

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 278 • Greenville, OH 45331
937-548-4114 • 1-800-776-5612

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Co-op Connections highlighted at The Great Darke County Fair

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative kicked off The Great Darke County Fair, promoting the new Co-op Connections® Card program for members. Co-op members were encouraged to shop at participating local businesses and also to use the pharmacy discount that is on the back of the card. Our goal is to provide our members with discounts and help out local businesses at the same time.

With the help of "CFL Charlie," the compact fluorescent light bulb program was a hit at the fair. If you were unable to collect your CFL bulbs during the fair, you can bring three incandescent

bulbs to the cooperative in exchange for three CFL bulbs.

Darke REC's energy display in the coliseum not only featured the compact fluorescent lighting display but also provided information on the



Brown, Chloe Kerns, Austin Martin and Kyler Guillozet.

Along with daily prizes, one lucky member received a \$150 bill credit. This year's winner of the \$150 bill

credit was Dena Wulber of Versailles.

Many of you probably noticed that Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, along with Buckeye Power, the

power provider for the 25 electric cooperatives serving Ohio, sponsored other events at the fair this year, including the cheerleading contest and the Gazebo.

Now that another year of the fair has gone by, it goes without saying that it is the members and the community who have made it successful. Being a part of the fair enables us to extend our commitment to the community and show our members exciting steps toward the future of the cooperative.



EnviroWatts® program, as well as the Kill-A-Watt program, which allows members to borrow an electric use monitor to determine use on different appliances. Also on display was information on *Our Energy, Our Future™*, renewable energy scholarship, Youth Tour and Operation Round-up.

To show our appreciation to our members, as well as the rest of the community, a daily prize

was given each day to one child. This year's winners were Corbin Holzapfel, Seth Barga, Josh Hollinger, Katie Hixenbaugh, Jonathan Nelson, Megan



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Keith Daugherty ...Vice President
Judith FasnachtSecy.-Treas.
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Virgil HaleTrustee
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Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays

Failure to receive your electric bill in no way relieves you, the member, from paying it. If you do not receive your bill, contact us before the due date.

The Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections Program!

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative has a program that offers further proof that being a member of an electric cooperative has its advantages. The Co-op Connections® Program is a card-based program for Touchstone Energy® cooperatives that offers members valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses.

Best of all, the card is free!



Here's what you get:

- Great discounts from businesses in your community.
- 10 to 60 percent discounts on prescriptions at participating pharmacies.
- Access to more than 56,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores, including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more. Search online to find discounted prices on prescriptions (www.rxpricequotes.com) and participating locations (www.locateproviders.com).

Here's what you do:

- Log on to www.darkerec.com to view a list of participating businesses and discount offerings (fall of 2009).
- Present your card at participating businesses to receive discounts. (New discounts are added periodically.) The cards were mailed in your September bill that is due Oct. 10.

This is just one more way you benefit from being a cooperative member. As a Touchstone Energy cooperative, we always are "looking out for you." If you have any questions, please call Beth Davenport at Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, 937-548-4114, or e-mail bethd-darkerec@woh.rr.com.

Your Co-op Connections Card was mailed in your September bill that is due October 10th.

Check out this month's new discounts from local businesses on the next page.

New local businesses to join the Co-op Connection Card program

Arcanum

Arcanum Veterinary Service, Inc.

1st office visit is FREE for new patients

Korner Restaurant

One free beverage for a family with only one meal purchase at a time

Pampered Pets Grooming

\$2 off full pet groom to new clients only. One-time offer

Picnic's Pizza & Grille

Purchase a large pizza, get a free 5-piece breadstick with sauce

Eaton

SonShine Candy and Gifts

10% discount on retail price. Purchase 25 pounds and receive FREE delivery to your door.

Tupperware - Stefanie Price

10% off retail product total - shipping and tax not discounted

Greenville

Bolyard Heating & Cooling Inc.

\$10 off any service call over \$100 (discount card must be presented at time of service). Cannot be combined with any other offer

Cellular Phones of Darke County

10% discount on all accessories, 15% discount off monthly rate plan with Sprint or Nextel

Chicken Kitchen II

10% off excluding specials

Club 7 Sports

10% off retail regular priced items - excluded lettering and group orders

Doctor Vallo & Fisher

10% discount on complete prescription eyewear glasses and comprehensive eye exam when paid in full the day of services and/or ordering glasses. Not valid with any other discount or third party insurance.

Francis Furniture of Greenville

Buy one lamp and receive 50% off the second lamp of equal or lesser value

Granny's Corner Frame Shop

10% off storewide (cannot be combined with other discounts)

J & B T'z Screen Printing & Embroidery

10% off on sales over \$50

Lifestyles Interiors

10% off - not good with any other offer

Making Waves Hair Salon

\$5 off any chemical service (perms, color, hilites);

\$2 off haircuts (with Kristi Lyons and Katie Light)

Randall Clay Photography

50% off sitting fee

Readmore's Hallmark

10% off purchase (excludes - cards, candy, already discounted product)

Schmidt's Heating-Air Conditioning-Refrigeration-Geothermal

\$100 off HVAC or geothermal system (receive up to 30% tax credit, ask for details) \$5 off any service call; \$25 off HVAC duct cleaning (min. 10 registers & grilles)

Tail Gators Sports Bar & Grill

\$2 off large pizza; \$1 off Big Ten Burgers, entrees, sandwiches & subs

Tangles...A Unique Hair & Nail Salon

10% off services of \$25 or more

Touch of Heart Therapeutic Medical Massage

10% off any massage session for new customers only

Wintrow Signs

10% off all services

Laura

Construction & Moore, LLC

10% discount on labor only (up to \$500)

Lewisburg

Miller Hardware

The 1st Saturday of EACH month! - 10% discount on merchandise! (\$25 max discount per purchase)

Promark Sign & Graphic Solutions

5% discount on embroidery orders over \$100

Sarah's Pizza & Subs

\$1 off medium 13" pizza; \$2 off large 16" pizza;

\$3 off extra large 18" pizza

New Paris

New Comfort Heating & Cooling

10% off service and \$100 off installation

Valley's Edge LLC

\$1 off any adult ticket purchase

Versailles

Main Center Interior Design

10% off all sundries & 10-20% off all wallpaper & select floor coverings (not to be used with any other discount)

Mike Bubeck Plumbing

\$20 off 1st hour of labor

Nature's Reflections

10% off tiger items

Versailles Ace Hardware

Two house keys for the price of one

Versailles Savings & Loan Company

\$100 off normal closing costs for mortgage loans

West Manchester

Noles Tool Repair

10% discount on repair parts for tools brought in on Monday every week

October is National Cooperative Month

Cooperatives hit the mark with consumers

Playgrounds flood with games during school recess. A great example is hopscotch. The game can be played by one child or a large group, and the rules are simple. A course is laid out, typically drawn in chalk on pavement. Blocks are numbered in the order they must be hopped in, with a home, or safe, spot at the end. Then players toss a marker into designated squares and hop through the course.

In some ways, the game reflects how cooperatives were formed. Co-ops—not-for-profit, member-owned businesses—may serve a few people or large groups. But all co-ops use the same “course,” following seven key principles. By “hopping” on each principle, co-ops provide an efficient consumer resource focused on service, not profit.

October is National Cooperative Month. To celebrate we’re taking a look at the important role co-ops play in our community.

What are co-ops?

Cooperatives are owned by their members—the people who receive services from them—and are found in many industries. For example, more than 900 electric co-ops serve 42 million Americans. According to the National Cooperative Grocers Association, 30 percent of farmers’ products are marketed through more than 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives in America. Familiar brands like SunKist, Land O’Lakes, Cabot Creamery, Ocean Spray and Sun-Maid all are co-ops formed to help farmers distribute products.

In banking, 10,000 credit unions provide financial services to 84 million members across the nation. Co-ops also have been formed to provide child care, insurance and housing. Nearly 30,000 cooperatives operate at 73,000 locations nationally.

Guiding Principles

The cooperative movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale, England, in 1844. The Rochdale model revolved around a set of guidelines drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. When introduced into the U.S. by the National Grange in 1874, these “Rochdale Principles” fueled a cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles hold that a cooperative must provide:

Voluntary and Open Membership: Membership in a cooperative is available to all who can reasonably use its services, regardless of race, religion, sex or economic circumstances.

Democratic Member Control: Co-ops are democratically controlled, with each member having one vote. As a result, control remains in the hands of all customers. Directors are elected from the membership.

Members’ Economic Participation: Cooperatives provide services “at cost” and remain not-for-profit regardless of the value of benefits delivered. Any money left over after all expenses are paid—margins—belongs to the members. Each

member’s share in the margin is determined by the amount of his or her use of the co-op’s services.

Autonomy and Independence: Cooperatives are self-sustaining, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If cooperatives enter into agreements with others or raise money from outside sources, they do so on terms that maintain democratic control as well as their unique identity.

Education, Training and Information: Keeping members, directors, managers and employees up-to-date on issues so they can effectively govern the co-op. Communication, particularly with young members and opinion leaders, helps generate necessary public support for cooperatives.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Mutual support helps cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

Concern For Community: Cooperatives develop communities with programs supported by the membership.

To learn about electric cooperatives, visit www.nreca.coop. For details on different types of cooperatives, visit www.go.coop.

