


# 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 p.m.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

## It takes a cut above, to stay a step ahead

*“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”*  
— Greek Proverb



by Brooks Shoemaker  
General Manager

**FOR THOUSANDS** of years, trees have been appreciated for their shade, planted for their fruit and harvested for their wood. Trees contribute to our health, beautify our neighborhoods, help regulate our atmosphere, and they can even reduce our electric bills, if carefully planned and planted.

However, trees can also cause headaches. Their roots can damage foundations and underground utilities. Plus, their high-reaching limbs can interfere with the reliable delivery of electricity to your home. Storms can blow tree limbs into distribution lines, sometimes causing outages or blinking lights. They also have the potential to topple trees entirely, breaking poles and creating life-threatening hazards.

Limbs and leaves in contact with power lines can conduct electricity, creating a potentially dangerous condition for anyone who comes near. Trees brushing our lines also contribute to what electric system professionals call “line loss.” The term refers to electricity created at a generating plant that does not reach its destination, an inefficiency that increases costs for all of us because we end up buying more than we sell.

Bedford Rural Electric specifically designs programs to keep trees under control while leaving them healthy and strong. We hire professional contractors to clear rights-of-way. They are trained to safely work around high-voltage lines. Our outage statistics prove that keeping rights-of-way clear translates into increased reliability and cost savings for our members. Some industry studies estimate that tree maintenance pro-

grams, which reduce line losses, save members about 1 cent per kilowatt-hour.

If you decide to plant a tree for future generations to enjoy or to provide cooling shade for your home, you can help make our crews’ job a little easier. While planning where to place your new trees, look up for power lines. Think about the mature height and circumference of the tree you are planting. Don’t plant trees where the branches could eventually touch power lines and cause problems for all of us. As a rule of thumb, once they mature, try to keep them at least 40 feet away from our lines.

### After-hours outage calls

Unfortunately, as hard as our linemen work to prevent it, sometimes outages occur. When it happens during regular working hours, our office personnel take the outage calls and can easily identify your service location.

However, when outages occur during non-working hours, it is more challenging. The men who are on call do not have access to our computer system. Sometimes, this makes it difficult to pinpoint a caller’s service location. Fortunately, you can help make this process more efficient. Below is a picture of the top portion of our bill. The red arrow points to the map number. Every service location on our system has a unique map number. It is the most expedient way to report an after-hours outage. If you have to call in to report an after-hours outage, take note of your map number and provide it to the linemen on call. It will make the process much smoother and eliminate any guesswork on our part. ☀



# Local couple provide organic food

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

**MANDI AND JEFF** Horn of Manns Choice are filling a niche providing the people of Bedford County with fresh and organically grown produce, meat and eggs.

“So far, we have been able to keep the farm going on what our friends and neighbors buy from us,” Mandi reports.

The farm, called “Horn-O'-Plenty,” operates as a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) business. Mandi explains that CSA farming, which began in Japan and spread through Europe, essentially cuts out the “middle man,” meaning the farmers and customers deal directly with each other.

“It is sometimes known as subscription farming,” Jeff adds.

For example, produce shares range include full, half or small shares. Each customer, called a subscriber, pays a set fee ranging from \$150 to \$395. Subscribers



**ALL OURS:** Jeff Horn offers samples of lamb stew created totally from produce grown or raised on the Horn-O'-Plenty Farm.

pick up their bin full of fresh-grown vegetables or fruits for 22 successive weeks during growing season. Pick-up points are either at the Horn farm in Manns Choice or the Wholesome Living Market



**FRESH IS BEST:** Fresh vegetables like these await subscribers of the Horn farm's CSA. Some vegetables are also available at the Farmer's Market.

located just off North Richard Street.

On two acres of land, the Horns produce almost every imaginable vegetable, including peppers, tomatoes, melons, cauliflower, broccoli, onions, lettuce, cabbage and squash. This year, they plan to offer strawberries, raspberries and blueberries.

The plants are raised in a solar powered greenhouse built by Jeff and Mandi, who note that few people realize the importance of solar and how well it really

works even here in cloudy Pennsylvania.

The couple, along with Jeff's mother-in-law, Jane, also raises beef cattle, lambs, pheasant, quail and free-range chickens. The latter provides both meat and eggs. The meat is sold by the quarter, pound, or in the case of the poultry, the whole bird.

Everything is grown organically.

“We decided to grow organic because conventional farming today relies on chemicals and pesticides that not only



**HOME-GROWN BEEF:** Cattle raised on the Horn farm are sold by the quarter or, sometimes, the piece.

pose a threat to our health, but also environmentally,” Mandi reports. “They get into our water and air and kill beneficial insects and birds. We think organic is a safe alternative we can trust.”

Mandi grows most of the vegetables in a double raised bed that is a biointensive way of gardening. It reduces space and weeds as the plants are closer together in a smaller area.

This year, Mandi added whole grain bread to the Horns’ offerings.

“I always loved the earth ovens, so I built my own,” says this vivacious, hard-working farm gal who has a variety of recipes she will be trying throughout the season.

What isn’t sold directly on the farm is sold locally at a farmer’s market near Manns Choice or at the Wholesome Living Store, which is owned by Alicia Leydig. At a recent open house held at the store, Mandi and Jeff gave away free samples of lamb stew and veggie roll-ups. For the rollups, Mandi took dried seaweed and then added rice and any vegetables she had on hand. Rolling the seaweed leaves around the rice and veggie mix, she topped them off with a variety of sauces.

“Great way to use up leftovers,” she comments.

This year, Mandi hopes to be able to do more in sales at the local farmer’s market because she will have an intern. She plans to have an array of vegetables and other home-grown produce, as well as cut flowers.

Membership in Mandi and Jeff’s CSA is available through Earth Day, April 22. Questions should be directed to Mandi at 814/285-2658. ☀



**HEALTHY AND YUMMY:** Mandi Horn prepares a healthy seaweed, rice and veggie snack at a Wholesome Living health food show.

**PICTURE-PERFECT:** Sunflowers growing against the red Horn barn are a picturesque sight in late summer.



## Call Pennsylvania One Call before digging

Since 1972, Pennsylvanians have been required to call Pennsylvania One Call Systems before they do any digging. Pennsylvania One Call is an organization that promotes safety and works to prevent damage to all underground facilities. Once a call is



placed, Pennsylvania One Call notifies all utilities that may have underground facilities in the area. The

utilities will mark the approximate location of any lines they have so you or your excavator will know where to dig.

Since May 1, 2007, it has been easier to stay safe by calling a national "Call Before You Dig" number. This special new number is 8-1-1. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated this number to eliminate confusion of multiple "Call Before You Dig" numbers across the country. In Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York, the technology allows you to choose the center you would like to notify.

Accidental "dig ins" can cause you and your neighbors to be out of electric service as well as other conveniences such as water, cable or sewer. More importantly, digging into an underground electric line can result in injury or death.

By Pennsylvania law, homeowners and excavators must call Pennsylvania One Call three days before doing any digging project. Calling Pennsylvania One Call is free, and it is the law. According to a recent national survey, roughly half of all Americans do digging projects at home, yet only about a third of these people have called to get their utility lines marked.

Remember you cannot see what is under the ground. Before you dig, know what's below. So if you are planting a tree, building a fence, laying a house foundation or putting in an in-ground pool, call Pennsylvania One Call at 8-1-1. It is important that you call for your own safety. Don't take a chance.

## 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 ...

Troy Mock .....	Week of April 5 .....	276-9759
Greg Miller .....	Week of April 12 .....	839-0037
Al Hileman .....	Week of April 19 .....	766-9971
Jim Seymour .....	Week of April 26 .....	839-2848
Ed Hankinson .....	Week of May 3 .....	733-4005
Scott Bischof .....	Week of May 10 .....	839-4640

### 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, so you may receive a busy signal. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.*