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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.



Two Local Students, MCREA Employee Attend Youth Leadership Camp in July

Dusty Johnson from Fort Morgan and Jordan Deslauriers from Brush were among nearly 100 youth who attended Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 10-15 at the Glen Eden Resort near Steamboat Springs. Also attending from Morgan County Rural Electric Association as assistant camp director was Member Services Specialist Carla Krueger.

Each year an action-filled week provides high school students opportunities to learn firsthand what it is like to be involved in a cooperative, to learn about careers and politics and to deal with today's pressing issues. Highlights of the Leadership Camp included presentations by Hawk Quest and Touchstone Energy, as well as hands-on legislative simulations by Randy Dwyer and Amanda Wolfe of the National Rural Cooperative Electric Association. The legislative simulations discussed the process of government and current cooperative issues, increasing the students' knowledge of cooperative electric utilities.

The CEEI Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp has been a joint effort of local electric co-ops, their statewide co-op associations and NRECA for almost 40 years.

Students have the experience of



(Left to right) Jordan Deslauriers, Carla Krueger and Dusty Johnson attend this year's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp from Morgan County REA.

a lifetime working with peers from other states and interacting with the cooperative counselors and presenters during their Steamboat Springs stay. They enjoy two touring days that include taking a gondola ride at Mount Werner, rafting down the Colorado River, shopping in Steamboat Springs and touring Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

"Morgan County REA was very well represented by Dusty and Jordan," said Krueger. "They both were very involved in many aspects of the camp, and both said that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We should be proud of these two young ladies for their leadership and maturity."

Dusty is ready for the formal banquet at the conclusion of camp.



Jordan gets an up-close and personal look at a bald eagle during a raptor presentation.



Dusty Johnson (left) and Jordan Deslauriers tour the Trapper Coal Mine while at youth camp.

“Cast Iron Chef” Dutch Oven Cook-off Adds New Wrinkle

It was standing room only as spectators lined up for samples from the six teams competing in the “Cast Iron Chef” Dutch oven cook-off held at the Morgan County Fairgrounds in Brush Wednesday, August 3. The event is held every year in conjunction with the Morgan County Fair.

A panel of six judges had the difficult yet delicious task of ranking the scrumptious offerings in four categories: main dish, side dish, bread and dessert. (Larry and Cheryl Campbell, acct. #1471302)

A new wrinkle added fun, excitement and perhaps a little anxiety to this year’s cook-off. Stagecoach Meat Company LLC from Wiggins was the gold sponsor for this year’s event and provided cuts of either beef or pork for the contestants to cook for the main dish category. Here was the wrinkle — the teams did not know what kind of beef or pork they would be cooking until immediately before the cooking began. Teams picked out closed coolers that contained their “secret ingredient” cut of meat, then had to come up with a main dish from the contents of the cooler.

Morgan County REA sends out a big thank you to the judges, competitors and spectators who made the Dutch oven cook-off a success once again. We also extend special thanks to Stagecoach Meat Company for sponsoring the event and Justin Henderson from the Willow Bend Foundation and Ferguson Ranch for providing a chuck wagon that added greatly to the cook-off.



The Groves and Speaker team prepares its main dish.



The Anderson team took top honors at this year’s cook-off.

Here is a break-down of the teams, winners in each category and the top three overall teams:

Cook-Off Teams

- Team 1 – Mike and Kelly Marsh
- Team 2 – Anderson Family
- Team 3 – Groves and Speaker Families
- Team 4 – Morgan County REA
- Team 5 – Ehrlich Toyota East
- Team 6 – Bev Lowell

Winners by Category

- Main Dish Category
 - First Place – Anderson Family
- Side Dish Category
 - First Place – Ehrlich Toyota East
- Bread Category
 - First Place – Morgan County REA
- Dessert Category
 - First Place – Bev Lowell
- Overall
 - First Place – Anderson Family
 - Second Place – Bev Lowell
 - Third Place – Ehrlich Toyota East



Judging is fast and furious for the bread category.

The MCREA team takes a moment for a team photo: (From left) Bill Annan, Geoff Baumgartner, Carla Krueger and Glenda Powell. Also pictured (far right) is Justin Henderson, who provided a chuck wagon for the event.



Sean Von Loh from Stagecoach Meat Co. LLC delivers coolers that contained the meat donated for the main dish competition.

Morgan County REA would like to thank all of these businesses and individuals who generously sponsored the 10th Annual MCREA Invitational Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the tournament go toward the Morgan County REA Lineworker Scholarship program.

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Please join us in thanking all our sponsors!

MCREA OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Morgan County REA offices will be closed on Monday, September 5. We wish one and all a happy and safe Labor Day weekend. (Russell and Darlene Vick, acct. #1784800)

Get Light at Night From New Solar Cells

Solar cells that work at night? When it's dark? It sounds like a joke, but it isn't. Scientists at the Idaho National Laboratory report that they've developed a new solar cell that is capable of storing infrared radiation, allowing it to generate energy even at night ... when it's dark.

The scientists said that a complete system utilizing these new solar cells would have an efficiency rating of approximately 46 percent, nearly doubling the amount produced by currently used silicon solar cells, which achieve only about 25 percent.

Roughly half the energy in the solar radiation spectrum is in the infrared wavelength band. This energy travels back from the earth's surface, taking the form of heat emitted at night. When the infrared radiation is captured, it's possible to harvest some energy even when sun isn't shining at a given point on the earth.

Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

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

Congratulations Larry and Chad Lorenzini (account #1917400). You saw your names and account number in the July edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You received a \$25 credit on your bill!

Sorry Leo and Pearl Johnson (account #2003800). We didn't hear from you. Your names and account number were also in the July *Colorado Country Life*.

There are two more MCREA members and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970-867-5688 by September 30 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.



HVAC TUNE-UP

Don't delay your heating, ventilating and air-conditioning tune-up. Delayed maintenance can result in an unpleasant surprise when cold temperatures hit. Neglected heating systems can break down, leaving you with no heat — a dangerous situation in winter. Preventive maintenance, such as a yearly visit from a qualified technician, is an ounce of prevention worth a pound of cure.

CONTROL STRAY VOLTAGE ON THE FARM

You've heard of stray animals, but what about stray voltage? Stray voltage results naturally from a safely grounded electrical system. It becomes an issue only when it reaches a problematic level.

A damaged grounding system, poorly installed electrical equipment (such as milking systems or electric fencing) or, sometimes, a failure in the local distribution system, can contribute to stray voltage.

Farm animals can be at risk of stray voltage, which is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as "low level voltages present across points in which a current flow is produced when an animal simultaneously comes into contact with both points." The electrical code requires that the grounded conductor of all farm electrical systems be connected to barn metal, including water lines, according to the Midwest Rural Energy Council.

If a cow, for instance, comes in contact with two surfaces with a voltage difference between them, a weak current may flow through the cow. This can cause problems if the voltage is high enough for the animal to feel, as behavioral changes may result: nervousness, diminished feed or water intake or avoidance of certain areas.

Thanks to the laws of physics, stray voltage is impossible to eliminate, but a correctly installed and maintained electrical system can keep voltage low, at a level that will not harm animals.

Stray voltage can be measured using voltmeters and ammeters. Scientists have developed testing methods that measure

maximum exposure level and identify sources of stray voltage. If you think you are experiencing excess stray voltage, notify your electrical provider. Many provide testing and consultations and can help you correct conditions that create stray voltage.

A TANGLED WEB OF CORDS POSES A SAFETY CONCERN

Those cords sprouting from your electric outlet are more than just unsightly. They could indicate a fire hazard. Is your outlet struggling with more than its circuit can handle? Look for these common indicators.

- **Hot elements:** Is the cord, faceplate or plug hot? The outlet is overloaded.
- **Do you receive a shock when touching an appliance or outlet?** You have reason to worry.
- **Are lights flickering?** This can indicate an overloaded outlet, as can a wavering screen on your monitor or television.

If any of these conditions are present, unplug something and consider calling a licensed electrician for an estimate on upgrades or repairs to your home's wiring.

