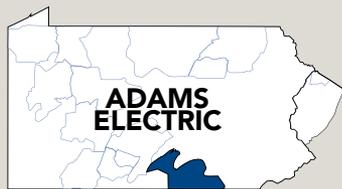




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1338 Biglerville Road
P.O. Box 1055
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1055
1-800-726-2324

Gettysburg District

1380 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

York District

200 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408

Shippensburg District

10 Duncan Road
P.O. Box 220
Shippensburg, PA 17257

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District Office Hours

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Local Pages Editor: Kami Noel, CCC

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

From the CEO/General Manager



Moving forward: 80 years of progress

By Steve Rasmussen

A LOT can happen in a decade, let alone eight of them. At Adams Electric, we've been honored to be the providers of electricity for up to 32,000 homes, farms, businesses, and members for 80 years, and counting.

Each decade comes with its own story, some tougher than others. For instance, in the 1940s, our founding membership fought the "Battle of the Pole Holes" during a cold January in the Newville area of Cumberland County. They backfilled the utility pole holes dug by a private power company trying to interfere with the creation of a local cooperative. Electricity finally came to travel Adams Electric's power lines in Shippensburg and then Gettysburg, May 3, 1941, to much fanfare and celebration.

Since 1942, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) has served as the unified voice for electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Working in close partnership with PREA is Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), a generation and transmission cooperative. Formed in 1946 by these cooperatives, Allegheny provides the power requirements for the 14 rural electric distribution cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

During the 1950s, your cooperative added more members, more employees, a new office building and load growth as electrical appliances were introduced. The strength of the co-op's defense was tested again, as the "Blizzard of '58" blanketed South-Central Pennsylvania in more than 50 inches of

snow, and co-op crews worked tirelessly to maintain both service and reliability.

In the 1960s, all-electric homes became popular, and the co-op's workforce continued to expand to meet the growing demands of the membership. To communicate with our members more regularly, the first issue of *Penn Lines* was published in 1966, printed by PREA, and distributed to all electric cooperative members statewide, to include this local section, specific to Adams Electric as it continues still.

By the 1970s, technology in the field was expanding. Bucket trucks began to replace pickup trucks, allowing line crews to do their work more quickly and efficiently. With this came the introduction of underground facilities but also new struggles in safety. A formal safety training and accreditation process was rolled out nationwide to help educate and protect field personnel in the electric power sector. Safety messages and instruction to the membership and public were also encouraged.

New products and services continued to be added in the 1980s, including load management devices that would begin to move electricity off-peak, saving co-op members millions of dollars in avoided power purchases. Also introduced was Project Helping Hand, the member assistance program offered once a year to members who fall on hard times. Members helping members is a core value of the cooperative program and since members own the cooperative, the help happens whether enrolled in the program or not.

During the 1990s, Adams Electric

(continues on page 12g)

COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

We all benefit from an accurate census count

By Duane Kanagy, *Penn Lines Correspondent*

IN mid-March, Pennsylvanians will receive invitations to participate in the 2020 census. This is their best chance to retain 18 representative positions in Congress and receive the largest possible slice of future federal spending.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a population count be conducted once every 10 years for the purposes of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives. Census counts are also used to redraw state legislative, municipal and school districts boundaries. Participation is voluntary, but there are benefits to areas where residents complete their census forms.

Twenty years ago, Pennsylvania had 21 congressional representatives. That number dropped to 19 after the 2000 census and then to 18 after the 2010 population count. In 2020, Pennsylvania is on the cusp of losing seats in Congress along with California, New York, and Ohio, according to Kiplinger, a Washington, D.C.-based publisher of business forecasts and personal finance advice. Florida and Texas are expected to gain seats.

About 310 federal programs rely on census data to distribute \$1.5 trillion per year, according to the George Washington University Institute of Public Policy. The money funds Medicare, Medicaid and grants for disadvantaged schoolchildren. Population undercounts can skew the balance of how much funding a state or community receives.



COURTESY: U.S. CENSUS PRESS KIT

BE COUNTED: All U.S. residents are encouraged to report and be counted during the 2020 census. You can participate by completing a census questionnaire by mail, online, by phone or in person.

“The census doesn’t determine how big the pie is, only the size of each pie slice,” says Andrew Reamer, research professor at the institute. Private businesses analyze census-derived data to decide where to open stores and what to sell, he adds.

The data gathered from the census serves as a basis for more-frequent surveys, which influences everything from new highway construction to eligibility for tax credits, according to the institute.

“Local planners want an accurate count because that is how it is determined how much Adams County obtains for transportation and upgrades to

existing roads and bridges,” says Robin Fitzpatrick, president of the Adams Economic Alliance. The alliance promotes local economic development and assists local businesses with financing, training and a referral network.

“Local community action programs also receive financial assistance from state and federal programs based on the number of people who reside here,” Fitzpatrick adds. “If everyone is not counted, we won’t receive much-needed funding to run many programs such as the homeless shelter.”

“2020 will be an important year for Pennsylvania and our nation as a whole, because of the census,” notes state Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), chairman of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania board, in the November/December issue of the center’s newsletter. “The distribution of many public and private sector resources is based on census data, and our voice in Washington is based on our population count.”

For more information, visit 2020census.gov. 

2020 census calendar:

- ▶ **March 12-20:** Online and paper invitations are sent.
- ▶ **March 16-24:** The first reminder letters are sent.
- ▶ **March 23-April 3:** Reminder postcards are sent.
- ▶ **April 8-16:** A second reminder letter and a paper questionnaire is sent.
- ▶ **April 20-27:** A second reminder postcard is sent followed by an in-person visit if necessary.

Making Washington, D.C., work for you

By Dan Riedinger, *National Rural Electric Cooperative Association*

ELECTRIC cooperatives are deeply connected to the communities they serve and are focused on meeting consumers' energy needs today and into the future. Providing our consumer-members with safe, reliable, and affordable power will always be our highest priority, but this requires much more than simply maintaining overhead power lines and other infrastructure.

It requires us to focus on what our elected leaders are doing in Washington, D.C., to ensure they are acting in your best interest. Here are some of the things we're keeping an eye on in the nation's capital:

RURAL Act

Congress created a problem for electric co-ops when it made changes to the tax code in 2017 that inadvertently put co-ops' tax-exempt status at risk if they received government grants. This could have stuck co-op members with the cost of paying taxes had Congress not acted to fix the problem. Fortunately, Congress passed bipartisan legislation known as the RURAL Act that makes it clear that electric co-ops won't lose their tax-exempt status just because they receive government grants.

Wind energy

Recently, the U.S. Department of Energy selected the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) — our national trade association — to research small-scale, community-based wind energy solutions that can be deployed by electric co-ops. This research, to be conducted in partnership with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, is critical to helping co-ops meet their members' desire for

affordable renewable energy solutions.

Carbon capture

In response to public policy discussions in Washington, D.C., about ways to reduce emissions, electric co-ops are participating in cutting-edge research to capture and use carbon emissions to make commercial products. This work is underway at the Integrated Test Center, just outside of Gillette, Wyoming, where researchers will strive to advance technologies and expand understanding of what's possible in this new arena.

Rural broadband

Many electric co-ops are working to help close the digital divide by bringing broadband to unserved and underserved areas. NRECA called on Congress to make more funds available for rural broadband deployment. Congress answered the call and funded ReConnect, a pilot program that supports efforts to make broadband possible in rural communities. The first grants were announced late last year, with several co-ops and their communities the beneficiaries.

These are just a few of the ways that electric co-ops are working in Washington, D.C., to meet the needs of the communities we serve. Because our commitment to you extends far beyond the edge of our service territory.

Dan Riedinger writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

Is ACRE Co-op Owners right for you?

ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® (Co-op Owners) is a nonpartisan political action committee designed to direct financial contributions from co-op members to those legislators who actively support issues of importance to electric cooperatives. Co-op Owners is a part of the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE), a political action committee founded by members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that has collected contributions from co-op members across the nation since 1966.

ACRE Co-op Owners supports candidates for state and federal office who will speak for and protect the interests of electric co-ops and their members. The group aims to provide a voice for electric

cooperatives at all levels of government.

As a member of Adams Electric, you are among the more than 42 million Americans who can claim ownership in a not-for-profit, member-owned electric distribution utility. By joining, you can support those legislators who support cooperative programs and initiatives.

The cooperative program will be facing many challenges in the coming year, from policy shifts in energy and environmental arenas, to continued pressures on how cooperatives operate. Co-op Owners helps protect these cooperative efforts by connecting us with our legislators as we work to provide safe, reliable power at competitive rates and improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. Maintaining a strong

grassroots presence in the political process is critical to the long-term success of electric cooperatives.

Help your cooperative support those local legislators who help improve the quality of life in rural areas. Consider a Co-op Owners membership, starting at \$2.08 per month payable on your electric bill. Call 1-800-726-2324 for more information or an application.



*Vegetation management update***Keep power flowing ‘over the river and through the woods’**By Sarah Frank, CCC, *Communications/Community Relations Coordinator*

ONE PERK of living in South Central Pennsylvania is the beautiful landscape, including miles of trees and woods. But these beautiful tree-lined landscapes can lead to power outages and hinder power restoration — especially in winter, when snow and ice can weigh branches down, at times on power lines.

To keep the power flowing for members and improve reliability, Adams Electric began a more comprehensive vegetation management program in 2014. The program operates on a four-year cycle, trimming every right of way along cooperative power lines once every four years. In 2020, the program moves into the third year of the second, four-year cycle.

Trimming trees, vegetation and brush along cooperative rights of way not only prevents outages and improves restoration time with easier access — it keeps our favorite woods and mountains safer, too. When a line falls and gets hung up in brush and vegetation under the line, the line may stay “hot,” or energized, making it very dangerous. Allowing the line to “fall to ground” may trip the breaker and cut power to the line. Remember, though, for your safety, treat every line as though it is still energized and dangerous.

The total number of outages the cooperative faces yearly has dropped since the program began in 2014, but tree-related incidents still make up a significant percentage of outages. A vast majority of the cooperative power system runs alongside or through the more rural woods of five counties — Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry and York. That’s a lot of trees and vegetation to maintain!

“Maintaining a beautiful landscape is important to Adams Electric, but our main priority is to keep your lights on,” says Rich Redding, right-of-way coordinator. “Planting the right tree in



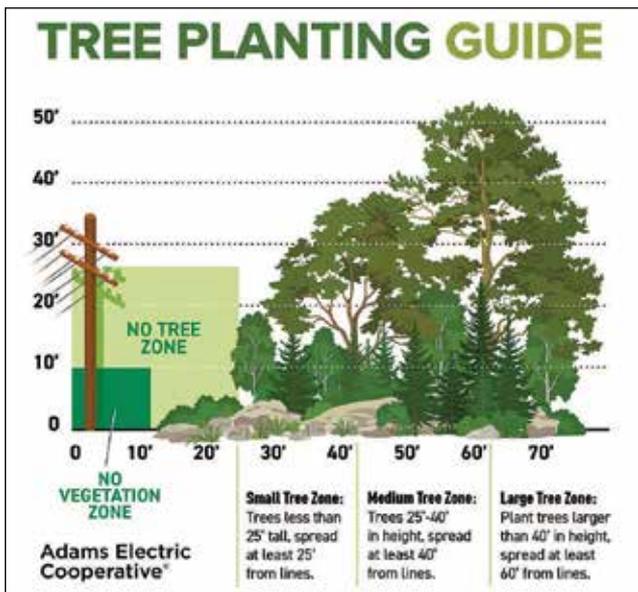
CLEAR VIEW: Following maintenance of a right of way near the Hanover Substation, members can now see a clearing where the co-op’s power lines can run uninhibited, with less chance of tree damage or interference.

the right place helps the cooperative in its maintenance, protects our cooperative system and keeps your yard landscaped. A win-win for everyone.”

Maintaining vegetation along the 2,960 miles of Adams Electric distribution line in four years is a big undertaking, but adding to the challenge recently is the emerald ash borer, which continues to ravage the

ash tree population in the area. Over the last two years of right-of-way cycle work, co-op contractors have cut 3,795 ash trees. The emerald ash borer is a bright-green beetle that lays eggs in the ash tree, killing it within two years.

In addition to trimming and clearing trees on the year’s cycle, contractors also keep an eye out for any tree that



RIGHT PLACE?: As members think to spring planting, remember to landscape your property with safety in mind. Look up and look around to be sure there is plenty of proper clearance for power lines running overhead.

may be a threat to the cooperative's power system. Over 3,000 of these "danger trees" have been addressed and taken care of in the last two years. If you have a tree on your property that you think may be a threat to the electric service, please call 1-800-

about appropriate planting or danger trees, visit adamsec.coop or call 1-800-726-2324. Working as a team, cooperatively, is the only way we can keep our mountainsides beautiful and the power flowing. ⚡

726-2324 to discuss options to remedy the problem.

Maintaining the cooperative system is not a one-person job, so how can each member help? First, plant the right tree in the right place. Never plant anything directly under power lines or within a 30-foot area on all sides. Continue to be on the lookout for danger trees and call the cooperative to investigate. Co-op personnel assess around 500 trees submitted by members each year.

For more information

Maintenance plans for 2020

Parts of each district (Gettysburg, Shippensburg, and York) are inspected and trimmed each year. If your property is on the vegetation management route, you will:

- ▶ Receive a post card notification in the mail a few weeks before work is to be done. No further action is needed.
- ▶ A representative from a tree-trimming contractor crew will attempt to contact you in person, by phone or by door hanger notification to discuss the scope of work. Contracted to do work for 2020 are Asplundh Tree Expert Company and Penn Line Service, Inc. You may see these trucks in your area.

Note: All contractors who work with the co-op will have an Adams Electric contractor ID with them. If you are unsure about who is visiting your property, please contact the cooperative to confirm.

Using space heaters and electric blankets safely

MANY people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth in the winter months. Adams Electric reminds those who use such products to keep safety considerations in mind and use these devices with caution.

When buying a space heater or electric blanket, check for approved safety certification marks to verify that the product has been tested for safety. Look for a space heaters and electric blankets with safety features, including a "tip switch" or an automatic shutoff. Be cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. The cords may not be intact, and the systems may not have up-to-date safety mechanisms.

SafeElectricity.org shares the following tips for using space heaters and electric blankets.

Review and follow all manufacturer directions.

- ▶ Plug space heaters and electric blankets directly into outlets; avoid using extension cords.
- ▶ Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Don't leave these devices on unattended.
- ▶ Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper and other flammables.
- ▶ Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.

- ▶ Keep space heaters and electric blankets away from water. If they become wet, do not turn them on to dry.
- ▶ Regularly examine cords to make sure there is no cracking or fraying. Do not use damaged appliances. Also inspect your electric blanket to ensure that it is not worn or damaged. It should not have any charred or dark areas. Replace old or damaged products.
- ▶ Store your electric blanket in a manner that avoids creasing. If it cannot be stored flat, loosely fold or roll the blanket in a cool, dry closet.

Your safety is worth the investment in a new space heater or electric blanket. To learn more on how to avoid electrical hazards, visit SafeElectricity.org. ⚡

NEWSworthy

NOTES FROM AROUND YOUR COOPERATIVE

Registration open for zone meetings

As a member of Adams Electric, you and a guest are invited to register for a member (zone) meeting to be held during March 2020.

The meeting dates are as follows:

- ▶ Tuesday, March 17; Wyndham Garden York, 2000 Loucks Road, York, PA 17408
- ▶ Tuesday, March 24; The Beistle Company, 1 Beistle Place, Shippensburg, PA 17257
- ▶ Tuesday, March 31; Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg

Celebrate the cooperative's 80th anniversary with this year's theme, "Moving Forward: 80 Years of Progress." Learn about innovation and changes that have happened at Adams in the last 80 years. Hear how Adams' rates compare to neighboring utilities and what the co-op is doing to continue to bring you safe, reliable energy. Candidates running for an open board seat will be introduced and given time to speak if requested. Exchange your old, intact CFLs and incandescent bulbs for new, efficient LEDs.

Your official invitation will be included with your January or February bill. Reservations can be made through the mail, online at adamsec.coop, or by calling 1-800-726-2324. Reservations are taken on a first-come basis, and space is limited at some locations. Directions are available at adamsec.coop; click on the member meeting banner.



HEART HEALTH: Congratulations to the employees of Adams Electric for once again earning the cooperative the American Heart Association Workplace Health Achievement Index bronze level recognition for your participation in various workplace wellness programs.



CO-OP POLITICS: Above left, Steve Rasmussen, CEO/general manager; Electrical Engineering Manager Chad Thoman speak with U.S. Rep. John Joyce during a tour of co-op facilities in early December. Joyce (R-13th) spent time with members of the co-op's staff learning about the co-op business model and important rural cooperative issues, and paid a visit to the co-op's dispatch center and the Gettysburg Metering Point. Above right, Mike Feathers, manager of operations, left, and Rasmussen give state Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-33rd) a tour of the co-op's Gettysburg district truck garage and warehouse, while discussing the role of the lineworkers and showing him various tools, protective devices and equipment.

From the CEO/General Manager

(continued from page 12a)

celebrated 50 years of service with the placement of a historic marker along Route 34 in Gettysburg, and co-op members elected the first woman to its board of directors. Nationwide, electric cooperatives adopted the “green ball” logo we still wear proudly, depicting electric lines running across a field, honoring our rural history. In addition, the cooperative built a new headquarters building on a plot of land behind its Gettysburg District offices for administrative duties and in-house billing and communications.

An innovator in energy projects, Adams spent the 2000s experimenting with more advanced electric alternatives — solar (including its own photovoltaic system on-site for research and reduced energy consumption during peak hours) and wind power, dual-fu-

el options, heat pump water heaters (some early models were tested in the 1970s), and added hybrid SUVs and the first-in-the-nation hybrid bucket truck to its fleet. Aerial patrols started to improve reliability as lineworkers spotted potential problems from the air before they caused outages, and automated meters were deployed to add the convenience of members not having to physically read their meter each month.

The 2010s brought about a renewed battle with the elements as Adams Electric experienced the worst and most expensive storms in its history. The co-op responded by adding all-terrain vehicles to its fleet in all three districts and adopting a more comprehensive vegetation management system. Improvements in technology and expanded computerization helped the co-op better monitor its electric distribution system, cutting outage re-

sponse time and even predicting power interruption locations.

In 2016, a new Shippensburg District office was built and brought online. As a resource for the membership, the co-op introduced SmartHub, an online bill view/bill pay portal for electric use monitoring, outage reporting and electronic notifications.

Now, here we are at the start of 2020, a new decade, with an unpredictable future. Technology upgrades, electric vehicle load growth, continued automation, advanced safety practices and financial prudence are sure to be included.

Progress is not linear. In fact, it's nearly impossible without change. But with it comes a dedication to continued improvement, a fine-tuning of already highly professional skills and a commitment to 80 more years of moving forward. 🌞



CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY: In late 2019, the co-op donated poles in two districts. Above, York District crew members set two poles at the Wellsville Fairgrounds. Shown on-site during the pole donation and setting are Lineman Eric Altice, Superintendent Mike Ward, Lineman Craig Mummert, Line Serviceman Cecil Knotts and Director Tom Knaub. At right, Gettysburg District Linemen Brandon Beard and Adam Waldron set poles for lights at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Arendtsville. Dick Price, center, a church councilman, visited the crew to say thank you.



ARE YOU PLUGGED IN?



Connect your Level II Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Station to a U-Shift, U-\$ave separate subpanel and earn a one-time **\$300 bill credit**. For more information, call Adams Electric at 1-800-726-2324.



THE INSIDE SCOOP:



---ROADMAP TO--- ELECTRIC VEHICLES

NAVIGATE THE ROADMAP TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES WITH ADAMS ELECTRIC.

Visit the MY EV section of adamsec.coop to learn more about the electric vehicles (EV) that you may be seeing on the road. Use the unique calculators to get personalized information and find out if an EV is right for you and your family.

Laverne and Diane Musser, Adams Electric member-volunteers, get an inside look at one of the Co-op's newest fleet vehicles, an all-electric Hyundai Kona. Adams Electric purchased the Kona and a Mitsubishi Outlander plug-in hybrid vehicle to allow employees and members to gain a better understanding of the EVs.



Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

® A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Want to install an EV charging station at your local business? Ask for assistance from Adams Energy Resources, LLC. Call 1-800-726-2324.