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**SANTEE ELECTRIC  
 COOPERATIVE NEWS**  
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**SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL  
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## A great employee

**HAPPY FALL, EVERYONE!** This month, I want to introduce you to a 41-year employee and one of our awesome

servicemen, Wayne Timmons.

Of course, if you live near Hemingway, Johnsonville or Pleasant Hill, chances are pretty good that Mr. Wayne needs no introduction!

Wayne came to work at SEC on Aug. 25, 1981, two days after his 18th birthday. He was on the line crew for about seven years before applying for a serviceman position. Although born and raised in Kingstree, he knew this position would require that he move near the Vox community. He has lived there ever since.

Wayne and his wife, Stephanie, met at Kingstree High School and have been happily married for 40 years. They have three children, Dawn, Wayne Jr. and Ben. Dawn and her husband Nick have a daughter named Brianna who just graduated from high school and a son named Brennan, who is 16. Ben and his wife Kristen have two boys, 4-year-old Griffin and 2-year-old Banks, along with a new addition on the way!

I asked Wayne what he does in his spare time, and he said, "Work!" He keeps up his parents' properties and is remodeling his house. He also does work for New Vision Free Will Baptist Church in Hemingway, where he is a deacon.

When asked what he likes best about his job, Wayne said, "I like to work anyway, but I love fixing problems. I like the area I work, but I particularly like to be able to fix something and show or tell the member what was wrong. My visits do not always start off great, I am coming to their house because of a problem. They usually end with a smile, though."

The toughest part? "Getting out of bed in the middle of the night is not as easy as it once was. Once I am up, I handle the work just fine, but getting that call after you have already been



TAMMY ERWIN

**Wayne Timmons has worked for SEC for 41 years.**

asleep is tougher than it once was."

I then asked what he likes best about SEC, and he replied, "This company has been good to me. Particularly, though, the guys I work with. SEC employees and contractors are great to be around!"

"I hope the members already know this," Wayne offered as his closing statement, "but this is a member-owned business. My employer is Santee Electric, but I work for the members."

The Pleasant Hill family lost a legend recently. Sydney Johnson was a great history teacher and an awesome softball coach. I was blessed to be able to chat with him shortly before his passing. During our conversation, he said, "Robbie (as all good Blue Devils know me), you need to do your next employee feature on Wayne Timmons. He is a great employee."

Here's to you, Coach Johnson. Rest in peace.

If any of you have a Santee Electric employee you would like to brag on, just let us know. Have a great month!

**ROBERT G. ARDIS III**  
 President and Chief Executive Officer



Emma Rose Radcliff (right) and her podcast collaborators (from left) Abigail Crumley and Natalia Salas work on their podcast during the Cooperative Youth Summit.

## Radcliff wins podcast challenge

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

**EMMA ROSE RADCLIFF** of Georgetown County was one of three students to win a \$5,000 scholarship in an audio podcast competition sponsored by South Carolina’s electric cooperatives.

“This is incredible,” says Radcliff, who just began her first semester at Wofford College. “This will really help with my tuition.”

Radcliff, along with Abigail Crumley of Pinopolis and Natalia Salas of York, created an 8-minute audio essay about how young people can impact their local communities in a turbulent time.

The group interviewed other youth from across the state who are making a difference in their hometowns.

“These three women from different lifestyles, driven by three different goals, are united by one belief,” says Radcliff. “That youth can impact their communities through volunteer service.”

Their winning podcast was selected by a panel of journalists that included Avery Wilks of *The Post and Courier* newspaper, Kenneth Moton of ABC News and Dawndy Mercer Plank of WIS News. Each member of the winning team received

a \$5,000 scholarship.

A total of 37 high school students from across South Carolina competed in the challenge after having been selected by their local cooperative to participate in the Cooperative Youth Summit, a four-day leadership experience that offers students the chance to learn more about state government and electric cooperatives. Radcliff’s participation in Cooperative Youth Summit was sponsored by Santee Electric Cooperative.

All of the students’ podcasts are available online at [anchor.fm/ecsc](https://anchor.fm/ecsc).

# Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we’re a co-op, we’re able to adapt to our community’s unique needs. That’s the power of co-op membership.

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**OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH**

# Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



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## 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

## 2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

## 3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

## 4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

## 5. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.

The Baxley family, (front) Lloyd, Connie, Annie, Josh and Jesse with (back) Cully and Halle.



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

## A family affair

The story behind Baxley Family Farms and Black Mingo Produce

BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER

**LLOYD BAXLEY ALWAYS KNEW** he was going to be a farmer. He began helping his grandfather, who was a farmer, when he was in high school. When Lloyd was 17, he grew his first acre of tobacco. Soon after, he bought a tractor and began renting property.

Fast forward to today and the Baxley family is farming over 2,000 acres of land in Georgetown and Williamsburg counties. They currently farm around 175 acres of tobacco, 600 acres of soybeans, 600 acres of corn, 175 acres of Coastal Bermuda and the rest of the acreage is for their famous cattle.

“It is what we have been willing to sacrifice, we have put all our time and effort into it. It hasn’t been a big jump at any time. It’s just been slowly picking up pieces of ground,” says Baxley.

Connie Baxley, Lloyd’s wife, has been by his side for the majority of it. She helped “take tobacco off the stick” before they ever got married, then helped sustain the family while the farming



Beloved employee Kimberly (center) with Connie (left) and Halle Baxley.

JOANNA ARNSMEYER

business was just beginning.

“If it wasn’t for her, there probably wouldn’t be a farm,” Lloyd Baxley says.

Lloyd and Connie have two sons, Josh and Jesse, who have joined the family business. Along with Josh’s wife Annie and their two children, Halle, who is 12, and Cully who is 9.

Their day in the farming life begins with a question: “What is the highest priority?” And they start there. Each member of the family has specific duties, and they work together to get everything done.

“There has been a lot of risk, and times have been tough, but we tighten our belts

and work hard,” says Lloyd Baxley.

The Baxleys give a lot of credit to their 16 employees. Fourteen are H2A workers who come from Vera Cruz, Mexico, and spend a lot of time away from their families.

“We know all our employees personally and we know their families. They are absolutely fantastic. And they are a key part to this farm,” says Connie Baxley.

Baxley Family Farms stands out because of its dedication to the environment. Burning less fuel than ever before and using cover crops to recycle nutrients are just two of the ways the



Myra Owens (left) and Sally Gardner enjoy seeing each other each week.

## ‘With us from the beginning’

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

### THE PASTURE AND FIELDS

surrounding Black Mingo Produce create a bucolic scene that is reminiscent of the days before Santee Electric Cooperative brought power to the family farms in the area.

According to Baxley Family Farms proprietor Lloyd Baxley, Santee Electric Cooperative has been crucial to their development from a small single acre farm to the 2,000-acre, multi-crop operation they are today.

“I go all the way back to (former Santee Electric employee) Danny Cox,” says Baxley. “My dad knew the guys before him. They’ve been with us from the beginning. We just couldn’t operate without them.”

Farms like Baxley Family Farms are substantial power users. Over the years, as the Baxleys have added new technologies and facilities to enhance their operation, they’ve worked closely with Santee Electric.

“Joe Adams has been absolutely the best,” Baxley says of Santee Electric’s energy services manager. “We talk to him ahead of time and let him know what we want to do. He’ll come back to us with the best way we can get power to it. He’s helped us out tremendously.”

Baxley says he doesn’t mind knowing that his operation has the electric meters spinning.

“I understand that a cabin a mile off the road can cost a lot to put in and maintain,” says Baxley. “I feel like our power use helps the co-op cover some of those costs.”

family is being eco-conscious.

For the last 20 years they have practiced “precision agriculture,” taking thousands of soil samples and learning what nutrients are present so crops can be grown as efficiently as possible. Another innovative farming technique Baxley Family Farms is using is the 360 Y-Drop, which provides precision placement of nitrogen at the base of corn. This helps lock the nitrogen into the soil, which is essential for growth.

The Baxleys have been in the livestock business, raising cattle and selling beef, since the 1970s. In the last 35 years they have expanded significantly. They raise the cattle on their farm and focus on quality genetics in the herd. The herd is fed a ration that consists mostly of products grown on the farm. The Baxleys work with a nutritionist who continually monitors and adjusts the analysis of the feed to the needs of the cattle.

They sell breeding stock and bulls across the country. In the beginning, they sold bulls to their neighbors, and that has evolved into having an annual sale every January. Now they also sell their beef through Black Mingo Produce.

Black Mingo Produce started when the eldest Baxley son, Josh, wanted to start selling strawberries. Originally the plan was to put up a tent, but then they decided to build a store. And they are happy they did.

Once they opened Black Mingo Produce, they also started to sell squash and sweet corn. It has since evolved into the store it is today, selling their beef, seasonal produce, baked goods, milk from Milky Way Farm and many more treats.

“We have farmed for years, but never had a connection with the people. Now,



When setting out tobacco this year, 9-year-old Cully drove one of the tractors, carrying the family tradition forward.



The family dogs, Gus (left) and Indigo, share a quiet moment with one of their humans, Jesse.

through Black Mingo Produce we have built a great relationship with the public and get to show them what we do on our farm,” says Connie Baxley.

People come from all the surrounding counties to get produce. The store now even has some regulars that come weekly.

“We load up right here every Thursday. I have not been to the grocery store in five weeks. Plus, it is just a fun place to come,” says customer and SEC member, Sally Gardner.

People leave Black Mingo Produce happy. From the family friendly environment to the smiling faces and

great prices, it is an experience you do not want to miss.

“We know that we are blessed to be caretakers of God’s creation,” says Lloyd Baxley. “He allows us to tend to his soil and we humbly strive to do the best possible job.”



# Managing your account has never been easier...

...tap into your Santee Electric account anytime, anywhere with our free SmartHub app!

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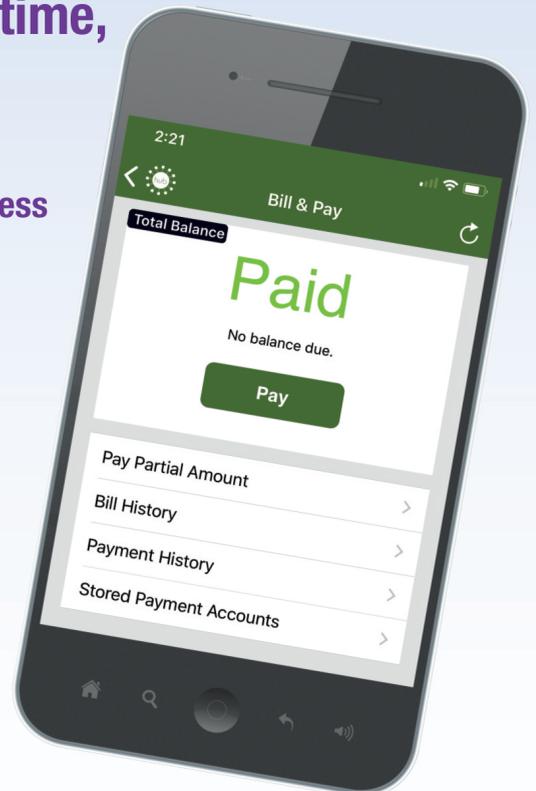
Available for all smart devices like iPhones, iPads and Androids.

The SmartHub app also lets members:

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- ◆ check on monthly electric usage
- ◆ stop and start service
- ◆ request maintenance

Just download the Santee Electric SmartHub app for free on your smart phone's app store.

Once you download, simply follow the directions to connect your account and you're all set!



*For more information, visit [santee.org](http://santee.org).*



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