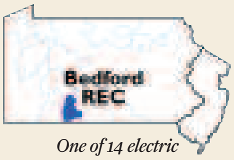
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

What is a load forecast?

by Brooks Shoemaker
General Manager

WHEN WE hear the word "forecast," we typically think of the weather. Here at Bedford Rural Electric, we manage a different type of forecast — a load forecast.

A load forecast is exactly what it sounds like — an estimate or prediction of how much electricity will be needed in the future. We all depend on power to meet our daily needs, but the amount we use varies from season to season, day to day and even hour by hour. This is why we work with Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our wholesale power supplier, and plan far in advance to ensure there is enough power available to meet electricity demands.

Believe it or not, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, growth of electricity demand has actually decreased in each decade since the 1950s. Rising demand for electric services is offset by efficiency gains from new appliance standards and investments in energy-efficient equipment.

As demand fluctuates, we are prepared to maintain electrical loads and keep the system running efficiently. This means extensive planning — up to 20 years in advance — while continually evaluating areas of new growth and predicting demand patterns for the communities we serve.

For example, as areas grow within our service territory, it is our responsibility to ensure an adequate power supply will be available to the members of that community. This may involve running new poles and wire to the site, rebuilding and rerouting our existing system, or maybe even building a new substation.

We can't predict the future, but we can be prepared for what it holds. So leave the forecasting to us, and we'll continue to provide safe, reliable electricity to power your life.

Clearing for reliability

Our right-of-way (ROW) management program is one of the most crucial programs that we have here at Bedford Rural Electric.

The ROW is the strip of land underneath and adjacent to our power lines. At a minimum, the ROW is 40 feet wide. For safety and reliability reasons, trees and other vegetation must be controlled and not allowed to grow too close to the lines and our equipment. Tree limbs that come in contact with power lines are a major cause of outages, and limbs that touch the lines can become energized or even break and fall, bringing the lines down with them.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. We trim our ROW on a four-year cycle. When trees encroach on the ROW, our contractors trim back branches and brush using chain saws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers, and mowers. Keeping power lines clear of limbs and brush not only increases reliability, but it provides easier access to our lines, which means quicker restoration of power during storms or other times of trouble.

ROW clearing makes sense; it is one more way that Bedford provides you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service.

Tip of the month

Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy. Also, consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Automatic calf feeder cuts time for Wakefield brothers

By Linda Williams

AUTOMATIC 'MOM': Calves take to the automatic calf feeder system and thrive at the Wakefield Farm in Friends Cove.

EVERYONE IN Friends Cove knows where the Wakefield Farm is located. The farming operation is now into the sixth generation, but the Wakefield family has been in the valley for 10 generations. Brothers JT and Thad are the managers these days. They are the sons of Tom and Kathy Wakefield.

The two young men, who ship their 72-pound-average milk from 150 head of (mostly) Holsteins to Land O'Lakes, divide up the farm chores. Several years ago, they realized they were spending far too much time feeding the calves. JT says by the time he fed all the calves, it was time to start over. They decided they could find a better use for their precious hours.

Together with their dad, they sat down at the computer to look at various options.

"We saw the advantages of a computerized calf feeder," JT says.

They realized up front there would be a large expense, but the brothers felt the expense would eventually pay off.

"We farm 500 acres and we needed that labor elsewhere," JT adds.

They estimated the total cost for the computer would be $25,000 to $30,000, while the largest outlay of cash would be for the new barn. But they knew time is money, and that is where the payoff came in.

During a trip to Newville, Ohio, the brothers saw a barn plan that would house both the calves and the young cattle. They added and subtracted until they had a plan that would fit their specific needs. It took about six months of planning and construction.

Most important was an excellent ventilation system designed by the University of Wisconsin that would keep the cattle comfortable during cold and hot weather. While the barn will hold up to 100 cattle, they presently have 25 calf

NEW FARMHAND: JT and Thad Wakefield demonstrate the computerized system that can keep up to 50 calves happy and easily fed.

NEW BARN: JT and Thad Wakefield are the sixth generation of Wakefields on the family's Friends Cove farm. This barn was designed by the two brothers when they switched to an automatic calf-feeding system.

CATTLE AT HOME: Young cattle at the Wakefield Farm prepare to partake of some tasty hay in the new barn designed by brothers JT and Thad Wakefield.

pens and about 50 young cattle.

Once the barn was completed, they purchased the computerized feeding system, manufactured in Germany, from Delaval. The Wakefields have always had Surge milkers, but this time Delaval offered what they wanted for feeding.

Calves receive both special formula and whole milk.

"We feed whole waste milk to the bull calves and, if that tank goes dry, they can switch to the formula," TJ explains. "Each calf has a button in its ear and can eat up to six times a day."

For the first few days, each calf receives 1.21 liters of the mixture. The ration is gradually increased until they are getting 10 liters daily.

Thad explains they can add medication to the formula, adding that they can predict when a calf is about to get sick because the computer keeps track of how much water each calf is drinking. With the new system, sickness has been minimal, allowing them to think that calves don't mind having a computer for a "mommy."

Both Wakefields say they faced a lot of naysayers telling them the calves would try to feed off each other or would not have adequate weight gain or too much weight gain. None of this has proven to be true.

Being very clean farmers has paid off for the Wakefields with few veterinary bills. The computerized lines clean themselves twice a day, and TJ and Thad also clean them once manually.

"We also spend a little more on feed and find it pays off," TJ says. "We have ColdFront® feed in the winter and WarmFront® feed (milk replacers) in the summer."

The computer has a scale that measures how much weight the calves are gaining. After 56 days on the computer, the calves are sent to the next stage of the barn, where they begin to eat grain and hay. At the Wakefield barn, it is a sea of healthy looking black and white cows interspersed with a few Brown Swiss.

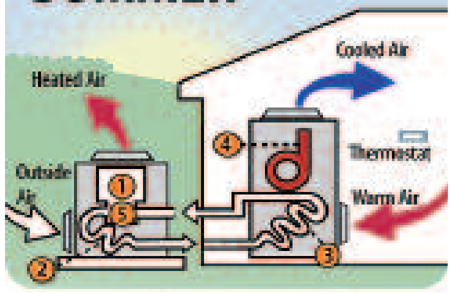
"We had Brown Swiss when we were kids as 4-H projects and they just stayed," Thad says.

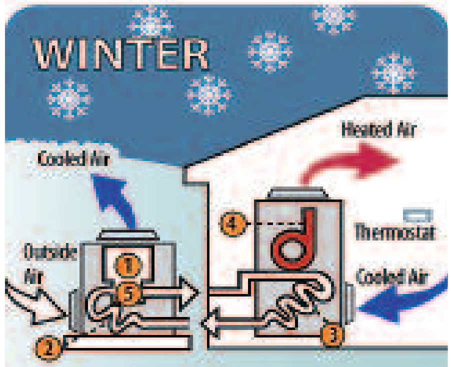
JT is married to Skyler, who works at US Renal Care in Altoona. They have one daughter, 16 months.

How Do Air-Source Heat Pumps Work?

By transferring heat between a house and outside air, these devices trim electricity use by as much as 30 percent to 40 percent in moderate climates.

SUMMER





1. **Compressor** Increases refrigerant/freon pressure to accept the maximum heat from the air.
2. **Condenser** Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
3. **Evaporator** Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.
4. **Air Handler** Fan blows air into a home's ducts.
5. **Reversing Valve** Switches the direction of the freon flow, changing the heat pump's output to hot or cold air (controlled by thermostat).

Source: NRECA

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 2, 2015.

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

Food drive winners

Congratulations to the winners of this year's drawing of our members who contributed to the Bedford REC Food Drive. Roger and Linda Dishong of Imler will receive a $25 credit on their electric bill.

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble ...

First .... Check your fuses or circuit breakers.

Second .... Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.

Third .... Call 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 person receiving 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.

Alternate numbers ...

Scott Shook	Week of February 2	623-2395
Ed Hankinson	Week of February 9	733-4005
Scott Bischof	Week of February 16	839-4640
Adam Claycomb	Week of February 23	635-3376
Gary Lafferty	Week of March 2	842-9925

In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood	Bedford	623-6121
James Clark	Everett	652-9791
Mark Rowan	Bedford	623-7890

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.