

## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

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### SEER Part Deux

If you have been a reader of this column for a year or more you have definitely seen my explanation of the efficiency standards for heat pumps and air conditioners. I like to refresh everyone's knowledge once in a while so that homeowners can purchase new systems with confidence that they are getting what they want. SEER stands for Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio and is calculated by how much manufacturers pay the laboratory testing their equipment. Wait, that's not correct. It really tells you how a system stacks up to other brands and other systems of higher or lower efficiency. Without going into all the boring details, let's say it is comparable to MPG for a car. Obviously a car with higher MPG will be less expensive to operate. In a few years cars will probably be rated by MPC (miles per charge) but for now it's MPG.

SEER really is only a number that means something about cooling but it is the baseline we use for heat pumps too. There are other alphabet soups that pertain to heat pumps like HSPF, and COP but literally nobody knows what they mean. Apparently during the covid lockdown (my assumption) a lot of people in the government had very little to do since they could not be out campaigning so they decided to rewrite the standards for air conditioners. Starting in 2023 there is a new standard and it is going to be called, get this, SEER2. It doesn't really change anything but it means that if you had a 14 SEER air conditioner last year, it is now a SEER2 13.4. They didn't actually sneak out to your home and reduce the efficiency of your unit, they just changed the rules. It's sadder for people who had a 20 SEER unit because that dropped all the way to 18 SEER2. They are working on the dollar too. Pretty soon your dollar will be worth 80 cents. Maybe they will call it dollar2. In any case, this new rule doesn't mean anything to anyone except the people who print literature and labels for manufacturers, they will be busy. The end result is exactly what you would expect, confusion and lots of hot air coming out of DC about new 'standards'. In my opinion if they wanted to make a real difference, they would just keep the old standard and prevent people from using anything under 16 SEER. That's 15.3 SEER2 for next year. That is the best value in any brand based on installed cost and operating cost.

**Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com**

## Farm Jublie at East Bangor Park

By Michael Ortoski

EAST BANGOR - A Farm Jubilee was held at East Bangor Park as part of a fundraiser for Bangor Library this past weekend.

Bangor Library Dir. Kathy Lynch and her volunteers held a tricky tray with items donated from local business.

Barnes Yard Petting Zoo brought their goats and Rainbow the pony for kids to get free rides.

Dinkys Ice Cream dished out their favorites along with great chilli and dogs.

The Bangor Public Library serves a population of 22,896 residents in the Bangor Area School District. This statistic is based on 2010 census information and has undoubtedly increased since then. The Bangor Area School District includes the communities of Bangor Borough, East Bangor Borough, Portland, Roseto, Upper Mount Bethel, Washington Township and a portion of Lower Mount Bethel Township.



Above - Bangor Library Dir. Kathy Lynch (pink shirt) and volunteer hand out gifts to the kids

Left - On right Marie Barnes owner of 'Barnes Yard Petting Zoo' shows off one of their animals 'Rainbow'



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