
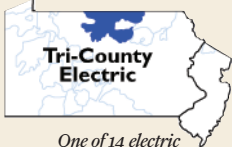


Tri-County
Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

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
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Coudersport — 814/274-8740
Website:
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For emergencies call:
1-800-343-2559

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OFFICE HOURS

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

GUEST COLUMN

Keeping up with your electric bill this winter



by **Barbara Johnson**
Director of Financial
Services

WITH THE return of colder weather, we know some members will struggle to keep up with their electric bills this heating season.

While Tri-County has kept your electric rates stable during the difficult economic climate of the past several years, the costs of other forms of energy, such as heating oil and propane, have risen dramatically, making the task of making

ends meet more difficult for many during the winter months.

One of the first things members should consider as we enter the heating season is to take steps to reduce their energy consumption through efficiency and conservation measures. Turning down your thermostat, making sure your home is properly insulated and free of drafts, and replacing your incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs are a few simple steps you can take to lower your energy expenses. The HomeEnergySuite on our website, www.tri-countyrec.com, contains a wealth of additional strategies and tips for reducing energy costs; so please consider exploring it.

If you expect to have a hard time paying your electric bills this winter, please call the co-op office. We can provide you with contact information for agencies and programs like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that may be able to help you. LIHEAP is a government program that assists low-income households with their heating bills.

Tri-County may also be able to help you to pay off your account balance over a period of several months by setting up

payment arrangements. If you wish to make payment arrangements, please call the office.


We also offer several billing and payment options for our members' convenience. By participating in our E-Bill program, you can view your account online and pay your bill electronically using a debit card, credit card, or checking account.

We also can process your payments over the phone using a debit card, credit card or check by phone. All of these payment options are services we make available to members at no additional cost.

The cooperative can also offer members direct assistance in paying their electric bills through our Family-In-Need Fund. This program is funded through the generosity of members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar amount each month, with the "change" amount donated to the fund. The program provides funding for less fortunate members who are unable to qualify for other agency assistance.

Any Tri-County member can also offer direct help to a fellow member, such as a neighbor or friend, by providing them with an anonymous donation. We can post the payment and send the struggling member a gift certificate informing them of the anonymous payment that was made to their account.

Please remember that we are here to assist members when we can. But we can only help if we know members need assistance.

For more information about agency contact information or about any of our programs or payment options, please contact the Tri-County office at 1-800-343-2559. 

Outdoor celebrity sets sights on preserving hunting heritage

BY JEFF FETZER

HE'S BEEN charged by a wounded polar bear, nearly trampled by an enraged rhino and bitten by a black bear.

He's slept in straw huts in Africa, igloos in the Arctic, and some of the finest hotels and hunting lodges in all the world.

He's killed every big game species in North America and more trophy animals than just about anyone on the planet.

Yet when Tri-County member Bob Foulkrod of Troy leafed through the scores of hunting photos on his smart phone during a recent interview at his home, the first picture he shared showed a beaming Foulkrod and his 10-year-old grandson, Dylan, posing with a pair of gobblers they bagged while hunting on his Armenia Mountain property last spring.



TOP OF THE WORLD: Outdoor celebrity Bob Foulkrod displays a big horn sheep he shot while hunting the rugged mountains of Alberta, Canada. The 62-year-old has hunted everywhere from the sweltering plains of Africa to the frigid Arctic tundra, but maintains the mixed hardwood forests surrounding his home on Armenia Mountain is “the prettiest spot in the world.”

“That was my best turkey hunt ever,” proclaims Foulkrod. “The birds were nothing special — they were both jakes — but look at the memories we got. How do you put a value on that? It’s something Dylan will remember all of his life.”

For all of the globe-trotting hunts he’s been on, all of the record-class animals he’s taken, all of the celebrities he’s hunted with, Foulkrod says many of his fondest hunting memories involve tromping through the forests and fields of Bradford County with members of his family.

A pioneer in the hunting video industry, Foulkrod fears the hunting industry’s intense focus on the taking of trophy animals today puts the traditions and family values associated with hunting at risk.

“The emphasis didn’t used to be so much on big animals; it was on the hunting end of it,” he says. “I’m trying to bring that back around through my involvement with programs like ‘Winchester Legends,’” he says.

Living legends

“Winchester Legends,” a television show that airs on the Versus network, is hosted by Foulkrod. The program features Foulkrod and others on hunting excursions, as well as segments providing practical advice on shooting and woodsman-ship skills. The stated aim of the show is to pass down outdoor traditions and lessons from one generation to the next.

The Troy High School graduate says he cherishes the time he spent developing hunting traditions with his father, Ed Foulkrod, who passed away 10 years ago.

He hunted fox, raccoon and deer with his father, and fondly recalls the time when his dad purchased two Winchester



GAME ROOM: Tri-County member Bob Foulkrod poses in the trophy room of his Bradford County home, which houses scores of mounted animals he has taken during a 30-plus-year career as a guide and hunting consultant.

Model 70s, one in .30-06 caliber for Bob, age 14 at the time, and the other a .375 H&H Magnum for himself.

“I asked him why he bought such a big gun,” Foulkrod recalls, “and he said someday he was going to kill a bear with it.”

Many years later, Ed Foulkrod did just that — while hunting with Bob at his bear camp in Ontario, Canada, in the 1980s. Ed later passed the Winchester down to Bob, who prizes the heirloom.

“I took that same gun on a hunt for the ‘Winchester Legends’ show and shot a grizzly bear with it while on a float trip,” Bob says. “And as long as I’m telling that story about my dad, he’s still alive.”

The 62-year-old Foulkrod, considered to be one of the premier hunters in the world, has been making outdoor memories for himself and other hunters for over four decades.

Following high school, Foulkrod spent 10 years working for American LaFrance in Elmira, N.Y., while honing his hunting and archery skills. Frequent strikes and layoffs at the plant, coupled with a restless nature and love of the outdoors, prompted Foulkrod to quit his job and start a deer

hunting camp for bowhunters from his home on Armenia Mountain in the mid-1970s.

“My first year, I had five hunters in the deer camp,” he recalls. “It wasn’t a trophy camp, and obviously you couldn’t make a living off of it.”

Looking for ways to earn additional income, he started a bear camp in Ontario, followed by a caribou camp in northern Quebec. An accomplished archer, Foulkrod’s hunting camps were open only to those hunting with bow and arrow.

By the early 1980s, Foulkrod had several hundred bowhunters at his various camps each season, and they were taking up to 40 bear and deer annually, as well as about 250 caribou, including numerous record-book bulls.

Trophy troubles

The trophy caribou coming out of Foulkrod’s camp near the Delay River proved to be a mixed blessing; jealous outfitters in the Quebec area soon started rumors that Foulkrod was operating illegally in order to kill so many record-class animals.

“So I decided to get into the video game,” Foulkrod recalls. “This would show the world how we were hunting. People would be able to see the camps, see the animals,” and see that Foulkrod operated ethically and within the game laws.

In 1984, Foulkrod teamed up with Bob McGuire, one of the first major hunting video producers, to film a hunt from Foulkrod’s caribou camp. The video fea-

tured four record-book bulls being taken with bow and arrow by Foulkrod and others in his hunting party.

When Foulkrod aired the video at his vendor’s booth during the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show in Harrisburg the following February, he says his business and name recognition skyrocketed. By the end of the show, his camps were booked solid for the following two years, and his hunting videos were selling.

“I am one of the old dogs in the video business,” he says. “I was one of the first ones doing it.”

Close encounter

He was also one of the most adventurous. Foulkrod was the first person to receive a bowhunting license to hunt polar bears in Canada’s Northwest Territory in the 1980s. His hunt was filmed by McGuire and climaxes when Foulkrod fires an arrow into a nine-foot polar bear. As Foulkrod goes to finish off the wounded bruin, the bear jumps up and charges him. As he runs for his life, a back-up rifleman fires at the bear, dropping it just seven yards behind the shaken bowhunter.

Those early hunting videos propelled Foulkrod’s legend and prowess as a hunter, and soon he was writing articles for all of the major hunting magazines and securing sponsorships from major outdoor-products manufacturers. He began offering hunting seminars, established a bowhunting school at his Armenia Mountain property and filmed more than 100 hunts for the video market.

When televised outdoor programs became popular, Foulkrod became a sought-after host, and today that’s his primary focus. He takes part in about a 10 hunts a year for the “Winchester Legends” program, and also regularly hosts “100% Real Hunting” shows for Bass Pro Shops that appear on the Versus network.

An accomplished competitive archer and member of the Bowhunters Hall of Fame, Foulkrod hunted exclusively with a compound bow for many years. But about 15 years ago, he began shooting rifles



FAMILY TRADITIONS: Bob Foulkrod and his 10-year-old grandson, Dylan, scored a pair of young gobblers while hunting on Foulkrod’s 80-acre property on Armenia Mountain last spring. Foulkrod says he is on a mission to keep the traditions and family values associated with hunting alive through his work as host of the “Winchester Legends” television program and through his new online hunting magazine, *Bob Foulkrod Outdoor Adventures*, which can be accessed for free from his website, www.bobfoulkrod.com.

and shotguns again so he could spend time hunting with his father. After his father’s death, Foulkrod says he went through a difficult period and needed a new challenge to take his mind off his loss.

So he concocted what became known as “Obsession Quest,” challenging himself to shoot 80 animal species, including all of the big game animals in North America, a grand slam on wild turkey and Africa’s legendary Big Five — lion, leopard, cape buffalo, rhinoceros and African elephant — in a five-year period. He completed the marathon hunting adventure in 2008, with every hunt filmed and documented for a book and video Foulkrod plans to release.

With the quest completed, Foulkrod says he’s been scaling back the number of hunts he takes part in each year to about a dozen so he can spend more time at home with his wife, Sheila, and work on his newest endeavor, his free, online digital magazine, *Bob Foulkrod’s Outdoor Adventures*.

Foulkrod says that while his career choice has been demanding and has taken him from his family for long stretches, he’s enjoyed a lifetime of opportunities that few are fortunate enough to experience.

“I have traveled the world and seen things I never would have experienced or been able to talk about,” he says. “But this is still the most beautiful spot in the world, right here on Armenia Mountain.” 🌿



TARGET PRACTICE: A member of the Bowhunters Hall of Fame and one of the world’s premier hunters, Bob Foulkrod sights in a rifle for an upcoming hunt. To maintain his shooting skills, Foulkrod fires about 300 off-hand rounds a week from a .22 caliber rifle.

Tri-County's offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 24.



Keep the cold air outside this winter

With the return of cooler temperatures, now is a good time to prepare your home for winter. Following are some energy efficiency tips designed to help you reduce your utility bills this winter:

- ▶ Find and seal air leaks inside and around the exterior of the home. Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets. Look for unfilled gaps and cracks near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes.
- ▶ Seal leaks between moving parts with weather stripping, such as between a door and its frame. Caulk cracks between windows and walls, as well as around door frames.
- ▶ Replace your screens with storm windows and doors.
- ▶ Make sure attics and flooring above unheated areas, such as crawl spaces and the garage, are properly insulated.
- ▶ Install programmable thermostats to automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings by day and night.

Family-In-Need Fund It's common cents

With today's higher energy costs, more and more cooperative families struggle to keep up with their energy bills.

You can help some of your neighbors in need by participating in Tri-County's Family-In-Need Fund.

This voluntary program allows you to assist members of the cooperative who have difficulties paying their electric bills. Participating in the program is inexpensive — less than \$1 a month — and helps unite the entire co-op as members help each other through difficult financial times.

Contributing is easy

The concept behind the Family-In-Need Fund is simple. You allow Tri-County to "round up" your monthly electric bill to the next dollar amount. The difference between the round-up

amount and your actual bill amount — which can be no higher than 99 cents in one month — goes into this new fund.

For example, if your electric bill is \$100.32, then you would pay \$101. The extra 68 cents goes into our member assistance fund for needy families of the cooperative.

In addition to being a great way to help neighbors in need, participating in the program can also make balancing your check book easier.

A few cents can make a difference

Your donation of less than a dollar a month doesn't amount to a large sum of money over the course of the year. On average, a member would end up donating about \$6 annually to the program.

But your pocket change, when pooled



with contributions from all of the other participating members of the co-op, can truly make a difference for a family that has fallen behind on its electric bill.

Here's how you can help

If you would like to help your co-op neighbors, the Family-In-Need Fund is an easy way to do just that. Just fill out the form below and enclose it with your next electric bill. If you decide you no longer want to participate in the program, just call the office and ask to stop.

The success of this program depends on the generosity of members. Neighbors helping neighbors — it's the cooperative way. Please send in your form today.

Yes! I want to become a volunteer for the Family-In-Need Fund!

I understand that my bill will be rounded up to the next dollar amount. My total bill will include my monthly contribution to the program, and I am responsible for paying that amount. I also understand that to stop donating to the fund, all I need to do is call the office and ask to stop.

Name: _____ Account No.: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____