

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2024



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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.

CAPITAL CREDITS: MORGAN COUNTY REA RETURNS \$4.75 MILLION TO MEMBERS

BY DAVE FRICK GENERAL MANAGER



DAVE FRICK

There's a lot to look forward to in December, and I'm certainly a fan of all that this time of year brings. Christmas is right around the corner and the coming weeks will be filled with joy, great food, and treasured time with loved ones.

At your electric cooperative, this time of year is exciting for another reason: capital credits. This year, I'm pleased to announce that your Morgan County REA Board of Directors has approved \$4.75 million in capital credits to be returned to MCREA members. This is the largest patronage capital retirement in MCREA history.

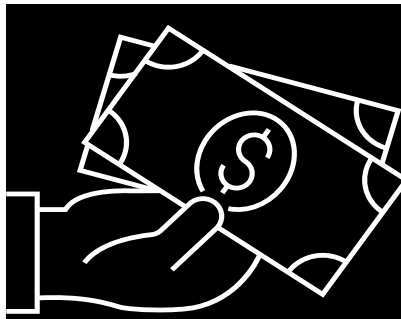
Capital credits are one of the best parts of being an electric co-op member. As a not-for-profit cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is due — to the members who shape our co-op. Based on MCREA's financial condition, our board elects to retire the profits, also called patronage capital, from a given year. Anyone who was a member of the co-op during that year retired is sent a capital credits check based on how much power they purchased. This is very different from investor-owned utilities, which, instead, send profits to shareholders.

In October, the MCREA board approved a complete retirement of 2018 MCREA patronage and 2004 Tri-State Generation & Transmission capital. They also approved partial retirement of 2019 MCREA patronage. This means that anyone who was an MCREA member in these years will receive a capital credits check this month, reflecting your contribution to the cooperative. Those funds helped MCREA manage rates, cover emergency expenses, and reduce the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable distribution system.

Because capital credits are dispersed according to how much power each member purchased in these years, check amounts will vary. If someone is no longer an MCREA member, but was in any of these years retired — they will still receive a capital credits check. That's why it's important for MCREA to have your current contact information, so that your check can make its way to you.

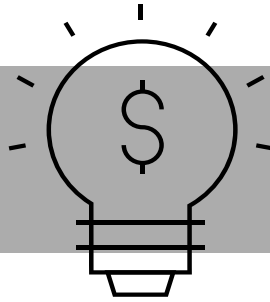
MCREA is proud to deliver these capital credits to you, the members we serve — and it makes this wonderful time of year even better. On behalf of Morgan County REA, I wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





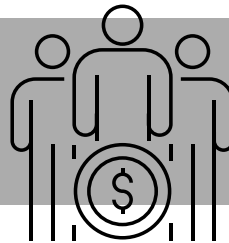
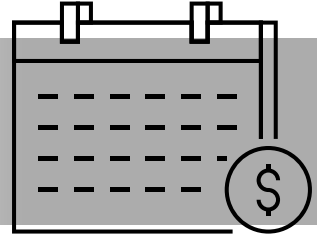
HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.



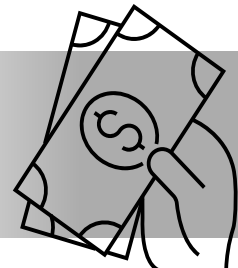
1. Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month.

2. The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.



3. When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members.

4. We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check.

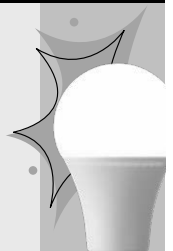


ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products.

This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov



NEW EMPLOYEE: RYAN HEAGNEY

Morgan County REA is excited to welcome Ryan Heagney as our newest lineman. Originally from Fort Morgan, Ryan is no stranger to Morgan County REA's service area and our members.

"My favorite part of the job is the diversity of the work we do," said Heagney, who has been a lineman for nine years. "I'm excited to be at Morgan County REA and to be close to home."

In his free time, Ryan loves spending time with his family as they enjoy camping and riding side-by-sides. Welcome to MCREA, Ryan!

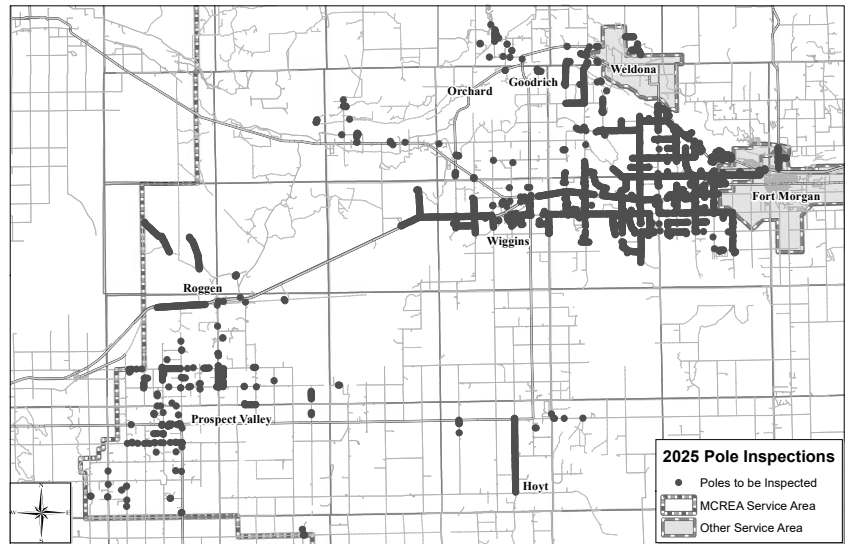


POLE INSPECTIONS STARTING THIS MONTH

Morgan County REA will be conducting pole inspections in different areas of its service territory, using independent third-party contractors. Pole inspections will begin in December and are expected to run for a few months. (Lucinda Zancanelli, acct. #xxx7500)

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

Routine pole inspections are another way MCREA works to strengthen its grid to continue delivering safe, reliable power to more than 5,000 members. If you have any questions about pole inspections, please call MCREA at 970-867-5688.



YOUTH TOUR & LEADERSHIP CAMP: APPLY BY DECEMBER 20, 2024

Students: There is still time to apply for Morgan County REA's upcoming Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp! Each year, MCREA selects one student to attend Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June and another to attend Youth Camp, which takes place in Steamboat Springs in July. Both trips are great opportunities for young MCREA members to meet new people, learn more about electric cooperatives, and develop their leadership skills. The best part? These exciting trips of a lifetime are **FREE** to those selected to attend!

The deadline to apply for Youth Tour and Leadership Camp is Friday, December 20. The application is open to current high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors living within the outer boundaries of MCREA's service territory, whose parents or grandparents are MCREA members.

For more information and to apply, visit www.mcrea.org/youth-programs and click on either the Youth Camp or Youth Tour buttons. If you have any questions about our youth programs, please call MCREA's office at 970-867-5688.



MCREA MEMBER PULLOUT LIST: YOU ARE INVITED TO SIGN UP

Morgan County REA crews work hard year-round to make sure safe, reliable electricity is delivered to our members. Though we hope bad storms are few and far between, there are instances where MCREA crews may need assistance from members should inclement weather arise — primarily with pulling out equipment that might be stuck in heavy mud or snow. (Rachel Venter, acct. #xxx8200)

For this reason, MCREA created a list of members who are willing to assist MCREA crews with stuck equipment. Any members who have the equipment necessary to aid in adverse weather conditions and who want to help are invited to sign up and be added to our list.

To sign up, visit mcrea.org/outage-center or scan the QR code to provide your name, address, and phone number so MCREA can contact you if the need arises. MCREA will provide compensation when pullouts are performed, and we greatly appreciate members who are willing to help.

WILLING TO HELP US OUT?
We appreciate it!

Scan below to join our pullout list!

MERRY
Christmas
& **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Morgan County REA will be closed **December 24-25** for Christmas and **Wednesday, January 1** for New Year's Day!

MORGAN COUNTY REA
The Excellence Energy Company

Safety Tip

Lint buildup in your dryer can be a serious hazard, as it can easily catch fire if not cleaned regularly. By taking a few moments to clear out the lint trap before each use, you not only improve the efficiency of your dryer, but you also greatly reduce the risk of a potentially dangerous dryer fire.

Safe Electricity.org®

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, Woodlin School District! You spotted your name in the October issue and called to claim your credit.

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