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op also offers numerous retail items for sale from pest control, pet supplies, and wildlife feed to farm supplies.

Not all locations provide the same services. It is recommended that you call ahead to find out what is offered. New Enterprise is the only location that sells gasoline and diesel fuel. The hours at all locations are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – noon. To learn more about this farming cooperative and its products and services, go to [www.bfbcoop.com](http://www.bfbcoop.com).

Many different businesses are cooperatives. Agriculture, food, credit

unions, housing, health care and utilities are just a few of the types of cooperatives. There are 30,000 cooperatives in the United States with over 100,000 million members.

No matter the type of business, each cooperative operates under the following seven cooperative principles:

**1. Voluntary and Open Membership**

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

**2. Democratic Member Control**

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members — those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative — who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

**3. Members' Economic Participation**

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative rather than on the capital invested.

**4. Autonomy and Independence**

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintain the cooperative's autonomy.

**5. Education, Training and Information**

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

**6. Cooperation among Cooperatives**

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**7. Concern for Community**

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members. ☀



**FARM CO-OP:** The Bedford Farm Bureau Co-op Association operates a mill at Curryville.

**Hit-and-run accidents**

Hit-and-run accidents are a cost to the cooperative and members, but more importantly, they could cause serious damage and harm to others. When a vehicle hits a pole or guy wire and leaves the scene, the driver may not realize how extensive the damage can be. A pole that is cracked or splintered can cause downed power lines if it is not reported immediately.

When you witness an accident, please call the cooperative immediately, as well as the state police. If possible, get the license plate, make, model and color of the vehicle that caused the damage. Don't think someone else may call the office about the accident; you may be the only witness.

# KIDZCORNER

## Pumpkin Trivia

- Pumpkin seeds will sprout in how many days?
  - 1-3 days
  - 5-7 days
  - 7-14 days
  - 15-20 days
- In the nursery rhyme, Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater, what did he put in his pumpkin shell?
  - His wife
  - His dog
  - His supper
  - His money
- Is a pumpkin a fruit or vegetable?
  - Fruit
  - Vegetable
- What state is the "pumpkin" capital?
  - Ohio
  - Kansas
  - Florida
  - Illinois
- What percent of a pumpkin is water?
  - 90 percent
  - 25 percent
  - 70 percent
  - 45 percent
- Whose carriage turned into a pumpkin at midnight?
  - Snoopy
  - Cinderella
  - Tazmanian Devil
  - Snow White
- Pumpkins were once used to cure snake bites?
  - True
  - False
- If you eat the pumpkin seeds, will a pumpkin grow in your stomach?
  - True
  - False
- Ridges on a pumpkin are called?
  - Bumps
  - Dips
  - Ribs
  - Mountains
- What is the annual pumpkin-throwing contest called?
  - Chuck the Pumpkin
  - Throw the Jack O' Lantern
  - Toss the Seeds
  - Punkin Chunkin

Answers: 1. c; 2. a; 3. a; 4. d; 5. a; 6. b; 7. a; 8. b; 9. c; 10. d

