

# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## Bedford REC

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John J. Dirienzo Jr.

### Office Hours

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

## From the General Manager



# The importance of member engagement

By Brooks Shoemaker

**THE** National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national trade association that represents nearly 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states. It recently sponsored a task force of cooperative leaders from across the country, which produced a report entitled, “The Electric Cooperative Purpose — A Compass for the 21st Century.” The report, to no one’s surprise, found that an electric cooperative’s purpose is to “Power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives.”

Bedford Rural Electric is an NRECA member and we firmly believe that you, our members, need to be at the heart of everything we do. We are proud of the fact that we are different from investor-owned utilities like Penelec and Allegheny Power, where the primary purpose is to generate a profit for their stockholders. Many of those stockholders don’t even live in the communities served by the utility. Their interest is purely financial. Naturally, we must generate enough revenue to cover our costs. However, profit is never our primary motive. Serving you and your neighbors is our No. 1 priority.

The report noted, “Our story is about ordinary people that banded together to improve the quality of life by providing electricity to our community when no one else would do it.” Today, 77 years later, we enjoy the support of people from all walks of life. We operate in every type of business from agriculture, housing, finance, health care, technology, and small business, to food and many more. Cooperatives can be found from the most rural areas to the most urban

areas, and everywhere in between.

One thing is for sure — Bedford Rural Electric is your locally owned electric co-op. We will never move to Mexico or China. We will always be local — right here and ready to serve our members. We are “The people you can count on.™”

## Will EPA’s Clean Power Plan threaten electric reliability?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its Clean Power Plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in August, and several objections have been raised — from its effect on the economy to whether the EPA actually has the authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the organization responsible for making sure our electricity stays on, says that the electric utility industry “needs more time to develop coordinated plans to address shifts in generation and corresponding transmission.”

NERC officials cited concern about the electric transmission grid, noting that emission reductions are scheduled to begin in 2020. However, necessary transmission projects require between six and 15 years to engineer, site, permit and construct.

The EPA’s final rule was released in August and it responded to that concern by extending the deadline two years, setting a 2022 start date and phasing in the limits through 2030. Is that enough time? NERC responded in a statement that acknowledged the EPA had changed its deadlines and that NERC will analyze

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# Jones family active in school, 4-H

By Linda Williams

**THE HOME** of the Mike Jones family of Friends Cove is a beehive of activity.

Kaidyn, age 9, is a fourth-grader who loves sports. He enjoys playing football and basketball and even has a dream of one day being in the National Football League.

Sports are not his only interest; Kaidyn also raises fair animals, including goats and pigs. Both he and his sister, Kirsten, show pigs, and Kaidyn had a goat in the 2015 Bedford County Fair.

Kirsten is a “girly-girl” on the surface, but underneath, she knows what it takes to get the job done. Both kids participated for the first time in the Pennsylvania Farm Show. They took two mixed Hampshire-crossed pigs named Francis and Hoss.

It was Mike who first got Kirsten interested in raising pigs.

“I had them when I was a kid and I thought it might be good for her to try,” he says. “She liked it and has done well.”

Kirsten and Kaidyn have both won numerous awards, trophies and ribbons at the Bedford County Fair.

Both kids spend at least an hour a day and more in the summer feeding, grooming, and walking their animals. Kirsten, a 10th-grader, is also a varsity cheerleader, and winter is a busy, almost hectic, time for her. However, their parents wanted to give the kids at least one shot at exhibiting at the Farm Show and that is what they did this year.

“I don’t know if we will ever do it again, but it was worth it,” Mike says.



**PRIZE WINNERS:** Kaidyn Jones displays the prizes he won from exhibiting goats and pigs at the Bedford County Fair.



**KIRSTEN WINS:** Kirsten Jones displays the fair awards she has earned.

Both of the Jones offspring are members of the Young Shepherds and Young Stockmen 4-H Club, led by Mike and their mom, Candi.

“When the children started to take an interest, we decided to jump in and help,” Mike explains.

Mike is also the president of the Pennsylvania Extension board for Bedford County.

Kaidyn and Kirsten are also hunters. Kaidyn bagged his first buck when he was 7 with a muzzleloader.

Kirsten got a spike buck this year and has gotten several others in the past.

Candi is a registered nurse, having completed her schooling at the Bedford County Vo-Tech and Allegany College program. She will be attending the Chamberlain College of Nursing in the spring, working to earn a bachelor’s degree.

Her mother’s drive has prompted Kirsten to walk in her mother’s footsteps as she also wants to become a registered nurse.

Mike, a salesman for West Central, says he is happy to help with the 4-H program.



**DINNER TIME:** Mike Jones holds the feed for his daughter, Kirsten's, pig.

"It is important for the future of livestock," he says. "Bedford County has always done well in competitions, both at home and in bigger shows. Our farmers also do well. But, we can't get good farms if we don't start these kids when they are young.



**EXERCISE:** Siblings Kirsten and Kaidyn Jones walk their pigs, a necessary task if they plan to show them at area fairs.

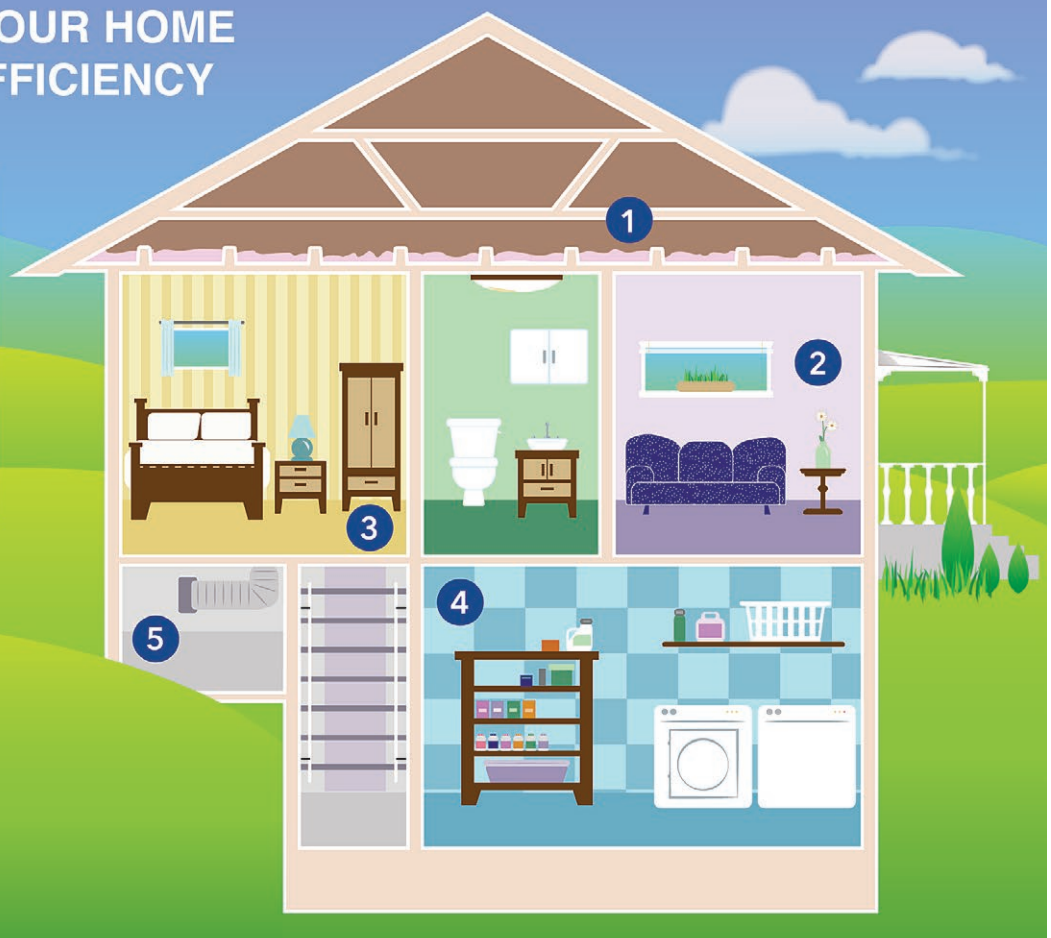
Raising and showing animals teaches them responsibility."

He gives a great deal of credit to Greg Raines of Flintstone, Md., who he says has been supplying great pigs for 4-H kids for years. 🌞

## INSULATING YOUR HOME TO LOCK IN EFFICIENCY AND SAVINGS

Adding insulation in the areas shown here may be the best way to improve your home's energy efficiency. Insulate either the attic floor or under the roof. Check with a licensed contractor about crawl space or basement insulation.

- 1 Attic
- 2 Walls
- 3 Floors
- 4 Basement
- 5 Crawlspace



Source: Dept. of Energy

**From the General Manager**

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the EPA's final rule and issue a report in mid-2016.

Among those challenging the EPA rules in court is NRECA, concerned that the Clean Power Plan would hurt electric reliability and raise costs for electric co-op members.

"We believe the EPA has overstepped its legal authority with the Clean Power Plan, and, along with many other interveners, have challenged [the] EPA's rules in the courts," says Paul McCurley, NRECA chief engineer and acting executive director of energy and power. "If the legal challenge is successful, then perhaps we can get [the] EPA to write regulations that address more than just environmental concerns — but also consider economic impacts to consumers and do not threaten the reliability of the electric grid."

**Energy efficiency tip of the month**

Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries — and an Energy Star charger for them — which are more cost-effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually. ☀

**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](http://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 1, 2016.*

**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. Barry and M. Louise Ickes of Schellsburg will receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill.

**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 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...**

- 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 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 Bischof ..... 839-4640 (Week of February 1)
- Adam Claycomb ..... 635-3376 (Week of February 8)
- Gary Lafferty ..... 842-9925 (Week of February 15)
- Troy Mock ..... 276-9759 (Week of February 22)
- Greg Miller ..... 839-0037 (Week of February 29)

**In case you cannot reach any of the above, call:**

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

*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.*