

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2023



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MCREA Mission

Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

October is National Co-op Month, and Morgan County REA is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including MCREA, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles — and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

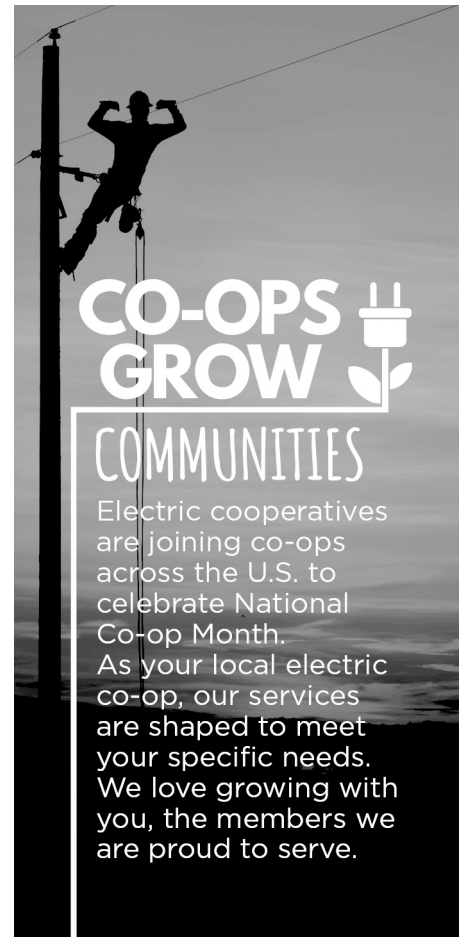
CO-OPS GROW TOGETHER: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops across Colorado and the country work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies, and better ways to serve our members. Co-ops also help each other in times of crisis. In August, when Hurricane Idalia hit the southeastern coast of the U.S., co-ops from several states rushed to help the affected areas rebuild and get power back on. We're better when we grow together.

CO-OPS GROW TOMORROW'S LEADERS: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of younger member engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events, or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities

for our local kids to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

CO-OPS GROW TO MEET NEW CHALLENGES: The energy landscape is changing. Demand is increasing while supply chain issues and government-regulated energy shifts make it more difficult to keep up. These are just a few factors contributing to the expected rate increase that MCREA has discussed with members. Despite these new challenges, the co-op grows and adapts to continue providing power as affordably as possible.

CO-OPS GROW FOR YOU: At MCREA, providing safe, reliable energy is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago, to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you.





NEW EMPLOYEE: Angie Hayes



Morgan County REA is excited to welcome Angie Hayes as the cooperative's new accounts payable clerk. A lifetime resident of Morgan County, Angie is no stranger to the area or our membership.

"I've always heard this is a great place to work," said Angie, when asked what made her want to join MCREA's team. "I'm excited to get to know people and interact with our members."

In their free time, Angie and her husband, Mark, enjoy camping with friends and family, watching the Denver Broncos, and spending time with their nieces and nephews.

Welcome to MCREA, Angie!

MORGAN COUNTY REA RECEIVES SAFETY AWARDS

Each year, co-op employees from across the state meet for Colorado Rural Electric Association's Safety and Loss Control Seminar to learn about emerging safety issues and share best practices. This year, the 30th annual event took place in Colorado Springs. (Bailey Schumacher, acct. #xxx4600)

During the meeting, 12 co-ops — including Morgan County REA — were recognized for having no lost-time injuries last year. MCREA was one of just two cooperatives to receive an overall achievement in safety. The overall achievement award is based on several criteria, including safety program participation, public education on electrical safety, vehicle safety metrics, safety improvement plan development, and incident data.

Congratulations to all of MCREA's employees who all work together to make safety a top priority at the co-op.



▲ Curt Graham (middle) presents the overall achievement in safety award to MCREA's Alan Mason (left) and Travis Varelman (right).

MEMBER SHOUTOUT

I wanted to thank Morgan County REA! Your entire team is always so wonderful to work with.

We had an outage the other night, and before we knew it, [linemen] Andron and Bryson were on their way to fix it. They were so nice and did an excellent job getting the power back on so quickly. We really appreciated their work!

Julie Klinkerman,
Briggsville



▲ CREA's Curt Graham (middle) presents the no-lost time award to MCREA's Travis Varelman (left) and Alan Mason (right).

SAVE WITH THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

Summer quickly came and went, but that doesn't mean the fun has to end! Did you know that Morgan County REA has a program in place to help you save on a variety of goods and services, from restaurant discounts to fitness club memberships?

The Co-op Connections® card is a free program that helps MCREA members save money on everyday expenses. The card provides discounts to businesses right here in our local communities, encouraging members to shop and save local, igniting a small business comeback. In fact, the program was created specifically to help businesses on our country's main streets thrive. (Eugene Beauprez, acct. #xxx1600)

But the card doesn't just help you save money locally. Your Co-op Connections card gives you access to discounts across the country — it taps into a national business community. Co-op Connections offers deals on things like entertainment, travel, and prescription discount benefits.

The Co-op Connections card is yet another easy way to see the value of being an electric cooperative member. What are you waiting for? Sign up for Co-op Connections today.

Visit www.connections.coop to create an account and see what great deals are available. You can also download the Co-op



Connections app in the App Store or on Google Play.

Do you prefer a physical card to use at participating businesses? We have those too! Stop by MCREA's office or call 970-867-5688 to get yours.

NEW EMPLOYEE: Nolan Kauffmann



We at MCREA are happy to welcome Nolan Kauffmann as our newest apprentice lineman. Originally from Thornton, Nolan is looking forward to enjoying the rural way of life in here in Morgan County.

“My favorite part of being a lineman is serving the community,” Nolan said. “I’m looking forward to learning the traditions and values here at Morgan County REA.”

In his free time, Nolan enjoys fishing, hunting, archery, and hiking.

Welcome to the MCREA team, Nolan!

USE YOUR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD AT POPE FARMS CORN MAIZE AND PUMPKIN PATCH

What's something you need to mark off your fall fun checklist? Well, the pumpkin patch of course!

Fortunately, there is a great one right here in our community — Pope Farms Corn Maize and Pumpkin Patch in Wiggins. In addition to the winding corn maze and 26-acre pumpkin patch, Pope Farms offers many fun activities for your family to enjoy. There are pumpkin cannons, hayrides, paintball, zip lines, and so much more — there's something for everyone.

The best part? You can save money on the fun with your Co-op Connections card. This year Morgan County REA members can show their Co-op Connections card (or app) to receive either 100 free paintballs or 8 free pumpkin cannon shots with a purchase of admission at Pope Farms.

This month, have some fall fun and support local business by using your Co-op Connections card at Pope Farms Corn Maize and Pumpkin Patch.



■ YOUR CO-OP NEWS

Morgan County REA: Proud Sponsor of the State Fair Junior Livestock Sale

The Colorado State Fair is the hallmark end of summer for many kids in our service territory. All year, 4-H and FFA members across the state work hard on their projects. The Junior Livestock Sale at the Colorado State Fair is a culmination of all that hard work.

Morgan County REA, along with the rest of Colorado's electric cooperatives, is proud to sponsor the sale. This year, the event was another huge success, raising \$470,000. MCREA congratulates all the kids from our communities who made the sale at this year's state fair.



New Journeyman Lineman: Andron Brown

Morgan County REA congratulates Andron Brown on attaining his journeyman lineman certification. This is no easy task as it requires 8,000 hours as an apprentice lineman, the completion of a 200-question written test, a panel review, and intense field tests. Andron and the support staff at MCREA can be proud of such an accomplishment.

This is the second time Andron has completed an apprenticeship. Having worked at Tri-State Generation and Transmission before joining MCREA, Andron has completed apprenticeships at both the transmission and distribution levels. This is a true testament of his dedication to the industry.

Congratulations, Andron!



▲ Andron Brown (left) is presented his journeyman lineman certificate by MCREA general manager, Dave Frick

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: energy.gov



**YOU CAN
WIN \$25 OFF
YOUR ELECTRIC BILL**



Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a chance at a \$25 bill credit, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*. Congratulations, Prairie Belle Land Company! You spotted your name in the August issue and called to receive a \$25 credit.

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