

# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC  
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support@bedfordrec.com  
Website:  
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Attorney

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday through Friday**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# LED lightbulb rebates



by Brooks Shoemaker  
General Manager

**BEDFORD RURAL ELECTRIC** is pleased to announce our new light-emitting diode (LED) lightbulb rebate program. We will provide a \$3-per-bulb (or the actual price of the bulb, if it is less than \$3) rebate for each LED bulb you purchase. You may claim rebates on up to five bulbs, so the maximum rebate is \$15.

To be eligible for a rebate, the member must:

- ▶ Purchase LED lightbulbs between April 1 and Dec. 31, 2015,
- ▶ Submit a completed, signed rebate form to the cooperative office, and
- ▶ Submit an original sales receipt, with the purchase price of the bulb(s) highlighted, along with the original product barcode (UPC) from the box or packaging,

The rebate form, sales receipt and UPC may be mailed to or dropped off at the cooperative office. Once the information is verified, the rebate will be credited to the member's next electric bill.


Why are we doing this? Well, LED lightbulbs are the wave of the future. Incandescent bulbs cannot meet the government's efficiency standards, so they are being phased out. They are expensive to operate and create a significant amount of heat.

CFL bulbs have proven to be relatively unpopular. In essence, they are a temporary solution to energy-efficient lighting. Many folks have never been satisfied with them. Concerns include a delay turning on and the time it takes to reach full brightness. Unless you leave them on for long periods at a time, they don't last as long as advertised either. Finally, they contain mercury, which raises several health and environmental issues.

LED bulbs are the most energy-efficient, longest-lasting bulbs on the market today. A 10-watt LED bulb provides about the same amount of light output (lumens) as a 60-watt incandescent bulb. So, it takes about the same amount of energy to operate six LED bulbs as it does to power one incandescent bulb.

Quality LEDs are relatively cool to touch. Unlike compact fluorescent bulbs, LEDs work well in the cold and don't require a warm-up period. They also contain no mercury, so there are no disposal issues as there are with CFLs. LEDs are also more durable than either CFLs or incandescents because the globe that surrounds the light-emitting diodes is typically made of translucent plastic instead of thin glass. Finally, and most importantly, LEDs provide a bright, high-quality light.

But don't take our word for it; try them out for yourself, and our rebate will help pay for them.

Funding for the rebate program comes through the Local Energy Efficiency Program (LEEP) offered by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. LEEP is designed to assist Pennsylvania electric distribution cooperatives in supporting the development of local energy-efficiency and conservation programs. 

### Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. LED Rebate Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Purchase Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Bulbs Purchased (Limit of 5): \_\_\_\_\_

Bedford Rural Electric has allocated \$3,500 for this program, which provides rebates on LED bulbs purchased between April 1 and Dec. 31, 2015. Rebates will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until funds have been exhausted, or until Dec. 31, 2015, whichever occurs first. Each member is entitled to five rebates, regardless of the number of accounts they may have with us.

To claim a rebate, complete this form and deliver it to our office, or mail it to:  
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
PO Box 335  
Bedford, PA 15522

You must include your **original receipt**, with the **purchase price circled**, and the **UPC Barcode** from the package. Up to a \$3 rebate will be applied to your account for each bulb purchased, up to a maximum of five bulbs.

# Greenhouse owners find good life in New Paris

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

**ROW AFTER ROW** of colorful flowers and healthy green vegetable plants await the arrival of gardening season at the Harris Greenhouse in New Paris. What is not sold directly to locals will go to auctions in Martinsburg or Seven Springs.

The Harris family knows what hard work is all about, and they know how to put their talents in the garden and the kitchen to good use. They are familiar faces at the local farmers market.

William and Elinor Harris began their life together in Belize.

“We are South American Indian and converted to the Mennonite religion,” William explains.

There are many Mennonite missionaries in Belize. They come from as far away as Russia or as close as Lancaster.

William says Belize is a wonderful country in which to farm.

“There is a lot of rain and warm tem-



**FLOWERS, TOO:** Elinor Harris shows off a huge flower arrangement that is ready to be delivered.



**PREPARING FOR THE DAY:** Elinor Harris mixes a batch of dough in preparation for another day of baking.

peratures,” he explains. “You can grow almost anything.”

He and Elinor grew many fruits and vegetables in Belize, and took them into the nearest town via horse and buggy. Unfortunately, criminals knew of their peaceful Mennonite beliefs and would rob them coming home.

“We went to the authorities, but there was so much corruption and most of the people were so poor, nothing was done,” William says.

The situation got so bad that they feared for their lives, and with good reason. They had friends whose daughters were raped. Another friend was murdered.

Finally, in the middle of the night,

the Harris family — William, Elinor and their six children — joined other friends facing the same fate. They packed everything into a school bus and left for America. The Mennonite Church helped the immigrants to get visas. That was in September 1982. Once here, members of the group applied for refuge and with proof of their treatment in Belize, they became citizens. It was a long process that occurred over many years.

“We had 112 acres in Belize,” William remembers. “We just walked away and



**FARMER'S MARKET:** William Harris sells produce at the farmers market in Bedford.

left it. We came to America with the clothes on our back and \$4,000.”

They worked on farms until they could purchase their own small farm in Tennessee. In 2007, their church brought them to the town of New Paris, where they lived in a trailer with an attached small building.

“We have never needed much,” William says. “We do not eat store-bought food and know how to do most everything ourselves. We pay cash for everything.”

By the time the family moved to Pennsylvania, the number of children had grown to 13.

“The 38 acres we bought in New Paris had absolutely nothing on it,” he explains.

The family built a greenhouse and cultivated the fields. Now, the Harris family’s vegetables are always a hit at the local farmers market in Bedford. Their tomatoes are typically the size of a large fist by mid-June. They have bright green and red peppers, onions, cantaloupes, broccoli, sweet corn, squash, green beans, and potatoes. Downtown Bedford recently handed out sweet watermelon, compliments of the Harris family.

In the spring, the greenhouse also offers garden and flower plants.

William says they work hard to get the finished product.

“We are very particular how we prepare the soil and add whatever we need to get results,” he explains.

One day, when delivering some of their produce to a nearby Mennonite store, the Harris family was asked if they would sell baked goods.

“I have baked all my life for such a large family,” Elinor says, “but not to sell. But William and I talked it over and thought it would be a good business for the girls.”

The family had already built a large, modest but comfortable home, and the basement made the ideal location for a huge baking kitchen. Now, six days a week, the aroma of cinnamon rolls, gobs, cakes, pies, cookies and homemade bread fills the air.

Business has been brisk and most days, three or four women are baking from 8 a.m. until late into the evening using Elinor’s own recipes.



**YEAR-ROUND TOMATOES:** Tomato plants grow all year at the Harris Greenhouse in New Paris.

“We make everything from scratch,” she says. “We make pumpkin pies from our own pumpkins, and apple pie from the local orchards.”

By next year, they hope to have their own blueberries.

The Harris family attends three farmers markets — one in Johnstown,



**CUSTOMERS WANTED:** Baskets of flowers await summer customers.

one in Cumberland and one in Bedford. All surplus vegetables and flowers go to a local shop or the market in Martinsburg. They also bake for special occasions, such as the Fall Foliage Festival in

*(continues on page 12d)*

**GREENHOUSE OWNERS**

*(continued from page 12c)*

Bedford, where huge amounts of gobs or apple dumplings are consumed.

“We do whatever we can to keep the bills paid,” William says.



**READY FOR THE NEXT STEP:** Seedlings are ready to be transplanted.

Elinor says most of her days begin at 5 a.m. and end around midnight.

“I love to work in the evenings,” she says. “I play gospel music and bake.”

At 59, she takes no medications and says she has plenty of energy.

William is 66 and, likewise, begins his days early and ends them late.

With children ranging from 13 to 44, they have plenty of family events and activities to participate in for entertainment. They also have 28 grandchildren. 🌞

**Office closing**  
 Bedford REC's  
 office will be  
 closed on  
 Friday, July 3, in  
 observance of  
 Independence  
 Day

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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 especially during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.*

## 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 ...

Al Hileman .....	Week of June 1 .....	766-9971
Jim Seymour .....	Week of June 8 .....	839-2848
Dennis Tursich .....	Week of June 15 .....	623-0922
Scott Shook .....	Week of June 22 .....	623-2395
Ed Hankinson .....	Week of June 29 .....	733-4005

### 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.*