

Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

SOMERSET REC

223 Industrial Park Road
Somerset, PA 15501
814-445-4106
800-443-4255

Email: e-mail@somersetrec.com
Website: www.somersetrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Clarence B. Waltermire, District 5

Vice President

Jerry L. Engle, District 4

Secretary/Treasurer

Lowell L. Friedline, District 3

Floyd T. Lehman, District 1

Russ Hillegas, District 2

P. Timothy Vought, District 6

Carl A. Hay Jr., District 7

Joshua C. Sechler, District 8

Harvey W. Reckner Jr., District 9

Ruston Ogburn
General Manager

STAFF

Gary Gindlesperger

Manager of Information Technology

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 Services

Jessi Ditzler

Executive Assistant

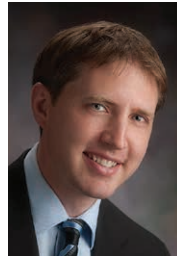
OFFICE HOURS

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

814-445-4106
800-443-4255

ChatGPT Does What, Again?



A RECENT CONVERSATION I HAD with a member focused on technology and so-called “artificial intelligence” (AI). This human-mimicking technology has changed quickly over the last several years, so I wanted to see how it works and provide an update to you on one of the most popular AI technologies, ChatGPT.

What is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is a state-of-the-art language model developed by OpenAI.

It is built upon a powerful neural network that has been trained on a diverse range of text sources from the internet, allowing it to understand and generate human-like text in response to various prompts.

How can ChatGPT help Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative better serve its members?

1. Member support and communication
2. Energy efficiency tips
3. Outage notifications
4. Billing and account information
5. Renewable energy and sustainability
6. Education and outreach
7. Feedback and surveys

Overall, ChatGPT can enhance communication, efficiency, and member satisfaction within electric distribution cooperatives by providing instant, accurate, and personalized assistance on a wide range of topics related to energy distribution, consumption, and sustainability.

What can't ChatGPT do?

1. Understand nuance or context
2. Recognize sensitive or offensive content
3. Make ethical and moral judgment
4. Maintain long-term, coherent interaction
5. Offer medical and legal advice
6. Protect personal privacy and confidentiality
7. Initiate actions in the real world
8. Understand future or real-time events

OpenAI continues to work on improving the limitations of its models and provides guidelines for responsible usage. It's important to approach ChatGPT with an awareness of its capabilities and critically assess its responses, especially in critical or sensitive contexts.

In case you're wondering, everything in this article between the first paragraph and this paragraph (plus tweaks to make it fit on one page and conform to our style) was written by ChatGPT in response to the questions above.

These are impressive responses for a computer. The strength of this tool is gathering known information in a way we can easily understand and perform structured tasks, like writing computer code. However, the list of limitations shows these tools are no substitute for judgement and perspective — sometimes referred to as “common sense.”

Check out ChatGPT if you're interested in this technology, or if you'd prefer to interact with a person, feel free to call or stop by our office any time. 📞

RUSTON OGBURN
GENERAL MANAGER

'The Farmland Hunter' Mentors Rural Sportsmen

ABBY STOLTZFUS, SUMMER INTERN

IN SOMERSET COUNTY, RECREATIONAL HUNTING is a sport enjoyed by folks of all ages. People young and old eagerly await the opening day of their favorite hunting season. For young McCauley Vangilder, hunting has always been his favorite hobby, and now, he is sharing his passion with others as "The Farmland Hunter."

McCauley, 21, lives and works on his family's 600-cow dairy farm in Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative's territory just outside of Berlin, Pa. Farm life has a way of connecting to the outdoors, so in 2018, McCauley decided to share his passion for hunting by sharing his adventures with the public on social media. He started by sharing photos of the deer caught on his trail camera and turkeys he had shot on opening day. McCauley has always loved being outdoors, whether it's hunting or fishing, and was looking for a way to share his love with fellow outdoorsmen.

On Feb. 6, 2022, McCauley grabbed two of his friends,



LUCKY FIND: McCauley Vangilder, creator of the podcast "The Farmland Hunter," holds a prized shed, or an antler that a buck has lost due to natural growth, he found on the ground.

Tucker Patrick and Jadon Yost, and recorded a podcast for "The Farmland Hunter." Since then, "The Farmland Hunter" has released 11 podcasts with a variety of featured guests, including local outdoorsmen Scott Zarefoss; Dave Miller, owner of Graveyard Archery; Dan Klotz; and Pennsylvania Game Commission Warden Andy Harvey.

McCauley is a social media content creator — someone who produces photos, videos, podcasts or blogs designed to entertain a specific demographic. In this case, it would be people who love to hunt or have a desire to learn more about turkey and deer hunting. The podcast's main social media platform is Instagram, where the friends can best reach their target audience of 18- to 25-year-olds who also enjoy recreational hunting. McCauley works with his friend, Tucker, to take photos of their successful hunts, searching for sheds and other promotional content for "The Farmland Hunter."

McCauley's work is never finished as he prepares year-round for a successful hunt. In the off season, which includes June to early September, he is actively preparing for the coming season by studying, tracking and observing the game animals on his property. McCauley loves following a buck during the closed months on his trail cameras and telling the story of the deer to his followers on "The Farmland Hunter." He is always excited when he can harvest one of the deer he's been watching grow for months and

BIG BUCK DOWN: In 2021, The Farmland Hunter McCauley Vangilder inspects his first archery tag, a buck he called "Splitz," after six years of failed attempts.



even sometimes years. This hunting season will be a busy one for McCauley. It will begin in the middle of September with archery season and run until next May, finishing with spring gobbler.

This past spring turkey season, McCauley and Tucker went on a hunt with Jack Engle, grandson of co-op Director Jerry Engle, where they were collectively able to fill five turkey tags. McCauley believes in passing on knowledge, as someone once taught him everything he knows. He finds it important to teach the younger generation about hunting, fishing and anything outdoors.

For the last two springs, McCauley has filled both of his turkey tags and shot a buck during archery season. He claims the last two seasons have been very successful, but that's not what the podcast is focused on.

"We're not worried about if we're successful or not," McCauley states. "We're more worried about the memories."

One of the things McCauley loves about hunting is the camaraderie that comes along with each hunt.

"That's the really big thing about hunting," he continues. "Just the aspect that brings people together and the learning that's involved."



HUNTING UNTIL SUNDOWN: McCauley Vangilder, 21, holds up one of the two prized turkeys he shot this past spring.



A SUCCESSFUL HUNT: From left, Tucker Patrick, Jack Engle and McCauley Vangilder pose for a victory photo after Vangilder and Patrick helped the young hunter shoot a turkey last April.

McCauley's favorite part about hunting is the story he's able to tell.

"The big thing I want to do with 'The Farmland Hunter' is to be able to tell a story with what we're doing," he says.

He loves sharing the story from the first time he sees a buck until the end, where he hopefully catches back up with the animal during the hunting season. He says it's special to him when kids or other people in the community ask him about something from "The Farmland Hunter," whether it's a teaching opportunity or about the latest big buck he's seen.

This fall, McCauley hopes to continue to grow his audience and reach new viewers and listeners. Recently, McCauley has started uploading podcasts to YouTube, and he hopes to use the platform to share videos and tell more stories about his success in the woods. Right now, McCauley and Tucker are working to edit and put together their videos for a YouTube channel, but are taking their time to make sure they provide their viewers with the best content they have to offer.

"We're not worried about the quantity, or how many times we post a day," McCauley explains. "We're more worried about the quality."

Both gentlemen work full-time jobs, so they make time for the podcast whenever they can. McCauley rushes to the woods every day in the fall, either to sit in his tree stand or crouch low to watch a rafter of turkeys.

Be sure to check out "The Farmland Hunter" on Instagram or listen to the podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or YouTube. 📍

Summer Interns



LEARNING ON THE JOB: Local students participate in Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative's long-running summer employment program. Shown, from left, are: Preston Foor, Abby Retassie, Nolan Reed, Abby Stoltzfus and Cole Blubaugh. Foor, Reed and Blubaugh help with the vegetation management program by assisting the right-of-way crew by clearing brush and flagging as needed. Communications interns Retassie and Stoltzfus helped with annual meeting preparation, media relations, and a variety of general tasks.

Safety Achievement



RESAP RECOGNITION: Ben Waltermire, left, Somerset REC board president, accepts a certificate recognizing the cooperative's commitment to safety from Brooks Shoemaker, Bedford REC general manager and chairman of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) Job Training Training & Safety Committee, at the 2023 PREA/Allegheny Summer Meeting in State College. Somerset REC participates in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), a national program administered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in partnership with PREA. This program provides a framework for continuous improvement in safety performance and culture at all operational levels, from lineworkers and office staff to senior leadership and the cooperative board of directors. RESAP focuses on building leadership commitment, increasing employee involvement and providing honest feedback for continuous improvement.

Member Appreciation Day

Friday, Oct. 6
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Somerset REC Office
223 Industrial Park Road
Somerset, PA 15501



Join us for lunch!

We will be grilling hot dogs & 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.*

Members who are registered and donate canned items will be entered for a chance to win one of 10 \$25 bill credits available and each member will receive a gift!

