

# LOOKING FORWARD TO MCREA'S ANNUAL MEETING

## A Local Viewpoint

BY DAVID FRICK GENERAL MANAGER

It's that time of year again: annual meeting time. On behalf of Morgan County Rural Electric Association, I want to personally invite you to join us on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at Fort Morgan High School. We look forward to gathering with you — consumer-members of the co-op community — to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit with members of our co-op community, it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Morgan County REA and get to know your MCREA Board of Directors, management staff and employees. Our annual meeting makes it possible for us to visit with our consumer-members and gather feedback from you. By providing a forum such as the annual meeting, consumer-members can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

Morgan County REA's annual meeting is a unique opportunity for neighbors to meet new neighbors or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the "errands of life" and more of our interactions with others are online (via social media), every now and then we should renew the value of face-to-face human

connections. Very few organizations are positioned like MCREA to bring together the members of our local communities.

While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors, it is not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling, saying hello and shaking someone's hand truly lifts both parties.

It's also an occasion to discuss and learn more about the happenings and successes at your local electric cooperative over this past year. MCREA's annual meeting is designed to inform you, our consumer-members, about the financial and operational status of your cooperative, along with the equally important business of building a real sense of community. (Ted D. Wilson, acct #xxx5400) Cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While providing electric power to our members is crucial to our mission, concern for the communities we serve is at the core of what we do every day.

If you have not been to MCREA's annual meeting in the past, or if it has been a few years, we suggest that you take the time to attend, learn more about your electric cooperative and catch up with your friends



DAVID FRICK

and neighbors. While you're there, please check out the informational booths in the high school commons area from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We'll also award a \$250 annual meeting prize from names drawn from consumer-members in attendance, and a \$1,000 grand prize from a name drawn from the total membership. Those drawings will take place — along with many other door prize giveaways — during the business meeting, which will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Glenn Miller Auditorium.

Rest assured, we will remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future. Please make plans to join us on March 21 at the annual meeting. We're looking forward to seeing everyone there.

■■ Morgan County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



### Morgan County REA's 83rd Annual Meeting & Member Appreciation

Saturday, March 21, 2020 — 11 a.m.

Fort Morgan High School • Glenn Miller Auditorium  
709 E. Riverview Ave., Fort Morgan, CO 80701

11 a.m. Registration, lunch, director election voting, gifts and informational booths

12:30 p.m. Business meeting, director election results, management reports and prizes

**\$1,000 Grand Prize** (Name drawn from total membership. Must be present to win.)

**\$250 Annual Meeting Prize** (Name drawn from members in attendance. Must be present to win.)

◀ Power high-fives a young attendee at last year's MCREA Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation event.

# Lineworker Scholarship

## Application Deadline Coming Soon

Morgan County Rural Electric Association is again proud to offer lineworker scholarship(s) to assist individuals in establishing a career in the electric industry. This year, Morgan County REA is looking to award \$5,000 in scholarships for students to attend lineworker school the following fall.

Qualified applicants must reside within the boundaries of Morgan County REA's service area and be attending or planning to attend an approved lineworker training program as a full-time student. MCREA's service area boundary in northeastern Colorado includes all of Morgan County and portions of Logan, Weld, Adams, Arapahoe and Washington counties.

Scholarship recipients are selected by a committee comprised of the MCREA operations department. The committee's

decisions are based on a number of factors, including academics, school and community participation, work experiences and a student statement of goals and aspirations. In addition to turning in the application, candidates are required to participate in an interview process prior to selection for the scholarship. Scholarship recipients are not required to work at Morgan County REA after graduating lineworker school. There are no age restrictions to apply for a lineworker scholarship.

Completed application materials may be delivered in person to:  
MCREA headquarters  
734 Barlow Road, Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
Or mailed to:  
Lineworker Scholarship Committee  
Morgan County REA  
P.O. Box 738, Fort Morgan, CO 80701



▲ Electric lineworkers perform a variety of tasks in their jobs, including working on overhead lines and substations.

Completed application materials must be postmarked or delivered to the MCREA offices by February 28, 2020. A complete scholarship packet may be picked up at Morgan County REA headquarters by calling member services at 970-867-5688 or online at [www.mcrea.org](http://www.mcrea.org).

## New Books Donated to the Fort Morgan Library



Morgan County REA, along with *Colorado Country Life*, donated new books to the Fort Morgan Library. The books were a mix of fiction and nonfiction, including books by Colorado authors. Morgan County REA is proud to contribute to its community.

◀ Member Services Representative Bill Annan presents new books to Josie Diaz at the Fort Morgan Library.



### 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, Jeanette Corbin (account # xxx3000) and John W. Mauck (account #xxx7600), you saw your names and account number in the December edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You 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 February 28 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

# Unclaimed & Uncashed Capital Credits

At its regular meeting in October, the Morgan County REA Board of Directors authorized patronage capital retirements totaling \$2.75 million for a complete retirement of 2005, 2006, 2007 and partial retirement of 2008 MCREA allocations, along with a complete retirement of 2001 and partial retirement of 2002 generation and transmission margin allocations. In December, members from those years were sent a capital credits check in the mail, reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during those years. (Edward T. Lutz, acct #xxx0100)

It is not unusual for MCREA to have unclaimed or uncashed

capital credits checks from margin allocations. In some cases, letters containing refunds were returned due to lack of current address. MCREA also has instances in which capital credits checks were never cashed.

If you have not received a capital credit check, and you were a Morgan County REA member in 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, please contact MCREA to verify that it has your current address to ensure that your capital credits check finds you. For more information or questions, please call the office at 970-867-5688 or email [customerservice@mcrea.org](mailto:customerservice@mcrea.org).

## Keep Your Furry Friends Safe Around Electricity

You do all you can to keep your pets healthy: You take them to the veterinarian for checkups, feed them well and ensure they are up to date on vaccinations. After all, for many people, pets are part of the family.

Two-thirds (67%) of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own at least one pet, according to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey. The survey was conducted by the American Pet Products Association and the numbers are up 11% from 1988.

There is something else you can do for your pets: Keep them safe around electricity. Morgan County REA and Safe Electricity offer these tips:

- Puppies and other pets love to chew on electrical cords. Keep cords out of sight

or hidden with a cord cover. Provide teething or play alternatives.

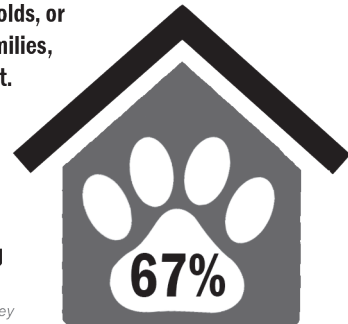
- Watch your pet around dangling or sagging cords, including phone or tablet charging cables. Unplug charging cables once your devices are charged. Not only do they draw a small amount of energy when not in use, but the dangling cords are also just crying to be played with.
- Watch where you place lamps and other plugged-in items. Lamps can be a fire hazard if they are knocked over, especially if they have halogen bulbs.
- Do not leave your pet alone around items that get hot: curling irons and straighteners, an outdoor grill, a portable heater and other electric appliances, including cooktops.

**67% of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own at least one pet.**

**Keep pets safe around electricity.**

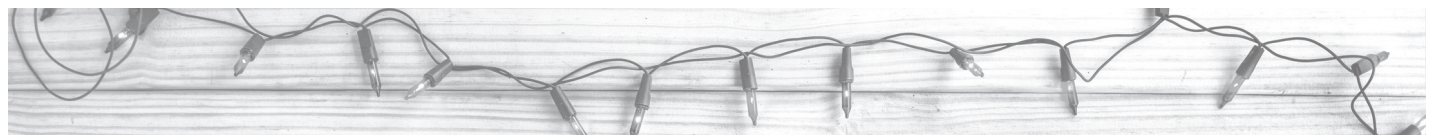
**Safe Electricity.org**

\*Source: 2019-2020 APPA National Pet Owners Survey



Pet proof your home much like you would for a baby or toddler. If you suspect your pet has been shocked or burned, take it to the vet right away. Owners may not realize a pet has been shocked until a few hours later when it has trouble breathing. Other symptoms include ulcers in the mouth and lesions on the tongue and gums.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



### The winners of the MCREA Christmas light decorating contest are:

1st Place - Donna Tavenner and Lisa Fitzgerald

2nd Place - Jason and Rebecca Schobinger

3rd Place - Richard and Leta Ingmire

Thanks to all who participated!

# FOUR ELECTRIFYING END-USE APPLIANCES

BY MARIA KANEVSKY

Many of the everyday appliances in your home have the potential to be powered by electricity instead of gas, propane or any other type of fossil fuel. Switching to electric appliances and technologies can help you save money over time since they never need to be refueled, and because these appliances are typically more efficient and less likely to break down.

Not only do electric appliances create a cleaner home environment with less exhaust emissions, but they also help to create an overall cleaner community environment. Generally, electric appliances are safer for the consumer since there is no direct contact with the oil or gas itself. There are four major electric technologies around the home that are changing the way we use energy, and those are the stove top, water heater, lawn mower and vehicle.

## Electric stovetop

If you've had your gas stovetop for years, an electric stovetop could be the next step in making a change toward electrification. New induction stovetops can now warm up more quickly than gas stoves, can heat pans more evenly than before and are much more efficient than older versions of electric resistance stoves.

It should be noted that induction stovetops also require specific pots and pans to be compatible with the stovetop, which can make them more expensive than regular electric stovetops. However, the prices for electric stovetops have declined in recent years, making most of them on par with the cost of gas stovetops.

## Electric water heater

A hybrid heat pump water heater is another option to electrify an appliance in your home and is much more efficient than a traditional electric water heater. Hybrid heat pump water heaters generally save

money since they use energy more efficiently than gas-powered water heaters. Households can potentially save hundreds of dollars per year, while also not having to worry about any combustion safety issues.



Hybrid heat pump water heaters, like the one from A.O. Smith shown here, generally save money since they use energy more efficiently than gas-powered water heaters. Photo: A.O. Smith

Another key feature of the electric water heater is that they can serve as a battery by storing thermal energy. Water heaters can retain their heat for hours, which provides the consumer-member and the utility a great opportunity to power water heaters at night when electricity is the cheapest. This helps to keep rates low for you and other consumer-members, since your electric cooperative can better manage its electricity demand.

## Electric lawn mower

Even the tools that you use to beautify your lawn can be switched to an electric version. Instead of using gasoline to power your lawn mower, consider a battery-powered mower, which doesn't expel exhaust fumes or require engine maintenance. Another benefit to battery-powered mowers is that they start instantly.

Although most battery-powered mowers cost more upfront, the savings is recouped over time since you won't need



A battery-powered mower can start instantly and it doesn't expel exhaust fumes or require engine maintenance.

to pay for engine maintenance or fuel. Battery-operated leaf blowers have similar benefits to the battery-operated mower, or any other device with a small motor.

One of the most obvious benefits is that both devices are much quieter than their gas-powered counterparts, providing a service not only to you but your neighbors as well. These machines typically have the additional power to handle larger lawns. However, for particularly tall, thick or wet lawns, it may be better to stick with a gas-powered mower or leaf blower.

## Electric vehicle

Technology around electric vehicles is changing extremely quickly, with prices getting close to that of gasoline-fueled vehicles over the long term. While there are luxury options like Tesla, there are many other manufacturers coming out with hybrids that can be much more affordable, especially for used cars. Electric vehicles also reduce exhaust emissions, and, with many people making the transition, air quality can be improved on a large scale.

Electrifying these various household appliances and machines is the idea behind



Electric vehicles, such as the Ford Focus BEV shown here, reduce exhaust emissions. With many consumers making the transition to electric vehicles, air quality can be improved on a larger scale. Photo: Ford Motor Co.

beneficial electrification, which is the electrification of any end-use appliances. Beneficial electrification doesn't call for electrifying everything, rather only when it benefits consumers and the larger community.

Switching a product to electricity can bring several benefits to the consumer. No more maintenance and no more dealing with gasoline or oil. Over time, switching to electric appliances can save consumers money as well, creating a win-win situation for all.

Maria Kanevsky is a program analyst for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.