

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Please check the circuit breakers

By Brooks Shoemaker

NO ONE likes power outages. No one! Even worse are outages that last longer than necessary. Your home is wired using various electrical "circuits." An electrical circuit is simply a series of outlets and switches that are daisy-chained together throughout your home. It is powered and controlled by a breaker in your panel box. Parts of your home — including outlets, lights, entire walls or rooms — can lose power when circuits are overloaded.

If your power goes out unexpectedly, please check your circuit breakers before calling to report an outage. It is pretty simple. First, find your electrical panel, or breaker box. Inside, you will see a number (10, 20, 40 — it depends) of black switches. These are the circuit breakers.

If a circuit breaker is tripped, it may appear to be in the same position as the others, but it will not be fully in the ON position. Find the affected breaker and flip it to the OFF position. If you don't think there is an electrical overload, try flipping the breaker back to the ON position. If you do suspect an electrical overload, unplug any appliances or other items in the area not receiving power, then flip the breaker back to the ON position.

Check to see if power is restored. Wait a few seconds, then slowly begin plugging in and turning on the electrical equipment to determine which item is causing the overload. If the circuit trips again when an item is plugged in, that item is causing the

overload. Try moving it to a different outlet in your home. If the circuit continues to trip, or if it won't flip to the ON position, stop trying to reset the breaker. There may be a fault in the circuit, and you will need to contact a qualified electrician.

When power goes out to an area of your home, it is often just a temporary condition. By following these simple steps, you may be able to restore power on your own by simply resetting the breaker.

Four ways to save energy in the kitchen

The kitchen is undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It is where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably are not thinking about saving energy when you plan that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort:

- ▶ When possible, cook with smaller appliances. Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens, is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.
- ▶ Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load. Halloween may be

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Grapevines grow near Everett

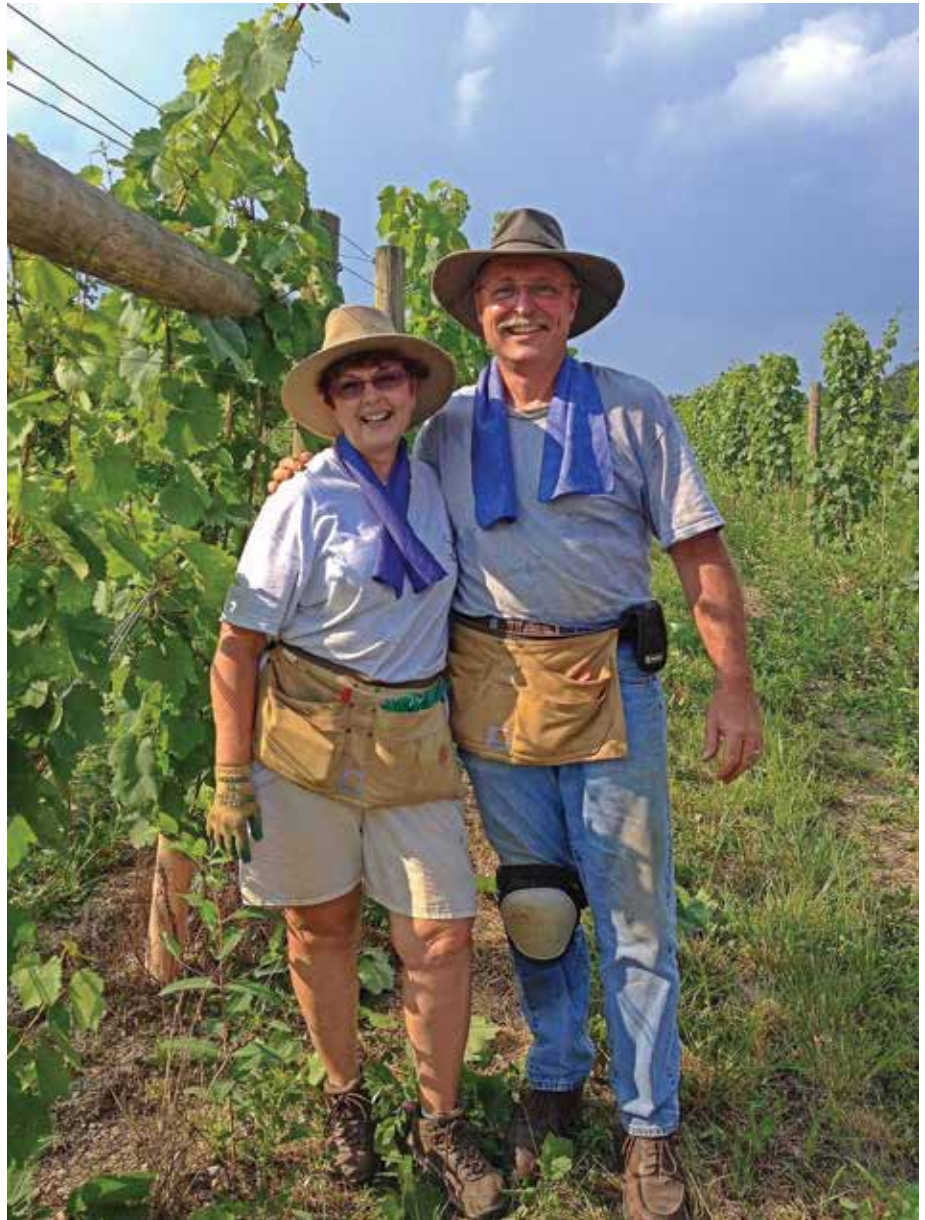
By Linda Williams

DRIVING Route 30 from Breezewood to Bedford, gaze to your right at the vineyards. In the early fall, they will be heavy with luscious winemaking grapes for your holiday dining. They are a picturesque sight and a wonderful addition to Bedford County.

The vineyards are on the Manspeaker property, and the wine produced from them was the brainchild of Tod and Jean Manspeaker. Tod grew up on this property and is still filled with nostalgia as he remembers he and his brother, Brian, riding a sled down the hill where the grapevines now grow. Brian still lives on the property. Behind the vineyards is a woodland seemingly designed especially for two young boys to go camping. There are lots of memories and a spectacular view.

Manspeaker's farm was originally a quarter horse farm. Tod's wife of 27 years, Jean, grew up on a dairy farm in Somerset County. Her grandfather had prized his Concord grapes, and her father made wine at home.

The couple often spent their vacation time visiting wineries, especially in the Finger Lakes region. Once the idea



WINEMAKERS: Jean and Tod Manspeaker take a break from their work in their vineyard near Everett, Pa.



IN VINO VERITAS: Briar Valley Winery produces a variety of wines.

was born, Jean and Tod, realizing their limited knowledge, hired experts, took courses, went online, did whatever was necessary to gain grape-growing and winemaking knowledge. Their success led to the Briar Valley Winery, the first in Bedford.

In the world of winemaking, their wines quickly became competitive, winning them numerous awards. Briar Valley Winery, the shop in Bedford, was a popular hangout for the generation that has wine as their No. 1 beverage.

With success comes work — lots of work. After planting 10 acres of grapes that produce three tons of grapes per acre, they had to be maintained.

“From February until August, we were in the grape field pruning, picking, whatever had to be done,” Tod says. Harvesting help was found from local farmers.

“It was becoming exhausting,” Tod



says. “We enjoyed it. Jean’s favorite part of the whole process was being in the field. But it begins to wear the body down.”

This year they leased the grapevine field to Bella Terra Vineyards of Hunker. The new winemakers, Jay and Joanna Bell, also bought the Briar Valley Winery located on Pitt Street in Bedford.

The Manspeakers prided themselves on creating all vinese wines styled after classic European wines. Jean was convinced from the start that Pennsylvania wine could have the right mix of viticulture to create wines with great finesse.

Meanwhile the Bells have concentrated on a sweeter wine. Combining the two has, to

date, been a success story that should continue to grow.

Tod says they will miss a lot about the winery business, and he is always available to offer advice to the lessee.

The Everett vineyards are protected from deer and bear by a 10-foot-high fence. The main enemy of growing grapes is birds.



UNINVITED GUEST: Netting around the grapes helps prevent damage from birds. This bird caught in the netting was soon set free.

To combat this problem, they have installed electric bird calls that imitate the sounds of hawks and the sound of hawks eating their prey. The grapes are protected with netting that does, on rare occasions, entangle a bird.

“If so, we try to set them free,” Tod acknowledges.

Because the vineyards are surrounded by natural boundaries, they have

WINE COUNTRY: The Manspeaker vineyard includes 10 acres of grapevines that produce three tons of grapes per acre.

had few problems with late or early frosts. Ice wine, which is made after the grapes are frozen, requires so much work it is impossible to get the price it would deserve.

Each species of grapes has its own placement in the vineyard. There are rows of Chardonnay, Riesling and Pinot Gris. Once clusters are picked, they are machine removed from the stems.

Everything at the Manspeaker vineyards has a purpose and has been done according to the experts from whom they sought advice. Tod says they were pleased recently when a newcomer to the area wanted to try his hand at grape growing. He contacted some of the Virginia experts and was told that he may as well ask the Manspeakers because they were experts. It had gone full circle. ☀

From the General Manager

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over, but you probably have energy vampires in your kitchen — coffee makers, microwaves, toaster ovens and anything else that draws energy even when it is not being used. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they are not being used, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

- ▶ Help large appliances work less. There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they reflect heat better. Allow leftovers to cool, and make sure they are covered before putting them in the refrigerator. That way, the fridge does not have to work harder to cool warm food.
- ▶ Use your dishwasher efficiently. Only run full loads and avoid using the “rinse hold” function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

Bonus tip: The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (and energy bill!) will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you will be well on your way to energy savings!

Energy efficiency tip of the month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing Energy Star®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models. ⚡

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.

Bedford REC's office will be closed on November 11 in observance of Veterans Day and November 26 & 27 for Thanksgiving

Safe Electricity® Storm Safety Kit

- 🍴 Drinking water & food
- 🛏 Blankets, pillows & clothing
- 🩹 Basic first-aid supplies
- 💊 Prescriptions
- 🚽 Basic toiletries
- 🔦 Flashlights
- 📻 Battery-operated radio
- 🕒 Battery-operated clock
- 🔋 Extra supply of batteries
- ☎ Phone
- 💰 Cash and credit cards
- 📞 Emergency numbers
- 📄 Important documents (in a waterproof container)
- 📖 Toys, books & games
- 👶 Baby supplies
- 🐾 Pet supplies

OUTAGE REPORTING

In case of trouble...

- 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.