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
Email: support@bedfordrec.com
Website: www.bedfordrec.com

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

Electricity Brings Everyday Value



BROOKS SHOEMAKER

WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRICITY, we rarely think twice when we flip on a light switch, brew coffee in the morning, charge our phones or adjust the thermostat. We simply expect the power to be there — and that's how it should be because you are a Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) member. Reliably powering your life is our mission.

We know that many families across our communities are feeling the impact of rising costs for everyday expenses. Groceries, gasoline, insurance and other necessities cost more than they did just a few years ago. And because of that, we understand that every household is carefully considering where each dollar goes. However, we think it's important to occasionally step back and consider the value that electricity provides.

Our average residential electric bill is about $180 a month — roughly $6 a day. What can you get for $6? It's about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our lives, often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about $9, and a movie ticket can cost about $13.

For about $6 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock, your heating and cooling system keeps you comfortable through the seasons, lights brighten your home after sunset, appliances make cooking and cleaning easier, and devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate, and stay connected with loved ones.

When you think about everything that electricity makes possible, it's one of the greatest values in the average household budget.

And yet even with electricity's exceptional value, we know that every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, we are here to help. Whether you need efficiency advice from our energy advisers, information about co-op rebates and efficiency programs, or answers to questions about your monthly bill, our team is always available.

We are proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community and not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family with reliable, affordable power, so you can make the most of every energy dollar.

Three jars and a lesson that lasts

The holidays tend to bring small money moments for kids: birthday cash from a relative, extra allowance for holiday shopping, coins gathered for a food drive. Each one can be a chance to create a teachable moment, and a simple way to do it is with the three-jar system.

Label one jar "Save," one jar "Spend" and one jar "Give," and let your child decide how to split whatever holiday money comes their way. The real value isn't in the jars; it's in the conversations they invite. A savings jar filling up over time helps teach patience. A spending jar, with money spent thoughtfully,

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Visiting a Local Alpaca Farm

JENNA REFFNER, OFFICE ASSISTANT

WHEN CHRIS AND MATTOLYN FETTER got married in 2018, they had no idea that eight years later they would own a herd of alpacas. All of this became possible because of Chris's grandfather, Ned Allison.

Ned was well known by locals. He started the first service station in Weyant, called Allison's Services. Later, he opened his second service station in Alum Bank, where Best Way sits today. Ned, a CPR instructor, also served his community by starting Allison's Ambulance Services.

When Ned passed away in 2013, he left his farm along Burnt House Road in Imler to Chris. Five years later, Chris and Mattolyn were living on the farm as newlyweds. At the time, they didn't have animals.

From chickens to alpacas

When COVID-19 hit, Mattolyn was laid off from her job. She looked into getting some critters for the farm. That's when a small flock of chickens arrived.



The couple discussed getting more animals, but there were a lot of improvements that needed to be made around the barn and pasture before they would be ready.

In 2020, they contacted Sandy Baker in Huntingdon about buying alpacas. Because alpacas are herd animals, Sandy suggested they get at least three. They bought two, with the understanding that they would go back to Sandy in the spring to buy more.

On July 31, 2020, Chris and Mattolyn welcomed their first two alpacas, Carmel and Sapphire. They contacted Sandy the following year to purchase a few more. Sandy got in touch with one of her friends who had a herd of 10 girls that she was looking to rehome. She offered them to Chris and Mattolyn for the price of one alpaca.

"It was too good of a deal to pass up," Chris says, "but we needed to get the pasture ready. We were still learning how to take care of alpacas."

A few months later, they added 10 new females to their herd.

In November 2021, Mattolyn's stepfather, Butch, passed away, and her mother moved onto the farm with them. "We prayed together and decided to go back to church," Mattolyn says. "It changed our lives."

Chris, Mattolyn and her mother were baptized and now attend Horn Methodist Church in Alum Bank.

A growing business

Mattolyn envisioned opening a small store at the farm to sell local products. Through their church, they met a community of people who helped them make that vision come true.

"One woman at our church makes her own pottery. We asked if she would be interested in selling it if we opened a store," Mattolyn says. The rest fell into place — local honey, maple syrup, skin products and crocheted items are all for sale at Allison's Alpacas.

However, before they could open a store, they needed a building. Chris's grandfather had a small hunting cabin, which they hauled to the front of the property. Today, it serves as their store.

Eventually, Chris and Mattolyn needed more space for their growing business. Some church friends were tearing down a summer kitchen on their farm in Schellsburg. Chris brought the materials back to the farm and rebuilt the building.

"It snowed 18 inches the next day," Chris says. "I was working to beat that."

SAY CHEESE!: Chris and Mattolyn Fetter, owners of Allison's Alpacas, pose with Butch, one of the alpacas on their farm.







THE MORE THE MERRIER: Top left: Butch, the alpaca, was affectionately named after Mattolyn's late stepfather. Top right: Hannah, the newest addition to the farm, was born in June 2026. Bottom: In addition to alpacas, Allison's Alpacas and Farm Store houses goats, chickens, sheep and a horse.

If you visit the farm store today, you'll notice the ceiling and walls are accented with wood from the renovation.

"It's at least 100 years old," Chris says.

The pair isn't done adding to their farm store. Mattolyn already spins her own alpaca yarn to sell there, along with alpaca yarn from South Carolina. She wants to get into making alpaca rugs. All of their products are made from alpaca fleece, and many local creators are featured at the space.

The store is open Fridays and Saturdays. They also host events at the farm. In September, they hosted National Alpaca Days, with crafts, wagon rides and pumpkin painting. They also host Paint with Alpaca parties.

"We were originally open on Sundays," Mattolyn says, "but that's the day we go to church, and the only day during the week we get to spend together."

In fall 2020, Mattolyn started working at Headstart. She stayed for a year, but the store and alpaca business started picking up, which allowed her to stay home and care for her granddaughter.

The real stars

While the couple's store is popular, the alpacas are the real stars of the farm.

"People are intrigued by them," Mattolyn says, adding they take the animals to local events, giving adults and kids the chance to feed and interact with the animals. "Finding the Lord opened our hearts and made us want to give back to our community."

The couple opens their farm to local home-schooled students and others who don't have the opportunity to interact with alpacas and other farm animals. They make crafts, including hanging holders filled with alpaca fur that birds can grab for their nests.

"Alpaca fur is three times warmer than wool," Mattolyn says.

In addition to being adorable, alpacas are gentle and friendly. They have soft feet that are easy on the terrain. They also don't eat a lot and are efficient digesters, making them ideal farm animals.

The couple sheers the alpacas at the end of April, when the warm weather starts. This allows them to stay cool for the summer.

Chris and Mattolyn have bred six alpaca babies, called crias, at the farm. All have biblical names. The most recent addition, Hannah, was born last June. Alpacas are very protective mothers, and all the female alpacas come together to protect and take care of the young.

Alpacas aren't the only animals you'll encounter on the farm. There are goats, chickens, sheep and Mac, the horse; they're all ready to greet you alongside the alpacas.

"God is in everything," Mattolyn says with a smile.

Allison's Alpacas at 333 Burnt House Road in Imler is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, visit their Facebook page by searching for Allison's Alpacas and Farm Store.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

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builds a sense of judgment. And a giving jar turns generosity into something a child helped create — not just something they watched happen.

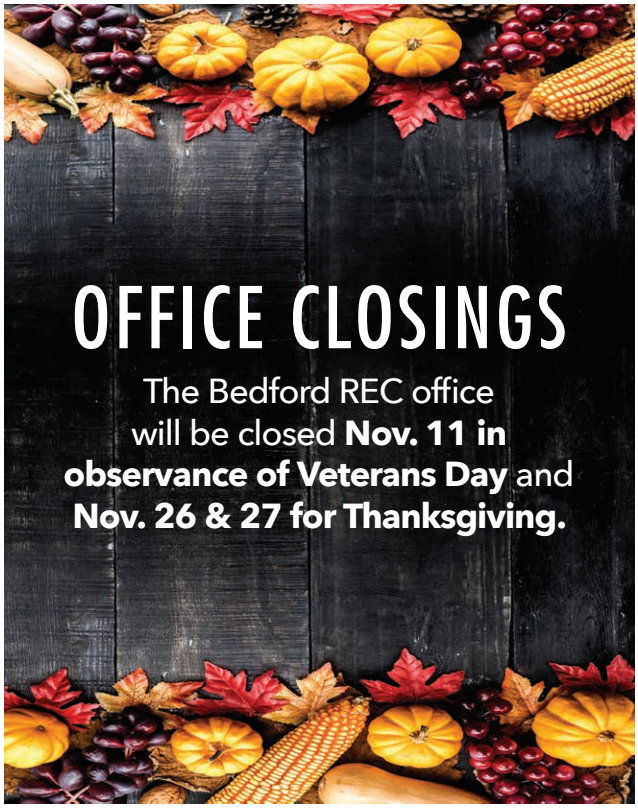
It's a small system, and there's no one way to use it correctly. But it offers a way to talk about saving, spending, and sharing — and these are lessons that stick around well beyond the holiday season.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't let phantom energy drive up your electric bill. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock.

While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Consider unplugging devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

BROOKS SHOEMAKER
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO



OUTAGE REPORTING

In case of an outage...

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 the 24-hour number, 814-623-7568, OR call 814-623-5101 during office hours.

Please have the account holder's name, phone number, physical address or account number available. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

To report an outage call: 814-623-7568

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) directors and employees are asking members to join them in donating to area food banks. Those who are donating items should bring them to the Bedford REC office, 6 Enterprise Lane, by Dec. 11.

Items needed include: canned goods, paper products, soap and other hygiene-related items, and food products, such as noodles, cake mixes, spaghetti, or boxed foods. The items will be donated to local food banks throughout the county.



Your help and kindness are appreciated during this holiday season.

Those who donate will have their name entered into a drawing for a $50 credit toward their electric bill.