

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

Ensuring a 'culture of safety'

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
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OFFICE HOURS

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/766-3221
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Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

PROVIDING electricity to members of New Enterprise Rural Electric can be a very dangerous job if safety precautions are not taken every step of the way. If you think about it, we take delivery of high-voltage electricity and distribute it over bare wires fastened to poles. These poles line our highways and properties, and when the

wires come into contact with anything, there can be severe consequences.

Having a safe work environment for employees and the communities we serve has top priority in all we do. The board of directors is committed to providing management with the tools and resources to accomplish this. Each employee has a role in following all safety rules with every task performed.

The organizational framework that sustains a culture of safety involves everyone from board members to field and office employees. It's not just something the Safety Committee discusses once a month, or what line workers think about as they plan or start a project. It's everyone's responsibility and part of every job.

The cooperative has a manual, "Safe Work Practices," with consequences if it is not followed while performing every task. The Employee Safety Committee meets monthly to review safety issues, and a safety report is on the agenda of every monthly board meeting.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), working collaboratively with statewide associations and distribution cooperatives like New Enterprise, has developed a national safety program called the Rural Electric

Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). This program attempts to understand the current state of safety performance and identify the top improvement opportunities.

A primary objective of RESAP is to better enable electric cooperatives to reduce injuries over time. Each year, the cooperative will update and determine the contents of the annual safety improvement plan. We will apply best practices in the industry and focus on continuous improvement and achieving safety excellence.

New Enterprise Rural Electric has participated in RESAP since 2001. A team of safety professionals performs a three-day assessment of all aspects of the safety environment and culture at our electric distribution cooperative. Records for a three-year period are reviewed, along with the current condition of power lines, rights-of-way, substations, trucks, and the buildings and grounds. Earlier this summer, we successfully completed our fourth consecutive RESAP assessment.

Lengthy accident-free periods are something to be proud of — and to watch out for. The line crews operate in hazardous situations on a daily basis, and those risks become less "real" the longer they do so without accidents or injuries. We use regular safety training as a way to combat complacency. Line workers rotate their time on all the trucks, which allows their skills to remain sharp with each piece of equipment.

A culture of safety isn't just about telling people what you want them to do. It's about working together toward a common goal of creating the safest possible workplace and minimizing risk in an industry that is inherently hazardous. 

Life before electricity

CONSUMER-member Charles Amick sure does remember life before electricity. He lived in a log house with his family of six in the Dumb Hundred area between Garvertown and Pottsville south of Roaring Spring.

Life before electricity wasn't easy. Their four cows were milked by hand. When it was dark, kerosene lanterns were used to light the barn. Preparing meals was not a simple task. Someone needed to build a fire in the cook stove before the cooking could begin. Once the stove was ready, then Charles' mother could start to cook the meal. A kerosene heating stove in the living room provided warmth during the cold winter months.

Charles states he was about 12 or 13 years old when his family finally got electricity. With more families moving into the area, the utility company extended service to the Amick household. Only three receptacles were installed in the home. The closest neighbor who had electric power was about a mile away from Charles' home. The family's first electrical item was a round, black-and-white television. Charles laughs when he notes the screen was only about a foot wide.

The next electric appliance they purchased was a refrigerator so they could stop storing their ice and food in a cave to keep them cool.

Electricity brought changes in some areas of their lives, but they did continue to milk their cows by hand and use the wood-fired cook stove.

The family went to Kenny Long's store in Bakers Summit to pay their utility bill. Kenny took payments at his store for many, many years. Sometimes, customers paid for their groceries at the store with eggs.

Asked if he would like to go back to not having electricity, Charles comments, "No!" ☀



Charles Amick

Phone number change?



It is very important that we have your correct phone number on file. Without your number, we are unable to contact you for a planned short notice outage or if we notice problems with your outside service. Please look at the bottom portion of your bill to verify the number. If incorrect or you would like to give us your cell phone and/or work phone numbers, please list the numbers on the reverse side of the payment stub indicating what the number is listed as (cell, work, home).

September co-op calendar

Sept. 18 - Disconnect accounts with past due balances (contact Brawna at extension 224 no later than Sept. 16 to make payment arrangements to avoid disconnect)

Sept. 27 - Regular payment due date.

Co-op Connections Card

You don't have prescription coverage? Your medication is not covered under your insurance? Then don't forget to use your Co-op Connections Card to save on prescriptions.

The card has more benefits offered



than just prescriptions. You can receive healthy savings at participating

chiropractors, vision care providers, dentists, hearing aid centers, laboratories and imaging centers. Log onto www.connections.coop to see a listing of providers. You can also sign up for VIP savings for national chain discounts and print coupons.

Harvesting efficiency

Energy efficiency offers rich rewards for farmers

BY MEGAN MCKOY-NOE, CCC

EVERY dairy cow carries an energy price tag. Farmers pump water — and \$2.6 billion in energy dollars — to boost crops.

At the end of the day, energy, both direct and indirect, accounts for 13 percent of the average farmer's production expenses. To enhance their bottom lines, more farmers are turning to energy efficiency.

Electricity powers a farm's heating (water, space, heat lamps), pumping (irrigation, water wells, manure lagoons), refrigeration, ventilation, lighting, and fans (drying grains, aeration). Material handling — such as feed augers, manure conveyors, milking and egg conveyors — also drain resources.

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy estimates farmers could save \$88 million annually by investing in efficient motors and lighting. How can Pennsylvania farmers reap efficiency benefits?

EnSave, a national agricultural energy efficiency firm, provides a pyramid of steps farmers can take to cut down energy use. The greatest savings come from deploying more efficient equipment, although behavioral changes and a simple analysis of how energy is consumed can result in significant savings, too.

Equipped to save

Each farm — dairy, poultry, beef, hog or crop — offers opportunities for efficiency improvements. For example:

- ▶ **Clean equipment:** Removing dust, soot, and debris from equipment will allow it to do more work with less effort, extending its life and reducing energy use.
- ▶ **Inspect regularly:** Equipment should be checked regularly. Replace parts that are showing excessive wear before they break and cause irreparable damage.
- ▶ **Plug leaks:** Be it a pinprick hole in a hose or a drafty barn, leaks waste money, fuel, and electricity.
- ▶ **Remove clutter:** Hoses should be regu-

larly flushed to clear debris. Ensure fan and motor intakes and exhausts remain clutter-free for maximum circulation and efficiency.

Light lessons

After tuning up equipment, check lights. Light work areas, not entire buildings. Use daylight when possible. Install dimmable ballasts to control light levels.

The type of light used makes a difference. Although useful as a heat source in limited situations (to keep water pumps from freezing in winter, for example), incandescent lightbulbs only convert 10 percent of the energy used into light. The rest of the energy is given off as heat. Consider these energy-saving lighting options, as compared to incandescents:

- ▶ Halogen incandescents use 25 percent less energy and last three times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs;
- ▶ Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) use 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer;
- ▶ LEDs use between 75 percent and 80 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer
- ▶ Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFLs) last up to 25 times longer and offer the same efficiency as CFLs; and
- ▶ T-8 and T-5 fluorescent lights with electronic ballasts generate less noise and produce more light per watt. These bulbs also offer better color rendering, minimal flickering, cooler operation and energy savings.

Harsh surroundings

Farm equipment must survive in a rough environment. Before buying new equipment or lighting, make sure the gear can survive fluctuating temperatures, wet locations, long hours of operation, and large loads.

Confirm the manufacturer's specifications that the unit is intended for the environment, and review the warranty and conditions. Make sure the way you plan to use it will not void the warranty.

Look for knowledgeable suppliers and installers familiar with the local climate and your farm's needs. Typically, farms need more rugged devices than what's available at a low cost from a retail or big-box store.

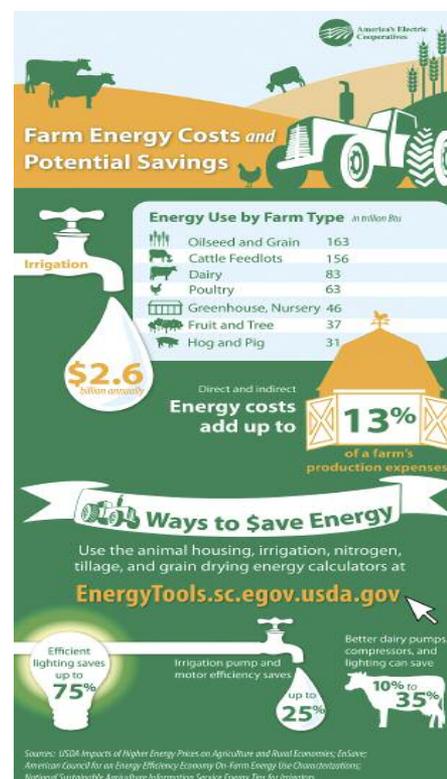
Seeds of change

For regional or crop-specific efficiency methods, use the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service energy calculators, energytools.sc.egov.usda.gov. Assess how much energy a farm needs for animal housing, irrigation and tillage, and discover ways to cut costs. Dairy farmers may also visit www.usdairy.com/saveenergy.

Funding for efficiency upgrades is available through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Since 2008, REAP has funded more than 6,800 renewable energy and energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees, as well as 600 farm energy audits. Get details at www.rurdev.usda.gov > Energy > Rural Energy for America Program.

Farmers can also apply for financial and technical help through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a program from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. EQIP supports energy initiatives to manage and reduce agricultural energy needs. Learn more at www.nrcs.usda.gov > Programs > Financial Assistance > Environmental Quality Incentives Program. ☀

Sources: American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, EnSave, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy





Complete your own family tree

In honor of Grandparents Day on Sept. 8, we encourage the young and youth to meet with their grandparents and complete a family tree. You can either write names on the tree or, if photos are available, tape their picture to the designated block with their name underneath.

