



[MCREA News]

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Morgan County Rural Electric Association is a member-owned cooperative that exists to provide goods and services that enhance the quality of life in rural America.



A MATTER OF PRINCIPLES

This month we kick off a yearlong celebration marking the International Year of Cooperatives 2012. The year offers a chance for us to showcase our legacy of innovation and achievement, and reminds us of what's important in business: putting people first.

You might be surprised by the number of co-ops around you. Co-ops have been formed to sell produce and electricity, offer financial and banking services, provide housing and health care and much more.

So where did the bright idea for co-ops come from? It's a matter of principles (seven, to be exact). The modern movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale (pronounced Rotch-dale) in northern England in 1844. The group was guided by a set of principles drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. When introduced into the U.S. by the National Grange in 1874, these "Rochdale Principles" fueled a cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles require that a cooperative must be open for anyone to join. Every member retains one voice, one vote. Electric co-ops hold member business meetings annually, allowing members to elect fellow consumers to guide the co-op and have a say in how their utility is run.

There also have to be real member benefits. For example, members of electric co-ops often get money back (called capital credits) when the co-op's in good financial shape. More than \$9.4 billion has been returned to members by electric co-ops nation-wide over the past seven

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The Seven Cooperative Principles

- 1 Voluntary and Open Membership:**
 Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- 2 Democratic Member Control:**
 Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.
- 3 Members' Economic Participation:**
 Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.
- 4 Autonomy and Independence:**
 Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- 5 Education, Training and Information:**
 Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative.
- 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives:**
 Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.
- 7 Concern for Community:**
 While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.



MCREA Line Superintendent Bobby Brenton (left) and interim General Manager David Frick accept the No Lost Time Award from the Colorado Rural Electric Association.

MCREA Wins Safety Award

While Morgan County Rural Electric Association’s mission is to provide reliable power to the membership, it also strives to do so safely. To that end, MCREA was recently recognized by the Colorado Rural Electric Association for having no employee lost time due to accidents in 2010.

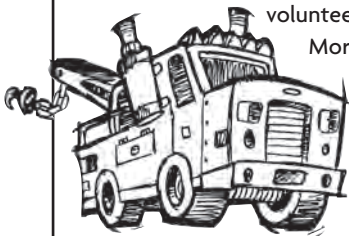
“Safety for our employees has always been and will always be a top concern,” said MCREA interim General Manager David Frick. “This recognition shows the level of expertise and commitment to safety our employees demonstrate daily — in all aspects of our operation.”

CREA’s regulatory compliance coordinator assigned to Morgan County REA, Suzette Bollinger, praised MCREA’s safety practices. “This is a great accomplishment in any industry, but especially in a high-risk industry such as utility work. Linemen face risks each and every day as they work to keep the power flowing, whether restoring outages or installing new services. Sometimes their work requires them to work in some of the most adverse of conditions. To go a whole year without a lost-time accident is not only commendable, but also admirable.”

We Need to Update Pull-Out List

IT’S A FACT THAT MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION OUTSIDE CREWS work diligently to keep the power flowing to our members — in good weather and bad. While we hope that outages don’t occur during inclement weather, the possibility exists that our crews would need assistance from our members should these situations arise, primarily with pulling out equipment that might become stuck in heavy snow and mud. Several years ago we created the “pull-out” list of members who would volunteer to assist crews with stuck vehicles. We are looking to update that list with existing and new volunteers.

Morgan County REA is asking members with the equipment to assist in adverse conditions to provide updated contact information so the co-op can contact you quickly should the need arise. If you would be willing to help, please contact Deb Poitz at 970-867-5688 or email dpoitz@mcrea.org.



A MATTER OF PRINCIPLES

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decades.

Education remains another big focus. Electric co-ops provide safety information in schools, share ideas on how to make your home more energy efficient to keep electric bills affordable and make sure elected officials and opinion leaders know about the co-op business model. Because there is strength in numbers, co-ops tend to stick together when tackling regional and national issues.

Perhaps most important of all, co-ops are independent and community-focused, not tied to the purse strings of far-flung investors. Co-ops help drive local economic development, fund scholarships, support local charities and work to make life better in the areas they serve — the heart of the cooperative difference.

Learn more about cooperatives and the principles that define them at www.go.coop.



Lighting for the Holidays

Believe it or not, Christmas will be upon us before we know it.

Morgan County REA will have LED Christmas lights for sale again this holiday season. Be sure to look in next month’s *Colorado Country Life* for details and prices (Robert Loose Inc. acct #816700).

MCREA HOSTS AG APPRECIATION EVENT

Morgan County Rural Electric Association was pleased to host the Fort Morgan State Bank and Fort Morgan Chamber Foundation Annual Ag Appreciation Day barbecue at MCREA's picnic area on Thursday, September 1. About 250 people from Morgan County's agricultural community were on hand for free hamburgers, donkey and carriage rides, booths from local vendors, a hopping house for the kids and live music by the Juke Joint Cruisers. Proceeds from the two-day event, including a live auction of hand-decorated buckets and baskets donated by local businesses and a golf tournament on Friday, September 2, went toward the chamber foundation's agriculture scholarship fund. Fort Morgan State Bank was recognized as the premier sponsor of the event, with Morgan County REA, Cargill Meat Solutions, the city of Fort Morgan, Key Bank and Wells Fargo Bank also recognized as major sponsors.

A thank you goes to Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply for donating the buckets and the local businesses and individuals who put in hours of time and effort to decorate and fill those auction items. These include Morgan County REA, Fort Morgan State Bank, Premier Farm Credit, Key Bank, Northeast Colorado Broadcasting, Unique Embroidery and Engraving, 21st Century Equipment, Wells Fargo, Ehrlich Toyota East, Miller's Landscaping, Materials and Feed and Angie Larson-Scentsy.

Local businesses providing booths included Fort Morgan State Bank, Northeast Colorado Broadcasting, Wells Fargo, McFeeder's Realty, Wickham Tractor, Key Bank, Morgan Community College and Edward Jones Investments.

A special thanks to Cargill Meat Solutions for donating the hamburger; Justin



Approximately 250 people attend this year's Ag Appreciation barbecue held at Morgan County REA's picnic area.

Right: Chuck Miller from Miller and Associates Auctioneers volunteers his services for the fundraiser auction. Proceeds from the event benefit the Fort Morgan Chamber Foundation's ag scholarship program.

Henderson for the donkey & carriage rides; Las Americas Tortilleria for providing the hopping house; Chuck Miller of Miller and Associates Auctioneers for donating his services; and representatives from Ehrlich Toyota East and Fort Morgan State Bank for grilling the burgers.



Above: Several local businesses provide booths for attendees, including Key Bank of Fort Morgan.

Left: The Juke Joint Cruisers entertain the crowd with '50s and '60s rock and roll music (Joseph D. Heagney, acct # 1755600).



Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill Win \$25 Off

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a \$25 credit on their electric bills, just for reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Sorry, Andrew and Kimberly Boldt (account #1940100) and Donnie & Kelly Jo Gilliland (account #2124200). We didn't hear from you. Your names and account numbers were in the August edition of

Colorado Country Life.

There are two more MCREA member names and account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970-867-5688 by October 31 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

We Want to Return \$\$ to These People

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION IS A cooperative and differs from investor-owned utilities because it operates to serve the needs of our members, not to increase the profits of stockholders. For example, when MCREA experiences greater income than expense, the margins are returned to you, the members. These returns are called capital credits. In contrast, investor-owned utilities return their profits to their stockholders.

We are continuing our attempts to locate members who have unclaimed capital credits. In many cases, letters containing refunds were returned due to lack of a current address. We also have cases in which capital credit checks were never cashed. Please browse through the following list of members with unclaimed capital credits. If you have any information regarding anyone on this list, please call our office at 970-867-5688.

Aaron, Scott
Alexander, Betty
Alexander, Michael J.
Allison, Fred
Andrews, Richard E.
Andrick, John
Arnusch, Andreas
Arnusch, Nikolaus
Atwood, Phyllis
Babb, Jessica
Bailey, Lillian
Barbara Brooks Trust
Bauer, Jeffrey C.
Bender, Dean
Bergendahl, Erma J.
Berogan, Maxine
Boles, William J. Sr.
Becker, Kristin K.
Bretey, D. W.
Bruntz, Kris
Cain, Kathy
Cervantes, Domingo

Char, Christine M.
Christensen, Eric D.
Covert, Joseph L.
Crystal Exploration & Prod Co
Cushman Ranches
De La Fuente, Arthur
Dean, Edith
Dilka, Albert L. Jr.
Dixon, Michael L.
Ehrlich, Judith
Ellis, Adrian
Erick, Chris
Elson, Nadine
Escobedo, Dorothy
FLB Bijou Farm
Federal Land Bank
Ferry, Marvin E.
Fisher, Arlon
Forbes, Garry W.
Frisk, Eugene W.
Fritz, Ruth E.

Geist, Alvin
Mattie, Roy P.
Mc Donald, Danny L.
Meadows Christina
Melvin, Kerry
Meredith, Hal
Mertens, James S.
Meyer, John M. Jr.
Monsees, James
Montano, Donald
Moody, Mildred
Musgrave, Jerry E.
Navarro, Dolores
Nichols, Gary L.
Nickerson, Dorothy
Nuttelman, Mildred E.
O'rear, Liz
Ocelot Oil Corp
Oliver, Lois
Olsen, E. L.
Olson, Pamela
Opperman, Robert A.

Osgood Church
Ostermiller Farms
Ostermiller, J. V.
Owens, Bill
Pancost, Larry
Pantano, Jack
Parachini, Tony Jr.
Peck, Larry
Peters, Dave C.
Peters, Edith
Pettyjohn, J. R.
Pickett, Martin
Pinzensham, Butch
Poe, Dale C.
Ponce, Edward
Poudre Valley Creamery
Prado, Lucio D.
Preston, Blanche
Quintrall, Wm. C.
Rediess, Arthur R.
Reed, Alton B. Jr.
Reef, Roganna

Rennewanz, Aldean
Reynolds, Leota E.
Richards, O'donnell
Richardson, Mary
Robertson, Gary
Root, Katherine
Roth, John F.
Rucker, Orval
Ruhl, William
Schluntz, Gerald D.
Schmidt, Margaret
Segelke, Joel
Shiple, Bill
Smart, Brad
Smith, David
Southwest Oil & Gas
Stange, Deborah L.
Steffen, Elmo
Stegman, Ferman F.
Stuenkel, Ron
Suburban Propane
Sweet, Anthony

Taylor, Sharon
Thompson, Charles R.
Thompson, Lee D.
Timka Resources Ltd.
Tolle, Clyde
Turner, Naomi
Vasquez, Trinidad
Walker, John J.
Weimer, Adriane
Werner, Pauline
Western Resource
Develop
Westover, Rita N.
Whelden, Garold D.
Williams, Zanna
Wolever, Craig
World Savings & Loan
Writer Farms
Wurm, Edward
Wyatt, Ron
Zimmerman, Earl W.
Zwetzig, Debora

State Fair Livestock Sale Brings Big \$\$

The annual Colorado's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Junior Livestock Sale and Colorado State Fair Livestock Show came to a close in late August, with one MCREA member faring very well in the market beef category. The annual livestock show and corresponding sale at the Colorado State Fair is instrumental in supporting the future of Colorado's agricultural industry as it demonstrates to youth the importance of raising quality livestock and the work required of those who pursue careers in agriculture.

Cody Huwa from Roggen earned Grand Champion honors in the Market Beef category at this year's state fair. His steer sold for \$53,000 to the Sam Brown family at the junior livestock sale.

The Huwa family is third generation MCREA members. Cody's family farms in the Roggen area; his grandfather and great-grandfather farmed in the Roggen and Prospect Valley areas. Cody has been showing for a total of five years locally; this is his second trip to the state fair show.

The sale is the largest 4H and FFA event of its kind in Colorado. According to preliminary totals, the 2011 sale in all categories accumulated approximately \$415,600 from the state's



Cody Huwa shows his grand champion market beef at the Colorado State Fair with the help of his sisters. It brought a price of \$53,000.

most dedicated bidders. Last year's sale for all categories totaled \$360,300.

Morgan County REA, one of the livestock sale sponsors, congratulates Cody and his family for a job well done.