

# 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rural Energy Conference

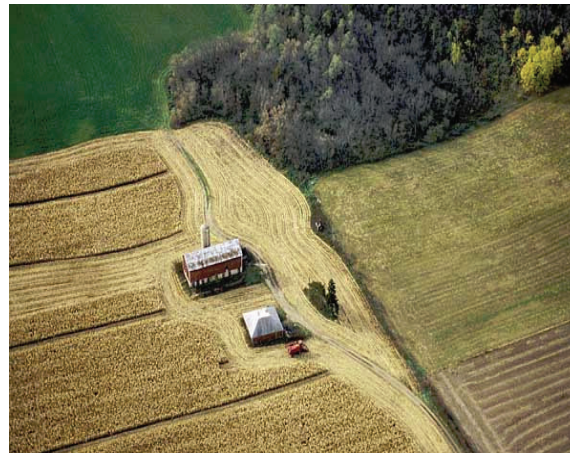
February 13-14, 2025

and

## Pre-Conference Workshop

February 12, 2025

Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport  
Bloomington, Minnesota



### **Sponsored by**

Midwest Rural Energy Council  
University of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and South  
Dakota State Extension  
University of Wisconsin Biological Systems  
Engineering Department  
University of Minnesota Bioproducts and Biosystems  
Engineering Department  
Iowa State University Agricultural and Biosystems  
Engineering Department  
South Dakota State University Department of Agricultural  
and Biosystems Engineering

## Workshop Agenda



### Updates on Stray Voltage Issues and Diagnostics

This year's pre-conference workshop will cover the new IEEE Std. 1695-2024 and present an update on stray voltage issues and diagnostics, with instructors: Anthony Cook of AC Electrical Testing, Paul Ortmann of Idaho Power Company, Michael Haas of Alliant Energy, and Doug Reinemann of UW-Madison

### Wednesday, February 12

#### Workshop Schedule:

- 12:45 pm Registration (lunch on own)
- 1:00 pm Workshop begins
- 3:00 pm Break
- 3:20 pm Workshop resumes
- 5:00 pm Workshop ends (dinner on your own)

**Please note:** The conference and workshop are two different events. You can register for either one or both. Please see the registration panel for more information.

## MREC Officers, Executive Committee and Board of Directors

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- President - Scott Dille, Alliant Energy
- Vice President - Nick Smith, Sioux Valley Energy
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- James Pachan, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative
- Milt Schmidt, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
- Brian Schultz, Jackson, Electric Cooperative
- Patrick Soukup, Central Electric Cooperative, Inc

## Conference Agenda

This year's annual conference will focus on energy issues in agriculture. All of the breakouts will be presented twice so that you can choose from both tracks to design your own conference agenda. Note that conference speakers and presentations are still being finalized and changes may occur. Please check the website of the Midwest Rural Energy Council for updated information at: <https://mrec.org/>.

### Thursday, February 13, 2025

- 7:00 AM **Registration & Breakfast**
- 8:30 **Energizing Livestock Biodiversity: the Role of Rural Energy Providers and H5 Influenza Insights** - *Abby Schuff*, University of Minnesota
- 9:45 **Break**
- 10:00 **Electric Vehicle Strategy and Solutions** - *David Farmer*, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- 11:00 **Investing in reliability: The future of energy generation** - *Jeremy Woeste*, Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- 12:00 PM **Lunch**
- 1:00 **Breakout Session 1**  
2:00 **Breakout Session 2**
- 3:00 **Break**
- 3:15 **Breakout Session 3**  
4:15 **Breakout Session 4**
- 5:30 - 7:30 PM **Buffet Dinner & Awards Ceremony** - Tamarack Ballroom

### Friday, February 14, 2025

- 7:00 **Breakfast**
- 8:00 **Updates from MREC - All invited** *Nick Smith*, Sioux Valley Energy, MREC Vice-President

### Friday, February 14 (continued ...)

- 8:30 AM **Dairy Manure Digestor to RNG Feasibility Discussion** - *Ryan Crowe*, CI Score Solution
- 9:45 **Break**
- 10:00 **Decarbonization of Off-road Construction Sites** - *Ray Gallant*, Volvo
- 11:00 **Navigate Macroeconomic and Agricultural Trends** - *Abbi Prins*, CoBank
- 12:00 PM **Adjourn**

## Thursday Breakout Sessions

### Track 1: Wires

- Interesting Stray Voltage Discoveries** - *Adam Boese, Dustin Davis, & Jeff Nilssen*, Xcel Energy
- Load Management Using Battery and Solar**, *Jeffrey Springer*, Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Use of Artificial Intelligence in the dairy industry**, *Doug Reinemann*, UW-Madison
- The evaluation and mitigation of ground fault over-voltage from DER-powered circuit**, *Wei Ren*, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

### Track 2: Breakout Renewables/Efficiency

- USDA REAP Grants: What you need to know and how they can benefit your farm or rural business** - *Bethany Reinholz*, GDS Associates, Inc. and *Corey Kuchta*, Wisconsin Public Service
- Utility Focused Water Heating Regulatory Update and Load Management Opportunities** - *Tim Gauhan*, Rheem
- Strategic Farm Electrification: The E-Farm** - *Eric Buchanan*, University of Minnesota
- Use of Ammonia in Agricultural Equipment** - *Will Northrop*, University of Minnesota



## Registration

Please refer to the registration panel for workshop and conference fees. The Pre-Conference Workshop includes materials and break food (lunch and dinner are on your own). Hotel accommodations are not included in the fee.

The **Conference registration fee includes** materials, breaks, lunch, and dinner buffet Thursday. Breakfast is included on Thursday and Friday. Hotel accommodations are not included in the fee. Attendees are responsible for booking their own overnight accommodations.

**Make check payable to:** Conference Management - MREC-2025 Conference

**Mail to:** Wisconsin Union, Conference Management, 800 Langdon Street, Madison, WI 53706

**Or register online at:** <https://uwmadison.eventsair.com/mrec25/reg>

**Cancellations:** All cancellations must be made in writing to [conferences@union.wisc.edu](mailto:conferences@union.wisc.edu) by Thursday, January 30 2025 in order to receive a partial refund. A \$110 process and handling fee will be assessed to any cancellation made by the deadline. Cancellations after Thursday, January 30, 2025 will not receive a refund. Substitutions are welcome at any time.

**Questions:** Call Conference Management at 608-262-6696

## Location and Lodging

A confirmation notice will be mailed upon receipt of registration. The conference will be held at:

**The Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport**  
7901 34th Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55425  
Phone: (952) 854-1000

A block of rooms has been reserved for conference participants at the nightly rate of \$164/one king bed or \$164/two queen beds, plus taxes. Be sure to mention that you are attending the Midwest Rural Energy Conference to receive the special rate. Please note rooms will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

## Registration Form

### 62nd Annual Rural Energy Conference & Workshop February 12 - 14

Complete a separate registration form (or copy) for each registrant or register online at:

<https://uwmadison.eventsair.com/mrec25/reg>

**Early registration deadline is January 30, 2025.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address to access coursework \_\_\_\_\_

The pre-conference workshop and conference are separate events. You can register for one or both.

### Pre Conference Workshop - February 12

\$250 (\$270 received after January 30)

### Rural Energy Conference - February 13 - 14

\$480 (\$500 received after January 30)

### Both - February 12 - 14

\$670 (\$720 received after January 30)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

Payment must be made at time of registration. Enclose fee. Checks payable to Conference Management - MREC-2025 Conference

Check enclosed

Please charge on the following account:

VISA  Master Card  American Express or

Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_