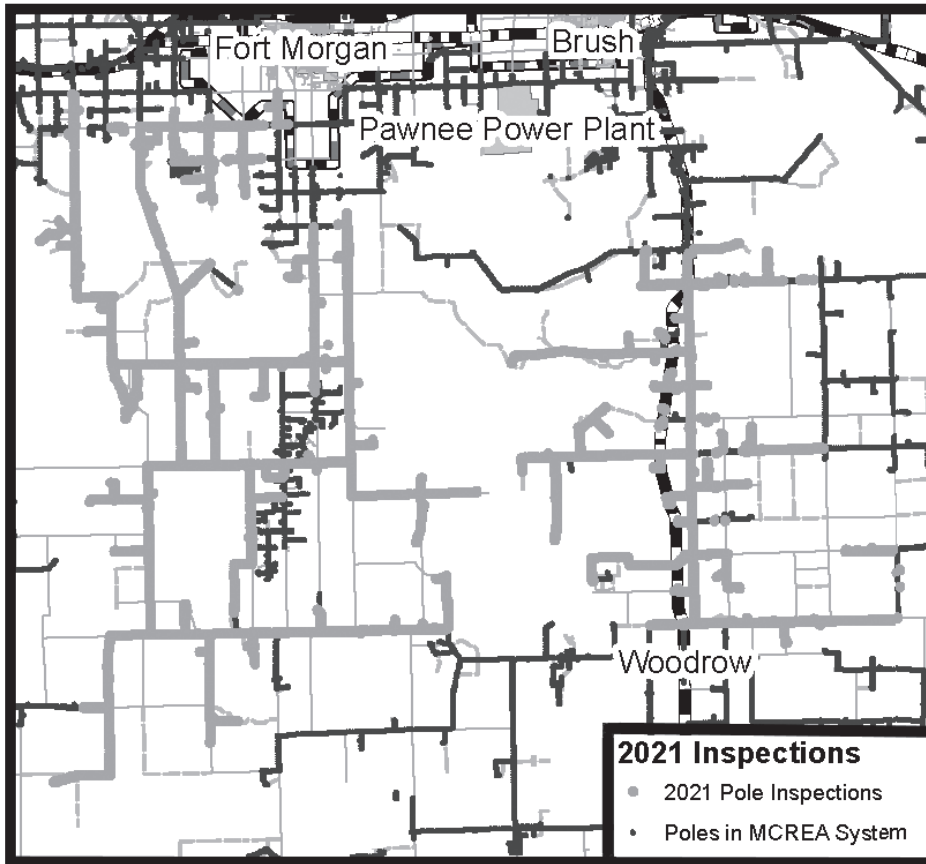


MCREA CONDUCTING POLE INSPECTIONS



Morgan County REA will be conducting pole inspections in its service territory, utilizing independent third-party contractors. The independent contractors are tentatively scheduled to begin inspecting MCREA's electric poles sometime in January and are expected to be running their inspections through March.

These crews will be seen on four-wheelers around MCREA poles and infrastructure and they are authorized by MCREA to conduct their inspections. Inspectors will also have photo IDs that identify them as authorized contractors for MCREA.

If any consumer-members have questions about the pole inspections, please call MCREA headquarters at 970-867-5688.



MCREA Employees Recognized for 5 Years of Service

This year, two employees received years of service pins. We want to congratulate Chuck Blackwelder and Curtis Covelli on five years of service with Morgan County REA.



▲ Chuck Blackwelder



▲ Curtis Covelli

Sign Up Today

Morgan County REA's outside crews work diligently to keep the power going to consumer-members — in good weather and bad. While MCREA certainly hopes that outages don't occur during inclement weather, the possibility exists that crews would need assistance from consumer-members should these situations arise

— primarily with pulling out equipment that might become stuck in heavy snow, mud, etc. (Dale and Cathy Fleming, acct #xxx1600) With this in mind, several years ago MCREA created the "Pull-Out List" — consumer-members who would volunteer to assist crews with stuck vehicles. MCREA is looking to update that list with existing and new volunteers.

MCREA is asking consumer-members with the equipment to assist in adverse conditions to provide updated contact information so your co-op can contact you quickly should the need arise. If you are willing to help, please contact Stacy Syphers at 970-867-5688.



CAN YOU JOIN OUR "PULL-OUT LIST"?

Deadline for College Scholarship Applications Around the Corner

A reminder to high school seniors and current college students: Completed application materials for Morgan County REA's college or vocational school scholarship opportunities must be postmarked or delivered to MCREA headquarters by **January 29, 2021**.

MCREA, along with Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, will sponsor nine college or vocational education scholarships for students who reside in MCREA's service territory boundaries and whose parents or grandparents receive electric service from MCREA.

MCREA will award five \$1,000 scholarships, with Tri-State offering two \$500 scholarships and Basin Electric sponsoring one \$1,000 scholarship, all for graduating high school seniors. Additionally, MCREA is offering one \$1,000 scholarship to a current postsecondary student who will be returning to a college or trade school.



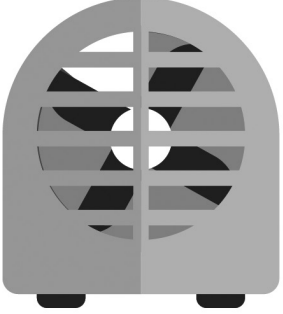
▲ Allie Christensen from Fort Morgan High School is a scholarship winner from last year.

Only one set of application materials is necessary to apply for all college and post-secondary scholarships from all three cooperatives. (Nancy Loftesness, acct #xxx0400) Students applying for the \$1,000 current college student scholarship do not have to be previous MCREA scholarship winners to qualify.

Required application materials for all these scholarship opportunities may be delivered to the MCREA office, 734 Barlow Road, Fort Morgan, or mailed to:

Scholarship Committee
Morgan County REA
P.O. Box 738,
Fort Morgan, CO 80701


Applications and more information about these scholarship opportunities can be found at Morgan County REA headquarters, on the website (www.mcrea.org) or at your school's counseling office.



86%


of home heating fire deaths involve space heaters.

Source: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)




SAVE MONEY

Electricity is becoming cleaner every day and can save consumers money on their energy costs over time.




Did you know...

Replacing your HVAC system with an electric heat pump can **save you nearly \$1,000 per year** on your heating and cooling bills.¹



Did you know...

The average cost of **charging an electric car** is equivalent to **\$1.20 per gallon of gasoline**.²




Did you know...


Owning an electric vehicle can **save you over \$800** in annual maintenance.³

1. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcMahon/2018/08/19/if-youre-heating-with-propane-or-oil-study-says-go-electric/#208f2b7721>


2. <https://www.energy.gov/maps/egallon>

3. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-11-29/electric-vehicles-drivers-save-a-lot-on-gas-money>





The power of human connections®



America's Electric Cooperatives

Morgan County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



MCREA MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

This year we decided to change things up a bit from what we've done in the past. Instead of holding a Christmas light contest, we opted instead for a consumer-member photo contest. We were pleased with everyone who participated and sent us photos. There was a committee of Morgan County REA employees that voted on the winners. We are excited to share with you the winners of the first MCREA photo contest. The winners will receive a bill credit. Congratulations to all of our winners. We look forward to next year's contest.



^ **1st Place:** Trish Lebsock-Glenn



^ **2nd Place:** Carrie Moble



^ **3rd Place:** Sammi Pizzitola



^ **Honorable Mention:**
Karine Zubialde



^ **Honorable Mention:**
Jody Deganhart



^ **Honorable Mention:**
Judith Rush

FIVE WAYS TO STAY COZY THIS WINTER

BY ABBY BERRY

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat. Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth that a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat and your energy bill will thank you.



▲ Electric blankets deliver quick warmth and include a variety of features like timers and dual temperature settings. Photo: Abby Berry, NRECA.

2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature. When your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.

3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and harness natural warmth from sunlight. If you open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in, you'll feel the difference.

4. Another way to make your home cozier is to use a humidifier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so adding humidity inside your home can help you feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.



▲ Adding humidity inside your home can make the air feel a little warmer. Photo: Abby Berry, NRECA.

5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ideas to stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

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 Clark and Joan Wilson (account # xxx4100) and Joseph and Ann Archuleta (account # xxx4601), you saw your names and account numbers in the November edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You received a \$25 credit on your bill.

There are two more MCREA consumer-member names 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 January 31 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.



January 2021

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

Source: nrel.gov