

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Valley News

July | August 2011

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CO-OP IMPROVES TREE-TRIMMING METHODS

Saves maintenance \$
Keeps trees healthy

Pages 4-5

www.valleyrec.com

Facts about mercury in CFL bulbs

ADS AND PACKAGING materials for compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) proclaim that they use much less energy and last much longer than standard incandescent bulbs. However, if you read the fine print on the packaging or find the notices on the bases of these bulbs, you'll see that they contain mercury.

Although this notice may seemingly be a cause for concern, it's important to note that the amount of mercury inside the glass tube of an average CFL is miniscule -- about the equivalent of the tip of a ball-point pen -- and it's especially small when compared to other items you may have around your home. The amount of mercury in a CFL runs about 4-5 milligrams (mg), while a glass fever thermometer contains 500 mg, and an old-style thermostat could contain up to 3,000 mg.

CFLs are safe to handle and use in your home and they release no mercury when in operation. Even if you break a CFL, the amount of mercury that may become airborne poses a very low risk of exposure, according to Energy Star statistics. (To prevent breakage, carefully unpack a CFL and always screw and unscrew the bulb by its base.) Of course, when CFLs burn out or break, the best course of action is to recycle them.

CFLs fall into the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) category of Household Hazardous Waste, but there's no federal requirement that the bulbs be recycled, although it's encouraged.

All Valley Rural Electric Co-op office locations -- Huntingdon, Martinsburg and Shade Gap -- are drop-off centers for used CFL bulbs. In addition, some local hardware stores and other retailers may have CFL recycling buckets on hand and there are many recycling centers in our state that accept CFLs.

To find a facility or store near you that accepts CFLs, visit the Earth 911 website at www.earth911.org or call 800-CLEANUP.

If one of these recycling options is not available to you, you may put burned out or broken CFLs with your regular



Wayne F. Miller
President & Chief Executive Officer

trash, but in no case should you burn or incinerate them. Here's what the EPA says about properly disposing of CFLs:

Burned-out CFLs: Put the CFL in a sealed plastic bag and place it with your regular trash.

Broken CFLs: If you break a CFL in your home, open nearby windows to disperse any vapor that may escape and carefully sweep up the glass shards. (Don't use your hands.) Wipe the area with a damp paper towel to remove glass fragments; don't use a vacuum cleaner. Put the fragments, the base of the bulb and the paper towel in a sealed plastic bag and place it with your regular trash.

CFLs are a great idea. They'll help cut your utility bills and reduce the need for electricity production. However, to create the maximum benefit for the environment, recycling burned-out and broken CFLs makes sense.

Cooperatively yours,

Wayne F. Miller
President & CEO

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Executive Editor

Luanne H. Eckenrode

Managing Editor/Art Director

Susan R. Penning

Publication inquiries:

814/643-2650 or 800/432-0680
memberservices@valleyrec.com

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Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

On the cover ...



PHOTO COURTESY OF VALLEY REC LINE PERSONNEL

In order to enhance service reliability, save money and keep trees healthy, Valley Rural Electric Co-op has improved its right-of-way maintenance methods. For details, see Pages 4-5.

What Are My Lighting Options?

Starting in 2012, lightbulbs must be more energy efficient.

The three most common bulb options consumers will find on store shelves are:



Halogen incandescents

Energy Savings:* 25 percent
Lifespan:* Three times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$3.50



Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

Energy Savings:* 75 percent
Lifespan:* 10 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1.20



Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)

Energy Savings:* 75-80 percent
Lifespan:* 25 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1

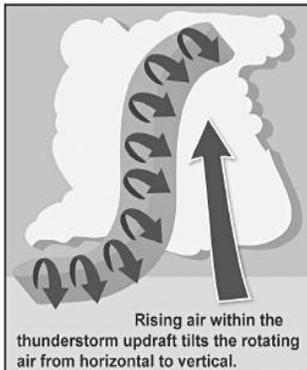
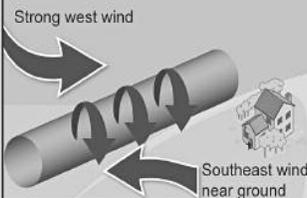
* As compared to traditional incandescent bulbs

Learn more at energysavers.gov/lighting

How tornadoes form

Focal Points

Before thunderstorms develop, a change in wind direction and an increase in wind speed with increasing height creates an invisible, horizontal spinning effect in the lower atmosphere.



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Graphic by Funnel, Inc. and NRECA



You can help cool future power costs.

Our **future electric rates** are partially **based on how much power you use** on hot, humid weekdays **between 1 and 6 p.m.** this summer. When you hear an announcement from your local electric cooperative about doing the "Electric Shift," try these simple steps:

- ▶ Set air conditioners at 78 degrees or use fans instead.
- ▶ Close curtains and blinds to keep things cooler.
- ▶ Operate washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves and other major appliances in early morning or evening.
- ▶ Minimize the number of times you open your refrigerator and freezer.
- ▶ Cook with an outdoor grill or a microwave oven.
- ▶ Turn off any non-essential lights.
- ▶ Run pool pumps at night.

A Touchstone Energy[®]Cooperative 
PEOPLE YOU CAN COUNT ON.[™]





GETTING IT RIGHT WITH UTILITY RIGHTS OF WAY

Better maintenance method allows co-op to improve service, keep costs down

BY SUSAN R. PENNING
Director of Member Services

TO ENSURE safe, reliable electric service, utilities like Valley Rural Electric Cooperative must invest in right-of-way maintenance. This maintenance includes controlling unsuitable brush growing within the rights of way as well as removing trees in danger of coming in contact with electric lines and equipment. It also includes pruning branches away from high-voltage lines.

If branches make contact with ener-

gized lines, they can cause power outages. Worse yet, if children -- or adults -- climb trees that have branches growing into power lines, they could be electrocuted! Every year, people are severely burned or killed while climbing trees and making contact with electric lines.

The most appropriate way to prune trees for electric utility line clearance is by using the directional pruning method, which is now the preferred technique being employed by the cooperative in its tree-trimming efforts.

Directional pruning is recommended

by agencies such as the National Arborist Association, National Arbor Day Foundation, International Society of Arboriculture, Penn State University and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

What is directional pruning?

The directional pruning method directs the growth of the tree away from power lines.

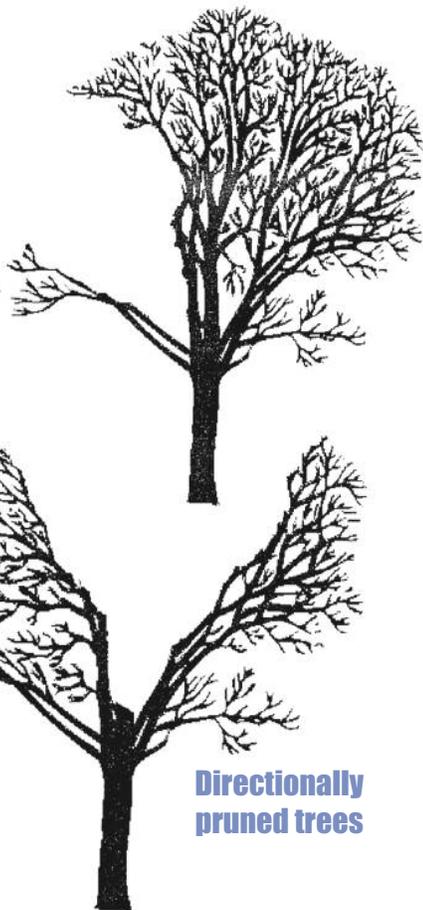
Trained crews remove branches that are growing toward conductors in favor of those growing away. Reduction cuts are used for all branches that are being pruned, which means branches are pruned properly back to a lateral branch that is at least one-third the diameter of the branch being removed. This allows for good wound closure and protects apical dominance, which reduces water sprouting.

In addition, directional pruning removes fewer leaves, which trees need for making food. The directional pruning

technique typically results in fewer branches being removed and helps the tree heal faster, thereby reducing internal decay.

How will my tree look after it is directionally pruned?

Trees growing directly under conductors will appear U or V-shaped. Trees growing alongside a conductor may appear L-shaped from side pruning. At first, the tree may appear misshapen, but that changes over the years as the tree leafs out and grows in. Directionally pruned trees stay healthier than “topped” trees, have a much better form and require less pruning in the future because of the use of reduction cuts.



How does the directional pruning method differ from previous trimming techniques used by the co-op?

In the past, utilities (including Valley) obtained the proper line clearance by “topping” or “rounding over” trees every few years.

The problem with this method was

that it gave little consideration to tree health or structural integrity. Current research shows that topping or heading cuts create entry points for wood decay, which slowly weakens a tree internally, potentially shortening its lifespan.

In addition, topping trees costs the co-op more money in the long-run. If a topped tree survives, it requires pruning again within a few years. It has to either be trimmed again or storm damage needs to be cleaned up. If the tree dies, it then has to be removed.

Topping is a high-maintenance pruning practice that contains some hidden costs. One is a reduction in property value. Healthy, well-maintained trees can add 10-20 percent to the value of a property. Disfigured, topped trees are considered an impending expense.

Another cost of topped trees is the potential liability. Topped trees are prone to breaking and can be hazardous.

What is the co-op doing to make sure trees are properly pruned?

The co-op has contracted with Davey Tree Expert Company for vegetation management services along power lines in its territory. This contractor will use personnel trained in the directional method of pruning.

The contractor’s work will include tree trimming and tree removal. If required, a selective application of herbicides will also be used to control the incompatible vegetation that is growing in the rights of way. All applications will be in accordance with manufacturer instructions and applied by licensed applicators.

Brush control through the use of herbicides offers co-op members the greatest value. It is less costly to control vegetation along the power lines with herbicides than it is to cut it. In addition, rights of way maintained with herbicides require minimal and less frequent maintenance in the future, providing long-term savings. Controlling unwanted vegetation on the right of way with herbicides allows grasses, ferns and other desirable plants to flourish. This diverse plant cover provides a habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and helps to resist the re-infestation of undesirable plant species, thus minimizing the amount of subsequent work to be done.

Will a right-of-way maintenance crew be visiting my property anytime soon?

To reduce potential tree-related problems, Valley operates an aggressive right-of-way maintenance program. Crews are always looking for overhanging branches, foliage growing under lines and “danger” trees that are growing toward lines. It’s a job that’s never done. In fact, the co-op’s maintenance cycle ensures that all 2,900 miles of Valley rights of way are trimmed every five years.

Crews are currently working in the Cassville, Huntingdon County, area as well as the Carson Valley and Blue Knob areas of Blair and Bedford counties.

Before crews go to work in a particular location, the co-op ensures that each member in that area is properly notified and informed regarding the co-op’s right-of-way maintenance efforts.

It is probably no secret that weather-related events cause the majority of power outages for electric cooperatives -- nearly 20 percent according to a survey by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. But vegetation -- trees, shrubs, brush -- that comes in contact with power lines and distribution equipment is the second leading cause of service interruptions.

The goal at Valley REC is to provide consumers with the reliable electric service they’ve come to expect while keeping rates as low as possible for all members. A well-maintained right of way is essential for dependable service. Trees that come in contact with electric lines are a leading cause of blinking lights and power outages. A properly maintained right of way, employing appropriate vegetation management techniques, helps to greatly reduce the costs associated with power outages.

For answers to questions about right-of-way maintenance, please contact Kevin Detwiler, the co-op’s utility forester/arborist at 800/432-0680 ext. 135. **For a list of low-growing and medium-sized trees that will not interfere with utility wires, call the co-op’s member services department at 800/432-0680 or email memberservices@valleyrec.com**

Some information provided by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences

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Real Estate

Campground membership for sale. Located at Wilderness Camping Resorts in Spotsylvania, Va., off I-95. Year-round activities for all ages. Avail. at 50% off original purchase price. For details, call 814/224-5414 or email Dgoebel611@atlanticbb.net

450 sq. ft. commercial unit in the Ardenheim Business Center avail. for rent. Property is along busy Route 22 just 500 yds. east of Huston Ford. Call Decker Electric, Inc. for details at 814/599-0835 or 643-3775.

8.44 acres, 4 miles from Lake Raystown Resort just off Rt. 994. All wooded, \$56,000. 814/658-2511.

Juniata Co. - 3 BR, 2 BA, raised ranch home for sale. 1,600 sq. ft. on 10 acres. 2 acres cleared, 8 wooded. Oil heat w/ gas back-up, AC & gas fireplace. Hunting on property close to state game lands w/ Juniata River & streams close for fishing, \$215,000. View at www.flinthollowhide-away.com

Raystown Lake - 75-acre farm for sale. Nicest property on lake. 2,000 ft. borders government ground. Level w/ beautiful lake views throughout. 50' right of way for development/campground. 3 BR log home, log barn, 40 acres tillable, 35 acres wooded, \$990,000. 814/644-0476.

4-8 acres in Blair Co., Juniata Twp., Lilly Rd., Duncansville. Close to game lands, wooded, very scenic, \$1,000 per acre. All rights included. 814/696-9006.

Lewistown - Very lg. building, exc. cond. Hard top for lots of parking, good traffic flow, \$190,000. Will finance. 717/734-3275.

Juniata Co. - 2-story chicken house, 44' x 400' on 12.62 acres. Storage shed, slate around building, good shape. Could put house or trailer there, \$250,000. Will finance. 717/734-3275.

Autos/Trucks

Pickup tires - Sets of 4: 235-75-15 BF Goodrich All-Terrain C-load; P245-70-16 Goodyear Wrangler SRA; P225-75-16 Goodyear Wrangler ST. Passenger car tires - Sets of 2: 215-65-16 Goodyear Assurance & 125-55-16 H-rated Assurance. 50% tread or better. Call for price & availability. 814/448-3660. Leave message or e-mail fpatan@msn.com

2001 Chevy Tracker. Six cylinder, auto., 4x4. Very nice. 168,000 miles, \$4,295. 814/696-9006.

1949 Ford F-100 custom truck. Turn-key ready for summer fun. Alum. wheels, 9" Ford rear end, custom front, bumper racing seat, power windows, rebuilt 350 small block, 4 barrel w/ headers and dual exhaust, rebuilt 350 turbo floor shift. Inspected, new paint in 2007, bed cover, \$9,500 OBO. 717/734-3275.

Recreational

20' Ebbtide cuddy cabin w/ trailer. Inboard/outboard 350 Chevy engine, good cond., \$2,800. 814/855-2010 or 717/404-1329.

2 canvas folding Army cots, \$20 each. Jungle hammock, \$40. 814/599-1436.

Spectrum V-boat - 115 Mercury motor plus 3-1/2 hp troll motor. 2 live wells. Very good cond. w/ trailer & extras. Call 814/386-3153.

Vacation Rentals

South Myrtle Beach year-round vacation rental. 2 BR, 2 BA condo at oceanfront resort. Fully furnished including linens, towels, cable w/ HBO, wireless Internet, AC, 6 pools including lazy river, lighted tennis court, saunas, jacuzzis & more. \$400-\$950 weekly. Monthly rates avail. Call 717/263-2717.

Spacious house rental at Lake Raystown. Cozy for 2, sleeps up to 11. Large great room w/ fireplace, 4 BR, dining table for 12, 2 dish TVs, 2 full BAs, 2 half BAs, linens provided, large recreation room, fully equipped kitchen & laundry rooms, screened-in porch, 1 mile from lake, large parking area for your boat. Think Labor Day family reunion. See www.laurelwoodsretreat.com or call 814/931-6562.

Myrtle Beach condo - Oceanfront w/ balcony to watch sunrises. Water temp. in mid-80s, recreation & restaurants abound. Elevator to 4th floor, sleeps 4. August 14-21 avail. Bargain at \$625. Call 610/358-1776, leave msg.

Tools/Equipment

3-pt. hitch, 2-bottom, 14' trip back plow, \$450. 3-pt. hitch, cut-off saw, belt-driven, \$40. Call 717/987-3619 after 6 p.m.

2 silage wagons. 814/447-3735.

DeVilbiss air hammer for rivots & staples, new, \$250. 814/599-1436.

Delta 10" table saw, \$200. Craftsman 6" jointer w/ base, \$200. Grizzly 12-1/2" portable planer, \$175. C&H 8-gal. compressor w/ numerous attachments, \$175. 814/667-3125.

New Holland silo blower. 814/447-3735.

Ariens snowblower, electric start, \$300.
814/658-3973.

Miscellaneous

Used industrial-grade metal shelving w/ up-rights: 12"x36", 18"x36", 24"x36" & 24"x48". Call for prices & avail. 814/448-3660. Leave msg. or e-mail fpatan@msn.com

1-yr.-old used, faded PVC-grooved deck planks (light to medium brown) & stainless steel hidden fasteners. Various lengths totaling 940 running ft. 5-1/2" wide, 1" thick. Orig. price \$3 per ft. plus fasteners. Asking \$800 for all (75 cents per ft. plus fasteners) OBO. Cash sale, no checks. You haul. 814/669-9462.

White cookstove, \$425. Old hay, barn-kept, dry, \$1 per bale. 3-8" I-beams, 8' long, \$40 ea. 1-8" I-beam, 12' long, \$60. Used tin, 3'x15', 10 sheets, \$75. Harley Davidson windshield, \$50. Round galvanized fence posts, \$4 ea. Call 717/987-3619 after 6 p.m.

In-ground pool accessories - Slide w/ ladder, solar blanket w/ stand, propane heater, Hayward sand filter. Exercise equipment - Sears DP AirGometer, Sears Lifestyler 2000 stair stepper. Call 814/643-0551.

Seed wheat from certified seed, cleaned. 814/448-9480.

Men's Schwinn "Sierra" mountain bike;
Women's Fuji "Absolute" street bike;
Women's Giant "Acapulco" mountain bike,
\$100 each (firm). 814/695-9556.

Resolute cast iron wood stove w/ 6' stainless steel pipe & elbow, \$500. Seasoned cherry wood, 100 board ft., \$175. 814/667-3125.

2006 6'x12' concession trailer. Menu board & letters, 2 serving windows, 2-gal. hot water tank, Coleman AC unit, 3 food prep. sinks, 1 handwash sink, washable walls, linoleum flooring, stainless steel counter-tops, 5 storage cabinets, custom storage for qt. bottles, cash drawer, large chest freezer, under-counter refrigerator, removable trailer tongue, 30-gal. gray water tank, fresh water hook-up, indoor battery lights, water pump & inverter for battery, shaved ice machine w/ ice drip tray, ice machine runs on battery, all tanks have indicator level main display on wall, 110-amp outlets w/ breaker box w/ 220-amp hook-up. Includes jacks for set-up, 14 qt. bottles of concentrate to make over a hundred gallons of syrup, 1-gal. bottle of benzoate soda, 24 32 oz. bottles w/ spouts,

10-gal. mixing container, paper products & much more. 814/669-4662 or 599-4121.

Morso ceramic-coated cast iron wood-burner, 6" flue, 18" log capacity, \$500. Cast-iron Franklin woodstove w/ doors, \$300. Antique cast-iron clawfoot bathtub, \$300. 3-piece antique wicker porch furniture (sofa, chair & rocker) w/ cushions, \$100. Ornate Victorian-style table lamp, 40" tall w/ marble base & custom-made fringed shade, \$75. All very good cond. 814/466-2224 or 667-2124 & leave msg.

One-of-a-kind tongue & groove flooring & V-groove wall boards, \$2 per sq. ft. & up. 8/4 furniture-grade dry white pine, \$1.50 per bd. ft. 3 rolls 2"x 4"x 6'x 100' new fence, \$90 ea. 55 gals. yellow enamel paint, \$250. Pick-up tool box, \$75. Outdoor garden clock, \$10. New Bulova grandfather clock, \$2,000. Glass & brass heavy coffee table, \$150. Oak pedestal table w/ 4 solid wood chairs, \$150. 814/447-3630 or email galleryofwood@innernet.net.

Burn barrels. 814/447-3735.

Hamilton Beach stand mixer w/ complete accessories, \$150. 814/658-3973.

Save 50% off store prices! Brand-name discount kidswear at www.magickidsusa.com. Use code: MK79438 for huge savings.

Service

Central Sealcoating - Asphalt services for homes & businesses. Sealing, stripping & repairs. Serving all of Huntingdon & Fulton counties & nearby areas. Local, family owned & operated. Fully insured. Call toll-free 877/81-WE-SEAL.

Lechene Chiropractic - No one should suffer w/ pain. We provide an effective alternative treatment w/ the use of chiropractic, nutrition & exercise. As the only doctor at my practice, when you come through my doors, I will always be there to greet you & guide you every step on your road to recovery. My mission is to provide you w/ the ability to achieve optimal health & allow you to enjoy life at its fullest. Located in Altoona on 5410 6th Ave. Call 814/944-4747 for a free consultation! Or visit www.lechenechiropractic.vpweb.com

Taylor's Tasty Treats - Specializing in cakes for all occasions. Please call 814/667-2196.

Sipes Fence LLC - All types of agricultural fence installed. Post driving avail. Free 1-yr. maintenance check on all fence installed. Scot Sipes. 717/491-7539.

Classified Ads

Decker Electric, Inc. - We do all types of electrical contracting work in accordance w/ current electrical codes. Our rates are very competitive w/ all work guaranteed. We are fully insured. Call 814/599-0835 or 643-4338 for all your electrical needs.

Burdick's Custom Carpentry - Handcrafted kitchen cabinets, BR furniture & everything in between. Quality craftsmanship guaranteed. See our photo gallery at www.bccarpentry.weebly.com. Call 814/931-1467.

Kenneth W. Reigh Carpentry & Masonry - Decks, landscaping blocks, siding, additions, kitchens & baths, screened-in porches, natural stone, brick, block & concrete. Fully insured, 35 yrs. exp. For estimates, call 814/658-9998.

Baker Logging - Buyer of standing timber. 1 acre & up for hardwood. Also buying white pine & hemlock standing timber. Rick Baker. 814/669-3436.

Stone's Notary Service in the James Creek area - Full notary services. Must have valid ID. Title transfers (no tags), basic fax and copy services. Call for appointment at 814/658-3470 or 599-9229 or email stonesnotary@gmail.com

Book Construction - Excavation, clearing, roads, ponds, septic systems, foundations, prep. sites for bldg. Check our prices. Fully insured, free estimates. 814/448-0186.

Will do yard work. 814/259-3634.

Get that new cut or highlight for summer & back to school - \$5 off w/ this ad on your next color, highlight or perm. Back-to-school cuts, \$9 for men, \$10 wet cuts; for girls, \$15 w/ cut & style. Children 6 & under, \$6. "Bee" Unique Hair Boutique, 17759 Beaver-town Road, Todd. Call 814/448-4914. Don't forget about our spray tanning.

Gene's Variety & Auctions - We have auctions the first & third Fridays of each month starting at 6 p.m. We sell consignments for the public. You never know what will show up to be sold. We hope to see you at one of our auctions. If you would like to sell items, call 814/643-2734 or stop by our store. Located on Fairgrounds Road, Huntingdon. Hours are Mon.-Fri. 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Check auctionzip.com #2942 for upcoming sales & photos.

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ES Ministries Thrift Shop - 5468 Charter Oak Rd., Petersburg. Located in the Faith Center, Mooresville United Methodist Church. Hours are Thurs. & Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Clothing, household items, books, linens, toys, etc. We carry items for current holidays. New merchandise added weekly. Weekly 50% off and 50-cent sales. Donations accepted during shop hours. Call 814/667-3141.

Country Stone - Pro installation of pre-cast stone & brick veneer. 35 yrs. experience, specializing in fireplaces & foundations. Free estimates. Fully insured. 814/695-8693.

Got a home remodeling project that needs done? We're the builder you can count on for quality craftsmanship & quick completion. We've specialized in custom remodeling, carpentry & plumbing work for more than 30 years. And our prices are tough to beat! Call Bob at 814/542-4485 or email abaugh@verizon.net for an estimate. References avail.

Events

Come join us for National Alpaca Farm Days Sept. 24 & 25 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. Terrace Mtn. will also have its

fall open house Nov. 5 & 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Great time to check out the new offspring & shop in the TMA Farm Store for Christmas. Join us for a hayride, weather permitting. Visit www.terracemountainalpacas.com or call 814/643-2854. Open most days; give us a call.

Stop tripping over your "stuff" and finally enjoy a home free of chaos and clutter! Take advantage of our home organizing, interior decorating & real estate staging services. Call 814/644-8402 for a free consultation. We serve Blair, Centre, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata and Mifflin counties.

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