



United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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From the President & CEO



Our history, our future

Looking back provides the path forward

By Brenda Swartzlander

THERE is a quote that says, “A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” As the nation’s 30,000 cooperatives celebrate National Cooperative Month this October, it is a great time to take a look back at our roots — and a look forward at our branches.

United Electric Cooperative, Inc. was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn’t generate enough profit so they bypassed rural areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the cooperative. Once established, annual meetings were the “must attend” event of the year. The co-op — on behalf of the member-owners — committed to provide the rural communities with electricity.

Fast forward to today — and tomorrow. United Electric currently serves over 16,000 members and although we started out to provide electricity, our impact (with your support) has grown. We return operating revenues to our members in the form of capital credits, we provide education and training to schools and local organizations, we provide students with enrichment opportunities in the form of scholarships

and the National Rural Electric Youth Tour, and we provide our Co-op Connections Card to help you save money locally and nationally.

In the spirit of Co-op Month, I would like you to check out the new, re-designed Co-op Connections website. Log on to our website at www.united-pa.com and click on the Co-op Connections Card link to create a new free membership and start saving. If you are a local business owner and would like to offer a coupon/promotion when co-op members show their Co-op Connections Card at your establishment, contact Richard Heverley, manager of marketing and member services, at 888-581-8969, extension 8506.

We understand the spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. United Electric remains committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not. As we continue to look toward the future, you can be confident that United Electric will commit to explore new ways to help our members and our community. 

Brenda



Rustic Views

Fruit comes in many flavors and shapes

By Glenn Schuckers

FRUIT GROWERS and apple lovers all over America celebrate October as National Apple Month. And no, it has nothing to do with computers, iPhones, iPads or anything even remotely related to the company whose logo is an apple with a bite missing. National Apple Month is all about, well, real apples; the fruity kind.

Whether your favorites are old standards like Yellow Transparent, Jonathan, Baldwin, Wolf River, or my own personal favorite, Northern Spy, or if your taste runs to more recent favorites like Honey Crisp, Ruby Frost, Snap Dragon, or Ginger Gold, there is an apple variety to fit any taste.

Our orchard had one tree of a variety called Sweet Delicious and it was so sweet that not many people actually liked it, except my longtime barber, Don Marchioni in Reynoldsville. He thought they were the best apples in the world, so every fall when they ripened I would take him a bag full and trade them for a few haircuts. For obvious reasons, I would not need the haircuts now.

Myself, I always liked the taste of an apple that was a lot more tart.

People would come to the orchard and ask which was the “best” variety to take home. I never had a good answer for that, but I often would hand them two or three different ones to taste.

That sometimes got mixed results. People who like the taste of a sweet Red Delicious did not like a more sour apple like a Winesap or the aforementioned Northern Spy.

That has always been the appeal of



Glenn Schuckers, a longtime member of United Electric, operated Schuckers' Orchard in Luthersburg until the mid-1990s. He is a retired high school teacher and a contributing writer for *The Courier Express*. We are pleased to have Glenn provide our *Penn Lines* readers with his take on rural life.

apples. Unlike fruits such as plums, peaches or even pears, which all taste much the same, each apple variety has its own taste, and many of them are widely different.

All standard apple trees are grafted on the roots of various kinds of trees and years ago most were grafted on quince roots. That was abundantly clear many years ago when a horticultural specialist from Penn State University, Dr. Marshall Ritter, visited the orchard with a group of students from the university. As we were walking through the orchard, Doc spotted a quince sapling that had grown up from the root beside a regular apple tree. It had grown big enough to bear fruit so he turned to one of the students and asked him if he had ever tasted a quince. When the young man said he had not, Doc smiled and said, “Then you have not tasted the fruit of the gods. It is the sweetest thing you could imagine, so go ahead and take a big bite.”

The young man picked the fruit and took that big bite.

Dr. Ritter and I both knew what was coming, and I felt sorry as the boy scrunched his face, spit out as much of the fruit as he could and, eyes watering and sputtering, he asked his professor why he had done that.

“I could have told you how sour a quince is and you would probably have forgotten about it tomorrow, but now all of you will always remember this little demonstration for years,” he said.

Doc was certified by the state to inspect nursery stock and worked for many years at that in addition to his



PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS

MAKING CIDER: At one time, just about every farm had a small orchard and a hand-cranked cider press like this one. The cider was prized for its flavor, and what did not get used was often put in a barrel and allowed to ferment to provide cider vinegar for the farm's cooks.

teaching. I asked him once how many species he could identify just by looking at a seeding at about any time of year and he said that he could certify well over 300 species. That included fruit, ornamentals and hardwoods.

That meant that if I ordered a Macoun tree from a nursery that he had certified, I was sure to get a Macoun.

That was important because at one time in the early 1950s, Dad ordered what were supposed to be Winesap trees, a popular variety at that time,

only to discover five or six years later when they started to bear that they were something else and very inferior to a Winesap.

I really don't know how many different kinds of apple trees are grown today, but I am sure it runs into the hundreds. And I am just as sure that almost everyone who buys a bag of apples or plants an apple tree has his or her own favorite, one special variety that he or she thinks is the "best."

I would never dispute people's opinions or try to change their minds. What they like or dislike is a matter of taste, and taste, as the man said, is an opinion, and everyone is entitled to one. That is one thing I learned when we had the orchard.

We had as many as 20 or more varieties over the course of the season, from those tart Yellow Transparent and Lodi in July to the popular McIntosh, Jonathan, and Cortland in October to the long-keeping Rome Beauty, Winesap, and Northern Spy in November and on through the winter.

The cider we made was also probably best in October because we had four or five varieties to mix in. That was another reason to make October National Apple Month.

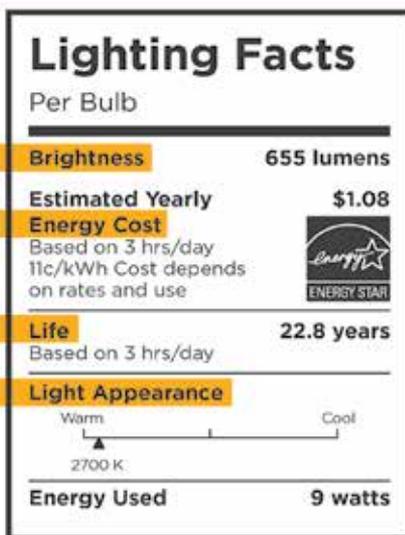
I also learned early on that the cider we made was best when it had a mix of varieties. I doubt if any two batches were ever exactly the same. I had a personal favorite of two parts Jonathan, one part Red Delicious, one part Yellow Delicious and one part McIntosh. But that was just my favorite and I was not a customer.

Some people thought it was too sweet, others said it was not sweet enough. I just told them to come back next week and see if they liked that week's blend better. That wasn't just marketing; it was true. And if they bought a gallon a week for a month I felt sure there would be one they would like.

This is the month for apples and even better, fresh cider. I plan to enjoy the month's bounty and hope you will, too, no matter what the flavor or "shape" of your fruit. 🍏

Lighting Labels and Lingo

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing light bulbs, but the labels can be confusing! Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Read the Label

Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all light bulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most energy-efficient bulb to meet your lighting needs. The label includes information on the bulb's **brightness**, **energy cost**, **life**, **light appearance** and **energy used** (wattage).

Save Energy

Bulbs are available in **many shapes and sizes** to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25%-30% of the energy and last eight to 25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs to maximize energy efficiency.

Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.

Incandescent
100 watt
1,600 lumens

LED
14 - 20 watt
1,600 lumens

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

Source: energy.gov



CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP

America's electric cooperatives are hard at work on the issues that impact you and the more than 42 million Americans who depend on affordable, reliable power provided by their co-ops.

We're making progress on the issues that your community and co-op care about including:

- ▶ Helping Washington, D.C., take a balanced approach to regulations that protect the environment and our economy while providing you with safe, affordable, and reliable electricity.
- ▶ Improving rural infrastructure as a way to grow and strengthen local economies, boost businesses, and improve life for American families.
- ▶ Working for energy policies that benefit consumers and promote local decision-making, rather than top-down federal mandates that take away our choices.

Remember, the best way to make sure Washington, D.C., is listening to us and our communities is by registering to vote and going to the polls during our primary and general elections. Your co-op supports a nonpartisan effort to remind candidates and elected officials at all levels of government that they must put rural America's concerns front and center to earn our vote. We are doing all we can to ensure rural voices are heard at the ballot box.

Thank you for continuing to support your local electric cooperative!

We need your phone number



We need to have your phone number for our records so that if you need to report an outage, the outage reporting system can recognize your phone number and access your account information. This will allow the outage to be automatically reported in order to expedite restoration.

The phone numbers are also needed in order to give advance notice to members if there is a need to schedule a planned outage in a sub-station area. PLEASE, CALL 1-888-581-8969 AND BE SURE WE HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER.

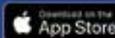
National Co-op Connections Day

Celebrate on October 5th



Power of 3

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Go Beyond the Card
www.connections.coop

