



[MCREA News]

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MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 738
Fort Morgan, CO 80701-0738

STREET ADDRESS
20169 U.S. Highway 34
Fort Morgan, CO 80701-4401

970-867-5688 [phone]
970-867-3277 [fax]
mcrea@mcrea.org [email]
www.mcrea.org [web]

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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.



FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

BY DAVID FRICK || GENERAL MANAGER

As many of you probably already know, in late September the Morgan County Rural Electric Association Board of Directors offered me the opportunity to serve MCREA as general manager. I was honored and humbled to accept their offer, and thank the board for its faith in me.

For those who may not know me, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is David Frick, and I have been employed by Morgan County REA for 22 years. I started with the cooperative in 1989 as an apprentice lineman and over the years have served MCREA as a journeyman lineman, lead lineman, line superintendent and, most recently, chief operating officer. I grew up in the Fort Morgan area, graduating from high school here in 1987. My wife, Tracy, and I still live in the area with our two children, Brianna and Dawson.

I'm extremely fortunate that, as I take on my new duties, I have an exceptional group of management staff and employees to rely on. I'm proud of the team we have at Morgan County REA, and I'm pleased to say that I've seen a seamless transition through this process. I am extremely excited about MCREA's future and I'm looking forward to "hitting the ground running" in the next few months.

That being said, it's also my belief that we, as an electric cooperative, should focus our attention on our core values. Words like reliability, responsibility and commitment to community can be found over and over in our mission statement



David Frick

and cooperative principles, and I believe that these values are essential to a successful electric cooperative.

The availability of reliable power has been a primary focus at MCREA for as long as I've worked here, and I'm proud to say that Morgan County REA has carried a very good reliability record for many years. It's my intention to continue that tradition of reliability and, if humanly possible, to improve on it. (Lisa Hardy — acct # 2308000).

I'm also advocating for an open door policy for our members. If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact us — by phone, email or just stopping by — to voice your concern. As a member-owned cooperative, we will be working for the benefit of our entire membership.

Finally, it's my direction to staff and employees that we will be more involved with the communities we serve. Whether it's participation in local civic organizations, economic development projects, even day-to-day discussions about topics that affect our membership, we want to be at the table. If you know of a meeting or other event that you feel we should attend, please let the member services department know. We will do our very best to be there.

Again, I sincerely say thank you to the MCREA board, employees and membership for allowing me the opportunity to serve you as general manager. It's truly my belief that Morgan County's future is bright, and — like the Beatles said — we'll be getting better all the time.

Electricity — It's Still a Bargain

Love your television shows, household appliances and warm household lighting? Think about how the advent of communication tools like your cell phone and computer have changed your life. It's funny how often we take our ability to cook food, light our homes and keep in touch with our family for granted, and it's always important to look at what it really costs to provide you with the warmth, power and information that electricity brings to your home. (Katie Warfield — acct # 1975300)

For example, over the past 10 years, gasoline has shot up 10.9 percent on average every single year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A loaf of white bread has increased 4.2 percent annually, and a dozen eggs are up 6.5 percent per year. In comparison, electricity has increased just 3.7 percent a year nationally for the past decade.

Those cell phones mentioned earlier? Nearly a third of all U.S. households have four electronic devices, such as cell phones, plugged in and charging, according to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey by the U.S. Energy Information Admin-

istration. In the past 30 years, the percentage of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 percent to 31 percent. More homes than ever use major appliances and central air conditioning. Digital video recorders (DVRs), computers and multiple televisions have become common place.

Clearly, our appetite for electricity shows no signs of slowing. So the next time you flip a switch, use your toaster or run your washing machine, remember the value electricity holds. And know that Morgan County REA is looking out for you by working together to keep electric bills affordable; controlling costs through innovation and putting you, our members, first.

What kind of value do you get from MCREA?

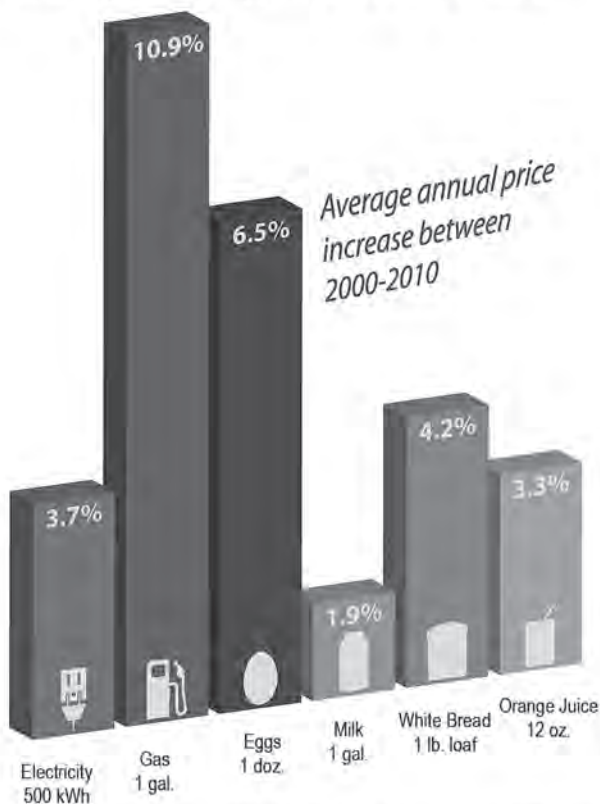
According to the 2010 annual report, the average residential MCREA member uses 985 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, which equals an average electric bill of \$125 per month or just over \$4 per day. Think of all of the things you do around your house during the day that require electricity.

Just about everything you do around your home with electricity can be done for just \$4 per day. Now take a step outside your home and see what you can get for that same \$4.

While your utility bill might look high at the end of each month, it still represents a bargain. Morgan County REA is committed to making your electricity affordable and providing you with a great product at a great value.

Electricity Remains a Good Value

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. As demand for energy rises and fuel prices increase, your electric cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable electricity and keeping your electric bill affordable.



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Mainstream Graphics

For just \$4 per day, you can do ALL of this with electricity:

- Watch television or movies
- Light your home
- Cook breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Make a pot of coffee
- Listen to music
- Cool or heat your home
- Wash and dry your clothes
- Refrigerate your food
- Operate a computer
- Charge a cell phone, or two
- Open your garage door



The same \$4 will pay for only ONE of the following:

- About one gallon of gas
- One-quarter of a delivery pizza
- One large soda at a movie theater
- One popular magazine
- Nine postage stamps
- One-third of a haircut
- Two songs on a new music CD
- One greeting card



Applications for MCREA Youth Opportunities Available Now

Morgan County REA now has applications available for several opportunities for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors whose families are MCREA members, including scholarships and leadership development events.

Washington, D.C., Youth Tour — Every June about 1,500 high school students from towns and small cities in rural America spend a week in the nation's capital as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Students who participate on the tour learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. Morgan County REA will pay for the students' round-trip airfare from Denver to Washington, D.C., lodging in Denver and Washington, D.C., as well as admission tickets to sites, events and meals. To be eligible, students must be 16 years old at the time of Youth Tour and attend high school the following school year. **Deadline to apply for the Youth Tour is Friday, December 9, 2011.**

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp — Every July, nearly 100 high school students travel to Clark (north of Steamboat Springs). The primary objective of the camp is to provide an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative. The seminar strives to help develop leadership skills that will assist students with the challenges they will face in the future. The same eligibility requirements for the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour apply for Cooperative Youth Camp. **The application deadline for Leadership Camp is also Friday, December 9, 2011.**

Undergraduate scholarships — Morgan County Rural Electric Association is once again partnering with Tri-State Generation & Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative in sponsoring six scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 for youth in our service area. To be eligible, applicants or their family must receive electric service from Morgan County REA, must be starting at the freshman level at a vocational school or college in the fall of



Jordan Deslauriers, Brush, (left) and Dusty Johnson, Fort Morgan, represent MCREA at the 2011 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

this year and must plan to maintain a full-time schedule in any post-secondary accredited institution that offers at least a one-year degree program. **All completed application materials must be postmarked or delivered by February 1, 2012.**

Line worker scholarships — Morgan County Rural Electric Association is once again proud to offer \$7,500 line worker scholarship(s) to assist individuals who will attend line work school the following fall. Qualified applicants and/or their families must reside in the MCREA service territory. If tuition and fees are less than the scholarship amount, students may use the remaining funds for living and/or working expenses. **Completed application materials must be postmarked or delivered to the MCREA offices by March 1, 2012.**

More information about these youth opportunities can be found at Morgan County REA headquarters, by calling MCREA member services at 970-867-5688, from your school counselor or by visiting www.mcrea.org.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

In observance of Veteran's Day, MCREA offices will be closed on Friday, November 11. MCREA offices will also be closed on November 24 and 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

We at Morgan County REA salute our Veterans and wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

MCREA Has LED Christmas Lights for Sale

Christmas will be here before you know it. Morgan County REA wants to help you celebrate the holiday season with energy-efficient LED Christmas lights. A wide variety of lights at low prices are once again available at MCREA headquarters. They are:

- Mini stars – pure white, 20 lights\$5.99
- Mini stars – blue, 20 lights\$4.99
- Mini stars – red, 20 lights\$3.99
- Mini stars – gold, 20 lights\$3.99
- M5 Icicle – pure white, 70 lights\$14.99
- M5 Icicle – sapphire blue, 70 lights\$12.99
- C6 Sapphire blue, 70 lights\$10.99
- C6 Pure white, 70 lights\$13.99
- C6 Multi – 5 colors, 70 lights\$9.99
- C6 Red, 70 lights\$7.99
- C6 Green, 70 lights\$9.99
- C6 Purple, 70 lights\$15.99
- M5 Multi – 5 colors, 70 lights\$7.99
- M5 Pure white, 70 lights\$14.99
- Beaded garland – multi, 50 lights\$1.99
- Star tree topper
Colorwave red/green/blue\$9.99



Come in to Morgan County REA, check out the display and purchase your energy-efficient Christmas lights today.

Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

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

Congratulations Larry and Cheryl Campbell (account #1471302) and Russell and Darlene Vick (account #1784800) You saw your names and account numbers in the September edition of *Colorado Country Life* and received a \$25 credit on your bill.

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 November 30th to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

Also, congratulations to David DeSamber from Fort Morgan, Doris Williams from New Raymer, Jay Lynch from Fort Morgan and Patricia Gabriel from Wiggins. Their names were drawn from nearly 100 responses in our "Update Your Contact Information" campaign held earlier this summer. They all received a \$25 credit on their monthly bills. Thank you to everyone who updated their contact information during the campaign. Remember that our members can update their information anytime on our website at www.mcrea.org.

Don't Crank Up the Heat

Use these high-tech tips to keep warm as the weather gets colder

As temperatures begin to drop, consumers may soon have a lot more on their minds than the coming winter chill. They may be more worried about the cost of staying warm.

As costs for fuels and additional regulations have pushed energy costs higher, heating costs have risen. So instead of just cranking up the thermostat, check out these five alternative tools for keeping costs down and the warmth up. Splurging on all of these high-tech solutions could cost you a pretty penny, but pick out one or two and your wallet may thank you come spring.

1. Keep your toes toasty with battery-powered heating socks

These super cozy socks have a thin battery-powered heating element encased in the toe that won't overheat. They're made out of "moisture-wicking" material to keep you toasty, not sweaty.

2. Cuddle up with a USB blanket

If you spend a lot of time at home on the computer, a USB heated blanket is perfect for keeping away the chills. It plugs into any USB port, comes with two cords and can be worn over the shoulders or across your lap.

3. Get efficient with a programmable thermostat

A programmable thermostat will automatically lower the temperature of your home at night or while you're out and about, allowing the heat to run less when you're not actively using it.

4. Stay mobile with touch screen gloves

Smartphone users have long known the frustration of trying to text, swipe or tap while out in the elements. Hopefully you won't need gloves in the house too often, but when Jack Frost really comes knocking, these babies from Agloves, made with a special conductive material, will keep you connected. You can find them at www.agloves.com/pages/Media-Photos.html.

5. Dodge the draft with outlet insulation

Drafts pass in and out of homes through outlets and outlet covers, especially the ones along exterior walls. Fortunately there are special outlet and switch gaskets specially made to reduce drafts. Visit your local hardware store to find these devices or find out how you can do it yourself online.



MCREA NEEDS 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.



CONSERVE WATER ON TURKEY DAY

How you rinse your dishes on Thanksgiving day can save hot water and energy.

Instead of running the tap to rinse the soap, fill the sink with a few gallons of wash water and rinse.

If every U.S. household reduced water use by 10 gallons on Thanksgiving day, it would save more than 1 billion gallons of water. That's enough for 1 million households with dishwashers to wash their dishes for a year.