

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

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Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Look out for scams

By Brooks Shoemaker

UNFORTUNATELY, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into giving your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams. Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

- ▶ If someone calls your home or cellphone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang up the phone and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats to pressure you into giving them your bank account number. Bedford Rural Electric will never ask you to provide personal financial information over the phone. If you ever have any doubts about your bill, please contact the office immediately.
- ▶ If someone comes to your home, claiming to be a cooperative employee, to collect money or inspect parts of your property, always ask for identification. Our employees carry company identification cards at all times. They also drive marked vehicles with our logo on them, and will be wearing co-op uniforms. If you have any doubt about someone's identity, call us immediately to verify that they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for

assistance and do not let the individual into your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:

- ▶ Government agencies, like the IRS, will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately.
- ▶ If you receive an email from an unknown sender, an email riddled with spelling errors and typos, or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.
- ▶ If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.

Energy efficiency for the modern family and its many devices

Have you noticed the number of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home? The typical American family owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families own a cellphone and 77 percent of Americans own a smartphone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

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Barkley chooses career in agriculture

By Linda Williams

BRIAN and Melanie Barkley of Maple Hollow Farm near Manns Choice have three daughters: Megan, Kayla and Heidi.

The three sisters grew up with their mom, the Penn State Extension agent for Bedford County, encouraging them to participate in various animal-related 4-H projects. Members of the Allegheny Foothills 4-H Club, they showed sheep, goats and steers at various fairs and shows throughout the area. The walls of the Barkley home are adorned with the many banners and ribbons the girls have won over the years.

It is the youngest of the three, Heidi, who has not lost that interest. Now a freshman at Penn State University, she is majoring in animal science with an emphasis on business and marketing.

Despite her studies, Heidi finds time to continue showing her sheep and goats at every possible event. Time constraints have forced her to give up the steer that once won her additional ribbons. Sheep and goats do not take as much time, and at the Barkley farm, there is plenty of pasture to help cut down on feeding. Her father pitches in to help when Heidi is at school.

Heidi's favorite sheep breed is the Border Leicester, a very old heritage breed known for their meat as well as their wool. They are large, but very docile. The Border Leicester is one of two breeds at Colonial Williamsburg.

"That was the sheep in the movie, 'Babe,'" Heidi adds.

Heidi also shows Dorset market sheep and that, along with her crossbred goats, is what she will be taking to the 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show. She also continues to show at the National Junior Sheep Show and the All American Shows in Massachusetts, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Other shows include the Eastern State Expo, Keystone International, and the North American Show, and she is an annual



HERITAGE SHEEP: Heidi Barkley shows off one of her Border Leicester sheep. She is showing a Dorset market lamb at the 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

favorite at the local Bedford County Fair.

All of the paperwork involving breeding and finances is kept by

Heidi. When possible, she takes care of the feeding and cleaning, and she helps with birthing, and has learned to shear. Her dad learned from the



SHEEPISH LOOK: The Border Leicesters are a curious bunch. An old heritage breed, they are known for both their coats and meat.

shearing master, Karl Kauffman, and he passed his skills onto Heidi.

She exhibits fleece at some shows and also does a few private sales. She, along with the rest of the farm, sells wool to Groenewold, a privately owned corporation with a worldwide wool-purchasing network.

Heidi's goals are to earn a college degree in animal science and someday

own a flock of sheep.

"I've grown up with farming and I can't imagine ever not doing it," she says.

Heidi is still active in the Allegheny

Foothills 4-H Club as a leader. She was a member of the Bedford High School FFA and is a junior board member of the Bedford County Fair organization. 🌻

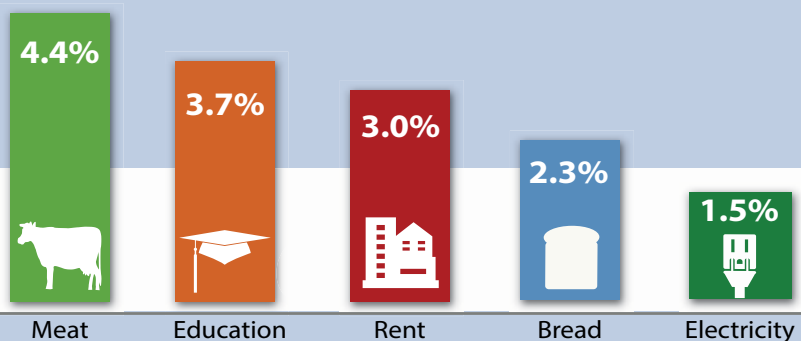


GOAT ON DISPLAY: Heidi Barkley is showing this little goat named Natalie at the 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Heidi says Natalie was named because she was no bigger than a gnat when she was born.

Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

 **Average Annual Price Increase**
2010-2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)

Consumer electronics have changed our homes and lifestyles. As new technology and a growing selection of smart home appliances emerge, our increased reliance on these devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.

From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use. You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing Energy Star-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features, such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open.

Of course there are the time-tested “old school” methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones and gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users, meaning they

drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

As our lives evolve and become increasingly driven by technology, rest assured that your friends here at Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative are available to answer your questions and help you adapt to your constantly changing world. 🌐

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 www.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, 2018.

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

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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.
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
Brooks R. Shoemaker
General Manager

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 www.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, 2018.

**Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric
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Bedford, PA 15522**

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.