

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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814-766-3221
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From the General Manager/CEO



A visit to the 'principle's' office

By Mark Morrison

THERE ARE more than 800 electric cooperatives that serve 21 million businesses, homes, schools, and farms in 48 states, and they cover more than 56% of the land mass of this great nation. While we all operate our businesses separately, we follow seven guiding principles that help us provide valuable service to our members and communities.

The seventh cooperative principle is concern for community. Cooperatives across the land have promoted many creative and innovative methods to provide added services and value to their membership. Cooperative board members and employees are often integral links in the community leadership chain and are the folks volunteering to provide these services to communities across the nation.

Our statewide organization, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, recognizes employees of electric cooperatives with the Winston Donaldson Community Service Award. The recipients possess the drive, skill and heart to make a positive difference in their communities across rural Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey.

This year, I am proud to announce the award recipient is our very own Bobbi McInay. In addition to being a cooperative member, she has also been one of our member service representatives since beginning her career at the co-op in 2003. Bobbi is a member



CONGRATULATIONS: New Enterprise REC employee Bobbi McInay, left, receives the Winston Donaldson Community Service Award from the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA). She is shown with PREA Awards Committee Chair Ruston Ogburn, general manager of Somerset REC.

of the Southern Cove Volunteer Fire Department and Southern Cove EMS. Her volunteer service extends beyond responding to the emergency needs of our community through these organizations. Bobbi also organizes various fundraising events, prepares and serves monthly turkey dinners, and participates in other community events in New Enterprise.

The board, management and employees of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative could not be more grateful for her concern, her service and her commitment to the membership and to the communities we serve.

Congratulations, Bobbi! ❁

Save a Life: Avoid distractions while driving

By Wendy Conley, *Member Service Representative*

SOME temptations are hard to resist. For example, it can be especially challenging to turn down that last piece of chocolate cake.

While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception — just this once.

So why do we indulge in behavior we know is wrong, dangerous, and, in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers, but mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, it’s a good time to remind folks of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. This statistic is heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, safety is foremost in everything we do — for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life. 🌸

THINK YOU'RE A MULTITASKER?

DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF CREWS WHO OFTEN WORK ROADSIDE, DO ONE THING AT A TIME. PUT ALL YOUR ATTENTION ON DRIVING, AND THE REST CAN WAIT.

MYTH	FACT
Drivers can multitask	The human brain cannot do two things at once; it switches between tasks, slowing reaction time
Hands-free calling is safe	Drivers on a call can miss seeing up to 50% of what they need to, including pedestrians and red lights
Texting at red lights is OK	People are distracted up to 27 seconds after texting, often well after the light turns green
Voice-to-text is safe	Your mind is thinking of what to say, and you could be visually distracted by autocorrected errors

THAT TEXT OR CALL CAN WAIT. GET WHERE YOU ARE GOING SAFELY.

SOURCES: NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL, AAA

SafeElectricity.org

Keep food safe when the power goes out

Severe winds, lightning and even squirrels can temporarily cause the power to go out. We understand power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your fridge is stocked with perishable foods.

Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures you can take to avoid illness. Here are a few tips to keep in mind before, during and after a power outage.

Before an outage

A good rule of thumb is to keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items, like bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal and protein bars, in your emergency kit.

If you have advance warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice – just in case the outage spans several hours. Having a cooler ready to go can buy extra time for your refrigerated, perishable items.

During an outage

If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless absolutely necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours, and a full freezer for about 48 hours. If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

After an outage

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. If any foods have an unusual color, odor or texture, they should be thrown away.

While most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40-plus degrees:

- ▶ hard cheeses that are properly wrapped
- ▶ butter or margarine that is properly wrapped
- ▶ taco, barbecue and soy sauces
- ▶ peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup and relish

The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule of thumb. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming and remember: When in doubt, throw it out.

To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit [ready.gov/food](https://www.ready.gov/food).



Donation Drive for Bedford County Humane Society

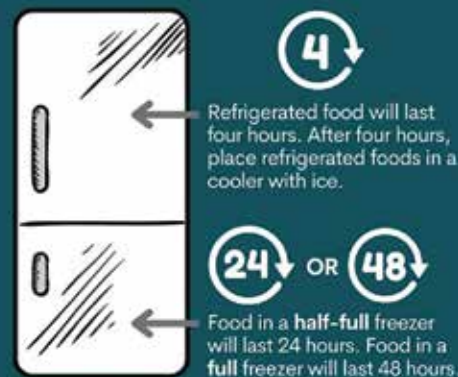
New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) will be accepting donations for the Bedford County Humane Society in September.

Items can be dropped off at our office during normal business hours.

You can donate dog and cat food (wet or dry) – don't forget food for kittens and puppies – cat litter, treats, and cleaning supplies.

Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!





with Farmers

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment, which can be wide and slow. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only way to get from point A to point B.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, take a deep breath and **do the following to keep everyone safe:**

- 1** Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2** Do not pass in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.
- 3** Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.
- 4** Do not tailgate. Following too closely means you could be in the operator's blind spot.
- 5** Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.

Source: Texas Table Top
(Texas Farm Bureau)



How to pay my bill?

Life is hectic — we know it. But paying your bill doesn't have to be! New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) offers many different options for you to submit your payment — all you need to do is decide which method is the best fit for you.

- ▶ At the co-op office in New Enterprise, we have a payment drop box located beside the front entrance doors. We also have a drive-up option, which is the green box in the driveway. (Note: You do not have to get out of your vehicle to use this option.)
- ▶ By mail.
- ▶ Auto Pay is New Enterprise REC's automatic draft program. With Auto Pay, your monthly bill is deducted from your checking or savings account or charged to your credit/debit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover) on the 20th of the month. You will also receive a one-time \$5 bill credit just for signing up!
- ▶ On our website, newenterpriserec.com, where you can pay by credit/debit card or by check at no additional charge. The online payment service is available 24/7.
- ▶ By phone with a credit/debit card or checking account at no additional charge. **Phone payments are only accepted during regular business hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.**
- ▶ With your smartphone or tablet. After downloading the free SmartHub app at the Apple Store or Google Play, you can make payments 24/7.

