

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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1-800-432-0680
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Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Outages & Emergencies
1-800-432-0680

Co-op Summers are an Adventure for the Senses



DOUG ROLES

IT'S SUMMERTIME! The signs are unmistakable. Grass is green. Trees are fully leafed out. The bass are biting. Kids are out of school and splashing in pools. It's a lot to take in, and electric co-ops add their own layer to this sensory experience.

If you've been doing any hiking, you're sure to have heard all kinds of bird songs and other sounds. In some locales, if you hear repetitive pounding, it may not be a woodpecker at work or a grouse drumming. It could be one of our contracted pole-inspection crews "sounding a pole," which means they're checking its integrity by thumping it with a hammer.

American Energy Services will again be accessing our rights of way to inspect poles this summer. Inspections include digging around the base of the pole and taking core samples.

In the air, you may hear the whirring of wings, including rotary blades. Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) conducts aerial inspections of lines and rights of way each year using Martinsburg-based Pine Bottom Aviation Services. If you see a low-flying helicopter over our lines, consider it one more sign of summer in co-op territory.

On the airwaves, you may hear this summer's newest hits. Hopefully, your ears also perk up to our "electric shift" alerts. With our sister electric cooperatives, Bedford REC in Bedford County and REA Energy in Indiana County, we are again running these public service ads on Froggy 98. The alerts remind consumers to shift the use of appliances, like ovens, pool pumps, and dryers, to early morning or late evening on peak-use days. Electricity use during the five highest-use hours on the entire PJM grid determine capacity charges for next year's wholesale power bill. Small changes made by consumer-members can amount to big savings and lessen the need for and frequency of kilowatt-hour rate increases. It just wouldn't be summer without doing the shift.

When you're feeling the heat this summer, consider firing up the grill to avoid increased cooling costs. The smell of sizzling burgers and chicken is a hallmark of this energy-saving season. You can also block sunlight during the hottest part of the day by closing blinds, curtains and shades. Ceiling fans can help keep you cool, but turn them off when rooms are vacant. And you'll feel better about your summer electric bills if you bump the thermostat up a few degrees higher than normal.

One of the sights of summer in our area is flaggers directing traffic through work zones. When our crews have line work to do along roads, we use a mix of flares, cones and flagging. Please stay alert and help keep summer safe and awesome for our lineworkers, too. It's the "sense"ible thing to do. 🚧

DOUG ROLES

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER SERVICES

Valley REC Supports Ag Events in Huntingdon County

DOUG ROLES, VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBER SERVICES

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC Cooperative (REC) supported two farm education events this spring in Huntingdon County. The co-op helped sponsor a Huntingdon County Chamber luncheon, featuring state Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding. We also provided a grant to the Huntingdon County Historical Society for its April/May exhibit of old aerial farm photos, part of its “2025 Year of Ag” celebration.

Agriculture's importance

Secretary Redding, a member of Valley REC's sister cooperative, Gettysburg-based Adams Electric Cooperative, spent the day in Huntingdon County April 16. He attended a technology-themed ag expo for 4-H students at Mill

Creek Fire Hall, hosted by state Sen. Judy Ward, before speaking at the luncheon, held at the Huntingdon County Career & Technology Center. Local high school FFA chapters conducted the opening and closing ceremonies for the event. Redding said it's important to recognize the role of ag students and their teachers and advisers in the future of agriculture.

“Not every school district has an ag science program,” Redding said. “There are only 160 in Pennsylvania, and we've got 500 school districts.”

Redding covered a range of topics. He said the region's history is tied to a vibrant agriculture economy that led people to settle here. He also said it's necessary to find the equilibrium between honoring ag history and meeting change.

Redding explained how global trade policy impacts local agriculture. He related one example of how a tariff several years ago by India on American apple exports caused large U.S. growers on the West Coast to ship apples to the East Coast. This created increased competition for growers in south-central Pennsylvania.

He also recounted how the state ag department, in coordination with the Team Pennsylvania Foundation and Temple University, conducted an economic impact

study in 2018 to better define the Commonwealth's ag industry. The study included sectors such as forestry, ag tourism and urban apiaries.

Redding said he is excited about the future of Pennsylvania agriculture in spite of new challenges.

“The world is changing rapidly. How do we adapt to that? How do we respond to that?” Redding asked. “I'm optimistic about it. But it really requires significant engagement and understanding of how the world has changed.”

In addition to Valley REC, the historical society, Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, Keller Engineers and Nationwide-Stern Insurance Agency helped sponsor the event.

“This may be the only place a historical society has shown up in a very prominent way inside a chamber event that appreciates the business aspect of agriculture,” Redding said.

Rodney Davis, president of Huntingdon County Farm Bureau and a West Township farmer, served as emcee for the luncheon. A Valley REC member, Davis introduced Redding and credited him for his work in farmland preservation.

“He was hugely instrumental in having the ACRE law adopted, which probably has given more stability to agriculture across the state of Pennsylvania than maybe any other piece of legislation,” Davis said of the 2005 Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environment Law that ensures local agriculture ordinances do not violate state law.

“And he also was very instrumental in Pennsylvania having a farm bill,” Davis added. “Pennsylvania is still the only state that has its own, separate state ag bill. The future of agriculture is extremely strong in Huntingdon County. The 4-H program and the FFA



AG UPDATE: Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding speaks at a Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Huntingdon County Career & Technology Center in April.

program are largely to thank for that.”

Davis thanked several community leaders for attending, including Ward and state Rep. Rich Irvin (R-Huntingdon). Davis also thanked the Visitors Bureau for its work in educating the public about local agriculture through the Friday Farm Tours Program.

“That should be our No. 1 goal, I believe, in agriculture,” Davis said. “The historical society ... this year is featuring agriculture and the history of agriculture. There are some exciting events coming up.”

Historical society's 'Year of Ag'

The week following the ag secretary's visit, the historical society offered agriculture enthusiasts a bird's eye view into the past with a display of vintage aerial farm photos. The exhibit, made possible in part by a \$500 Community Service Grant from Valley REC, was open to the public for several evenings, April 25 to May 10, at the society's gallery in Huntingdon.

The exhibit was the latest offering in the society's 2025 Year of Agricultural History event series that also included a winter lecture series, featuring panel discussions on livestock production, sustainable farming, and soil health and forestry.

“We're grateful we could partner with the Huntingdon County Arts Council, which hosted the panel discussions,” Executive Director Margaret Skrivseth said. “They were well-attended. We had a good cross section of veteran farmers and people new to local agriculture.”

A yearlong look at one industry is something new for the historical society. Previously, board members said, a fundraiser focusing on a single topic was the norm.

“We thought, ‘Why not focus on something for a full year so we can really get into the details?’” explained



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Historical society board member Rick Walker, a Valley REC member, and Margaret Skrivseth, society executive director, welcome local history buffs to a display of farm photos at the society's gallery. Photos were donated by local farm families.



Maria Pettinger, secretary of the historical society's board of trustees. “We took a vote and ag won.”

The society held an agricultural expo, cookout and ice cream social at Sleepy Hollow Farm in Petersburg on May 31. Dr. Jim Tuten, a food historian, was the guest speaker.

On Sept. 21, the society will hold its Fourth Annual Evening of Huntingdon History — the group's largest annual fundraiser — at B&D Acres, owned by Valley REC members William and Deb Hoover. Former dairy and grain farmers, the couple now host weddings and other events on their property. The event will include dinner, contra (folk/line) dancing, and a silent auction and will be the culmination of the Year of Ag celebration. 🍷



TIMBER TALK: Corey Brumbaugh, left, co-owner of Brumbaugh Lumber Company and former Valley REC board member, and Johanna and Rodney Davis, a state ag department employee and Huntingdon County Farm Bureau president, respectively, listen to Ramon Morgan, right, of Horse Power Wood Products speak about logging with horses. The panel discussion took place at the Huntingdon County Arts Center in March. Historical society board member Rick Walker is seated in the background.

GINNY MUTTI

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR CAPITAL CREDITS RETURN

More than \$2.6 million in capital credits refunds were distributed late last year to eligible members and former members of the co-op. These funds are disbursed either as bill credits in December for current members or as checks for former members.

We are making every effort to return this money to its rightful owners. Below is a list of memberships for which we need either next-of-kin or address information. If you recognize a name and

can provide an up-to-date address or information about the executor of the estate or nearest living relative, if the member is deceased, please send an email to capitalcredits@valleyrec.com or call us at 814-643-2650 or toll-free 800-432-0680.

You can also write to the Capital Credits Department, Valley REC, P.O. Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Next-of-kin information needed for these members:

Baker, Donald and Mary, 437 Givler Dr, Martinsburg, PA
Betts, Marlin, PO Box 337, Petersburg, PA
Barrett, Richard H., 471 S Centre St, Phillipsburg, PA
Corle, Anson F. Estate, 117 W Reed Ave, Alexandria, VA
Cowan, Mary E Estate, 146 Conoy Ave, Elizabethtown, PA
Ferrari, Ralph R., 7948 Valley View Rd, Huntingdon, PA
Gamble, Savilla J. & Smith Anna, PO Box 104, Ickesburg, PA
Graybill, Christian A., 2329 Spruce St, Manheim, PA
Henry, W. Gene, 111 E Julian St, Martinsburg, PA
Madden, Doris K., 307 10th St, Huntingdon, PA

Miller, Kori, PO Box 176, Mercersburg, PA
Reeder, Kenneth and Alice, PO Box 68, Robinson, PA
Rinehart, Jeffrey W., 233 Ridgley St, Orbisonia, PA
Secrest, Dorothy M., 1394 Little Greenbriar Rd, McVeytown, PA
Shinn, Daniel L., PO Box 40, Huntingdon, PA
Stacey, Marie Estate, 2406 Maple Hollow Rd, Duncansville, PA
Stoner Bros, c/o Edgar A., 564 Fishing Creek Rd, Lewisberry, PA
Von Gehr, Udo G. and Patricia, PO Box 8563, Lancaster, PA
Zilch, Larry E. Sr., PO Box 313, Mount Union, PA

Updated addresses needed for these members:

Barrett, Eleanor L., 3211 Maria Dr, Lexington, KY
Border, William R., 628 Plum Creek Rd, Roaring Spring, PA
Dicken, Gerald R., 134 E Second St, Apt 1, Williamsburg, PA
Edwards, Kelly, 791 Third Ave, Hastings, PA
Hardy, Anna M, 58 Honaman House Dr, Apt 306, Thompsonstown, PA
Ireland, Debbie, 180 Fegan Rd, Bunker Hill, WV
Lapp, Duane and Kathy J., 32 E Baltimore St, Greencastle, PA

Ott, Heather, 216 Third Ave, Altoona, PA
Ressler, Stephen J., 233 Ox Bow Rd, Honey Grove, PA
Romano, Judith A., 128 Danvers Rd, Greenville, SC
Schroeder, Randall F., 715 October Ln, Hollidaysburg, PA
Smith, Brandon, 436 Horton Ave, Altoona, PA
Weaver, Aisha, 13296 Piney Ridge Rd, Huntingdon, PA
Wilson, Marjorie R., 10283 Piney Ridge Rd, Huntingdon, PA
Yoder, Samuel H. and Ruth A., 3063 Mill Rd, Duncansville, PA

High Winds Down Lines in Penn Township

DOUG ROLES



RESTORATION EFFORT: Valley REC crews work as quickly and as safely possible to install new poles after violent winds broke four along Route 26 in Penn Township, Huntingdon County, April 15. Approximately 330 members lost power. Nearly 60 members in Jackson Township were impacted by another outage involving broken poles. Service was restored shortly after midnight.