Summer planning

By Rich Bauer

SUMMER is finally here. Schools are closed for summer break, the grass is growing, and our area has turned into a green oasis. With the arrival of summer, it is important to check a few items to make sure your house is operating as efficiently as possible.

First, if you have an air conditioner or heat pump, take the time to either replace or clean its air filter. June is usually when air conditioners start running extra hours, so by keeping the air filters clean, you can save up to 35% off your electric use with clean filters.

Next, check your lightbulbs. An LED lightbulb will use about 10 times less electricity than a conventional incandescent bulb, so remind yourself to change a few out each week until you have them all replaced. Using LED bulbs will pay for themselves in under a year.

While we are on checklists, please make sure you have a demand response unit (DRU) installed on your water heater. Currently, we have about 25% of our members taking advantage of these units. I would love to see even more taking advantage of this. The DRU doesn’t cost you a penny. We will even give you a $100 bill credit for allowing us to install one of these DRUs at your home. If you are interested, please contact any of our offices, and we will get you in touch with the correct person.

The last checklist item is our “electric shift” ads on TV and radio. These are to let you know it is a high peak day and we are asking you to shift your electric use to a later time. This gives you a great opportunity to fire up that grill out back. You can also adjust your thermostat up and close blinds or shades to keep the sun from heating up your home, use ceiling fans to circulate the air, and put off doing any laundry until later in the evening. Every little bit helps, so when you hear these announcements, please try to do your part to keep your electric costs down for this year and many years to come.

Enjoy your summer, and go out and enjoy our beautiful little slice of the country. As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don’t hesitate to give me a call. I would love to hear from you. Take care, and God bless.
Is there money looking for you?
Co-op asking for help locating members for capital credits return

Late last year, more than $1,860,000 in capital credits refunds were distributed to eligible members and former members of the co-op. Since that time, nearly 300 of those checks have been returned by the post office because of incorrect address information. We are making every effort to return this money to its rightful owners.

Listed on the following pages are the names of the consumers whose checks have not been able to be delivered. If you recognize a name and can provide an up-to-date address (or information about the executor of the estate or nearest relative if the member is deceased), please call us at 814-643-2650 or toll-free 800-432-0680. You can also write to the Capital Credits Department, Valley REC, P.O. Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

LEON C ADAMS, 607 CLARK ST, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648
WILLIAM W ALBUS, 259 ELCONA ST, DUNCANsville, PA 16635
DENNIS J ANDERS, 552 CAMERER LN, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662
VIRGINIA M ANDERSON, c/o VIRGINIA ANDERSON SANDIF, 1737 DOUBLE POND RD, BLaCKVILLE, SC 29817
CAREY S BAKER, 1911 12TH AVE, ALTOONA, PA 16601
KIM BAKER, 110 MONARCH DR, DUNCANsville, PA 16635
ROBERT BAKER, 300 BASSLER ST, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662
MONICA K BALL, 3539 HYNDMAN RD, HYNDMAN, PA 15545
BRADLEY L BAUMGARDNER, 8817 ROUTE 35 S, HONY GROVE, PA 17035
MELINDA BEACH, 644 ROUTE 22, HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648
RICHARD BEDDOE, 108 FAUST ST, MERCERSBURG, PA 17236
JAMES A BENNETT, 2903 SOLAR DR, DOVER, PA 17315
MERLE C BERNHARDT JR, 901 STONE HILL RD, CONESTOGA, PA 17516
JAMES D BERRIER, PO BOX 147 ROCKHILL FURNACE, PA 17249
MARLIN O BETTS, PO BOX 337, PETERSBURG, PA 16669
CHALMER BEWARD, 405 W 5TH ST, LEWISTOWN, PA 17044
DAVID S BLACK, c/o BARBARA J ROBB, 329 VINEYARD LN, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652
TINA BLAIR, 4353 GARY WAY, CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202
BLAIR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 1083, ALTOONA, PA 16603
LARRY A BLATTENBERGER, 601 W ALLEGHENY ST, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662
LEROY BONSELL JR, 12431 STONE CREEK RIDGE RD, HUNTINGDON, PA 16652
TINA M BOUGHER, 406 W ALLEGGHENY ST, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662
EDWIN BRIDENBAUGH, 399 ORCHARD LN, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662
HAZEL BRIGGS, 435 SAND RIDGE RD, LEWISTOWN, PA 17044
DEBRA F BROWN, 129 DINSMORE AVE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15205
RANDALL BRUMBAUGH, 1220 GORDON HALL RD, OSTERBURG, PA 16667
ROBERT E BRUNET, 812 NOXONTOWN RD, TOWSEND, DE 19734
JONATHAN J BUCK, 825 S 4TH ST, CLEAFIELD, PA 16830
ROBERT A BULICK, ROBERT A/ CANDACE J, 5280 MOUNT PISGAH RD, YORK, PA 17406
JOANN BURDA, 285 ALBATROSS ST, FORT MYERS BEACH, FL 33931
LISA A BURKET, 403 W 3RD ST, APT, ALTOONA, PA 16603
VICTOR BURKET, 260 HAZELETTE ST, EVERETT, PA 15537
BRUCE BYERS, 208 W SHIRLEY ST, MOUNT UNION, PA 17066
LINN CAMPBELL, PO BOX 81, SPRING RUN, PA 17262
TAMMY J CAMPBELL, 3123 JUNIATA GAP RD, ALTOONA, PA 16601
ROBERT L CHARLES, 3733 JUNIATA GAP RD, ALTOONA, PA 16601
SANDRA LEE CHARLES, 2703 FAIRWAY DR, APT B, ALTOONA, PA 16602
RUTH CHESNEY, 403 W 3RD ST, APT 203, WILLIAMSBURG, PA 16693
KENNETH D CLAAR, 142 LAURIE LN, LITITZ, PA 17543
JAMES MCLIPPINGER, 223 S MULBERRY ST, MARTINSBURG, PA 16662
LOIS CLOWSON, 204 PINE AVE, ALTOONA, PA 16601
COMMUNICATION CONSTRUCTION GROUP, 460 LIMESTONE RD, OXFORD, PA 19363
EDGAR S CORNELIUS, RR 1 BOX 561, THREE SPRINGS, PA 17264
COLT M CORNELL, 16686 SUGAR RUN RD, SHIRLEYBURG, PA 17260
CALVIN L COX, 2735 ASTORIA AVE,
Capital credits
(continued from page 14c)

ROY D LEISTER, 318 LARCH ST,
NORMAN I LEININGER, 228
JAY LEHMAN, 19315 HANDY RD,
RONALD J LAUDENSPLAGER,
BOYD H LOHR, PO BOX 136,
KEYSTONE WIRELESS LLC,
BOYERTOWN, PA 27599
RIVERVIEW CENTER BLVD, STE
201, BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134
MARK KNABLE, PO BOX 296,
SAINT THOMAS, PA 17252
DAVID L KUHN, 2337 RIGHT HAND
GAP RD, CLAYSBURG, PA 16625
DUANE LAPP, 11246C BEMISDERFER
RD, GREENCASTLE, PA 17225
RICHARD B LASHLEY , 121 LAKE DR,
BEDFORD, PA 15522
LINDA J LAYTON, RR 1 BOX 381,
ALICIA J LAUVER,
DENNIS P LATINI,
WILLIAM A KENNEDY , PO BOX 1246,
WENDY KELLY , 60189 BLACK
HILL RD, STE 2047, BLDG 2,
ROCKTON, PA 17065
BARRY LINGENFELTER,
HARRISONBURG, PA 17250
BRIDGETTE L LIPPS, 36 N JUNIATA ST,
TROY A LINGOTT, 402 S JUNIATA ST,
CUMBERLAND, PA 17024
DONNA J LOCKARD,
TERRY P LINGENFELTER,
26 N JUNIATA ST,
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648
DONNA J LOCKARD,
163 BUTLER HOLLOW RD,
EAST FREEDOM, PA 16673
JUNE 2019

7274 WATERFALL RD,
HUSTONTOWN, PA 17229
W J MENTZER, 1081 TORCHWOOD
DR, DELAND, FL 32724
GERALD F MERKLINGER,
70 SNYDER LN, TRLR 1,
EPHRATA, PA 17522
BRUCE D MILLER c/o CHESTER L
DEVOR, 147 ORCHARD HILLS DR,
MILLIONS, PA 17058
JEFFREY MILLER, 5812 MEHENTIAH
WAY, APT 3, HUNTINGDON, PA
16652
RITA V MILLER, 18849 RAYSTOWN
RD, JAMES CREEK, PA 16657
ROBERT G MILLER, PO BOX 245,
PETERSBURG, PA 16669
RONALD D MILLER, 5659
WOODBURY PIKE,
ROARING SPRING, PA 16673
DANE B MILLS, PO BOX 104,
SHADE GAP, PA 17255
BETTY J MITCHELL,
7866 STATE ROUTE 655,
REEDSVILLE, PA 17084
JOHN A MONGOLD c/o LISA COUCH,
4732 E OLD STATE ROUTE 73,
WAYNESVILLE, OH 45068
ROY A MORGAN, 1959 STATE ROUTE
103 N, LEWISTOWN, PA 17044
RICHARD H MORRIS,
26 S BARKWAY LN, STATE
COLLEGE, PA 16803
DOUGLAS MOODY, 1223 16TH AVE,
ALTOONA, PA 16601
DALE E MOUNTAIN, 609 W 17TH ST,
PORTALES, NM 88130
DEBORAH A MOYER,
1534 LAUDERMILCH RD,
HERSHEY, PA 17033
STEVEN P MUSSELMAN,
486 WALTER HOLLOW RD,
CLAYSBURG, PA 16625
NEWTON N MYERS, 55 ROBIN RD,
HERSHEY, PA 17033
CRYSTAL D NELSON, 43 E SHIRLEY
ST, MOUNT UNION, PA 17066
JEFFREY L NOBLE, 286 HEMLOCK LN,
COGAN STATION, PA 17728
CHARLES W OTT, 896 SENECA LN,
HUNTINGDON, PA 16667
DONNA J PARKS RANEY,
RONALD J LONG, 111 LONG DR,
HILL RD, STE 2047, BLDG 2,
MECHANICSBURG, PA 17050
BOYD H LOHR, PO BOX 136,
MILL CREEK, PA 17060
TRUDY E LOHL, PO BOX 258,
EAST FREEDOM, PA 16673
D RONALD LONG, 111 LONG DR,
ROARING SPRING, PA 16673
ERIC M LONG, 1944 PULPIT RD,
MARTINSBURG, PA 16662
CHRISINDA LUKENS,
15201 HARMONY CHURCH RD,
HUNTINGDON, PA 16662
G LLOYD LYTER ESTATE c/o
CORINNE H LYTER EXEC,
192 VILLAGE DR,
MIFILINTOWN, PA 17059
ROBERT MAI SR, 370 YARDLEY PL,
WILLIAMSTOWN, NJ 08094
WARREN MALONE ESTATE c/o
MAYSIE F. MILLER, 4126 RICKLYN
DR, CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202
ELIZABETH MALOT,
1158 TRAILS END RD,
HARRISONVILLE, PA 17228
ROBERT R MARKOVICH, VALLEY
ST EXT, MCDONALD, PA 15057
MAURICE L MARCON, 3652
KIMBERLY RD, HARRISBURG, PA
17112
RICHARD E MARTZ JR, PO BOX 433,
HUSTONTOWN, PA 17229
JAMES L MASON, 1228 TOWNCREST
RD, WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
MAYE R MAFFEO,
125 LOWER CARDINAL DR,
BEDFORD, PA 15522
JOSEPH MAY, 5251 FOREST AVE,
HILL RD, STE 2047, BLDG 2,
HUNTINGDON, PA 16652
RITA E LOHSL, PO BOX 258,
MAMILLION, PA 17058
DALE E LINDLEY,
2615 MAJESTIC PRINCE DR,
HARRISBURG, PA 17111
KARI H LEIN, PO BOX 296,
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150
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HUSTONTOWN, PA 17229
W J MENTZER, 1081 TORCHWOOD
DR, DELAND, FL 32724
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DEVOR, 147 ORCHARD HILLS DR,
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MECHANICSBURG, PA 17050
BOYD H LOHR, PO BOX 136,
State agriculture secretary talks dairy trends, farm tourism during chamber luncheon

By Doug Roles
Vice President, Member Services

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding discussed the findings of a recent study on agriculture during an April visit to Huntingdon County. He also reported that an increasing number of farmers are diversifying their income through sidelines like ag tourism.

Speaking at a Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce luncheon Wednesday, April 10, Redding said he was encouraged to see a variety of stakeholders take the time to learn more about the importance of agriculture. The Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center in Brady Township hosted the event, and the audience included local business leaders, as well as students from two local Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters.

“As challenging as agriculture is, I still admire the entrepreneurial spirit that’s in it, and the perseverance of families that are committed to it,” Redding said.

Redding said local school districts are fortunate to still have ag programs. He said just 150 of Pennsylvania’s 500 school districts offer such programs. He said there is a need for a better-defined educational path for young people hoping to have careers in agriculture. There are 28 in-demand jobs in agriculture, but just eight of those have defined career paths, Redding said.

In January 2018, the department released a study of the economic impact of agriculture and the food industry in the state. The study — the first comprehensive effort to define the industry and quantify its impact — showed that agriculture has a $137.5 billion impact on Pennsylvania’s economy. That represents 18 percent of the gross state product. The industry supports nearly 580,000 jobs paying nearly $27 billion in wages, the department reported.

The department worked with the Team Pennsylvania Foundation and Temple University's Fox School of Business to conduct the impact study. It sought to answer the questions “What is ag in Pennsylvania?” and “Who is ag in Pennsylvania?” The study broke ag into farming, forestry, the equine industry, food processing and the green industry (horticulture).

Redding said the operating margin for Pennsylvania dairy farmers is razor thin with milk prices of $14.50 per hundredweight. He said, however, that consumption of dairy products is up and that unemployment in the agriculture sector is below the national average.

“Fluid milk is just not being consumed,” Redding said. “Total dairy (ice cream and other dairy-based products) continues to increase. I think that’s the silver lining. But consumption continues to decline on fluid milk. There’s a lot of pain in this industry at the moment.”

Redding said lifestyle changes have affected fluid milk sales. As an example, he noted that cereal bars are popular but their convenience has cut milk consumption at breakfast. He advocated making milk more mobile by packaging it in six-packs of individual serving-sized bottles, so consumers can purchase and store it in the same way they do a variety of other beverages.
Bill Hoover, a former Huntingdon County Commissioner who serves on the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's Pennsylvania State Committee, served as emcee for the event. Hoover, a Valley REC member who operates a family farm in Warriors Mark Township with his wife, Deb, has also served on the Huntingdon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

“It's a well-known fact that agriculture is a big part of the Pennsylvania and U.S. economies,” Hoover said. “It's also a well-known fact that agriculture is facing difficult times. There was a time in the nation's history when 98 percent of the people were involved in agriculture. Today, 98 percent of the world is not involved in agriculture.”

Valley Rural Electric sponsored the luncheon along with local businesses CBT Bank, Price Motor Sales and Nationwide Insurance – Pamela Stern & Associates, LLC. The career and tech center's culinary students prepared and served the all-Pennsylvania lunch.

The Blue Juniata FFA Chapter from Juniata Valley High School conducted opening and closing ceremonies. FFA students from Southern Huntingdon County High School also attended.

“The science of turning sun, soil, and water into food, fuel, and fiber to feed the seven billion residents of our planet takes the largest workforce of any industry,” Hoover said. “These FFA members are living in an exciting time to be a part of that workforce necessary to keep the science of agriculture growing.”

“The face of agriculture has completely changed during my lifetime,” Hoover added. “I am certain that agriculture will continue to change. I cannot imagine what changes these young people will see in their lifetimes.”

Questions from the audience ranged from property tax reform and milk marketing board pricing policies to ways the ag department can assist farmers in developing off-shoot, supplemental businesses — such as wedding and specialty event venues, dairy tours, craft breweries, and alpaca farming — to sustain their bottom line.

Redding outlined the provisions of the Pennsylvania Farm Bill, the first-ever package of such legislation that would invest more than $24 million to address the needs of farmers. He discussed succession planning and noted the realty transfer tax exemption in the proposed Pennsylvania Farm Bill would provide an exemption for any transfer of preserved farmland to a qualified beginning farmer. He reported that 5,400 farms in Pennsylvania are “preserved” farms that will be in agriculture for perpetuity. Pennsylvania boasts 63,000 farm families who steward more than 7.7 million acres of farmland.

“I think it's one of the great moments of our time, that people are actually rediscovering agriculture; when people stop and think, agriculture wins. But they have to stop and think first,” Redding said. “When you have chambers thinking about it, school districts thinking about it, FFA chapters, car dealerships, insurance agencies, then you start to see things happen.”

He added, “Thank you for thinking about agriculture and its importance here and for extending the conversation to ‘What do we need to do to keep it here and transition to a new generation that is going to be desperately needed?’”

Governor Tom Wolf nominated Redding to serve as the 26th Secretary of Agriculture for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in January 2015. He was confirmed by the Senate on May 14, 2015. On May 1, the Senate unanimously confirmed Redding for a second term. Redding is the former dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Delaware Valley University, formerly Delaware Valley College.
Aerial patrol, pole inspection slated for summer months

Aerial patrol

Valley Rural Electric’s annual aerial inspection of our distribution system will begin later this month. Getting a bird’s-eye view of lines and equipment allows co-op staff to better plan improvement projects and right-of-way trimming.

Todd Ross, Valley REC vice president of operations, says the helicopter fly-over enables operations personnel to quickly and efficiently find areas where maintenance is needed, especially in areas that are difficult to reach from the ground.

“The aerial patrol will cover our whole system,” Ross says. “It’s faster than driving and also more efficient because you get a better view of pole tops and equipment from the air than you would from the ground looking up into the sun.”

The vantage point from the helicopter also makes it easier to spot dead trees that could pose a hazard.

Valley REC is again contracting with Pine Bottom Aviation Services, LLC of Martinsburg. The fly-over is low enough to allow the co-op employee accompanying the pilot to see cracked insulators and crossarms and other equipment that needs to be repaired or replaced. Members should not be impacted by the aerial inspection work.

Pole inspection

The co-op has contracted with Osmose Utilities Service, Inc. to conduct pole inspection work. Osmose crews will begin inspection and treatment work in July and it will continue into late summer.

“It’s a continuation of what we have been doing,” Ross says. “We’re on a 10-year cycle.”

Pole inspection work is scheduled for the following locations:
- Shade Gap District – Dublin Township, Fulton County; Metal Township, Franklin County; Cromwell, Dublin, Shirley, and Tell townships, Huntingdon County; and Lack Township, Juniata County.
- Martinsburg District – Freedom, Huston, Juniata and North Woodbury townships, Blair County.
- Huntingdon District – Juniata, Lincoln, Penn and Walker townships, Huntingdon County.

Extending the useful lives of utility poles through inspection and treatment is cost-effective for the co-op, since the price of a pole can range from $130 to more than $260. Identifying deteriorating poles can save the co-op money and spare consumers the inconvenience of an outage.

SAFETY FIRST: Valley REC provides a hot line safety demonstration to East Waterford Fire Company in Juniata County on April 23 and to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) employees in Hollidaysburg, Blair County, on May 7. At left: Journeyman Linemen Logan Booher, left, and Jason Wilson explain the use of an insulated hot stick. At right: Shade Gap District Manager Mark Booher shows PennDOT crews how lineworkers roll their rubber gloves to check for pin holes.

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