

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

## From the General Manager



# Electric cooperatives are economic development engines

By Brooks Shoemaker

HOW long have you been a member of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative? Even if it has only been a month and you are reading your first issue of *Penn Lines*, I hope it is evident that we are deeply committed to providing safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to our members, and empowering the communities we serve. This means being more than just an electricity provider; it means being a partner in economic development and other activities that improve the lives of our members.

Typically, in these pages, we focus on issues that affect our cooperative or those across Pennsylvania. But, have you ever stopped to wonder what kind of an impact the nation's roughly 900 electric co-ops have across the United States?

A new report on this very topic shows that electric co-ops supported nearly 612,000 American jobs and contributed \$440 billion in U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP – the value of all economic activity within the United States) from 2013 to 2017, or \$88 billion annually. Those are some big numbers! I'm sure the pioneers of rural electrification never dreamed their cooperatives would have such a powerful impact.

The study, "The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives," was conducted by FTI Consulting for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

The report quantifies what many rural American families and businesses

have known for years—electric cooperatives are powerful economic development engines in their local communities. Affordable and reliable electricity is a key ingredient for a successful economy. Because electric co-ops were built by, belong to, and are rooted in the communities they serve, they play a vibrant role as economic cornerstones for millions of American families, businesses, and workers.

Access to electricity was a vital component of economic development and diversification in the mid-20th century, and that remains true today. Roughly one in eight residents nationwide is served by an electric cooperative, meaning direct co-op employment and investments can ripple throughout the economy and create additional economic value for local communities, regions, and the country.

From 2013 to 2017, electric cooperatives contributed \$881 billion in U.S. sales output, \$200 billion in labor income, and \$112 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues.

Nationally, electric co-ops spent \$359 billion on goods and services across the economy, including \$274 billion on operational expenditures, \$60 billion on capital investments, \$20 billion on maintenance, and \$5 billion on credits retired and paid in cash to members under the membership structure of cooperatives.

In conducting its analysis, FTI Consulting used data from 815 distribution cooperatives and 57 generation and transmission cooperatives as inputs into a national model to simulate

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# Bedford Valley man has history of prize-winning fish

By Linda Williams

**MIKE DUDEK** of Bedford Valley can't really remember when he didn't enjoy fishing.

A native of Ohio, he started fishing in Canada in the 1960s and eventually took his hobby to the many lakes Ohio has to offer. His late wife, Sally, enjoyed the sport as much as he did. The couple would fish every weekend for muskies, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and walleyes. After his wife passed, Dudek continued fishing on his own. Despite having caught hundreds of prize-winning fish, he kept only one. He had the 42-inch muskie mounted. The rest were catch and release as he finds his biggest thrill is in reeling in his catch. Because he doesn't want to harm the fish, he does not use a net as it's too easy for the fish to become entangled in it.

During the years, both Mike and Sally Dudek won dozens and dozens of lures and top-rated fishing equipment. He has also made many of his own lures from plastic or wood, but his favorites are made from knotless pine. He has enough of this stored to make several hundred lures.

Some of his lures have rattles. Years



ago, he met a young boy from Canada who was a diver. The lad had discovered that by banging rocks together

**LOTS OF LURES:** Mike Dudek shows off hundreds of lures he has both won and made in his more than 40 years of fishing.

under water, he could get the fish to follow him. It gave Dudek the idea to put rattles in his lures, and he has a friend who does the painting, causing the lures to seem as if they almost spring to life.

Lures with fuzzy tops are made to emulate birds or bugs — it was one of these that attracted so many northern pike, they destroyed the lure.

“Every year, I would order six more,” he says with a laugh.

There are many tricks to catching big fish.

“For instance,” Dudek says, “if people are trying

to fish at 12 feet and aren't catching anything, you know you must have a lure that goes down 20 feet or more. A lot of it is just common sense.”

Dudek was the vice president of the Huskie Muskie Club in Ohio, and he remembers going to the annual banquet where those who had caught muskies longer than 50 inches ate free.

Favorite bodies of water where he fished in Ohio included the West Branch Reservoir, Berlin Lake and Milton Lake. He also crossed the state line into Pymatuming and caught a huge muskie in the upper Niagara River on a cold November day.

Over the years, Dudek has seen big changes in attitudes of those who fish.

“Back in the early days, when we discovered a hot spot for any species of fish, we were willing to share it,” he



**SUGGESTIONS FOR SHAWNEE:** Mike Dudek says these are the types of lures he would use to fish in Shawnee Lake.



**FISH-EYE VIEW:** Some of Mike Dudek's fishing lures are shown in this closeup.

says. "But now, no one will tell a soul once they discover a good place to fish. In fact, they get angry if you try to share."

Another controversy revolves around catching and releasing fish. Dudek and those who think as he does believe fish should be allowed to grow. Therefore, releasing them back into the water allows this to happen. There are others

who think the big fish will eat the smaller fish. It's an individual line of thought. However, Dudek remains firm in his theory about catch and release, and he believes this is what any true sportsman will do.

He says he would never catch a muskie intending to eat it because they have far too many bones. However, he notes muskie can be smoked and are rather tasty that way.

After moving to Pennsylvania, the urge to fish remained with him. He tried Shawnee Lake, but found that after the lake was drained several years ago, fishing was not nearly as good as he had hoped. Instead, he bought a boat and took it to Raystown Lake, where he found ample fish.

A couple of years ago, he decided to hang it all up and sold his boat. Now, the fisherman within is telling him to get another one.

"I really miss it," he says.

"I think I am going to have to get back into it."

Dudek presently works as a custodian at the Bedford Technical Center and constantly finds something to do around his spacious lawn. Dudek also enjoys hunting and has two springer spaniels. 🌞



**A WINNER:** This prize-winning fish was caught on the Niagara River in early November.



**ANOTHER WINNER:** This is an example of a prize-winning fish caught in an Ohio lake.

**From the General Manager**

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the economic effects from the direct expenditures by co-ops. The model also calculates the indirect effects throughout the industrial supply chain and the induced effects from consumer spending by the employees of co-ops and their suppliers.

The result of all of this effort is a first-of-its-kind study revealing that electric cooperatives are economic anchors all across rural America. True to our heritage, it also demonstrates one of the seven guiding cooperative principles: Concern for Community. Just one more reason why electric cooperatives are known as “The People You Can Count On!”

**Energy efficiency tip of the month**

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary. ⚡

**EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS**

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details: (Please print clearly)

Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs:  Medical

Farming/Livestock

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur and during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

**Environmentally Beneficial Electrification**

Innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity rather than on-site fossil fuels, like propane, natural gas and gasoline.



This concept is known as **beneficial electrification** and suggests that the use of more all-electric appliances and equipment, like water heaters, weed trimmers and electric vehicles, provides consumers with greener products and benefits the environment.

**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.*