

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Bedford, PA 15522
814-623-5101

Email: support@bedfordrec.com
Website: www.bedfordrec.com

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Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Post-election priorities

By Brooks Shoemaker

WITH November's midterm elections in the rearview mirror, we are looking ahead at the impact and opportunities for rural America and electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives across the nation played an active role in the midterm election and worked to get to know each candidate running for federal office. This was particularly important since more than 60 members of Congress decided to retire or run for other office.

Through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan political engagement effort led by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, more than 100 candidates attended electric cooperative functions or met with co-op staff. Several statewide co-op associations sponsored or hosted a debate or forum for gubernatorial candidates, while more than 30 local electric cooperatives participated in National Voter Registration Day activities. You may have heard our radio commercials encouraging rural Pennsylvanians to not only register to vote, but then to vote on Election Day.

As we continue getting to know our new elected officials, Bedford Rural Electric will continue advocating for policies that protect local business interests and advance the quality of life in rural Pennsylvania. To that end, we believe there are several opportunities for our elected leaders to find common ground and advance legislation to benefit our community.

Improving our nation's aging infrastructure is a great place to start. Congress and the White House should explore an infrastructure package that benefits all Americans, especially those at risk of being left behind in rural America. This critical infrastructure investment needs to go beyond roads and bridges. Congress should leverage an infrastructure package to help maintain and modernize the electric grid and connect rural communities to the modern economy.

The new Congress also presents an opportunity to expand access to high-speed internet service in rural communities that currently lack it. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 23 million rural Americans lack access to broadband internet — most of them are members of an electric co-op. The FCC defines broadband as having download speeds of 25 Mbps. In Bedford County, it would require a cable connection to achieve that speed. Although we have no plans to offer internet services, we are prepared to support the process in any way possible. Roughly 100 electric cooperatives across the nation are working to bring broadband to their communities, but we believe that others are better positioned to fill the void in our area.

A significant monetary investment is necessary to fund broadband expansion. We believe the solution requires an expanded combination of grants

(continues on page 14d)

Bedford County Fair Queen loves farming

By Linda Williams

THIS MONTH, Macy Walason, Bedford County Fair Queen, will participate in the Pennsylvania Farm Show, cleaning, feeding, and showing her Guernsey cows and two beef heifers. One week later, she will be packed and headed for the state fair queen competition in Hershey, Pa. She will be one of 62 fair queens from around the Commonwealth to compete.

The daughter of Angilique and Jeff Walason of Cortland Road, Alum Bank, she has been involved in her mother's family farm, known as "Green Slopes," since she was a toddler. The herd at Green Slopes consists of 100 registered Guernsey cattle.

Green Slopes was started by the late Ned McDonald and passed on to Galen McDonald and his children, who operate it today.

Macy has been participating in the Bedford fair since she could pull a sheep around in the lead line. She has her own herd of 50 Guernseys, a small herd of crossbred beef cattle and a flock of sheep.

In October, she showed her calf, Melanie, at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis., and won the first-place



AT WORK: Macy Walason works at the Fair Barn during the 2018 Bedford County Fair.



medal in the National Junior Guernsey Show Winter Calf Class.

She has won the junior showmanship contest at the Pennsylvania Farm Show for six consecutive years.

She sought the position of Bedford County Fair Queen because she wanted to promote the growth, improvement and importance of Pennsylvania agricultural fairs. She has served as a director of the Bedford County Junior Fair Board and realizes the hard work and dedication it takes to organize the fair

READY TO SHOW: Macy Walason plans to show one of her favorite Guernseys, Melanie, at the 2019 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

each year. She also serves on the Pennsylvania Farm Show Junior Committee and received a Pennsylvania Livestock Association scholarship for being an outstanding National FFA Organization (FFA) member at Chestnut Ridge High School, where she is a senior.

Macy knows the satisfaction of earning her own money as she is employed as a farmhand at Green Slopes and is



FAIR QUEEN: Macy Walason is selected as the Bedford County Fair Queen at the 2018 Bedford County Fair.

the charge secretary for the Claysburg United Methodist Church. She also helps with the annual chicken barbecue, Hawaiian luau dinner, Easter egg hunt and Bible school at the Weyant Methodist Church, and volunteers with the local food bank. She sings in the choir and plays the piano on Youth Sunday.

At school, she participates in golf, senior high forensics team and track. Macy has served as FFA reporter, secretary, and president, and has also been involved with 4-H. Her list of awards and accomplishments includes FFA public speaking.

As Bedford County Fair Queen, Macy has appeared in parades and participated in school events and activities.

Through her research of the Bedford

County Fair, Macy discovered there are nearly 43,000 visitors, volunteers and exhibitors each year. There are more than 6,500 exhibits ranging from tomatoes and quilts to draft horses and beef cattle. Macy says it is important for agriculture fairs to exist to provide a greater understanding and appreciation of the local agricultural industry.

The state fair queen event is held at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. At least 1,000 people are expected to attend the three-day event. All contestants will be asked to compete in an interview, speech contest and several other competitions.

Whatever the outcome, Macy expects to attend Penn State University next year to major in agricultural science. 🌻

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Brooks R. Shoemaker
General Manager & CEO

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric.

For an application, go to our website at bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2019.

**Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522**

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than Feb. 1, 2019.

**Mail application to:
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From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)

and loans to increase the feasibility of providing the backbone to enhance education, telemedicine, and promote a 21st century economy. Everyone — the Trump Administration and both Democrats and Republicans in Congress — agrees on the need to bolster rural broadband. They need to get it done!

A third area of bipartisan agreement lies in a new farm bill. The farm bill, which authorizes numerous rural economic development programs, traditionally has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress. It appears the House and Senate have agreed on a compromise bill that promotes rural economic development and protects the support that the Rural Utilities Service provides to electric co-ops, among other things.

Electric cooperatives, here in Bedford and across the country, are engines of economic development in rural America. As always, we are proud to continue working toward a brighter and more prosperous future.

Need money for college?


Bedford Rural Electric awards up to four, \$1,000 traditional post-secondary scholarships each year. To be eligible, a high school senior must be commit-

ted to continuing their education at an accredited post-secondary institution, and the parent or guardian's primary residence must be served by the cooperative. Applicants are required to submit a short, 300-word essay describing why they deserve a scholarship. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on March 1, 2019.

We also award up to four \$1,000 non-traditional scholarships annually to students who are 25 years of age or older and currently enrolled at least part-time or accepted at an accredited post-secondary institution. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2019.

A committee of cooperative members will select recipients based on scholastic achievement, financial need, extracurricular activities, work experience, and civic and community endeavors. Further details and applications are available on our website, www.bedfordrec.com, or call the office for details.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy. 

Source: energy.gov

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.