

FREE Breakfast **Monday, Sept. 4**

NEWSLINE

August 2023

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Pope County Farm Bureau **BREAKFAST ON THE FARM** September 4, 2023 Labor Day Morning

Come enjoy a free breakfast and learn about raising sheep, using wool fabric, see shearing, and try a new lean protein source! There will be local crop exhibitors and back by popular demand, a bale maze, cattle trailer, authors, face painting and more! Bring the whole family to enjoy a free breakfast and a fun morning of learning and recreation!



Map to Rafter P Ranch

10169 110th St.
Kensington, MN 56343

Highlighting Sheep!

- » Wool spinning
- » Knitting
- » Fiber lesson
- » Shearing demo
- » Lamb as protein source

- PLUS -

- » Education stations
- » Bale obstacle
- » Cattle trailer
- » Sand pile
- » Face painting
- » Authors
- » And more!

FREE breakfast served from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Monday, September 4, 2023
Steak & eggs, lamb, yogurt parfaits, muffins & beverages



Al Haman
CEO

A Note from your CEO

Load control device replacement project underway

Energy Management programs for water heaters, electric space heating, heat pumps and electric vehicles have provided opportunities for members to manage their energy cost since they began in the 1980's. Over

that time, REA has used a number of load control devices to provide a means of managing these electric appliances to create the economic savings that is passed on to the members of the coop.

We have been notified that the current device we are using is at the end of life and needs to be replaced. Over the past six months we have begun replacing these devices to better meet the needs of our members.

We are currently working on replacing devices in the Lake Miltona area. Since the devices are mounted on the home, access to the electric panel inside the home is important to make sure the work can be completed safely. When access is not possible, accounts may experience a brief outage to complete the work.

REA employees will complete most of this work over the next three years with assistance from electricians from STAR Energy Services. Located just south of our headquarters, STAR is owned by REA and several other electric cooperatives.

We appreciate your patience in the process. The work being done will ensure we can continue to offer the benefits available through our energy management programs for years to come. Look for updates on this important project in future Newsline articles, the REA website, and the REA Facebook page.

REA Energy Management Technician Barry Johnson, installs a new load control device on a home near Lake Miltona.



Cooperatives Support Local Business!

If you attended the REA Annual Meeting in April and received a gift certificate, please remember to redeem your certificate at one of the participating REA businesses listed **before 12/31/23**.



2100 Chophouse at Arrowwood Resort
320-762-1124

22 Northmen Brewing
320-846-5443

Beau Coffee Company
320-239-2078

Blairview Saddle Shop
320-762-5664

Brother's Market: Carlos
320-852-7331

Brother's Market: Miltona
218-943-3333

Burr Vineyards
651-726-4397

Carlos Creek Winery
320-846-5443

Chet's Lakeside Inn
218-943-2471

Country Blossom Farm
320-334-1620

Diamond Waves & Wags Car Wash
320-759-8040

Doraisamy Farm
320-524-2513

Erickson's Petting Zoo
320-762-0184

Jim & Judy's 1 Stop
320-852-7604

Kadejan Market
320-460-8710

Lake Miltona Golf Club
320-852-7078

Lake Reno Bar & Grill
320-283-5030

L'Etoile du Nord Vineyard
320-298-4686

Long Lake Lodge
320-524-2755

Rolling Forks Vineyards
320-634-7655

Selective TV
320-763-5924

Stivland Gardens
320-283-5227

Stoke Wood-Fired Pizza
320-846-5443

Tipsinah Mounds Golf Course
218-685-4271

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - June 2023

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for May 2023. There is a negative margin for the month of May, driven by right of way clearing. The annual margin is running behind budget. Maintenance expense is higher than planned, revenue is lower, which results in a lower margin. Some expense items have been incurred earlier in the year than planned, so catch up may happen later in the year.
- » Approved Pat Soberg, Elbow Lake (District 3), and Richard Moen, Glenwood (District 7), for appointment to the REA Operation Round Up Trust Board of Directors.
- » Approved the offer to amend the Great River Energy Power Purchase Contract by extending the contract ten years.
- » Mr. Rooney provided a update on the Aclara Demand Response Units (DRUs) installations, REA's generator program and a summary of his experience driving the Ford Lightning (EV) to a meeting in Grand Forks.
- » **The regular August Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**

Considerations when Purchasing an Electric Vehicle

Home Charging

Making a plan with your electrician when selecting a level 2 (240 volt) charger for your home is important. Most home chargers range from 7.7 KW for a small vehicle like a Nissan Leaf up to 19 KW for a large truck like a Ford F150 Lightning.

Learn about electric vehicle chargers: www.energywisemn.com/evs

Tax Incentives

State and federal tax incentives are available for the purchase of electric vehicles, the installation of home charging equipment, and in some cases, for electric service upgrades required to accommodate electric vehicle charging. Current incentives can significantly reduce the cost of an EV. Be sure to do your homework!

State EV Rebates: <https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/new-energy-programs/electric-vehicle-rebates.jsp>

Federal EV Rebates: <https://www.energy.gov/save/drivers>

REA Rebates and Rate Options

REA has rates and rebates available for electric vehicle charging. For current opportunities, check out the REA website: www.runestoneelectric.com/energy-wise-programs/electric-vehicles

Transportation Needs

Electric vehicles can be fun to drive but it is important to select a vehicle that meets your driving needs. Electric vehicles are a great option for regional travel where your daily miles are less than 200 miles. When traveling longer distances available public charging needs to be considered.

Learn about electric vehicles: www.energywisemn.com/evs

Public Charging

Today public charging is still in its early stages. There are many sites being planned but active sites are still few and far between. **PlugShare.com** is a great site to see how the network is growing and see electric vehicle owner comments and experiences.

Vehicle Performance and Experience of Others

The electric vehicle driving experience is like no other. Like any new technology, there will be learning and adaptations along the way. There are many electric vehicle forums out there such as **shift2electric.com/evowners**. REA does not endorse comments or content on these forums, but you may find them helpful as you make your way through the electric vehicle buying process.

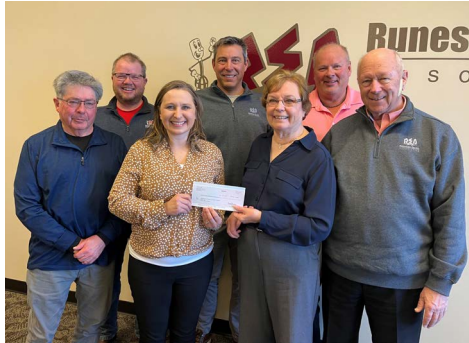
Runestone Electric is here as a resource you can count on as you explore your electric vehicle purchase options. Visit our website www.runestoneelectric.com/energy-wise-programs/electric-vehicles for tools, resources, and information on current programs to help in the process.

Select A Vehicle That Matches Your



REA has an Ford Lightning as part of it's fleet.

Utilizing the matching grant program provided by CoBank, one of REA's lenders, REA was able to award a \$780 donation to United Way of Douglas and Pope Counties and a \$850 donation to Breakfast on the Farm (see story on page 1).



United Way of Douglas and Pope Counties REA Directors front row left to right: Clif Patrick, United Way Executive Director Jen Jabas, Barb Johnson and Mike Loken. REA Directors back row left to right: Matthew Mattson, Dave Staples and Andy Anderson.



Pope County Farm Bureau Breakfast on the Farm REA Directors from left to right: Audrey Hjelle, Mike Loken, Matthew Mattson - representing Breakfast on the Farm, Andy Anderson, Barb Johnson and Dave Staples.



Enjoy 30% off all specialty LED bulbs, now through August 31!

ENERGY STAR® certified specialty LED bulbs use up to 80% less energy and last up to 22 times longer than incandescent bulbs, which means you'll save on both energy and replacement costs. LED bulbs are also great for both indoor and outdoor fixtures, since they work consistently despite temperature or humidity changes.

ENERGY WISE  **MN**

Make the upgrade today and take 30% off, while supplies last!

Visit energywisemnstore.com

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Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon- Fri.

Board of Directors

District 1: Gary (Andy) Anderson, President
District 2: Barbara Johnson, Director
District 3: Audrey Hjelle, Director
District 4: Dave Staples, Secretary
District 5: Mike Loken, Vice President
District 6: Joel Seela, Director
District 7: Matthew Mattson, Treasurer

Editorial Staff

Al Haman, CEO

Sue Lundeen, Editor

Ally Koudela, Communications Specialist

In Case of a Power Outage

- » Please call 800-473-1722 for 24-hour service. Please report any tree branches in lines, twisted wires, broken poles and if your neighbors are also out of power.
- » Be sure to have a corded phone or a charged cell phone in the house, because cordless phones won't work when the power is out.
- » Program the number above into your cell phone for easy access.
- » Never assume we know you are without power. Always call to report an outage.

REA will use reasonable diligence to furnish adequate and dependable electric service, but it cannot and does not guaranty continuous and uninterrupted service.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

**Know what's below,
Call before you dig!**



Call 811 or visit
gopherstateonecall.org
before you dig