

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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814-623-5101

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & Allegheny Director

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

Vice President & PREA Director

Donald Hoenstine
Kimmel and King Twps.

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Reuben R. Lafferty
Juniata 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

Dale Sprigg II
West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.,
Pleasantville Borough

Brian I. Hoover

Monroe and West Providence Twps.,
Everett Borough
John A. Oldham
East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County

Travis Wigfield
Colerain, Snake Spring and
South Woodbury Twps.

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 cooperative's board of directors?

By Brooks Shoemaker

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

The next Bedford REC Annual Meeting will be held April 12, 2023. At that meeting, cooperative members will elect directors from: District 1 (Allegheny Township and New Baltimore Borough, Somerset County; and Juniata Township, Bedford County); District 5 (East St. Clair Township, Bedford County); and District 6 (Bedford and Cumberland Valley townships, Bedford County). If you live 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 the 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 qualified members as director nominees from each district where a director's term of office is ending. No member of the board, cooperative employee or close relative shall serve on the committee. The names of cooperative members appointed to the 2023 Nominating Committee and the qualifications necessary to become a director are enclosed with your September electric bill, which you received this month. 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

As I mentioned, the next Bedford REC Annual Meeting of the members will be held on April 12, 2023. During the annual meeting, members will cast ballots to elect three of their fellow members to the Bedford REC Board of Directors. All cooperative members will receive a ballot in the mail. Members may use that ballot to vote for one candidate in each of the three districts electing directors and then return the ballot by mail. Alternatively, members may also vote in person at the annual meeting, as we have tradi-

tionally done. Regardless of how you choose to vote, we are no longer using cumulative voting. Each member is entitled to a single vote in each of the three districts.

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. (a) It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint,
(continues on page 16d)



Chickens will help with fertilizer woes

By Linda Williams

PHIL AND MATTHEW Lewis, like many farmers, were having a difficult time turning a profit with beef cattle.

“Fertilizer is so expensive, it was eating up our profits,” says Phil, who along with his full-time partner-son, Matthew, farms 300 acres on Orchard Hollow Road in the Manns Choice area. They have about 100 mostly Angus and a few cross-bred beef cows. “The only paycheck we were getting was when we sold off our feeder calves.”

They looked into what else they could do with the land and decided on Hy-Line poultry. There are already several farms in the area partnering with Hy-Line, the world’s oldest layer genetics company in the production of chickens and eggs. In August, Phil and Matthew received 92,000 Leghorn peeps approximately two to three days

old. The farmers will care for them in their two new and spacious 94-degree sanitary barns.

Phil says they built the barns to Hy-Line’s specifications and credits Hometown Bank for financing their venture. Phil and Matthew will own the barns and rent them to Hy-Line. They will, in turn, be paid to care for the chicks, which remain with the pair until the pullet stage of 16 weeks. At that time, the young chickens will be shipped to another facility in preparation for their egg-laying phase.

Some of the eggs are used in research and flu vaccines, but the majority will be for the average consumer, according to Phil. The farmers can have no other poultry on the premises.

“Everything is kept sanitary,” Phil says. “Once the chickens move out of here, we will give the barn a thorough cleaning and sanitizing. We even wear

TURNING TO CHICKENS: The chicken barns on the Lewis land are tucked into a valley. The farm recently received 92,000 peeps, which Phil and Matthew Lewis will raise in partnership with Hy-Line.

special footwear. The trucks that deliver the peeps and pick up the pullets have their wheels sanitized before entering our property.”

No visitors are allowed on the property and, for this reason, the father and son held an open house on Aug. 1, which drew about 200 curious attendees.

Hometown Bank provided pulled pork sandwiches.

“We didn’t send out invitations or advertise much, we just made an announcement,” Phil says, “and friends and neighbors came to show their support.”

One of the biggest benefits of the venture is the chicken manure, which the pair can use as fertilizer. It can



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, 814-623-7568, 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.



A NEW VENTURE: The recent open house at the new poultry-raising facility in Manns Choice, above, was well attended by many friends and neighbors, who came to wish farmers Phil and Matthew Lewis, shown at left, a successful outcome.

Phil and Matthew spent a lot of time deciding on the location and finally found just the right nook, surrounded on three sides by woods.

They chose the peep-to-pullet phase of the operation because they did not have the labor to sustain the egg-laying hens. Each flock does have about 7% roosters. Hy-Line provides the feed, but Phil and Matthew will administer it.

The father-son partners are pleased to have the support of their families in their chicken adventure. Phil works for ABL in West Virginia, and Matthew has a mowing business. Phil's wife, Lori, works for Ritchey, Ritchey, and Koontz, and their daughter, Kaitlin, is employed at Fisher's Pharmacy.

"We realize this won't be a big moneymaker as we will spend most of our income for the next 10 years on paying off the barns, taxes and upkeep," Phil says, "but eventually, we hope it will all pay off." ❁

also be purchased by any farmer who is part of a nutrient management program that aids in the protection of the Chesapeake Bay.

"We were extremely careful regarding the placement of the barns," Phil says. "We knew some folks would be afraid of smell, but really, it is so clean, there won't be any. The closest home to the barns will be my parents', and I certainly would not do anything to harm them."

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



From the General Manager

(continued from page 16a)

no later than August 31 of each year, a committee on nominations consisting of 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 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. 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: 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 in person at the annual meeting 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; 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 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. ❁