

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Vote yes on Issue 2

Please vote yes on Issue 2 this November. This is a statewide ballot initiative to help strengthen Ohio's agricultural industry and the many families, businesses and communities that rely on Ohio farming, both as consumers and as producers.

Issue 2 has the support of the majority of the state's representatives and senators (from both major political parties), as well as Governor Ted Strickland. It also carries the endorsement of most agricultural-related state agencies, such as the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and state agribusiness associations like the Ohio

Farm Bureau. The Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives (OREC), our statewide association, passed resolutions this year supporting Ohio's agricultural community in efforts to gain approval for Issue 2.

Issue 2 is a constitutional amendment that creates a 13-member Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board. The board will be charged with establishing fair, effective regulation of animal care on livestock, dairy and poultry farms. The panel will include family farmers, veterinarians, a food safety expert, a representative of a local humane society, members of statewide farm organizations, the dean of an Ohio agriculture college and two consumers.

The board would develop and enforce guidelines for the care and shelter of livestock and poultry in Ohio, while also ensuring safe, affordable and locally raised food, and would keep control of agriculture inside the state and out of the hands of activist organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

HSUS, which is based in California and not necessarily affiliated with local humane societies, is pushing for harsh laws state-by-state that would severely restrict how farmers run their businesses and care for their livestock. Many believe the HSUS agenda would lead to significantly higher food prices, the reversal of technological advances in modern agricul-

ture, and the shuttering of farms and related agribusinesses.

Supporters of Issue 2 believe livestock regulations affecting Ohio residents should not be decided by an outside activist organization whose leaders think they know what's best for consumers, farmers and local businesses. Issue 2 will bring together the best available expertise and technological innovation to provide continued excellence of care for the state's flocks and herds. Issue 2 will help maintain the viability of Ohio agriculture — the state's No. 1 economic contributor.

Most Ohio producers already treat their livestock humanely, providing animals with adequate food, water, shelter and care. It is in the farmer's interest, ethically and financially, to embrace animal husbandry guidelines that ensure healthy and sustainable herds and flocks. For decades, they have voluntarily followed these management principles and animal care practices.

It is important for electric cooperative members to vote on Issue 2. The creation of a state livestock standards board will give all the stakeholders a framework for advancing animal welfare practices that balance the needs of consumers, farmers and agribusinesses in the 21st century.

For more information, visit www.ohiolivestockcare.org.

TRUSTEES

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Dan GehretTrustee
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.

Nomination and election procedures for trustee

As a member of Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., you are a part owner of your electric utility. You can express your ownership interest by exercising the cooperative principal of "one member, one vote" at the Annual Meeting on March 18. You can help select a candidate to represent you on the board of trustees.

The governing body of the cooperative is a seven-member board of trustees. The board meets each month to review and renew policies, to make business decisions concerning the cooperative, to review financial statements and to approve all patronage capital credit payments.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into seven districts. Each district has one trustee that is elected by the cooperative members. The districts are as follows:

- District 1 — Mississinawa, Allen and Brown townships in Darke County
- District 2 — Wabash, Patterson, York, Wayne and Richland townships in Darke County
- District 3 — Jackson, Washington and Greenville townships in Darke County
- District 4 — Liberty, Neave, VanBuren and Twin townships in Darke County
- District 5 — Harrison and Butler townships in Darke County
- District 6 — Jefferson, Monroe and Jackson townships in Preble County
- District 7 — Harrison, Washington and Twin townships in Preble County

All trustees are members of the cooperative and must reside in the district that they represent. Trustees shall hold office for three years. There is no limit on the number of terms served by a board member.

The election of board members is conducted during the annual meeting. The election process actually begins when the board appoints a nominating committee. The committee selects qualified candidates to run for a position on the board of trustees.

If you are a qualified member of the cooperative from districts 1, 3 or 5 and wish to be considered for nomination, please contact the Darke REC office and your name will be referred to the nominating committee.

Annual Meeting

**Just a reminder to mark your calendar
for the 2010 Darke REC Annual Meeting.**

Date:

Thursday, March 18

Location:

The Lighthouse Christian Center

**For further updates be sure to read your
Country Living magazine.**

High School Seniors

Check out next month's *Country Living* for scholarship opportunities.

Sophomores and Juniors

Watch for upcoming *Country Living* issues for the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour.

Access to meters

Each year when we check our meters, we find there are some meters that we don't have access to. For safety purposes we must have access to every meter on the system. If the meter at your location for one reason or another is not accessible to co-op personnel, please call and let us help you to determine the easiest way to move it. If your location is on the list to have meters checked and we can't get to it, you will be receiving a letter on this matter.

Happy Thanksgiving

Darke Rural Electric will be closed

Thursday, Nov. 26

&

Friday, Nov. 27

Emergency service is available

24 hours a day by calling

548-4114 or 800-776-5612

THE SWITCH



"The Switch is On" at your electric cooperative. You can switch your inefficient incandescent light bulbs to new, energy-saving CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs), and it's absolutely FREE. These ENERGY STAR® qualified CFL bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer while still offering the same warm, soft light you're used to. So make the switch today—for you, your wallet and for the environment. It's the smart choice.

Have you received your free CFLs in 2009? If not, stop by the cooperative office, bring three of your incandescent bulbs and you will receive three free compact fluorescent light bulbs while supplies last!



Darke Rural Electric remembers and thanks America's veterans for their sacrifice.

Co-op Connections program

Two new local businesses are added to the Co-op Connections® program

Ed Rike Plumbing, Inc.
Full-service plumbing including backflow, sewer drains, jetting, well pumps, water heaters, water softeners, etc.

Discount offer: \$10 off with card on repairs. Must be present at time of service.

Redeem offer by contacting:
Ed Rike Plumbing
7667 Verona Road
Lewisburg, Ohio 45338
Phone: 937-962-2939

Barga Heating, A/C & Refrig., Inc.
Sales and service of heating and air conditioning equipment.

Discount offer: \$10 off any service call or equipment maintenance.

Redeem offer by contacting:
Barga Heating, A/C & Refrigeration
5419 St. Rte. 49 South
Greenville, Ohio 45331
Phone: 937-548-3645
Web site address:
www.bargahtgac.com