

Faith's

ROADTRIP



From Hampshires, to Oxfords, and now Border Leicesters!

Just outside of Palmer sits the PW Sheep Farm, which is the only Border Leicester sheep farm in central Illinois. Jack and Vida Price, their daughter and son-in-law Brandy and Dave Wamsley, along with their two kids, Ben and Abby, are the avid owners of the farm.

When asked how they got into the sheep business, Jack laughed, pointed at his daughter, and said, “She convinced us.” As a little girl, Brandy watched her older brother show cattle in 4-H. However, being more petite, she wanted to show an animal that was a little bit smaller. “I thought sheep were cute and fluffy!” she laughed. The family started showing Southdowns and then went on to show Hampshires for three years. “When Brandy was 11 years old, a family friend’s son, who showed Oxfords, was heading to college. So, Brandy struck a deal with him and bought the whole flock of sheep on credit, which she paid off in a year’s time,” Jack said. Fourteen years ago, they sold off the Oxfords and bought into a flock of Border Leicesters. “Oxfords are large sheep and are very strong and pushy. Borders are more like woolly puppy dogs,” Brandy shared. The Price-Wamsley family is working on bringing popularity to the Border Leicester breed. “About six to eight years ago, we started a Border



Pictured left to right, back row: Abby Wamsley, Ben Wamsley, and Vida Price. Front row: Dave Wamsley, Brandy Wamsley, Jack Price, and Jack & Vida's dog Lady

Leicester show at the Illinois State Fair. In 2023, we had 30 sheep that were shown!” she said.

Seven years ago, for Mother’s Day, Jack bought Vida a small shed that they transformed into The Wool House, where they sell yarn, roving, and other products. Once a sheep is sheared, the fleece is taken to a skirting table where the vegetable matter is picked off. To turn the fleece into roving or yarn, it must be washed, so it is put into a tub filled with hot water and soap. Usually, the fleece sits for half an hour, the water gets dumped, and the process gets repeated until it is clean. After the

washing process is finished, it can be spun into yarn or made into other items such as dryer balls. The Price-Wamsley family has started attending local farmers markets, so keep an eye out!

Both Ben and Abby have followed in their mom’s footsteps and are very involved in their 4-H club, Lad and Lassies in Morrisonville. Ben is beginning his senior year at Taylorville High School and is looking to pursue a career in sports communication. Abby is starting her freshman year at Taylorville High School and is interested in studying veterinary science in college

Continued on 18B ▶



Cooperatives & Jobs

Cooperative businesses are run by those who live and work in the community, keeping jobs at home. In October, co-ops all across the United States are celebrating the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their members and communities:

While co-ops operate in many industries and sectors of the economy, seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member's economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community. We are in it for the long haul, strengthening communities through jobs, service, and community involvement.

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Faith's **ROADTRIP** 

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with a focus on large animals. They both show sheep and wool in 4-H. "Through 4-H, I've grown in leadership, independence, and public speaking," Abby shared. "I've also learned a lot about medicine and the importance of caring for sheep. Whether it's a sheep that has a cut, needs deworming medicine, or is birthing a lamb, it's

all a part of the process and the life cycle," she said.

Through the years, Brandy has gained knowledge and is now able to pass it down to her kids. "I've been able to teach Ben and Abby about life and the responsibilities that come with taking care of animals. We are a Christian family, so we believe that

we are stewards, and it is our job to take care of the animals to the best of our ability," she shared.

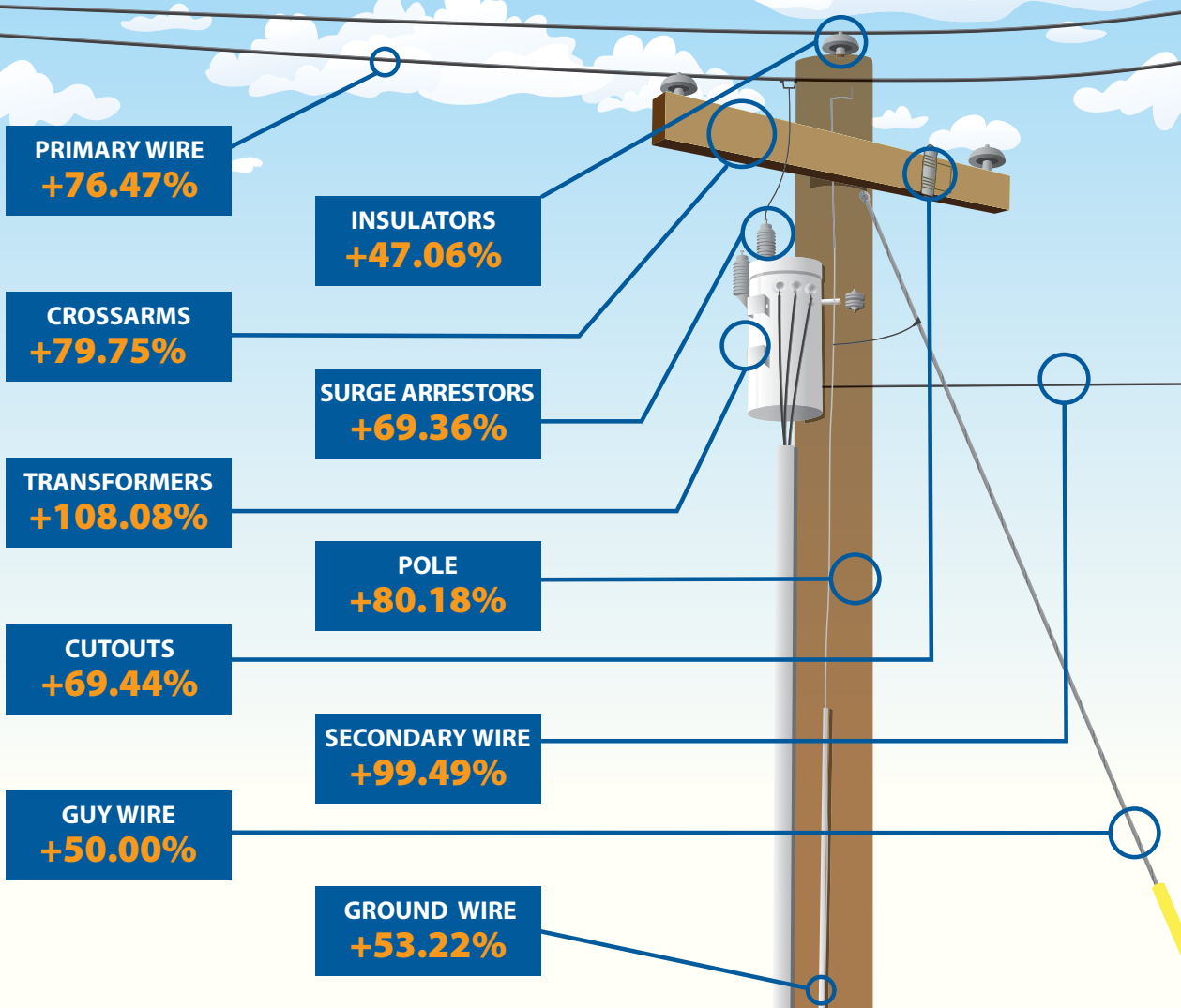
Visit PW Sheep Farm online at www.pwsheep.com and on Facebook at PW Sheep Farm. The farm is located at 628 N. 1150 East Road in Palmer.

Thanks for riding along. I'll see you down the road!



BREAKING DOWN THE RISING COSTS OF OUR DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE

January 2020 to August 2024



These percentages are a general representation modeled after a 40-foot pole with hardware attached.



Touchstone Energy®
BALLOONFEST
 at Lake Shelbyville

October 11-13, 2024
 Columbus Day Weekend

10.11 | Friday Evening
 Event Kickoff | 4-8 PM | Willow Ridge Winery
 Some balloons will inflate and do a short glow if weather permits
 Brick's Exquisite Eats and Donut Dollies Food Trucks
 Entertainment by Soulful Country Artist Brei Carter
 Sunset time: 6:21 PM

10.12 | Saturday Morning
 Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9 AM | Shelby County Airport (W Hwy 16)
 Balloons will fly over airport in a fun flight sponsored by Software Solutions, Inc.
 Music by All Kindz of Soundz
 Best viewing of balloons: Airport | Sunrise 7:02 AM

10.12 | Saturday Evening
 2 PM-Dusk | Summerskyz helicopter rides: \$40 per person - 3 people maximum per ride
Balloon Glow & Cookout | 4-7 PM | Shelby County Airport
 Balloon Glow sponsored by J & R Collision Centers begins at dusk
 Balloon Glow Cookout benefits the Shelbyville Fire Department
 Several local food & drink vendors, Music by All Kindz of Soundz
 Balloon Twisting by Paddi's Air Filled Fun
 4-6:45 PM | FREE Inflatables/bounce houses for kids sponsored by Family Drug
 Weather permitting tethered balloon rides: \$10 per person to benefit local charities
 Spectacular view of all balloons in one location | Sunset: 6:19 PM

10.13 | Sunday Morning
 Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9 AM | USACE Visitors Center
 Balloons will fly over beach in a fun flight sponsored by Glenda Sphar Realty
 Music by: All Kindz of Soundz
 Best viewing of balloons: Dam West Recreation Area | Sunrise time: 7:04 AM

Balloonfest admission is FREE & events are open to the public | Donations appreciated
 ALL SCHEDULED EVENT TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE, WEATHER DEPENDENT & ARE AT PILOTS DISCRETION
 Follow the Touchstone Energy Balloonfest at Lake Shelbyville on Facebook: @balloonslakeshelbyville
 Call 217-774-2244 for more information or go online
www.shelbyelectric.coop | www.lakeshelbyville.com