


# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC  
P.O. Box 335  
Bedford, PA 15522  
814/623-5101  
E-mail:

support@bedfordrec.com  
Web site:  
www.bedfordrec.com

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**OFFICE HOURS**

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

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

## There's a lot they are not telling you



Brooks Shoemaker  
General Manager

**ALMOST** every day, we see stories in the newspaper or hear reports on television about global warming and the effect greenhouse gases (GHG) have on the environment. At the same time, state and federal legislators are introducing bills aimed at lowering GHG emissions. Unfortunately, one aspect of the issue seems to be rarely, if ever, debated. What will

this cost and who will pay for it?

In addition to the GHG issue, demand for electricity continues to rise. Some estimate it will increase by 40 percent in the next 30 years. We are quickly running out of excess generating capacity, and need to build new power plants and high-voltage transmission lines to keep the lights on — all at a time when oil and gas prices to produce electricity and construction materials like steel, copper and concrete continue to skyrocket.

In short, we are facing a “perfect storm,” one that is aimed squarely at the pocketbooks of the American consumer — in the form of higher taxes, higher electric bills or both. We must find a way to link energy affordability, availability and environmental responsibility.

The most reasonable solution to the GHG issue includes determining the right energy mix, which must include clean coal, carbon capture, nuclear and renewables, combined with programs designed to achieve greater energy efficiency. Not only will we need new technology to get there, but it will take a lot of time, dedication and money to develop. We must get this right; the reliability of our nation's electric infrastructure is at risk.

Government must be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Government

leadership is required so everyone can work together; we can't afford political grandstanding. The goals must be broad and achievable, with the necessary incentives to encourage innovation. Changing our energy culture will take time. We need honest, straightforward facts about the costs of these initiatives — how much will they add to the monthly bill?

This is a fundamental change for energy in America. Bedford Rural Electric, along with our sister co-ops in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and across the country, is committed to being part of the solution. We have a long history in Pennsylvania of low GHG-producing generation, relying heavily on nuclear and hydroelectric sources. We are promoting efficiency by offering rebates on energy-efficient heating and cooling systems and water heaters. Our Coordinated Load Management System reduces the demand on generation facilities during peak periods, keeping costs down for all of us. We are doing our part in sharing the responsibility of changing the future of energy.

Remember, co-ops are different. We are member-owned, non-profit, and governed by your local board of directors, who are always looking out for you, our members. Since we aren't worried about how our decisions affect our stock price on Wall Street, we concentrate solely on our main objective: working to meet your growing demand for safe, reliable and affordable power.

### Interesting tidbit

By replacing the five most-frequently used light fixtures in your home with ENERGY STAR qualified models; you can save more than \$65 each year in energy costs. Light fixtures that have

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## Rural electric patrons open winery

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

**JEAN AND TOD** Manspeaker are planning for the future, anticipating a retirement that holds a family-owned business that's fun and profitable and allows them to spend time working together.

They are convinced they have found the key to that future after the Dec. 7 opening of Briar Valley Vineyards and Winery at 8693 Lincoln Highway in Bedford. The boutique winery specializes in classic European-style wines.

"We were both raised in agriculture," says Jean. "Tod's dad raised quarter horses and I grew up on a dairy farm, so I guess wanting to grow something was just flowing through our veins."

The couple, who owned 35 acres of land in the Imlertown area, spent five years in the planning and preparation phase of their new venture before opening the wine shop. Starting with three acres and a lot of advice from experts, the couple planted their first grapevines, making them the owners of one of 142 wineries now operating in Pennsylvania. The vines, ordered a year in advance, were grafted onto European rootstocks and planted in soil analyzed by a Penn State enologist (a specialist in winemaking).

For wine grapes, vines are planted at

**STEP RIGHT UP:** Jean and Tod Manspeaker at the tasting bar, where customers may sample the different wines before purchasing them.

a rate of approximately 1,000 per acre.

"We attempt to get three to four tons of grapes per acre for wine," Tod explains, adding that for grape juice, it's just the opposite as fewer grapes per acre produce a better juice.

The winery and vineyards require a commitment of time and effort. The Manspeakers had background knowledge of the business as Jean's grandfather had raised Concord grapes to sell locally and her father made some wines at home for personal use.

"It takes a lot of work, but it's been fun," Jean says. "I like all of the learning it has taken to get (the winery and vineyard) under way."

To gain the knowledge she felt she needed before opening the business, she attended wine-making classes and completed an internship at a Lake Erie winery. She also read information from many sources and spent hours and hours honing her own wine-making skills.

Jean goes on to explain that although wine can be made by novices from

almost anything, going into the wine-making business requires a lot of knowledge and upfront money.

They've also learned how to battle enemies of the grapes that would cut down on yield. Insects pose a significant problem during the summer. The Manspeakers are considering adding some free-range chickens to cut down on the insect population, as well as sheep to "mow" the grass between the rows of vines.

As with any agricultural venture, weather can be a friend or foe; 2007 was a fantastic weather year for grapes in Pennsylvania as there were no late or early frosts and there was just the right amount of rain.

In addition to dealing with Mother Nature, the couple also must answer to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, a department of the U.S. Treasury, and the Pennsylvania State Liquor Control Board.

"Every bottle (of wine) is tracked," Jean explains. "If we can't account for even one bottle of wine, they have the right to close us down."

The Manspeakers also have learned about wine itself, primarily relying on Michael Shaps, an award-winning winemaker and consultant from Virginia, as a teacher. They have learned white wines are best when aged two to three months, while red wines need at least a year to 18 months to reach their peak.

White and red wines also differ in their optimum temperatures; whites are best when fermented in the low 50s, while reds do better when the temperature is closer to 75 degrees.

At least 75 percent of the wine sold in their shop is from Pennsylvania-grown grapes. The remainder is made from grapes grown within 350 miles of their winery.

"What we don't grow on our own property, we buy from the Lake Erie area," Jean explains. "New York and Virginia are both way ahead of Pennsylvania in wine making, but we're working on it."

In 2007, they produced 1,100 cases of wine. Their goal is to remain a small boutique winery concentrating on quality products, producing approximately 5,000 cases per year.

The Briar Valley Winery is open from noon until 6 p.m. on Fridays and noon until 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. There are samples available at a tasting bar to help shoppers decide what they would like to purchase. White wines include Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer, Reisling and Pinot Gris (which is the only white wine made from grapes not grown on their farm). Proprietor's Rose — a rose wine — and Lemburger — a red wine — also are available. All of the wine is bottled, corked and labeled on the premises. ☀



**VINTAGE:** Jean Manspecker stands among the French oak barrels where wine is aged.




**FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**

*(continued from page 14a)*

earned the ENERGY STAR designation combine quality and attractive design with the highest levels of energy efficiency available today.

**Energy efficiency tip of the month**

Buying a new appliance? Remember, there are two price tags on every appliance: the price to buy it and the price you pay for the energy to operate it. Always look for an ENERGY STAR-qualified model, which meets tough federal criteria for energy efficiency. For example, the energy consumption difference between an ENERGY STAR-qualified refrigerator and the least efficient model in the same class can be as much as 70 percent! 

**High School Seniors**

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding three scholarships of \$1,000 each to a senior whose parent or guardian's 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.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2008.

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

**Trading Post**

SERVICE: Custom Poultry Butchering. Phone Gerald Mowry, Osterburg 276-3952.

FOR SALE: Fresh dressed chickens. Phone Gerald Mowry, Osterburg 276-3952.

WANTED: Local farmer looking for land to lease in Bedford county area. Phone 484-797-2670.

FOR SALE: 1984 Shasta Motor Home - 26'. 350 Ford Econoline under 55,000 miles. Kitchen w/ oven, stove, refrigerator, and sink. Queen bed above cab. Double bed in back. Kitchen table converts to bed, bathroom w/ shower. Inquire at 623-5364

**Emergency Power Needs**

*During outages, as a service to our members with special needs (specifically members who need continuous electricity for life support apparatus or farming operations), Bedford Rural Electric attempts to prioritize service restoration. If a special need exists, we need to be aware of the situation. Please provide the following details:*

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of life support machine: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name, address, and telephone number of the person Bedford REC may contact about this form, or in an emergency.

\_\_\_\_\_

*Unfortunately, service restoration may take several days, especially during severe storms. Therefore, we recommend that our members with special needs consider stand-by back-up 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 1-800-808-2732 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 February 4 .....	276-9759
Greg Miller .....	Week of February 11 .....	839-0037
Al Hileman .....	Week of February 18 .....	766-9971
Jim Seymour .....	Week of February 25 .....	839-2848
Ed Hankinson .....	Week of March 3 .....	733-2495
Scott Bischof .....	Week of March 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.*