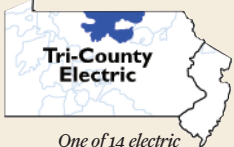


# Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Tri-County REC  
22 North Main Street • P.O. Box 526  
Mansfield, PA 16933  
Mansfield — 570/662-2175  
Coudersport — 814/274-8740  
Website:  
www.tri-countyrec.com  
Email:  
trico@tri-countyrec.com  
For emergencies call:  
1-800-343-2559

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- James R. Davis**  
Chairman
- Barbara J. Seeley**  
Vice Chairman
- Alston A. Teeter**  
Secretary/Treasurer
- Donald H. Blackwell**
- Alfred G. Calkins**
- Lowell W. Geiser**
- Ferd W. Irish**
- Gerald A. Kite**
- Nicholas Reitter**

**Craig Eccher**  
President & CEO

**STAFF**

- Annette Bender, Executive Assistant**
- John Lykens, Director, Engineering & Operations**
- Barbara Johnson, Director, Financial Services**
- Bryan Berguson, Director, Member Services**

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

## Members can help co-op control power costs



by Craig Eccher

**AS ANYONE** who drives a car or heats a home knows, energy prices have become extremely volatile in recent years.

Less than a year ago, we were paying more than \$4 per gallon for unleaded gasoline. As I write this, local gas prices are about half of that amount. Prices for home heating oil, natural

gas and coal have also fluctuated considerably in recent years. While there's no way to predict where energy prices are headed in the future, we know it's not uncommon for power markets to experience severe price swings during the summer months of June, July and August. Unfortunately, those summer swings tend to trend upward.

As a member-owner of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, the wholesale generation supplier for the state's 13 electric cooperatives, Tri-County Rural Electric is somewhat protected from energy pricing volatility. Allegheny provides about 70 percent of our energy needs through low-cost nuclear and hydroelectric power, helping to blunt the impact of major price swings.

The remaining 30 percent of our power supply needs comes from the open market, and it is this chunk of the power pie that really drives up generation costs. This is because the power purchased on the open market includes our purchase of generation at periods of "peak demand," when power prices are at their highest.

One way your cooperative has been successful in managing generation costs has been through members' voluntary participation in our Load Management Program. Members who participate in this program agree to allow us to remotely turn off their hot water tanks during times of peak demand. For their participation,

members receive a \$5 credit on their monthly electric bills.


All members of the cooperative ultimately benefit from the load management program. Since its inception, we have been able to reduce our monthly transmission charges, monthly wholesale demand charges and our yearly demand charge, which is set during the summer months.

This summer, we will be adding another program through which members can help the cooperative to further reduce its peak energy demand. Through this new program, called Beat the Peak, we will be asking Tri-County members to voluntarily reduce their electricity use during the hottest weekdays of the summer between the hours of 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

This program provides a relatively painless way for members to help their cooperative save money on power purchases. Ways to Beat the Peak might include: delaying doing your laundry until after 6 p.m., increasing the thermostat setting on your air conditioner, or minimizing the use of electric appliances during the peak period.

We plan to inform members of upcoming peaks via announcements on local radio stations. As we get closer to summer, you will hear more about this program and how you can participate in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

Your cooperative continues to search for ways to control wholesale power supply, which makes up about 50 percent of the cooperative's overall budget. With your cooperation in the Load Management Program, we have had great success. We look forward to building on that success with the Beat the Peak program.

If you are interest in participating in the Load Management Program, or would like additional information about ways you can help Beat the Peak this summer, please contact our member services department at 800/343-2559. 



**LEARNING THE ROPES:** Carly Noel, 11, of Columbus, Ohio, puts a bridle on Prince under the watchful eye of Triple D Farms owner Jared Davis during one of the farm's summer horse camps last year. The four- or five-day camps are designed to introduce children ages 4 and older to riding and horse care. Summer horse camps this year will be held June 22-26, June 29-July 3, and July 13-17.

## Horseplay a way of life for cowboy school teacher

BY JEFF FETZER

**WHEN** Tri-County member Jared Davis isn't teaching technology education classes to students at Northern Potter High School, he's more than likely engaged in horseplay.

For Davis, who owns and operates Triple D Farms in Middlebury Center, horseplay is a daily after-school activity.

"Triple D was started with the idea that we all can improve our lifestyles with our horses," says Davis. "This business is our way of sharing our passion for horses with other people through the services we offer."

Those services include horse training, boarding, breeding, riding lessons, trail rides and use of Triple D's indoor arena.

Davis, 31, became an equine enthusiast

early in life. He got his first foal when he was 6 years old. With the help of his mother, Elaine Davis, the youngster raised and trained the horse to ride. By the time Jared graduated from Elkland High School, he owned four horses and had developed a passion for riding and training.

"I was into horses big time," he says. "I was riding all the time, and I was really into the training."

Following high school, Davis entered the workforce as a machinist. After two years of employment, he decided to attend college, effectively putting his horse hobby on hiatus. After graduating from Mansfield University in 2002, Davis accepted his current position at Northern Potter High School. With a steady income, health insur-

ance and his family's 360-acre Farmington Township farm available as collateral, the teacher-cum-horse trainer obtained a loan to construct a nine-stall, concrete block horse barn and adjoining 65-by-100-foot Cover-All indoor riding arena.

Davis trotted his first horse into the Triple D facility, so named to reflect three generations of farming operations by the Davis family, on Jan. 31, 2006.

"My grandfather bought the property in 1941 and operated a dairy farm," he says. "My dad (Tri-County director Jim Davis) kept it after my grandpa died and raised beef cows. My long-range goal is to turn the farm back to the sole provider of income through my horse business. It's something I've wanted to do since I was a

teenager. If I could work here every day and break even, that would be great.”

Because he has a full-time job nine months of the year, Davis says he relies heavily on assistance from his mother and father, as well as a neighbor, Kim Barley, who works as Triple D’s barn manager and riding instructor.

The proprietor’s primary duties at Triple D involve running the business and farm, and training horses for other people.

“I’ve gone from just enjoying riding horses as a kid, to maturing and changing to make the riding better through better training as an adult,” he says. “We want to help people have a better life with horses.”

Davis provides natural horsemanship training, a discipline of horse training in which the trainer establishes a partnership with the horse through trust and leadership, rather than through force and domination. While natural horsemanship training has been around for centuries, it really gained in popularity following the 1998 movie “The Horse Whisperer,” starring Robert Redford. The main character in the movie is based on real life horse trainer Buck Brannaman, the cowboy Davis says he finds most inspiring.

“You try and make training as comfortable as possible by getting the horse to trust you and respect you,” he says. “I didn’t want to train the rough way. You don’t want to fight with the horse. You

want your experience with the horse to be the best possible; then they will try to please you.”

Much of natural horsemanship training involves repetition, an ability to read the body language of the horse, and ending each training sessions on a positive note, says Davis.

“When you are training a new horse, the more experiences they have — with people, with riders, with animals on the trail, with barns, trailers, grooming — the better chance you have of succeeding,” says Davis, who became a natural horsemanship training adherent in 2004 after watching a Pat Parelli video and then trying some of the famed trainer’s techniques on his own horses.

“I was a little bit leery of it at first,” he says. “I had bought some of the Parelli training videos and let them on the shelf for a while. Then one Saturday night I decided to watch one of the videos. I went to the barn that night and tried some things, and I’ll be darned if it didn’t work just like it showed in the video. It was unbelievable.”

Since then, Davis says he has trained more than a dozen horses for clients using Parelli-based training methods. In addition, many of the 14 quarter horses and thoroughbreds that Davis owns have been trained through natural horsemanship.

“I am just a student of horses,” he says. “I read and watch as much as I can about them. I’m interested in anything that has to do with horses. I’d like to get into thoroughbred racing, roping, rodeo and maybe even get into driving horses at some point.”

Most of all, Davis says he enjoys saddling up one of his horses and riding. He recalls one year in which he rode his part Appaloosa mare, Heaven, for at least half an hour daily for 184 consecutive days.

The streak was stopped only when he traveled to Tennessee at Thanksgiving time to see his newborn niece.

“The thing is, if I could have taken Heaven there and rode her, I would have done it,” he says.



**TALL IN THE SADDLE:** Triple D Farms owner Jared Davis enjoys a ride on one of the trails on his family’s third-generation farm. The 360-acre property offers both indoor and outdoor riding opportunities for horse enthusiasts.

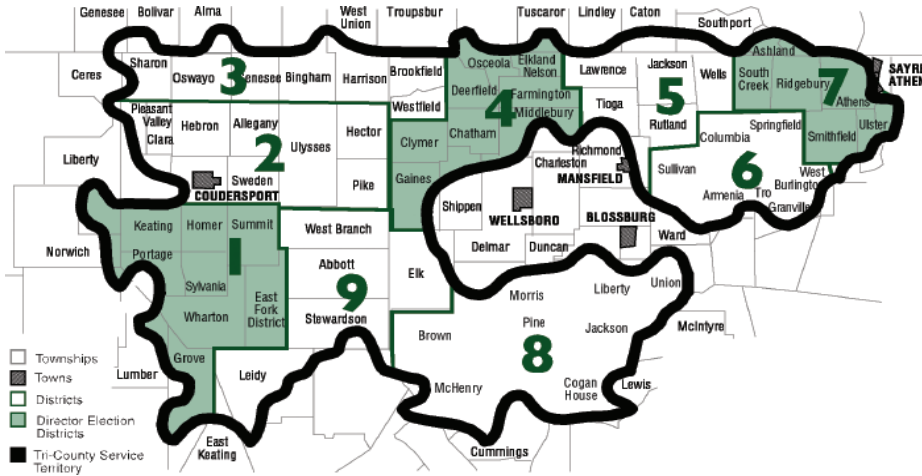
He acknowledges that his job, along with daily chores, training and breeding horses and running the business, has restricted the time he has available for riding these days. But he still manages to squeeze in trail rides at every opportunity.

“My intent with horses is to go as far as I can go and eventually make a living at it,” he says, pointing out that the motto for the farm is ‘Dream as big as you want to.’ “I think it’s a reachable goal, but it will have to be done in strides.”

Triple D Farms is located at 1411 French Hill Road, Middlebury Center, Pa. Additional information can be found on the internet at [www.tripledhorsefarm.com](http://www.tripledhorsefarm.com) or by calling 814/258-7690. 🌟



**HORSING AROUND:** Tri-County member Jared Davis provides riding instruction to a youngster in the large indoor arena at Triple D Farms in Middlebury Center. Triple D offers horse training, breeding services, riding instruction, trail rides and boarding at the Tioga County facility.



# Official notice of director elections

*Candidates sought For Districts 1, 4 and 7*

Election by majority — it's what makes America a democratic nation. It's also one of the hallmarks of membership in a rural electric cooperative.

As a member, you may take an active role in democracy at Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative by running for a seat on the co-op's board of directors. Or you can exercise your democratic rights by simply voting in your district's election.

This year, Tri-County will hold director elections for Districts 1, 4 and 7, currently served by directors Gerald Kite, Dr. James Davis and Alston Teeter, respectively.

If you reside in one of these districts and wish to run for a seat on the board, contact the cooperative's Mansfield office. We will send you a director candidate information packet. It contains the forms and instructions necessary for filing your candidacy.

## Duties of a director

Directors are responsible for developing co-op policies and long-range plans. They voice members' concerns and make recommendations to Tri-County's management staff.

Nine directors comprise Tri-County's board. Each board member represents a specific area within the utility's service territory, as the map on this page illustrates.

Directors serve three-year terms. Elections take place on a rotating basis, with three of the co-op's nine districts voting each year. Board members meet regularly at Tri-County's headquarters in Mansfield on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

To be eligible for director candidacy, you must meet the following criteria and all other guidelines listed in the cooperative's bylaws:

- ▶ Receive electrical service from the cooperative at your principal residence.
- ▶ Be a member and a bona-fide resident of the district you seek to represent.
- ▶ Not be in any way employed by or

financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electrical appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative.

## Election procedures

To register as a candidate, you are required to file an official petition and personal statement of qualification for director. Both documents must be submitted to Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 526, 22 N. Main St., Mansfield, PA 16933. The filing deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, April 10, 2009.

For your name to appear on the official ballot, you must secure at least 15 signatures from members residing in your district.

Remember, joint memberships have only one vote, so husband and wife signatures count as a single signature.

If you have any questions regarding director elections, please direct them to Bryan Berguson, Tri-County's director of member services. You can contact him at 570/662-2175 or 800/343-2559.

Remember: Director candidate petitions are due by April 10, 2009. ☀

Free Admission

## Spring Energy Fair

Friday, April 3, 2009  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pennsylvania College of Technology, North Campus  
12880 Route 6, Wellsboro, Pa.

1-HOUR EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS ON:

- ▶ Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems
  - ▶ Lighting
  - ▶ Building Envelope
- ▶ Alternative Energy/Tax Credits and Grants

Free Admission

VENDORS/EXHIBITS:

Lighting  
Alternative Energy  
Infrared Home Energy Audits  
Geothermal Heating & HVAC  
Pennsylvania Office of Energy & Technology  
Weatherization

Free Drawing for an Infrared Energy Audit valued at \$400

First 100 guests will receive a CFL Bulb

Sponsored by Tri-County REC and Wellsboro Electric Co.  
For more information call : 800/343-2559.