

# HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830  
www.midwestrec.com

December 2020

News about your community and cooperative

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

### NEARLY 1.5 MILLION IS COMING BACK TO MEMBERS!



#### Patronage cash back shows the VALUE of your co-op membership

Midwest Electric will pay back **\$1,424,877** in patronage capital to 7,455 current and former members this December. It's noteworthy that once again, we're able to give this cash back without raising electric rates. We haven't had a rate increase since 2010, and over those 10 years, we've returned \$15 million in patronage cash back (including this month's payment) and invested more than \$21 million in electric system reliability upgrades.

Patronage is your equity ownership in your electric cooperative. It helps us

pay for electric improvements; then we pay it back to you! Customers of other utilities don't receive this perk. This month's cash back goes to those of you who used our service in 2004. **A typical residential member will receive around \$138.**

Since 1955, we have returned \$36 million. For this month's payment, eligible members will receive the refund as a credit on their electric bill or as a separate check. Please call our office if you have questions.

### FARM FAMOUS WINNERS

#### *Dwayne & Rita Krouskop*

Demand for organic meat is increasing four times faster than the total meat category. Today, consumers are concerned with environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and meat without hormones, antibiotics, or toxic pesticides.

Midwest Electric members Dwayne and Rita Krouskop of Spencerville feel the same way, especially since two of their granddaughters are immune deficient and require clean diets. Raising their own steers, chickens, goats, and more on their small family farm, the Krouskops were voted the 2020 Midwest Electric Farm Famous winners from a lineup of more than a dozen member-submitted nominees. Dwayne and Rita won a \$100 bill credit, a plaque, and the satisfaction of knowing their community stands behind their efforts to provide a healthier life for their five children and six grandchildren.

"By raising your own animals, you know what you're eating, which is so important," said Rita. "These animals are my pets, and I enjoy making sure they live good lives."

Read the full story online at [midwestrec.com](http://midwestrec.com) or in your December issue of *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine.



The Krouskops with their grandchildren.





# WHERE TO GET HELP WITH UTILITY BILLS:

If you need help with your utility bills and are facing a possible shut-off of services, there are places you can go for help.

## HEAP

Columbus, OH  
1-800-282-0880 | [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov)

## ALLEN COUNTY

**West Ohio Community Action Partnership**  
540 S. Central Ave., Lima  
419-227-2586 | [www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org)  
Appointment hotline: 855-286-7559

## Allen Co. Job & Family Services

1501 S. Dixie Hwy., Lima  
419-228-2621 | [acjfs.org](http://acjfs.org)

## AUGLAIZE COUNTY

**West Ohio Community Action Partnership**  
13093 Infirmary Road, Wapakoneta  
419-227-2586 | [www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org)

Appointment hotline: 855-286-7559

## Auglaize Co. Job & Family Services

12 N. Wood St., Wapakoneta  
567-242-2700  
[www.auglaizecountydjfs.org](http://www.auglaizecountydjfs.org)

## Mercy Unlimited

38 E. Auglaize St., Wapakoneta  
419-738-3161 | [www.mercyunlimited.org](http://www.mercyunlimited.org)

## St. Vincent DePaul Center

107 W. Pearl St., Wapakoneta  
419-738-7456 | Wed.-Thurs., 9-11:35 am

## MERCER COUNTY

**West Ohio Community Action Partnership**  
420 N. Brandon, Suite A, Celina  
419-227-2586 | [www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org)  
Appointment hotline: 855-286-7559

## OUR Home Family Resource Center

117 W. Fayette St., Celina  
419-586-4663 | [www.ourhomefrc.com](http://www.ourhomefrc.com)

## Mercer County Job & Family Services

220 W. Livingston St., Suite 10, Celina  
419-586-5106 | [mercercountyohio.org/jfs](http://mercercountyohio.org/jfs)

## PUTNAM COUNTY

### Putnam County Job & Family Services

1225 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH  
567-376-3777

### Putnam County Community Action

Main office in Findlay: 1-800-423-4304  
Satellite office in Ottawa: 419-523-5345

## VAN WERT COUNTY

### Northwestern Ohio Community Action

114 E. Main St., Suite 1, Van Wert  
419-784-5136  
Utility Assistance: 419-219-4641

*If you're getting behind in your electric bill, please call us.* We might be able to work out payment arrangements for your past due amount, and we will help you with service agencies. **Remember, we are on your side and want to help!**



## ATTENTION 2021 GRADS

## APPLY FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer two different scholarships totaling \$11,000 for graduating high school seniors. **Applications are due Jan. 15.** Winners will be eligible to complete for additional statewide funds. Call us or email [jjohns@midwestrec.com](mailto:jjohns@midwestrec.com) for details. Applications are available at [www.midwestrec.com](http://www.midwestrec.com) > My Community > Scholarships.

## Help political action efforts

Consider reinvesting a portion of your patronage cash back to fight for affordable electricity with ACRE



For as little as \$25 per year (\$2.08 per month added to your electric bill), you can join ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action and team

up with 700 Midwest Electric members. Nationally, more than 33,000 cooperative members, employees,

and trustees belong to our political action committee, which supports legislators who are dedicated to keeping your electric bills affordable.

Call 800-962-3830 for details or a registration form. Feel free to email me at [mberry@midwestrec.com](mailto:mberry@midwestrec.com).



CEO MATT BERRY

## Community Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the coronavirus situation, many events may be canceled or postponed. Please seek updated information before traveling.

- ◆ Dec. 5-6 **Tri State Gun Show**, Allen County Fairgrounds, Lima, [allencofair.com/events](http://allencofair.com/events)
- ◆ Dec. 11 **Opry Show: County Variety**, Moon City Music & Event Center, Wapakoneta, 7:30 pm, \$15 admission, [mooncityeventcenter.com](http://mooncityeventcenter.com)
- ◆ Dec. 12 **Bells, Brass, & Bows**, Lima Symphony Orchestra, Van-Del Drive-In, [limasympphony.com](http://limasympphony.com)
- ◆ Dec. 13 **National Model Railroad Train Show**, Allen County Fairgrounds, Lima
- ◆ Dec. 24-25 **Office closed for Christmas:** Enjoy the holiday with your family!
- ◆ Dec. 31 **NYE Pops**, Lima Symphony Orchestra, 419-222-5701
- ◆ Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 **Office closed at noon on New Year's Eve and all day on New Year's Day**