



**Ken
Field**

**Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services**

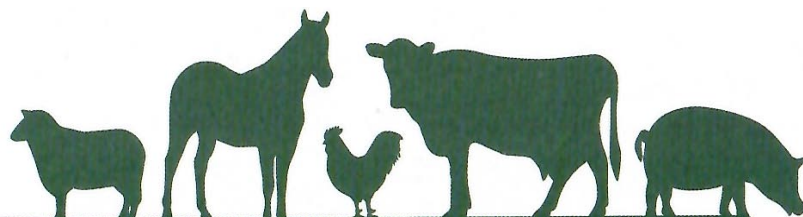
Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Moving On From Freon

It has been many years since the change from the old refrigerant (R-22 Freon) and the new refrigerant (R-410A Puron) was announced. The plan was to phase out the old and start having everyone use the new but many contractors did not embrace that plan so they continued to install systems with a refrigerant that was going to be obsolete before the equipment would be worn out. At first it was less expensive to do that because you could keep half of the system and just replace the part that failed but as time went on R-22 got more expensive and eventually they were not allowed to sell units that contained it. The work around was to sell units made for R-22 but had none in them so a contractor could just fill it up after he installed the unit. Really all that did was prolong the agony and leave customers with a system that was obsolete and either needed refrigerant that was going to cost a fortune or they would have to use a substitute that was not as efficient as R-22. In my opinion, every customer who purchased an R-22 system after R-410A was on the market was cheated or misled. If they knew what the cost for repairs or replacement would be in 2022, they probably would have done the right thing 15 years ago. As it stands now, R-22 is prohibitively expensive and "topping off" a system is not feasible along with being illegal. Refrigerant leaks are a pain to locate and repair but a system that doesn't leak just keeps humming along and causes no problems for the owner or the environment. We still take care of hundreds of systems containing R-22. Some I installed up to 30 years ago. When something on the refrigerant side of those systems fail they will be retired and a new system will be installed. Many times poor installation practices make a system problematic from the start and shorten the life but if regular service is performed and leaks are repaired when they happen, there are minimal headaches with almost any brand.

Apparently there is a new refrigerant to be announced soon by the government that will replace R410-A and I don't have any idea what the plan will be for that but rest assured it will cost homeowners money and probably not save the world. I have heard that it is flammable so I'm already not looking forward to this one. And if it is not compatible with the equipment everyone has, repairs will be even more expensive.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com



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Official Results From The Primary Election Are Now Available

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - The Elections Office has posted the official results from the May 17th Primary Election. All results were certified by the Northampton County Election Commission except for the District 14 State Senate Democratic Primary Race. That race will be certified pending resolution of a federal court case. The results are available on the County's website: Conduct of Election Home Page (northamptoncounty.org)

"I want to thank the members of our Election Commission for their dedication to ensuring the citizens of Northampton County receive a fair, legal and accurate election," says Lamont McClure. "I especially want to thank the voters for their participation in our democracy."

The Elections Office also conducted a state-ordered recount for the Republican Primary for Senator. That recount has been completed and the results reported to the Department of State.



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