

# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## Bedford REC

P.O. Box 335  
Bedford, PA 15522  
814-623-5101

Email: support@bedfordrec.com

Website: www.bedfordrec.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President & Allegheny Director

C. Robert Koontz  
Colerain, Snake Spring and  
South Woodbury Twps.

### Vice President & PREA Director

Donald Hoenstine  
Kimmel and King Twps.

### Secretary

Ronald W. Wilkins  
Napier and Harrison Twps.,  
New Paris, Manns Choice and  
Schellsburg Boroughs

### Treasurer

Reuben R. Lafferty  
Juanita Twp., Bedford County, and  
Allegheny Twp., New Baltimore Borough,  
Somerset County

### Assistant Secretary

Earl W. Garland  
East Providence Twp., Bedford County,  
and Brush Creek Twp., Fulton County

### Assistant Treasurer

Paul L. Rummel Jr.  
Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twps.

William Howard Atkinson  
Monroe and West Providence Twps.,  
Everett Borough

John A. Oldham  
East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County  
Dale Sprigg II

West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.,  
Pleasantville Borough

### Attorney

James R. Cascio

### Office Hours

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## From the General Manager



# Interested in a seat on Bedford Rural Electric's board of directors?

By Brooks Shoemaker

AS A member of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, you have the opportunity to actively participate in the cooperative's operation by representing not only your district, but your friends and neighbors on the board of directors. Being an electric cooperative director is an interesting and challenging experience. The position requires individuals with a vision and the willingness to work with others in guiding a complex, multimillion-dollar operation.

The next Bedford Rural Electric Annual Meeting will be held April 11, 2018. At that meeting, cooperative members will elect directors from: District 2 (Harrison and Napier townships, and New Paris, Manns Choice, and Schellsburg boroughs, Bedford County); District 4 (King and Kimmel townships, Bedford County); and District 8 (West Providence and Monroe townships, and Everett Borough, Bedford County). If you reside in any of these districts, you may be eligible for nomination to run for a seat on the board.

In accordance with our bylaws, the election process begins with the appointment of a Nominating Committee. This committee is made up of one cooperative member from each of the nine districts. It is the committee's responsibility to nominate not less than one, but not more than two, qualified members as director nominees to be made from each district in which a director's term of office is ending. No member of the board, employee or close relative shall serve on the committee. The names of cooperative members appointed to the 2018 Nominating Committee and the qualifications necessary to become a director are enclosed with your September electric bill, which you received in early October. If becoming a director interests you, please contact any member of the committee. You can also contact the cooperative office at 814-624-3808, and we will see that your name is provided to the committee.

## Annual meeting

The next Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members will be held on April 11, 2018. During the annual meeting, members will cast ballots to elect three of their fellow members to the Bedford REC Board of Directors.

The following, taken from the Bedford REC bylaws, is printed for your information in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and federal Rural Utilities Services Bulletin 20-19.

### Article III, Section 3 Nominations:

Section 3. Nominations. (a) It shall

be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, no later than August 31 of each year, a committee on nominations consisting one (1) member from each District of the Cooperative.

Said committee shall meet for the purpose of making nominations at least ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting. Five (5) or more members of the nominating committee shall constitute a quorum for making the nominations. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate not less than one (1), but not more than two (2) qualified members as director

*(continues on page 14d)*

# Meet the Schoffstalls of Black Valley

By Linda Williams

ALANA SCHOFFSTALL is a wife, mother and farmer in Black Valley. Together with her husband, Brian, they raise KuneKune pigs, organic chickens, sheep, three Jersey cows and vegetables.

The Schoffstalls use everything on their small, 12-acre farm productively, even the wildflowers. At a recent summer outing of the Bedford County Garden Club, Alana talked about using wildflowers and herbs to make salves and teas, or as ingredients in a salad.

Some of the varieties she suggests for tea were chamomile, garden mint, yarrow and catnip. Alana says to rinse them, place them in a teapot and steep for five to seven minutes, add honey or raw cane sugar to taste, and enjoy hot or iced.

Her knowledge of KuneKune pigs, as well as the herbs and other produce on the farm, has led her to give classes in a wide variety of subjects. To learn more, check out the web page she designed herself at [blackvalleyfarm.com](http://blackvalleyfarm.com)



**HOW IS EVERYONE?:** Alana Schoffstall checks some of her family's KuneKune pigs.



**ALL IN THE FAMILY:** The Schoffstall family includes parents, Brian and Alana, and their children: Seth, Silas, Jocelyn, and Amelia.

or search on Facebook under Black Valley Farm KuneKune Pigs.

Brian, a registered nurse, works at Pennknoll Village and raises the chickens. He is very proud of his organic flock and sells both meat and eggs.

The farm is also home to some Shetland and Icelandic sheep. There are three Jersey cows, whose rich milk is used both to help feed the couple's four children, and the pigs and chickens.

"Everything goes full circle on our farm," Alana says. "We throw nothing away. Food we don't eat goes to the pigs. The pigs, cows and our family consume the wildflowers. Nothing goes to waste."

She says meat tastes like what it eats and their meat-producing animals eat the best.

KuneKune pigs are a heritage breed that eats grass. They don't root, so they do no harm to orchards or grassland, and Alana says they are docile by nature, so people don't have to be

concerned if they are in the yard with children.

Because they are grass-fed, they require only an additional supplement during the winter. That requirement led Alana to become a Modesto Milling Certified Organic Livestock Feed dealer.

Seeking a job that would allow her to stay home with her children, Alana looked for something that would bring in income, yet require little equipment. Brian says they found that balance with the KuneKune pigs. The sole piece of machinery needed to run the operation is a John Deere lawnmower. On occasion, Brian borrows his father-in-law's skid loader when needed.

Since the couple sells both meat and livestock directly to the consumer, they can set their own prices. The

Schoffstalls say they figure their profit margin is about the same as much larger farms.

Alana was homeschooled and, for a time, she tried it with her own children: Seth, 12; Silas, 10; Jocelyn, 8; and Amelia, 5, using space in the



LINEUP: Four KuneKune piglets line up on the Schoffstall farm.

home the couple built. She found there weren't enough hours in the day to oversee the homeschooling and the farm, so the children now attend public school at Everett. The family's schedule allows each child to select one extracurricular activity, such as soccer, music etc., to participate in. Alana recently hired a "nanny," to provide some assistance with activities.

One thing is for certain — there are no dull moments at the Schoffstall home. ☀



PLAY TIME: Amelia Schoffstall scratches the nose one of the family's KuneKune pigs.



PHOTOS BY ALANA SCHOFFSTALL

MILKING TIME: Brian Schoffstall and daughter Jocelyn show off one of the family's Jersey cows.

## OUTAGE REPORTING

### In case of an outage...

- 1** Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2** Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- 3** Call the 24-hour number, 623-7568, OR call 800-808-2732\* during office hours.

*\*(Please help us save money – only use this number if toll charges apply.)*

Please give the person receiving the call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

**To report an outage call:  
(814) 623-7568**

*During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures. You may receive a busy signal, or in certain cases your call may go unanswered. This occurs in after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient, and try again in a few minutes.*

**From the General Manager**

*(continued from page 14a)*

nominees to be made from each District in which a director's term of office is ending. No member of the Board, employee, or close relative (as defined by Article III, Section 2) shall serve on such committee.

The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative, by January 20 of each year, a list of nominations for directors. Any fifteen (15) or more members residing in one District, by January 15, may make other nominations for their District by a petition in writing under their signatures. The Board Secretary shall cause to be posted the same at the same place as the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Board Secretary shall cause to be mailed to each member by March 31, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations by District made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. Nothing herein contained shall prevent additional nominations to be made from the floor at the meeting of the members. The chairman at such meeting, after all nominations so made have been duly announced, shall call for additional nominations from the floor and shall ascertain and announce, after any nominations made from the floor, the particular District from or with respect to which any additional candidates have been nominated. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of directors

**Article III, Section 4 Credentials and Election Committee:**

Section 4. Credentials and Election Committee. The Board of Directors shall, at least twenty (20) days before (or by February 28, for the Annual Meeting) any meeting of the members at which election of directors

shall occur, appoint a Credentials and Election Committee. The committee shall consist of an uneven number of members of the Cooperative who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director election, and who are not close relatives (as defined in Article III, Section 2) or members of the same household of existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director election. In appointing the committee, the Board shall have regard for the equitable representation of the several areas served by the Cooperative and shall not appoint more than one (1) committee member from a District. The committee shall meet and elect its own chairman and secretary prior to the member meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to:

- (1) Establish or approve the manner of conducting member registration and to decide all questions regarding registration of members;
- (2) Count all ballots cast for the election of directors or other voting by count;
- (3) Rule upon the effect of any ballot or vote irregularly or indecisively cast;
- (4) Rule upon all other questions which may arise relating to member voting and regularity of the election of directors including the qualifications of director nominees nominated by petition or from the floor; and,
- (5) Pass upon any protest or objection filed with regard to the election of directors or conduct affecting the results of any election.

In the exercise of its duties, the committee shall have available to it the advice of legal counsel provided by the Cooperative.

In the event a protest or objection is to be filed concerning any election or voting matter, such protest or objection must be in writing and filed with the chairman of the committee not later than three (3) business days following the date of meeting adjournment. The chairman shall

reconvene the committee for a hearing not later than ten (10) business days following the filing of such protest or objection. The committee shall hear such evidence as may be presented by the protestor(s), the objector(s), who may be heard in person, by counsel, or both, and any opposing evidence, and the committee, by majority vote of the committee members present and voting, shall decide the matter within a reasonable time thereafter, but not more than thirty (30) days following close of the hearing. The committee may affirm the initial results of the election, in whole or in part, or the committee may change the initial results of the election, but only upon recount of ballots and only in conformity with law, or the committee may set aside the results of the election and call for a new election, but only for proper and lawful cause shown. The committee's decisions shall be final and binding. The committee shall not act unless at least a quorum is present. A quorum shall be a majority of committee members.

**Article III, Section 5 Elections:**

At each annual meeting directors shall be elected by secret ballot by and from the members to succeed those directors whose terms of office are ending. Their respective terms of office shall be for a period of three (3) years, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. Each member of the cooperative present and registered to vote at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each District in which a director's term of office is ending. The candidate from each District receiving the highest number of votes cast at this meeting shall be considered elected as a director to represent his or her District. In the event of a tie vote, the tie shall be resolved by a drawing of lot between or among the candidates in the tie. The drawing of lot shall be conducted under the supervision of the Credentials and Election Committee. Cumulative voting shall be allowed during the election of directors. ☀