

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/766-3221
1-800-270-3177

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

Change is a fact of life



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

CHANGE. Webster's defines change as: to make radically different; to replace with another. In today's world we see change happening every day. Some changes are for the better and some for the worse.

This year New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) has seen many changes. In January we moved into our new office addition. This change was something that had been planned for many, many years. It was necessary because the original office space had outgrown its usefulness. With today's technology, more space was needed for computer equipment, a copier, a fax machine and a postage machine. So a change had to be made.

Another change that started shortly after our move into the new addition was a computer conversion. This change was also something we had been expecting for a number of years although we were planning for it to begin in 2008. Computer conversions are just a part of life. Just as with many changes, this computer conversion has added more work. Many decisions have and continue to be made during this process. A lot of work is needed beforehand to make the conversion go more smoothly. Reports are run and corrections are made. Weekly meetings are conducted over the phone to ensure all is going the way it should.

The first week of training was held Aug. 13 through Aug. 16. Inside employees have been doing some self-training for a while. Another week of training will be held this month. During these weeks the office will still be opened, but office staff will be in training most of the time. Another employee will be manning the office. Payments can be made as normal, readings can be reported and service

requests can be made. There may be times when we will have to get back to you on a request or question. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

One change all of our consumer-members will see is a different billing statement. We have designed a bill we hope will be easier to understand. Our current bill is very confusing and has a lot of information squeezed into a small area.

With this new bill, a chart will show you the number of kilowatt-hours you have used over the past 12 months. You will be able to see at a quick glance if your use has increased, decreased or remained fairly stable over the past year. You will see this new bill in December. A billing insert will be included to explain the new look. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions.

Our disconnect notices and service load limiter notices will also be updated. Like the billing statements, these new forms should be easier to read.

Due to the conversion we need to push the due date up in October. The due date will be Oct. 23 not the 28th as normal. In November the due date will go back to normal. We need to have the due date changed to ensure all billing is correct before it goes out. This gives us a few extra days to look over reports to verify information. We understand this due date change may cause inconvenience for some of our consumer-members, but this extra time is a very important step in the conversion.

During this process, our office staff will still be working hard to be sure you receive the service you deserve. Some of your questions may take longer to get an answer, but we will get the answer to you. We appreciate your patience during this time.

All the changes I have written about so far have been changes for the better.

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A new type of soccer

BY BRAWNA L. SELL

THE GAME is ready to begin. The soccer ball is placed in the middle of the field. The players take their positions. The kickoff sets the ball in motion. As it gets closer and closer to the goal, the player pushes the ball with his nose. Nose? Now wait, whoever heard of a soccer player pushing the ball with his nose?

Well, this isn't your normal game of soccer. This soccer game is played by horses. Riders guide their horses in the correct direction and control them, but the horses do the kicking or pushing of the ball.

Horse soccer came to the New Enterprise area this spring when consumer-member Lois Claycomb of Lafayetteville decided to open her horse soccer arena. Lois first saw horse soccer on RFD-TV, a television network dedicated to rural America and agriculture. Lois enjoys team penning with her horse and thought this would be another way for

horse lovers and their horses to have fun.

With the idea planted in her head, Lois decided to get to work planning her new soccer ring. Her current ring, located on property owned by her and her husband, Jon, needed just a few changes made. A horse soccer "field" doesn't have to be any particular size although the larger the ring, the more horses can play.

So work began. Soccer balls were ordered. Now these aren't your normal soccer balls. Horses play soccer with a bright blue 50-inch inflatable ball.

After weeks of hard work, it was time for the first game, held on May 20, 2007. Games are played every other Sunday at 2 p.m. You don't have to be a certain age to play. All age groups are welcome. The young riders jump right in and play with the more mature riders. There are only two requirements to play. First all riders 18 and under are required to wear a helmet. Second, all horses participating in the games must have a negative coggins test.

KICKOFF: Sue Falvey, Cassie Sell and Katie Sell go after the ball.

Eight games have been held so far this year with more games to be held on Sept. 9 and 23, and Oct. 7. As word gets around about this new horse activity, the Claycombs have seen increased numbers of horses and riders. A family can play soccer all afternoon for just \$5 per rider.

The main reason Lois wanted to start horse soccer in our area was to have fun. Well, she has accomplished this. No matter if you are a spectator or a rider, you will have a good time. As you look around the ring and outside the ring, you see many smiling faces and hear people outside the ring talking and laughing. The atmosphere is very relaxed and lighthearted. The focus isn't on winning, but having a good time. Now winning isn't a bad thing, but it really doesn't matter if you lose.

Like all games, horse soccer has its own rules. Fortunately there isn't a long list to follow. For safety, when the horse has the ball, it must walk or trot. Horses



FANCY FOOTWORK: Sue Falvey guides her horse toward the ball.



HOOFING IT: Lois Claycomb's horse kicks the ball toward the goal.

can run after the ball, but must slow down to a walk or trot once they have control of it. Horses must kick or push the ball with their nose. The rider can't touch the ball.

It is amazing to see a horse that is normally easily spooked, get in the ring and enjoy playing soccer. We have a horse, Blue, who normally jumps at his own shadow. We had tried all of our horses except him. As spooked as he can get, we thought he would be too crazy in the ring. After riding each of our other horses, we decided to try Blue. Watching our daughters play was great but I wanted to try the game out for myself. So I decided I would ride Blue.

I wasn't sure what to expect. Would I end up on the ground? Would he jump at the bright blue ball? Well, it didn't take me long to see our fears of his being too wild for a soccer game were way out of line. He loved playing. This horse who jumps at farm equipment that he has seen hundreds of times, was soon kicking and pushing the ball down toward the goal. He wasn't afraid of the ball; he actually went after the ball. Kicking or pushing the ball seemed to come naturally to him. He was a born soccer player.

Not only does Lois have the facilities to play soccer, but her mother, Beverly Perrin, also a New Enterprise REC consumer-member, has a concession stand set up in Jon and Lois' garage. You can get a sandwich, chips, cookies or drinks.

Lois has plans to enlarge her ring and have more soccer games and a fun show next year. It is a great way to have fun on your horse. Spectators are welcome to come and watch the fun. Maybe by watch-

ing, you will get the horse soccer fever.

So load up your horse and tack and come over to the Claycombs' soccer field for a great afternoon of fun.

To get to their place: From Route 36 turn onto Route 869 West (Brumbaugh Road), travel west until you reach the foot of the Brumbaugh Mt. Turn right on Route 867, continue to the small town of

Lafayetteville. Just outside of town you will see Jeb's Nursery on the left hand side. Directly across from Jeb's is the Claycombs' driveway. Once you are on their lane, it will "Y" off, turn to the right and you are there.

Want to learn more about horse soccer? Check out www.horsesoccer.com to see how it all began. ☀

ALERT!!

Have you seen a pole like the one below? This damage is the work of a woodpecker. Woodpeckers can do a lot of damage to a wooden utility pole.

This pole was replaced in the early part of August. A woodpecker had made its home in this pole. It had drilled a hole in the pole approximately 6 inches high and 4 inches wide. Inside the pole the hole went down more than 13 inches. Only an inch to 2 inches of the pole remained on the outside.

This type of pole is a real danger. During a storm, this pole could have easily fallen over, causing outages, damaging property and equipment, or causing injury to people.

Please report any pole you see with woodpecker holes to New Enterprise REC immediately. If the hole is caught in time, we can fill it with a substance. This substance is shot into the hole and hardens to make the pole safe. To prevent more damage a metal meshing is fastened to the pole.



FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

(continued from page 12a)

But one change we have been seeing over the past couple of years isn't a change for the better.

Under-reporting of meter readings is becoming more common. Over the past year we have discovered a number of accounts with incorrect meter readings. By not reporting the correct meter reading, these consumer-members were cheating the co-op out of thousands of dollars. Now remember: you are the co-op.

When people do not give us the correct meter reading, they are cheating their neighbors, relatives and friends who receive electricity from New Enterprise REC. Under-reporting your meter reading isn't just cheating; it's also breaking the law. It is considered theft of service. When an under-reported reading is discovered, the state police now get involved. This is very serious and we can't stress enough the importance of reporting a correct meter reading.

We are confident most people do report their correct meter reading. We know times have changed and money is

tighter. But this isn't a good reason to steal electricity. At some point in time, these people will be caught. Not only will they need to pay for the stolen electric use but now they may be arrested, their name may appear in the newspaper and they may need even more money for court costs.

Fudging on your meter readings isn't something to be taken lightly. You may not be the person stealing electricity, but if you know of someone, please report these individuals to the co-op. All information will be kept confidential. Your name will not be given out. ☀

KIDZCORNER

Good Deed Day



What is a good deed? A good deed is an act of kindness that benefits others. It is something you don't normally do. A good deed may be a mowing a yard for a neighbor who is sick or taking groceries to someone who isn't able to get out of the house. The list goes on and on. It can be something small like holding the door for someone coming out of the grocery store or something bigger like giving your time and energy to the food bank or clothing bank each week.

So what is Good Deed Day? Good Deed Day is held on Sept. 12 each year. This day helps us to remember the outpouring of kindness and compassion after America and the world were shocked by the horrible attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The intent of creating Good Deed Day was to find a meaningful way to reinforce the qualities of leadership and compassion among both young and old. This day serves as a reminder to all Americans that we are strongest when we help others. Once good deeds start, they have a way of spreading quickly. The seeds are planted.

Although Sept. 12 is a day set apart to celebrate good deeds, good deeds shouldn't only be done on this day. Doing good deeds is something that should be done every day.

The creators of Good Deed Day are encouraging people to wear green ribbons on Sept. 12 to show their support for this special day. The green ribbon is a symbol of the future, made brighter by the performance of good deeds.

We would like to highlight some of the good deeds you do. Kids just like you can and do good deeds each and every day. So let us know what you are up to. Whether it's something for your parents, a grandparent, a neighbor, a friend or even a stranger, there are lots of ways kids can do good deeds.

Good deeds come from the heart. They are done without expecting pay. Your rewards will be the great feeling you get by doing something nice for another person. Sometimes all you have to do is smile or say hello to a person. This may be enough to brighten their day.

Remember, doing good deeds can be contagious. Once you do a good deed, you may want to do more and more. Your friends will see you doing these special deeds and will want to help you out or start something all on their own.

So don't forget to send us your good deeds. You can send in your good deeds or good deeds other people have done. Your acts will be published in *Penn Lines*. Don't worry if you don't see yours right away. We are hoping to get so many responses that it will take months to publish them all.

Mail these to: New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op, c/o Brawna Sell, P.O. Box 75, New Enterprise, PA 16664 or e-mail them to bsell@newenterpriserec.com.