



## Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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### General Information

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Monday–Friday

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### Mission Statement

The aim of Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# A matter of principles

## October is National Cooperative Month

**YOU MIGHT** be surprised by the number of co-ops around you. Co-ops have been formed to produce and sell electricity, offer financial services, provide housing and health care, and much more.



So where did the bright idea for co-ops come from? It's a matter of seven principles. The modern movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale (pronounced Rotch-dale) in northern England in 1844. The group was guided by a set of principles 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 require that a cooperative must be an open membership that retains one voice, one vote. For electric cooperatives, a person who lives within the co-op's assigned service area receives co-op service. Electric co-ops hold member business meetings annually, allowing members to elect fellow consumers to guide the co-op and have a say in how their utility is run.

There also have to be real member benefits. For example, members of electric co-ops often get money back (called capital credits or patronage refunds) when the co-op is in good financial shape. More than \$550 million has been returned to members by electric co-ops over the past seven decades—which is nothing to sneeze at.

Education remains another big focus, especially for Marlboro Electric. Electric co-ops provide safety information in schools, share ideas on how to make your home more energy efficient to keep electric bills

affordable, and make sure elected officials and opinion leaders know about the co-op business model. Because there is strength in numbers, co-ops tend to stick together when tackling regional and national issues.

Perhaps most important of all, co-ops are independent and community-focused, not tied to the purse strings of far-flung investors. Co-ops, like Marlboro Electric, help drive local economic development, fund scholarships, support local charities, and work to make life better in the areas they serve—the heart of the cooperative difference.

Learn more about cooperatives and the principles that define them at [go.coop](http://go.coop) or [marlborelectric.coop](http://marlborelectric.coop).

### Jeff Quick

Trustee

### Learn About Co-ops

## It's a Matter of PRINCIPLE

### The Rochdale Principles

Co-ops deliver electricity, sell produce, provide loans, and arrange for housing, health care, and more. But despite these differences, they all have one thing in common—seven cooperative principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

Learn more at [www.go.coop](http://www.go.coop).

**Cooperative Enterprises  
Build a Better World**

*A message from America's Electric Cooperatives*

## Marlboro Electric crew helps Virginia after hurricane



**THE PRAYER FOR** Marlboro Electric's line technician/serviceman Jimmie Ridges, along with other co-op employees, family and friends, was for everyone to return home safely.

A four-man crew from Marlboro Electric traveled to Warsaw, Va., to help restore power after Hurricane Irene hit in September. They were part of the nearly 100 lineworkers from South Carolina electric cooperatives that worked to restore power to consumers. If needed, The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina had more crews on stand-by.

Crews from Aiken, Blue Ridge,

**Teamwork is essential when co-ops come together to help other co-ops restore power after a storm, as shown by Marlboro Electric and Santee Electric employees as they work on damaged poles and wire in Virginia.**



**Marlboro Electric's employees, on right, Jimmie Ridges, RC Thompson, Leroy Anderson and James Emanuel, traveled to Warsaw, Va., to help restore power after Hurricane Irene hit in September along with Santee Electric's employees, left. They were part of the nearly 100 lineworkers from South Carolina electric cooperatives that worked to restore power to consumers.**

Edisto, Fairfield, Newberry, Santee and Tri-County electric cooperatives also went to help restore power at Northern Neck Electric Cooperative in Warsaw, Va., which serves five counties and Southside Electric Cooperative in Crewe, Va.

"Trees were the main problem along with broken wire and poles," said MEC's Lead Lineman Leroy Anderson who traveled to Virginia. "Luckily, homes were not damaged from the storm as much, and most customers had generators due to the area's climate in winter."

The storm caused the second-largest power outage in Virginia's history as 2.5 million people were without electricity at one point, said Laura Southard, a spokeswoman for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

### Home sweet home

Families and friends of Marlboro Electric's employees understand the need to go help in disasters, even though it's not easy for them to be away from home for a week or more

and unable to sleep in their own beds.

"It's almost like a calling," said Ridges. "My family wanted to go to the beach that week, but I told them Virginia needs his help more...It's about neighbors helping neighbors."

When Marlboro Electric's crew arrived, no hotels with lights were available due to Hurricane Irene, so they stayed in a local vocational school gym on cots. The Virginia co-ops were happy to see the South Carolina crews and made them feel at home with wonderful hospitality. The manager of the local co-op personally came by to check on the crews and thanked them individually for helping, which meant a lot to the men working.

The MEC's equipment operator Robert C. "RC" Thompson said it was a lot of long, hard days, but a great experience to help others. When he returned home, his teenage daughter Kelly, who is a "Daddy's girl," was so glad to see him.

James Emanuel, MEC's groundman, said he was glad to go help in a time of need, but it's good to be home.

**James Emanuel and Jimmie Ridges work to restore power to a residence that had been without power for days after Hurricane Irene hit Virginia.**





News EXTRA

# DON'T LET ELECTRICAL HAZARDS HAUNT HALLOWEEN!

A FESTIVELY FRIGHTENING night, Halloween nonetheless should not be fraught with real danger. Here are some safety reminders:

- ▶ As you're decorating, make sure you and your children check for cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.
- ▶ Fasten all outdoor lights securely to trees and other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture insulating cords and damage wires.
- ▶ Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather, and remains a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.
- ▶ Make sure all outdoor electrical lights and decorations are plugged into an outlet protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If your outlets aren't equipped with GFCIs, have an electrician install them or buy a GFCI adapter plug. Don't overload outlets with too many extension cords and strands of lights.
- ▶ Keep power cords off walkways and porches that trick-or-treaters may use. You don't want them to trip.
- ▶ Leave the porch light on for trick-or-treaters, and be sure to turn out all spooky lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed. This will also save energy.
- ▶ For more tips visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

Source: Electric Consumer



Willie Wirehand, the mascot of electric cooperatives, encourages mini-members to be safe this fall!

RICHARD G. BIEVER

CHRISTY OVERSTREET



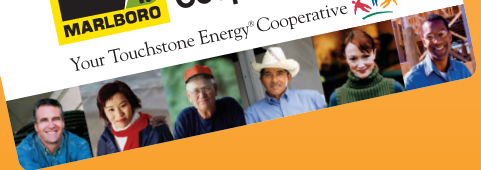
Co-op members and Walgreen employees Tonya Alford and Amanda Carter encourage Trick-or-treaters to be safe on Halloween and to follow the directions to Halloween decorations. Walgreens is a Co-op Connections participant.

Co-op Connections® Card: By the Numbers



Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





CHRISTY OVERSTREET

Bennettsville Police Chief Larry McNeil stops by to say good morning to the local shop owners Cam and Cindy Stone and John "Pop" Thompson. Living in a small town where everyone knows everyone makes for a memorable photo.

# Butcher-up to 'meat' your needs

Any way you cut it, Breeden's Grocery has the 'link'

BY CHRISTY J. OVERSTREET

**IF YOU LOVE** to grill or just love to eat meat, it pays to have a butcher you go back to time and time again. For 85 years, Breeden's Grocery has been the local butcher shop in downtown Bennettsville, which is owned by Marlboro Electric members and Co-op Connections participants Cam and Cindy Stone.

When it comes to world-class quality and expertise right in your own neighborhood, Breeden's Grocery seems to have it down 'pat.' Customers can enjoy shopping for a variety of fresh meats, vegetables, fruits and other grocery items. Homemade jams, jellies, sauces, spices, rubs, and even lye soap, can be found at Breeden's Grocery.

**A dinosaur, a blast from the past**  
'Rare' as it may be, Breeden's Grocery is one of the oldest retail stores in Bennettsville. It opened in 1926 by William F. Breeden and his brother Gene Breeden on Main Street. In 1944, Howard Thompson bought the

store, called it Thompson & Breeden's Grocery, and moved it to the present site on Broad Street.

John 'Pop' Thompson began working at the store as a clerk in October 1946 alongside his wife Luna



Sidewalk entertainment continues on with young Hayden Stone, son of Cam and Cindy Stone. John 'Pop' Thompson recalls the entertaining moments of the old wallet trick where a wallet would be lying on the sidewalk with a string attached and as someone came by trying to pick it up, it would move and so would the person.

who went to work there in 1945. Thompson bought Breeden's Grocery in the early 1970s and worked in the store for more than 60 years before retiring. His grandson and present owner, Cam Stone and wife Cindy, purchased Breeden's Grocery in 1988.

In those memorable 85 years, Breeden's Grocery has changed the way it does business in many aspects.

"Groceries used to be delivered by bicycle, and customers paid for their groceries once a month. When chicken was ordered, live chickens

were retrieved from the back, bagged and a hole was put in the bag for the chicken to breathe until it was delivered," describes Thompson.

"When beef was ordered, it came in as half-a-cow which hung in the cooler."

Today, cuts of meat are most often found in a box, vacuum packed. Cuts of fresh heirloom pork, grass-fed beef, smoked sausage, link sausage, cured meats, different hams, turkey, bologna and salamis can still be found in the meat case at Breeden's as in 1926. Dry goods, refrigeration and store layout have changed, but the original, genuine hardwood floors and other items can be found throughout.

To 'meat' the needs of customers, the Stones expanded Breeden's Grocery in 2001 by adding a new processing and label machine. By 2005, Breeden's began selling and delivering Breeden's sausage wholesale in five counties, and grew the business from one-day deliveries to five-days-a-week deliveries.

The delicious sausage from Breeden's has been the 'link' to becoming a "Certified SC Product." The Certified South Carolina program is a cooperative effort among producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers and the South Carolina



A variety of meats are showcased at Breeden's Grocery as in 1926.

Signs that hang inside Breeden's Grocery bring back memories, especially when a RedRock 'never tasted so good!' Soft drinks used to come in a glass bottle, and you could recycle them for a little change when store owners bought them back from you for 5 or 10 cents.





Breeden's Grocery offers fixin's to go along with premium meats. The top of the refrigerated case is Cindy's space of lifetime photos, local artist paintings of Breeden's Grocery and cherished memories. One interesting photo is the 'Goat Man' coming through Bennettsville in front of Breeden's Grocery.

Department of Agriculture (SCDA) to brand and promote South Carolina products. The goal for the program is for consumers to be able to easily identify, find and buy South Carolina products because 'Nothing's Fresher. Nothing's Finer.'

Breeden's Grocery is known for its great-tasting sausage that can be cooked with a variety of vegetables and side dishes, or for the more southern style of eating, just throw a piece of sausage between two slices of bread, and it's ready!



This old school chalkboard emphasizes tradition with a modern-day twist.

### Big chain store vs. local butcher shop

Some things never change, and old-fashioned customer service and value is what people still desire. The markets' roots grow deeper with Breeden's Grocery. It serves approximately 150 customers a day from the car, a chair, straight to the kitchen cabinets.

"Many customers like shopping at Breeden's Grocery because the items are reachable," Stone said. "We have curbside service where some customers are unable to get out of their car, so we will go out there and get their list of items. We have delivered to the elderly before and put the items right into their cabinets and refrigerator."

Customers can remember watching as the butcher greeted their parents like family, watching as they made fresh sausage, and watching as they

carved a roast for the holiday table. As young children, it was fascinating how sausage was prepared the old-fashioned way.

"We work hard to please our customers and take great pride in what we do," Cam said. "We enjoy getting to know people and strive for relationships with our customers built on trust, quality and reliability."

Big chain stores may not always have someone available with the expertise and knowledge of meats as a butcher shop. Questions on various parts of the cow can be a "moo" bit difficult for an employee who just puts out prepackaged meats.

Don't let the price of groceries butcher your bank account. Breeden's Grocery has reasonable prices and offers co-op members a 10 percent discount when they show their Co-op Connections card and pay cash.

Breeden's Grocery stands behind their products with more personalized labeling on their products, and even sell "Grandma's Watermelon Rind Fig Preserves." There are no warehouses like chain stores, and Breeden's is an independent, family-owned business. They have been around for many years serving

generation after generation, including the 101-year-old customer who buys liver pudding twice a month.

If you don't see what you are looking for, just ask. Breeden's Grocery can cut to order and gladly assist with special orders, catering requests or large orders for industry cookouts and events. There's nothing like a big, juicy steak from Breeden's Grocery cooked on the grill to get your mouth watering.

The Stones enjoy the same sort of things as everyone else, such as Sunday dinners around the dining room table with fresh meat and vegetables. And there is nothing like the fondness of good friends, family and delicious foods.

"Our own families eat our meats and poultry, so that should tell you something about the quality and integrity of our products," said Cindy Stone. "There are so many families that live on fast food, drive thru, processed foods and preservatives, that you see more and more obese people instead of those eating more lean foods."

Stone said that instead of giving a young child candy when they visit the store with their parents or grandparents, she gives him or her fruit, like a big, juicy plum or grapes. The Stones said they are seeing the next generation come through the door.

Looking for world-class quality in your own neighborhood, you will find Breeden's Grocery, the Downtown Butcher Shop, 'well-done.' ☺

Good customer service remains the same at Breeden's Grocery after 85 years. Rachel Jones, a Marlboro Electric member, has enjoyed working at Breeden's for 6 years along with co-worker Sandra McKeever.





Generations of sweat and hard work have gone into making Breeden's Grocery, like prime rib, top quality. John Thompson, left, visits his grandson Cam Stone, right, and Cindy Stone, center, at Breeden's Grocery regularly.

## Celebrating 85 years of memories

Breeden's Grocery celebrated its 85th Anniversary on Saturday, October 8,



with clowns, music, hot dogs, sidewalk games, such as corn hole, and prize drawings. The family is also celebrating grandfather John Thompson's

86th birthday along with grandson Cam Stone's 46th birthday. The real prizes are the memories, sidewalk entertainment and fun in the heart of downtown Bennettsville that continue on into the next generation.

## Slaying energy vampires

Seal the coffin on electricity waste

**DID YOU KNOW** that you're sharing your home with "energy vampires" or "phantom loads"—electronic devices that continue to suck electricity even when turned off? "Off" doesn't really mean off anymore with many televisions, DVD players, DVRs, cable or satellite boxes, and other electronics using energy when you think they are off. On average, these items are responsible for an estimated 10 percent of the electricity you use every month.

Here's a tip from Marlboro Electric Cooperative to help you drive a stake through the heart of these vampires, saving energy and money.

- ▶ One way to identify energy vampires is to look for devices with remote controls—TVs, DVRs and audio equipment,

for example. Then target gaming consoles, computers, monitors and printers as well as chargers for cellphones, iPods, small DVD players and laptops. Chargers draw energy even when they're not charging anything.

- ▶ An easy way to seal the coffin on energy vampires is to plug components of your computer or home entertainment system into a power strip. With a single flip of a switch, you can fully cut power to them.
- ▶ In addition, don't forget to unplug any small appliances, such as coffee makers and toaster ovens, with digital clocks when you aren't using them. Pulling plugs and employing power strips can save you \$222 in electric

bills per year. If you estimate that 6.5 percent of your total electricity consumption comes from phantom loads, the amount drained by these vampires equals

about 700 kwh annually—or \$70 every year. ☺

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov), [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com) or [MarlboroElectric.coop](http://MarlboroElectric.coop).

With a flip of a switch or the pull of a plug, you can save power to the energy vampires and phantom loads lurking in your home, as Christopher Hyatt, a co-op employee's child, demonstrates.

