

FREE **POPE COUNTY FARM BUREAU**
BREAKFAST ON THE FARM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2026 LABOR DAY MORNING

NEWSLINE

August 2026

Underground Outages pg 2 3rd Annual Member Bus Tour pg 4

Join Pope County Farm Bureau for a
FREE BREAKFAST ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2026
At Reichmann Cattle 15290 127th St, Villard, MN 56385

Breakfast & Activities:
8AM to 12PM

FREE **POPE COUNTY FARM BUREAU**
BREAKFAST ON THE FARM
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Breakfast -From 8 am until the food is gone!
Activities through Noon!



6th Gen Family Farm

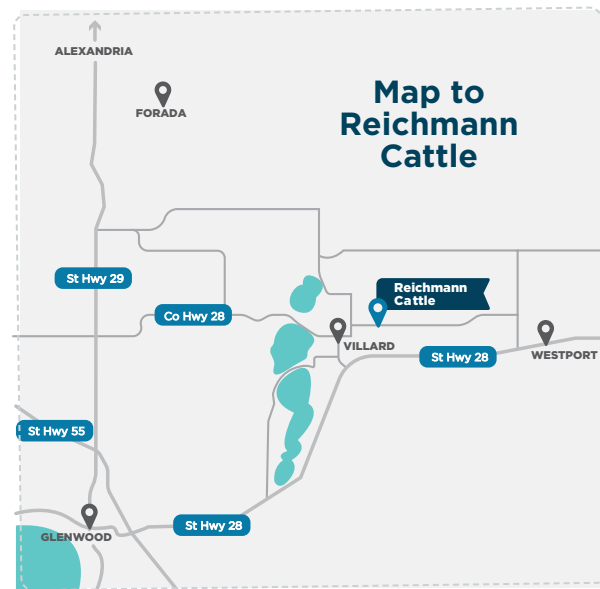
Highlights!

- Tours!
- Farm Animals
- Big Equipment!
- Demos
- Kids' Activities
- Cattlepot!
- Bale gym!
- Authors!
- More!



**REICHMANN
LAND & CATTLE**

15290 127th St
Villard MN 56385



Bring the whole family to Breakfast on the Farm at Reichmann Land & Cattle, a sixth-generation family farm, on Labor Day morning, Monday, September 7.

Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. until the food is gone, with activities continuing through noon.

Enjoy farm tours, big equipment, farm animals, demonstrations, kids' activities, a bale gym, cattlepot, local authors, and more.

It's a fun way to learn about agriculture while spending time with family and friends.

We hope to see you there!



Al Haman
CEO

A Note from the CEO

Replacing underground cable has led to fewer power outages

Since the last storm, I've had several members ask me if converting overhead lines to underground is in our construction plans. Yes, it is, but the situation is more complicated than that.

Since 2009, we have had a program in place to aggressively replace failing underground cable. Prior to 1986, much of the underground cable manufactured in the United States had major deficiencies that didn't become evident until after it was installed and in service for several years. The defects included poor design, insufficient control over the extrusion process, and overall quality-control issues. After 1986, Runestone began installing an improved, superior product that has had a great track record.

Due to a lack of confidence in underground cable, most utilities used overhead construction as their standard. In the mid-2000's, REA adopted underground construction as our standard and drastically reduced the amount of overhead construction. However, with limited construction budgets, almost all of our underground work focused on replacing the failing cable installed before 1986.

The good news is that we seem to have caught up with the failing cable. In 2009, there was a long waiting list of cable that had been repaired but didn't meet the criteria for replacement. Today, there are no line segments on the waiting list, and we are making a transition to converting overhead to underground in areas where it makes sense.

Some things we consider are proximity to trees, whether the line is readily accessible, the age of the poles, and whether the surrounding lines are underground. We also need to consider the required permits and construction costs. Right now at REA, the cost of underground construction is comparable to overhead on average. However, in areas with paved driveways and landscaping, installation costs can be higher, especially if we need to run the cable under a driveway or a road.

However, we have over 1,800 miles of overhead line. We've only been converting about 15 miles a year with the current construction budget. There's a long way to go, and areas without trees may never be converted to underground because it's still cheaper to replace individual poles and leave the overhead wire.

Keeping your lights on is definitely our priority, so I'm very happy to see that our investment in underground cable over the years has definitely paid off with fewer underground-related outages.

2009 VS 2025

 **61** TOTAL UNDERGROUND OUTAGES

 **9** TOTAL UNDERGROUND OUTAGES

2,669 ACCOUNTS AFFECTED 

449 ACCOUNTS AFFECTED 

 **7,303** TOTAL HOURS WITHOUT POWER

 **909** TOTAL HOURS WITHOUT POWER



 *As of this printing, there has been only*
3 underground outages in 2026.

Underground faults (outages) can be very difficult to find and take twice as long to repair compared to overhead outages, especially if the ground is frozen.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - June 2026

- » Reviewed the May 2026 Financial Report noting that REA margin is close to budget and we are experiencing a slowing of growth in members.
- » Mr. Rooney updating the Board on the load controller change-out program, and provided a summary of the Community Solar program.
- » Approved the purchase of a new transformer for the Leven Substation.

- » Discussed storm damage to the roof of the middle warehouse.
- » President Anderson reported on the June Great River Energy (GRE) Board Meeting and Annual Meeting where he was elected secretary of the GRE Board of Directors.
- » Approved a senior capital credit retirement request in excess of \$10,000 per REA Policy C12 - Capital Credits. Applicable amounts per policy will be forfeited.
- » **The regular August Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 9:00**

Need to know Dehumidifier Info

Many people use dehumidifiers to reduce dampness in their homes, especially in the basement.

What size should you use?

Dehumidifiers are sized according to how many pints of moisture per hour they will remove from the air. It's also dependent on how much moisture is in the air and the size of the room or home you want to dehumidify. (See the following chart).

How much will it cost to use?

To determine what it will cost you to run your dehumidifier, please follow these tips:

- » Find the appliance's wattage, which is located on the unit.
- » Multiply the wattage by the number of hours it will be used.
- » Then divide that number by 1,000. That is the kilowatt-hour number. Take that number and multiply it by the energy charge to get the estimated cost.

Example: 400 watts X 10 hours per day X 365 days per year ÷ 1,000 = 1460 kWh X 11.70¢ (kWh) = \$170.82 per year, or about an extra \$14 per month. If you run your unit around the clock, this number will more than double. Still, \$14 to \$30 a month or so isn't bad if it helps keep mold and mildew at bay.

Make sure your dehumidifier has a built-in humidistat to measure the humidity in the room or home. Once the optimal humidity level is reached, the unit will cycle on and off to maintain it.

Dehumidifier Sizing Chart

Conditions in your Space	300 sq.ft.	500 sq.ft.	800 sq.ft.	1,200 sq.ft.
Slightly Damp 50-60% Humidity Air feels slightly heavy	20 pint	25-30 pint	35-40 pint	50 pint
Moderately Damp 60-70% Humidity Occasional musty odor	20 pint	25-30 pint	35-40 pint	50 pint
Very Damp 70-80% Humidity Wet spots on walls & floor	25 pint	30 pint	45 pint	55 pint
Wet 80-100% RH Seepage/ some mold	25-30 pint	35-40 pint	45-50 pint	60 pint

Basement, Crawl Space, Whole House Dehumidifier Sizing

Building Conditions	70-80 pints	75-100 pints	100-155 pints
Loosely Sealed	up to 1,800 sq.ft.	up to 2,200 sq.ft.	up to 3,600 sq.ft.
Moderately Sealed	up to 2,200 sq.ft.	up to 2,600 sq.ft.	up to 4,000 sq.ft.
Tightly Sealed	up to 2,600 sq.ft.	up to 3,000 sq.ft.	up to 4,400 sq.ft.

Source: Sylvane.com

Residential Rebates

Air Source Heat Pump

- HSPF₂ 7.5 or greater \$500
(No Quality Installation required)
- CEE Tier 1 (Path A or B)..... \$900
(Quality Installation required)

Central Air Conditioning \$50
(No Quality Installation required)

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump
(Must be Energy Star® rated) \$200

Geothermal Heat Pumps \$400

Air Source Heat Pump Paired with Plenum Heater or Boiler
Efficiency Rebate \$100

ETS (Electric Thermal Storage)
Space Heating & Room Storage Heating
\$50/kw up to \$5,000 or 100kW

Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM)..... \$25

Smart Thermostat \$25

All rates & rebates are subject to change



THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS!



An Air-Source Heat Pump works as a more efficient central air conditioner during the warmer months and provides heating in all other seasons.

Combine REA rebates with heat pump efficiencies to start saving today!

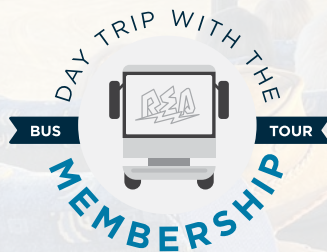
Age 80 Capital Credit Retirement

REA members who have reached the age of 80 are eligible to request a one-time payment of capital credits. Members or their trustees (if their capital credits have been assigned to a trust for estate planning purposes) can complete and return the Certification of Age form to REA.

A copy of the member's driver's license or a copy of a birth certificate is required.

For more information, please call REA at 1-800-473-1722





Celebrate Co-op Month with REA on a Day Long Bus Trip!

October 2, 2026 * 7:30 AM to 4 PM

Join REA for a day showcasing some REA businesses and their unique energy needs. This year, we will be visiting Andes Tower Hills, Pope/Douglas Metal Recovery, Kensington Runestone Park, West Central Research & Outreach Center and more!

Cost: \$20 per person
Includes tours, tastings, lunch and transportation

Sign Up Today!

Spots are limited, there is a max capacity of 40 participants.

To sign up, call or email Ally:

320-762-1121

ally.koudela@runestoneelectric.com

Please note: This tour includes walking tours



Runestone Electric
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLINE

The official monthly publication of Runestone Electric Association.

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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: Jon Winter, 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.

Remember to use your Annual Meeting Gift Certificate!

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 before **12/31/26**. A complete list of participating businesses can be found on the gift certificate or online at www.runestoneelectric.com.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility-owned lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.

