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Automated Outage Reporting
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P.O. Box 277
734 West Main St.
Pickens, SC 29671

Oconee
P.O. Box 329
2328 Sandifer Blvd.
Highway 123
Westminster, SC 29693

Anderson
1212 North Fant St.
Anderson, SC 29622

Greenville
3751 Highway 11
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Mission Statement
Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the organization's focus will be on exceeding customer expectations.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Power Saver & LED lighting: value-added services

FROM JANUARY THROUGH OCTOBER of 2015, Blue Ridge technicians installed a record number of load-control switches at member premises.



That 10-month total surpassed the goal that had been set for the entire year. We are, of course, delighted with member response to this important program.

The importance of the Power Saver initiative is related to the price Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative pays for the wholesale electricity we purchase each month. By occasionally operating the load-management devices installed on members' electric water heaters and central air-conditioner compressors, we're able to reduce our kilowatt-demand charges. That kW-demand number is a big part of our purchased-power costs.

Power Saver progress

Blue Ridge is pleased with the progress the Power Saver program has achieved so far, but we'd welcome many more member additions to this effort. Those who do participate receive a small monthly discount on their electric bills. If you'd like to hear the complete Power Saver details, please contact your local cooperative office.

I'm also pleased to note that Blue Ridge began offering LED outdoor-lighting service on Jan. 2. A newly installed lamp will carry with it our current standard monthly charge of \$9.70. The LED fixture is more expensive than that of both the

sodium-vapor and mercury-vapor lights now on the cooperative's system. However, that higher initial cost will be offset by the expected lower maintenance that will be required on the LED units and by the reduced kilowatt-hour consumption associated with these lamps. In addition, both the quality and the coverage of light emitted by these LED models are excellent.

Replacement of failed fixtures

Consequently, Blue Ridge will no longer market either the mercury-vapor or the sodium-vapor luminaires. Those that remain on our system will continue in service until they ultimately give out. Should that occur, the cooperative will then replace the failed fixture with a new LED lamp at no charge to the member. A member requesting the change-out to LED of a functioning mercury or sodium light would be assessed the regular conversion fee of \$75.

LED lighting and Power Saver are just two among the many programs Blue Ridge is employing in the delivery of value-added service to our members. Our member-service employees are ready and eager to answer your inquiries about any of these programs. You are encouraged to call, email, write, or visit us if we can be of assistance.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Area students are a winning show team



LUANNE NUTTALL

HAVE YOU EVER thought about what is involved in raising and caring for beef cattle? Most of us simply think of beef as something we purchase at the grocery store. At West-Oak High School in Westminster, there's a group of students who've learned a great deal about raising and showing cattle, and at the S.C. State Fair, they brought home the beef!

Under the leadership and guidance of FFA sponsor, Randi Leigh Davis, and her husband, John, the West-Oak High School Beef Cattle Show Team started the showing season in early August and walked away from the State Fair in late October with 22 banners for Grand Champion (top winner) and Reserve Grand Champion (first runner up).

One 2015 West-Oak graduate also received a

S.C. Farm Bureau \$2,500 scholarship for her high score during the State competition. Competing in five levels—cow judging, cow showmanship, written test, essay composition and personal interview, Westminster's Kadalynn Morton won one of the two scholarship awards presented. Morton began caring for her donated heifer, Murphy, early in the summer. "I love animals and decided to join this successful show team two years ago," Morton remarks. "Competitions are stressful and a lot of hard work goes into getting ready for them." Murphy lived at the West-Oak barn, and Morton, along with other students, took care of the animals and practiced their skills all summer long.

Participation in the

Area students displaying their winning banners from the State Fair are Mary Margaret Smith, Taylor Thomas, Braden Bowen, Jessie Talley, Holly Whiten, Austin Donald, Lilly Nuttall, Andy Bowen, Heather Nix, Drew Crooks, Caroline Davis, Addie Kaye Brock, Allie Anderson, McKayla Crooks, Kadalynn Morton, Abbee Carnes, sponsors Randi Leigh Davis and John Davis, and Maddie Smith.

livestock competitions has allowed Morton to travel outside the state. "Last year, the cow I showed was donated by a farmer in Ohio," explains Morton. "I was privileged to show her at the Ohio State Fair, and from there, competed in the National Show in Kentucky." Morton is quick to thank Ms. Davis for making these opportunities available. With her guidance, these young people have learned about commitment and success—lessons that will serve them well throughout life.

We're searching for future leaders

WHAT DO 1,500 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind—to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans nationwide have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative.



It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing. While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home.

In early February, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will begin the interview process to select local students to attend Youth Tour 2016. If you are a high school junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience the trip of a lifetime, see your local guidance counselor or contact us for more information at (800) 240-3400.

New service brings new information

BLUE RIDGE TECHNOLOGY now allows you the ability to view areas that are affected by an outage. From the blueridge.coop home page, you're only a click away from up-to-date information about service disruptions across the entire system. On the Blue Ridge website, a button at the top right on the home page displays the words, "Outage Map." When selected, another window to the outage map will open. It contains information about the total number of people without power and locations of the outages. Although general geographic areas are viewable, individual locations cannot be seen. While we hope you are not affected by an outage, this information should be valuable to you if a winter storm strikes.