

# Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## Somerset REC

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Douglas E. Glessner,**

*Manager of Outside Operations*

**Jonathan Hillegas,**

*Director of Finances*

**Emily Baer,**

*Director of Marketing and Member Services*

**Phil Stern,**

*Manager of Metering*

### Office Hours

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Emergency Outage Number

814-445-4106

800-443-4255

## From the General Manager



## The work of summer

By Ruston Ogburn

AT HOME, our older boys have been yearning to start making hay as an addition to the handful of chickens, ducks and turkeys they “farm.” Having spent my teenage summers helping to make hay, I have a soft spot for this, so we recently added some old hay-making equipment to our old tractor. The boys are excited, and I’m looking forward to getting them involved with this quintessential summer work.

We have had a busy summer at the cooperative, as well. As summer transitions into fall, it is interesting to note most utilities in the eastern United States, including Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), experience the most outages during the summer and early fall. It may be surprising to think damage to our system occurs more frequently during the warmer months of the year as opposed to the icy, windy winter months; however, when leaves are on the trees and animals and birds are more active, they create reliability issues. As a rule, Somerset REC accumulates more outage time, blinks and overtime hours from June to August than any other period.

Fortunately, we were able to avoid widespread and long-term outages this summer. Not so for many of our cooperative neighbors in Ohio, where windstorms caused outages to more than 90% of their members — with some members being without power for over a week. As we have done in the past, we sent our lineworkers to help restore power

as part of our mutual-aid program.

Inside the cooperative, the office staff spent the summer gathering information to project energy costs and consider options to account for price increases to materials and fuel. As I discussed in my July column, one tool the cooperative uses to guide this process is a cost-of-service study, which helps to determine rates. After we finish our calculations, the board of directors will review these options to determine upcoming rate changes. Most likely, increased rates will apply to bill calculations starting this October. More information about these changes will be discussed in the next issue of *Penn Lines*.

One project that incorporated both the office and outside operations employees has been the preparation for our upcoming safety audit. Safety is a continual process, but every three years, we do a deep dive into our work practices with the help of a team of safety personnel from other cooperatives around the state. Much of the cooperative’s work is dangerous so our primary safety goal is to ensure each employee can go home at the end of the day.

As my kids are finding out, we need to make hay while the sun shines, so we pack a lot into these warm months. If you have any questions or comments about our operations, the upcoming rate change, or how we could operate more safely and efficiently, please call or stop by the office. ☀

## Giddy up and gallop to the Somerset County Saddle Club

By Emily Baer

NESTLED in the outskirts of Bakersville on cooperative lines, the Somerset County Saddle Club is the place for horse lovers to be on a Saturday night or Sunday afternoon. Since 1953, this nonprofit organization has held open horse shows for people of all ages and horses of all breeds. The club is a volunteer organization, overseen by an elected governing board of members.

The popularity of outside activities has grown over the past two years, and the club has seen a large increase in membership. The start of the club's most recent success began in 2020, when the organization was able to host horse shows and compete all summer throughout the pandemic.

With the proceeds, the club was able to update the kitchen, purchase a tractor and groomer for grounds and

*“It’s an affordable, friendly atmosphere and the food is always good.”*

— Co-op member Rene Ehrhardt

showring maintenance, and make the restrooms ADA accessible. None of this would have been possible without memberships, sponsors and donations.

From May to October, shows are scheduled on the weekends that are affiliated with numerous local horse associations, including Country Roads Barrels and Poles Horse Association, Central Pennsylvania Horseman Association and the local 4-H and Somerset County Youth Horse Leaders Association.

On Saturday evenings at the club, visitors and their horses can participate in games that include pole bending, cloverleaf barrels, and down and back, just to name a few. On Sundays, visitors can sign up for pleasure shows that include English, western and ranch classes. In October, there is always a Halloween spin on the Somerset County Saddle Club Fun Show, which consists of the horse and rider dressing up in costume.



**BLUE RIBBON:** Pee-wee division winner and cooperative member Ainsley Kozuch proudly displays her winning ribbon for showmanship at the Somerset County Saddle Club. Ainsley and her horse, Rebel, performed an in-hand pattern and were judged on the presentation of the horse and exhibitor and the successful completion of the pattern.

Interested in becoming a member of the club? Although it is not required to be a member to compete at the shows, with an affordable annual membership of just \$15 per person and \$30 for a family, it’s a great organization to join. You will have access to the grounds for practice and competition at your convenience. Also, if you are a member and compete, a points system is used

to tally weekly scores with a year-end award presentation.

Currently, there is a strong focus on growing the youth and pee-wee divisions for the future of the club. The pee-wee division is for children ages 10 and under, the junior division is for ages 11 through 18, and the senior division is for those 19 and older. An open class is also offered so anyone of





**AWARDS:** Riders line up to receive ribbons and awards for their respective competition classes.



**BARREL RACING:** Barrel racing is one of the competitive events offered to participants.



**HORSIN' AROUND:** Competitors and spectators enjoy the Somerset County Saddle Club grounds on summer weekends. With concessions and entertainment, it's a family-friendly place to spend a Saturday night or Sunday afternoon.

any age can compete.

Enjoy the entertainment, but don't own a horse? Stop by for the fun and food or become a vendor. Vendors are also allowed to join the club by purchasing a membership. Bring your locally crafted goods and set up at one or all shows throughout the year.

Cooperative member Rene Ehrhardt enjoys spending her weekends at the club with her family.

"I've taken my family to the Somerset

Saddle Club for many years now," she says. "We love the family feel of it. Now that my kids are older, they bring other kids to show who are just learning.

"It's an affordable, friendly atmosphere and the food is always good," she adds. "We often have non-horse-owning friends show up to bring kids and friends to see and pet all the horses and get a bite to eat from the concession stand. It's a place where even your competition cheers you on." 🌸

## HORSE LINGO

**Colt:** A male horse under 4 years old

**Filly:** A female horse under 4 years old

**Frog:** The V-shaped part of the horse's foot which acts as a shock absorber

**Jockey:** A person that rides racehorses

**Gaits:** The different ways that horses travel. The main gaits are walk, trot, canter, and gallop.

**Hand:** A unit of 10 cm (4 inches) used to measure the height of a horse

**Horn:** A part of the saddle

**Poll:** The highest point of the horse, located in between the ears





Member Appreciation Day

Friday, October 7, 2022

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Somerset REC Office  
223 Industrial Park Road  
Somerset, PA 15501



Join us for lunch!

We will be grilling hot dogs and kielbasa and offering other refreshments.

Please help our neighbors in need. We will be collecting non-perishable food donations for food pantries in our service territory.

All donating members will be entered for a chance to win 1 of 5 \$50 bill credits available and each member will receive a gift!



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KITE DESIGN WINNER: Emily Baer, Somerset REC's director of marketing and member services, congratulates Rylee Neely, a fourth grader at Berlin Brothersvalley Elementary, for being selected as the Electric City Kite Design winner.

## Kite design winner

FOURTH GRADE students across Somerset County were excited for the cooperative's Electric City demonstration in their classrooms. Students were encouraged to design a kite to be used in the demonstration about the dangers of flying kites too close to power lines.



Rylee's kite will continue to be used throughout the 2022-2023 school year. The cooperative will continue to run the contest in conjunction with Electric City to give other fourth grade students an opportunity to showcase their artistic talent.

Congratulations, Rylee! Awesome job! Are you a teacher who's interested in an Electric City presentation in your classroom next school year? Contact the cooperative this fall, and we can make that happen! ❁