

The official publication of the NC Grange

March / April 2019

GRANGE NEWS

THANK A FARMER 3 TIMES A DAY!
2019 AG AWARENESS DAY



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Vice President	Ned Hudson
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Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
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Community Service Director	Joyce Clodfelter
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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 7-13	Grange Camp Eastern 4-H Center
July 19-21	Eastern Regional Conference TBD
September 12-15	State Convention Durham, NC
November 5-9	National Convention Minneapolis, MN

The Grange is a grassroots, community service, family organization with a special interest in agriculture and designed to help meet the needs of people, young and old, through a cooperative effort with government and other organizations that also seek the greatest good for the greatest number.

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A NOTE FROM JIMMY:

RELATIONSHIPS

You will see in this issue an article related to my participation in a public hearing for comments on renewal of the cattle, swine and poultry waste management permits. At the hearing there were two clear, distinct views – those who are in favor of more environmental regulation on farms and those who are not. Generally those who do not favor more regulation were either from agriculture groups or farmers themselves. Those for new regulations were from Riverkeeper organizations as well as other groups with which I am not acquainted. Some who spoke in favor of the regulations also expressed their appreciation for farms, but did not show concern about what these regulations were going to cost the farmers. Others showed no appreciation for animal agriculture and were very critical. Swine production in particular was the subject of some speakers who seem to be unhappy that we grow pork in North Carolina. It was a civil meeting with everyone being respectful.

I believe that most of the animal producers in North Carolina are quite concerned about the environment. They want to take good care of the soil because ultimately, their livelihoods come from it. Their families live on these farms and they want safe, clean places to reside. They observe the regulations that they are required to follow, and do a good job of managing

animal waste within the current technology that is available. Regulations are also in place to work with the few bad actors, or other non-compliance issues. It is a good balance and seems to be working well. However, there are those who are searching for violations so that they can publicize them well in an effort to make all farmers look bad.

During the storms we had last fall, close attention was being paid to lagoons to see if they would fail during the heavy downpours. A few did, but a much greater problem was the human waste systems that were compromised.

Will there ever be a time when farmers and environmental groups can live in harmony and appreciate each other? I do not know, but it would be great if it could happen. The key lies within research, which is ongoing. Better methods of managing waste on farms must also be affordable for those farms to remain in business. It is a challenge to find new systems that are affordable.

In the meantime, there is a huge demand for meat products in the grocery stores. We also expect those products to be affordable and delicious. We also expect it to be real meat and not something that was created in a lab. We need our farmers, and we need for them to make a profit so that we can be fed!



AG AWARENESS DAY AT THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THANK A FARMER 3 TIMES A DAY! by: Laurie Barnhart

March 20th was Ag Awareness Day at the NC General Assembly. It was extremely cold and dreary but we were thrilled to see the crowd that attended in spite of the weather. The entire time I was shivering in the cold, I thought about our farmers and how they do not have the privilege of deciding if they are going to be inside or outside when the weather is cold and dreary. If there is work to be done, it has to be done. Most of the time there are no options.

Ag Awareness Day was set aside to educate not only the general public about agriculture in North Carolina, but to reiterate to our General Assembly members the \$87 billion economic impact agriculture has on our state. Agriculture accounts for 17% of our workforce (730,000 jobs) and 17% of our 520,000 billion dollars in our state gross products. (SFN) With the continued urbanization of our state over the last fifty years, so it is in the number of our General Assembly members. There is a constant need to educate and remind everyone, not just kindergarteners, that “our food does not come from the grocery store”!

The NC Grange hosted a table between the two legislative buildings to greet those coming to see their respective House and/or Senate members. It was great to see quite a few of our Grange members

there. We encouraged everyone to try and make appointments so they could speak briefly to their district leaders not only about agriculture but to thank them for their service to North Carolina.

In order to avoid parking issues downtown, the majority of the people attending Ag Awareness Day gathered at the NC Fairgrounds to ride shuttles to the General Assembly. This helped avoid parking issues downtown. Coffee, hot chocolate and doughnuts were

provided. After legislative visits, everyone gathered on Bicentennial Mall across from the capitol to hear agriculture leaders from across the state address the crowd that gathered. The speakers included Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Sandy Stewart, Gov. Roy Cooper, Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, Farm Bureau President Larry Wooten, Speaker of the House Tim Moore, Speaker Pro Tem

Phil Berger, Sen. Brent Jackson, Sen. Harry Brown, Rep. Jimmy Dixon, Rep. Brian Turner, Rep. William Brisson, Sen. Dan Blue, Rep. Larry Strickland. Commissioner Troxler expressed his appreciation to the General Assembly for unanimously passing the \$240 million Disaster Relief package and also thanked Gov. Cooper for rapidly signing it.

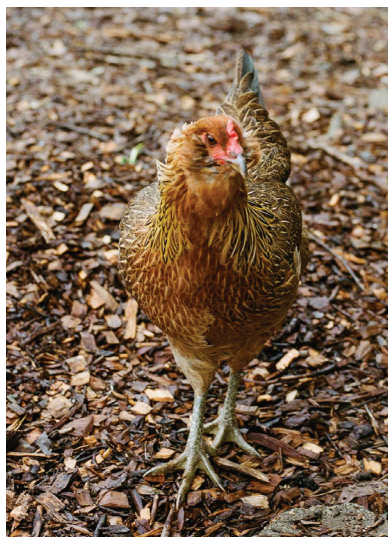


Over the last couple of years many of our farmers have been victims of frivolous lawsuits, three hurricanes, unseasonable winter weather and rainfall that seemed at times like it would never stop. Sen. Brent Jackson said it best in his speech on Ag Awareness Day. “For farmers, spring brings eternal hope. Farmers are optimists. If they were not, they would not plant that first seed or raise that first livestock. They are optimist and they are resilient. We will stand, and we will stand together.” Sen. Jackson pledged the support of the NC General Assembly. Sen. Jackson also filed the 2019 NC Farm Act on Ag Awareness Day. This bill establishes the NC Hemp Commission, making changes to rules governing easements, increasing the maximum size of outdoor farm advertising and adding hunting, fishing and shooting sports to agritourism.

There is no doubt 2019 Ag Awareness Day was a success! This day that has been set aside every year has certainly done what was originally intended, to make everyone aware of not only where our food comes from but also the impact of agriculture on the North Carolina economy. Please remember to “Thank a Farmer 3 times a day!”



Top: Rep. Jimmy Dixon (L) Rep. Brent Jackson (R)
Bottom: NCSU Dean Richard Linton (L), Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler



NC GRANGE PROVIDES ANNUAL WASTE COMMENTS

by: Jimmy Gentry

Every five years the animal waste permits issued by the Department of Water Quality must be renewed. The current permit expires on September 30, 2019, and a new permit goes into effect on October 1. The proposed new permit adds quite a bit of new regulation that could add time, expense, and record keeping to cattle, swine, and poultry producers. On March 26, Jimmy Gentry, President of NC Grange presented oral comments at a public hearing held in Statesville, NC. The Grange also submitted written comments, which opposed many of the new requirements that have been proposed. This article will not detail all of the new provisions, but will highlight a few.

A new Phosphorus Loss Assessment Tool (PLAT) is being proposed would measure Phosphorus in soils where waste is applied. Our argument against this tool is that Nitrogen has been established by law as the limiting nutrient for soil management. Furthermore, we believe that the agencies that would be required to work with PLAT on the farms already have limited resources.

New regulations would be applied to lagoons regarding waste level gauges which will have to be certified every five years and be accurate within 1/10 of a foot. Furthermore, lagoons located in 100 year floodplains could be subject to ground water monitoring. Two monitoring wells would have to be constructed for this purpose. The proposal does not address who pays for the wells. We believe that lagoons are already subject to heavy regulation, and that the current rules are working. If lagoons have not failed, we see no reason for additional monitoring.

There are other proposals that present concerns for the Grange, and upon request we can provide a copy of the detailed documents.

Generally, we feel that the current permit is working well. We have seen no data from DWQ indicating that there are widespread problems. Where there are localized violations or non-compliance, we believe that DWQ should take appropriate measures toward correction.

WHEN YOU NEED SOMETHING DONE.... ASK THE BUSIEST PERSON YOU KNOW!

STORY : LAURIE BARNHART

I remember as a child my Mother telling me, “when you need something done, ask the busiest person you know”. After meeting Wendy Henderson, our 2018 Granger of the Year, I realized that she indeed would be the person I would ask if I needed something done. She certainly is a perfect example of everything a Granger characterizes; which is the importance she places on her faith, her family and her community. This made Wendy the perfect recipient for our “Granger of the Year” award.

Though Wendy grew up in another part of Henderson County and completed her education at Lenoir-Rhyne University, she has spent her adult life in Edneyville, where she taught middle school science and sometimes math and social studies for 30 years. While teaching she was the student council sponsor and even spent several years as the cheerleading advisor.

Wendy is busier than ever since she retired from the school system fifteen years ago. She and her husband Don have three grown children and eight grandchildren. Three of their very busy grandsons live next door which often means “grandma duty”. The Henderson’s have a large garden which involves hours of canning and freezing fresh produce. If that is not enough, Wendy is also an expert at operating a hay tedder as well as raking hay when it is time to bale.

Wendy and Don have been extremely active members of Edneyville Grange since they joined twenty-nine years ago. She laughingly told me, “I was sucked in by Margaret Davidson with the indoor yard sale fundraiser we had every Saturday”. Margaret, as many of our Grangers know, was a passionate Grange member and was the Program Director for Edneyville Grange for many years. Edneyville has been a charter partner with Boy Scout Troop 605 which goes back 70 years. Wendy and her family became involved with the Grange when their son joined the Boy Scouts. Interestingly enough, originally Edneyville Grange raised the money for the property that the Grange Hall sits on. The Grange members gave the property to the Edneyville community. A building was then erected which became a community center for the Edneyville community and of course a Grange Hall for Edneyville Grange.

Wendy currently is President of Edneyville Grange. She has served in the capacity for the last four years. Prior to that she served as Program Director for six years. She has served on assorted committees such as education, Farm-City Day, hospitality, Youth

& Junior Grange, Community Service chairman for at least 10 years and publicity. Wendy is often the one who sets up and decorates for the monthly meetings and sometimes has to “pinch hit” with a program. She sends out meeting reminders and is the point person for photography. She sets the agenda and runs the meetings. If a Grange event happens, Wendy is usually there participating. For a number of years, she spent countless hours working on notebooks for the various Grange recognition categories. Since her oldest daughter, Amy, and her family have moved back to the area they have joined the Edneyville Grange. The Henderson family has also been honored to receive the State Grange “Family of the Year” award, and both Don and Wendy have received the “Educators of the Year” award.

Wendy is entering her 30th year in the Boy Scouts of America as a volunteer. Currently she is District Commissioner for the Terrara District of the Daniel Boone Council (she and her “staff” oversee the “health” of the 33 units in Henderson and Transylvania counties). Within the Terrara District she works directly with three Cub Scout Packs and one Boy Scout Troop. Wendy meets twice a month with 4 “special needs” classes in the school system, and involves them in scout related character development activities. She is the Council Cub Scout Camping Chairman and runs the three-day camping event for the 4th & 5th graders, as well as oversees the 2 weekend camping outing. Wendy also works with the Day Camp Directors. She is a member of the Council Camping Committee, Council Advancement Committee, and Council Banquet Committee. She was the Course Director (Scoutmaster) of the Council Wood Badge Course in 2015 and she teaches council and district training courses. On another level she teaches at a Cub Scout/ Webelos Scout Day Camp Director course at National Camp School once a year. In previous years she helped with the rewrite of the teaching material for that program. Wendy is the Area 5 (encompasses 10 Councils) Vice President of Cub Scouting and volunteers on the Summer Camp Assessment Team for Area 5. This past summer she visited three different camps for accreditation.

Wendy has been awarded the District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver (Council award) and Silver Antelope (Regional award). She has also earned assorted Commissioner awards and has her “Doctorate” in Commissioner Science. Unbeknownst to Wendy, her friends donated money toward an endowment trust fund for the James E. West Fellowship award in her honor.





Wendy and her family are members of 1st Presbyterian Church where she is a Sunday school teacher and elder. For most of her adult life she has taught children's classes at 1st Presbyterian. She has also served on youth mission trips and retreats. Church and Scouting become intertwined with the God and Service Award which Wendy has also received.

To add to her repertoire of community service, Wendy also serves on the Farm City Day committee. Farm City Day is a Saturday festival put together by Henderson County Parks and Recreation and the NC Cooperative Extension Service. This festival introduces the community to farming, handicraft and old fashion ideas along with some modern day fun, music and food. Wendy chairs the "special demonstrations" committee. She has also volunteered for other events sponsored by Henderson County Parks and Rec. such as senior games, silver arts and other events at the Edneyville Community Center.

Wendy is a member of the North Carolina Retired School Personnel Association (NCAE/NCRSP). For the last 3 years she has logged the most volunteer hours of any member in Henderson County. In

addition to all she does, Wendy has been assisting in proctoring end of grade tests.

While being involved in the Grange and Scouting Wendy has been able to reach out to others through community service. Helping to instill the value of community service and the essentialness of teamwork in others is very important to her, and something she strives to do when working in the Boy Scout program as well as the other programs that she works so diligently to support.

Wendy's vision for the Grange is to get younger people involved. She feels like our lives have become increasingly busy through the years which has drastically changed the lifestyle for many of us. She feels strongly that many of the sports programs have taken over our lives and taken the place of many of the community and family activities.

It was a joy to meet and talk with Wendy. She certainly is a wonderful role model for many. Many thanks to you Wendy for everything you have done for not only Edneyville Grange but for serving as such an exemplary Grange member for all of us across the state. Congratulations! You are pretty darn amazing!

YOUTH JOIN FOR A SUCCESSFUL WINTER YOUTH CONFERENCE

by : Jennie Gentry

Youth from across the state reunited February 15-17 for another amazing Winter Youth Conference. Held at the beautiful Camp Caraway in Asheboro, youth gathered for the retreat to learn, fellowship, build leadership skills, and spend time with friends. It was an incredible weekend that also included a fun-filled Pajama Party.

The theme for the weekend was “In Their Shoes.” Youth engaged in workshops to discover how empathy and integrity play a huge part in being a good leader. With various activities, youth put themselves in others’ shoes to discuss how they can have empathy for the people who are facing tough situations. It was a powerful session that made youth think about the type of leader they want to be.

We were very excited that all six State FFA Officers were able to join us for the weekend. They did an amazing job getting to know our youth, leading several games and helping judge our public speaking contest. A few of them even joined the Grange! They truly represented themselves and FFA well, and we loved getting to know them.

On Saturday morning, many youth received 2018 National Grange Youth Achievement Award certificates and other awards. Rylee Furr was recognized for receiving the most Achievement Awards, and ten youth from our state received the National Grange Leadership Award. Our 2018 State Youth Officers were also honored.

Several state contests were held on Saturday afternoon of the conference. Winning first place in the Public Speaking Contest was Liz Lesley of Southern Wake Grange. Baylor Howerton won first place in the Individual Sign-a-Song Contest for the 4th consecutive year. In the Grange Jeopardy Contest, first place went to Baylor Howerton; second place to Tyler Leonard. All winners of these contests will compete at the Regional Youth Conference in July for a chance to compete at the National Grange Convention this year.

Fifteen youth also competed in our annual impromptu speech contest, which always brings great entertainment. Winning first place was Hannah Gentry of Little Mountain Grange, and second

place went to James Lesley (Southern Wake Grange). Lexi Cash (Troutman Grange) and Ashley Drop (Arcadia Grange) tied for third place; and fourth place went to Faydra Lackey (Southern Wake Grange). All speakers did an incredible job, and we love how this contest builds confidence in our youth.

Elections for State Youth Officers were also held Saturday afternoon. Amber Long of Bushy Fork Grange was elected the 2019 State Grange Youth President, and Cole Settle of Little Mountain Grange was elected the State Youth Vice President. A full list of officers can be found in this edition of Grange News. Throughout the weekend, Youth Team and Ambassador applicants took part in interviews with the State Youth Committee. The committee interviewed the applicants to select the leaders for the year, a tough decision with so many amazing candidates. All applicants did an impressive job interviewing, and we were so proud of the leadership skills and confidence that they possess. In a special ceremony on Saturday evening, the new Youth Leadership Team was announced.

The 2019 State Youth Ambassadors are Amber Long, Bushy Fork Grange, and Nick Jones, Southern Wake Grange. The youth selected to serve on the 2019 State Youth Team are Ashley Drop, Hannah Gentry, Baylor Howerton, Tyler Leonard, James Lesley, and Cole Settle. These leaders accepted their positions with much



excitement, some with tears of joy, ready to serve the Grange through this wonderful opportunity. Along with the introduction of the new team, Saturday evening's festivities included a Pajama Party with dancing and an exciting mystery to solve. The evening wrapped up with special vespers led by Rylee Furr, Margie Griffin and Zac Mazag.

Youth departed Sunday morning after a meaningful message led by James Lesley that was followed by our traditional friendship circle. Youth shared hugs of goodbye, expressing excitement for the next time they will see each other. It was a wonderful, inspiring weekend, and much appreciation is given to the adult chaperones that helped make the weekend possible. Our organization is proud of what a unique program we have for such a wonderful group of young people.



2019 Youth Leadership Team (Above)

Back: Cole Settle, Tyler Leonard, Nick Jones, James Lesley
Front: Baylor Howerton, Hannah Gentry, Ashley Drop, Amber Long



2019 NC State Grange Youth Officers

President:	Amber Long, Bushy Fork Grange
Vice President:	Cole Settle, Little Mountain Grange
Program Director:	Baylor Howerton, Bushy Fork Grange
Steward:	Nick Jones, Southern Wake Grange
Assistant Steward:	Tyler Leonard, Arcadia Grange
Lady Assistant Steward:	Ashley Drop, Arcadia Grange
Chaplain:	Hannah Gentry, Little Mountain Grange
Treasurer:	James Lesley, Southern Wake Grange
Secretary:	Liz Cartwright, Guilford Grange
Gatekeeper:	Matthew Settle, Little Mountain Grange
Ceres:	Leann Hanes, Arcadia Grange
Pomona:	Faydra Lackey, Southern Wake Grange
Flora:	Olivia Barber, Queen City Grange
Executive Committee:	Olivia Gentry, Bushy Fork Grange
	Trey Hayes, Taylors Bridge Grange
	Carson Lackey, Southern Wake Grange
	Liz Lesley, Southern Wake Grange
	Asheton Medlin, Bushy Fork Grange



CAPITOL NEWS

by: Laurie Barnhart

The 2019 Legislative Session is in full swing as we move into Spring. To date, the House has filed 440 bills and the Senate 346. The bills that the NC Grange is monitoring so far are below. Please visit www.ncleg.net to see updates on the progress of these bills as they move through the legislative progress. If you are interested in tracking any of these bills, I will be happy to help you navigate the General Assembly website. You can always find details and up to date information on these or any other bills you may wish to follow on this website.

Bill # Bill Title

HB3/SB27	Eminent Domain
HB5/SB3	Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap
HB53	A Second Chance for LIFE
HB63	Protect NC Workers Act
HB69	Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission
SB28	Restore Master's Pay for Certain Teachers
HB307	Right-of-Way for Left Turning Farm Equipment
HB308	Expand Agricultural Outdoor Advertising
HB309	Adverse Possession Changes (Initiated by the NC Grange)
HB306	Risk-Based Remediation/Animal Waste Management
SB86	Small Business Healthcare Act
HB215	Justice for Rural Citizens Act
HB103	Small Dairy Sustainability Act
HB144	Hands Free NC
HB122/SB77	Ag Disaster Fund/Certain Counties
HB318	Opioid Prescription & Treatment Opt Out Act
HB338	Broaden Sales Tax Exemption for Farmers
HB334	NCSU Honey Bee Laboratory/Funds
SB315	NC Farm Act of 2019
HB140	The FAIR Act

Governor Cooper's 2019-20 proposed budget was released the first week of March. Priorities and highlights of the Governor's budget are below:

Governor's Priorities

- Making NC a Top 10 Educated State by 2025
- Providing Middle Class Tax Relief
- Strengthening Rural Economies
- Building Healthier and Safer Communities
- Protecting and Cultivating Our Natural and Cultural Resources

Budget Highlights

- Includes \$320M in middle class tax relief to all 3.3

million North Carolinians who pay state income tax

- Provides an average salary increase of over 8% for teachers and instructional support staff (no educator receives less than 5%)
- Increases education spending (K-12, community colleges, and university) by \$1.1 Billion or 8.1%
- Recommends \$130M to improve school safety and youth mental health
- Invests \$50M to strengthen rural economies
- Includes \$60M for NC Job Ready workforce programs
- Recommends over \$300M to support the largest state employee compensation increase in over a decade.

The NC House of Representatives will write the budget first this session. Following the House's release of their budget version, it will then go to the Senate for their workup. Following that process, conferees from both governing bodies will negotiate a final budget.

Supreme Court Chief Justice, Cheri Beasley, was sworn in on March 7th. Justice Beasley was appointed by Gov. Cooper to replace Chief Justice Mark Martin. Justice Martin is now Dean of Regent University Law School in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Justice Beasley served for 7 years on the NC Court of Appeals. She is the first African American woman to serve on the NC Carolina Supreme Court. She was quoted at her investiture saying, "I am honored and humbled to receive Governor Cooper's appointment as Chief Justice. The magnitude of this opportunity to serve all North Carolinians is certainly not lost on me. I look forward to continuing to work to improve access to the courts and to ensure that our citizens have a judiciary that they trust to administer justice fairly, equally, and swiftly." WRAL News

On March 22nd, The Senate voted on six new members for the UNC Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is made up of 28 voting members and oversees the UNC university system. The NC General Assembly votes for the board members whose names are submitted and serve 4-year staggered terms. The six voted on by the Senate were Darrell Allison-a professional advocate for charter schools and school choice, Anna Spangler Nelson-chair of Spangler Companies whose late father was UNC president for a decade, Temple Sloan-former head of General Parts International, Thomas Goolsby-former state Senator, Michael Williford-Fayetteville attorney and Martin Holton-retired general counsel for Reynolds American. Holton was the only one of the six that was not reappointed.

News from The Hill

The 9th Congressional District special election has been set by the NC State Board of Elections. The primary will be held on May 14th followed by a general election on September 10th. If a runoff is necessary, the general election will be on November 5th. The State Board of Elections refused to certify the results of the

9th District election held in November of 2018 because of electoral fraud allegations. Neither Mark Harris, who won the election by 905 votes or Robert Pittenger who is the incumbent will run in the special primary. Dan McCready, is preparing to run again. He was the Democratic nominee in the 2018 election.

Eighteen people have filed to run for the 3rd Congressional District. This seat was held by the late Republican Congressman Walter Jones who served the 3rd District for twelve terms. This district stretches from the Outer Banks to the Pamlico Sound and down into Wilmington. Twelve Republicans, four Democrats, one Libertarian and one Constitution Party candidate have filed for this seat. Below is a Capitol Hill update from Burton Eller our National Grange Legislative Director.

Agriculture & Food

Farm Bill Implementation

Despite the recent 35-day government shutdown that halted work on the new farm bill, USDA is about ready to announce the timeline for implementing revisions to programs. The legislation made relatively small changes to the 2014 farm bill and is generally considered “farmer friendly” by producers. At the farm bill listening session in Washington February 26, USDA was pressed to act quickly on dairy and conservation provisions. The Farm Service Agency expects Dairy Margin Coverage signup to begin June 17 with payments starting as soon as July 8.

Protein Demand

The demand for plant and animal protein food products shows no sign of letting up. With steadily rising incomes, especially in developing countries, consumers appear to want more and more protein-laden foods. Trend-watchers are betting on robust growth in production and consumption both in the U.S. and worldwide. These pundits also look for a spectrum of cultural diets, nutrition and health concerns, and animal welfare to continue their mixed influences on demand for high-protein foods.

Support for Wildlife Services

The National Grange joined over 200 farmer and rancher, landowner, hunter, aviation, wildlife management and state government groups to support continued funding for USDA’s Wildlife Services. The groups gave examples to the House Appropriations Committee leadership of the need for an effective Wildlife Services presence where wildlife control is necessary. Wildlife damage to fruits, vegetables, crops and livestock has reached almost \$1 billion annually. The spread of wildlife-borne disease to humans, livestock and other wildlife is a growing concern.

Food Stamps in Limelight Again

Just two months after the farm bill food stamp/SNAP debate was settled, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report shows that at least \$1 billion in food stamp benefits are

fraudulently used. GAO found many stores were “selling” cash instead of food. For example, a store might give a person \$50 in exchange for \$100 in benefits then pocket the difference. GAO has given the Food and Nutrition Service which administers the program several concrete recommendations to crack down on SNAP fraud.

Conservation & Environment

EPA Pushing States to Address Nutrient Problems

The Environmental Protection Agency is asking states to tackle nutrient contamination in water which has become an increasingly visible issue in farm country. EPA and USDA are seeking input from states on water quality solutions to mitigate excess nitrogen, phosphorous and nutrients from livestock manure.

Bipartisan Support for Major Land Conservation Bill

By a bipartisan vote of 363-62 the House has approved sweeping public lands legislation that designates more than a million acres of wilderness for environmental protection (prohibits all development and the use of most motorized vehicles), numerous conservation measures and permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Under the Fund, fossil-fuel companies, rather than taxpayers, cover a major portion of protecting public lands.

Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States”

The EPA and Corps of Engineers are inviting public comment on a proposed rule to more closely define the scope of waters federally regulated under the Clean Water Act. The agencies propose to interpret the term “waters of the United States” to encompass traditional navigable waters, tributaries that that contribute perennial or intermittent flow to such waters, certain ditches, certain lakes and ponds, and wetlands adjacent to other jurisdictional waters. The agencies propose as a baseline concept that all waters are not “waters of the United States”. Farmers, ranchers, landowners and many others see the proposal as a major improvement over the original WOTUS rule.

Healthcare

Concerns About Imported Drugs

The National Grange is leading a nationwide coalition to raise concern about federal and state initiatives to import prescription drugs. Grangers depend upon accessible, affordable, effective and safe prescription drugs. Cheaper prescription drugs delivered by mail from Canada seem like a perfect answer to their needs, right? No, not really. Counterfeit and possibly dangerous drugs via this route are a distinct possibility. The Grange is particularly concerned about the safety and effectiveness of counterfeit drugs produced in third world countries and transshipped through multiple other countries before they reach American patients. To make matters worse, Canada says it has no regulatory responsibility to assure the safety and effectiveness of these transshipped prescription drugs coming into America.

If you are like most of us, we know that the possibility of a Long-Term Care need is there, but most likely it will be for someone else's needs and not our own. There are four major myths concerning Long-Term Care according to a survey conducted by Lincoln Financial in 2017*.

Myth 1: The majority of people think that a parent will need long-term care at some point and a slightly lower percent think that their spouse will need that level of care. However, surveys indicate that only about a third of respondents expect that they will require long-term care themselves. In reality, the actual risk is much higher for everyone according to a Department of Health & Human Services research brief in February 2016.

Myth 2: Approximately 73% of those surveyed indicated they would rely on Medicare, Medicaid, or their health insurance for the payment of their long-term care assistance. However, Medicare will only pay a portion of the cost, up to 100 days, of a skilled care setting when required recovery care is associated with a medical event. Medicare does not pay for custodial care. Medicaid payments are only available to those with limited assets and income. This means that those with more than modest assets will have to "spend-down" to qualify for Medicaid assistance. Health Insurance plans (and Medicare Supplements) typically only pay the insured's cost share responsibility of Medicare. Therefore, the insured bears full responsibility for any skilled care facility cost beyond the 100 days covered under Medicare.

Myth 3: Most of those surveyed underestimated the cost of nursing home care by roughly half. When individuals are looking toward their "nest egg" to fund a possible need, an unplanned care event can drain this resource two to three times faster than anticipated. To see additional information on the cost of care, here are several websites worth reading. For a national average, visit this link: <https://longtermcare.acl.gov/costs-how-to-pay/costs-of-care.html>. For North Carolina and regional average cost, visit this link: <https://www.genworth.com/aging-and-you/finances/cost-of-care.html>.

Myth 4: The survey indicated that many individuals think their family will be able to take care of them in the event long-term care becomes necessary. However, almost three-fourths of those surveyed worried that they would not be able to provide adequate care to a family member should that situation arise. 80% of women surveyed believe the responsibility will fall upon them if another family member needs long-term care. Studies show that the family member providing long-term care for their loved one is twice as likely to experience depression or anxiety resulting

GOTCHA COVERED

WHAT IS THE "B" PLAN?!

by: Mark Davis

from their caregiver role and the cost of this care is over \$300,000 due to lost wages and diminished working hours.

With these myths exposed, we all need to make sure that we have a discussion with our family about our wishes should the need for long-term care arise. Many times when the need arises, we are not in a mental capacity to execute our plan. If

we anticipated using funds from a certain account, or selling a certain asset to either partially or fully fund a long-term event and have not previously expressed that to our family members, it is highly likely they will not know what your wishes are. This is why having this conversation prior to an event is critical. This conversation can also prevent many adverse family situations between siblings when everyone is in the loop. Expectations are delineated, and someone becomes responsible for various actions should you have to execute the "B" plan.

There are many options to assist you in putting together your "B" plan. Long-Term Care Insurance can play a major role in myth busting your long-term care needs. Policy options include: life (or annuity) policies with a long-term care rider (known as hybrid policies); reimbursement; or indemnity plans. Most policies include benefits for home care, adult daycare, assisted living, and skilled care. Many of today's plans also offer either a partial up to a full return of premium (or death benefit) for individuals who did not require the long-term care benefits of the policy. We can tailor a plan for your specific needs and desires.

If you would like to discuss how a Long-Term Care policy would benefit your family during a time like this, please give us a call and we will be delighted to show you benefit options and the associated cost of plans.

*Versta Research, "2017 LTC Marketing and Thought Leadership Research, Findings from Surveys of Advisors and Consumers" - October 2017 – for a printed copy call 1-877-ASK-Lincoln



CAPITOL NEWS CONT.

Give Drug Rebates Directly to Patients

HHS Secretary Azar has proposed a major change to the drug purchasing and rebate system. His plan calls for prescription drug discounts by drug makers to be offered directly to patients instead of insurance plans and pharmacy benefit managers. National Grange President Betsy Huber issued a statement stressing that the proposed rule gets the middlemen out of the way and will lower prescription drug costs for those with chronic conditions. "We look forward to working with Secretary Azar and his team to assure rural America actually does see lower drug costs and does receive better access to treatment."

Public Wary of "Medicare for All"

According to a Hill-HarrisX poll released in February, just thirteen percent of respondents want "Medicare for all" if it means the end of private insurance. Respondents were clearly saying the health care system is broken to some degree but there was not consensus around how to fix it. Health care policy is proving to be challenging for both political parties.

Private Care Proposed for Vets

The Department of Veterans Affairs has released proposals to determine whether a veteran gets treatment from the VA or the private sector. Under the "designated access standards" proposal, the VA wants to set a 30-minute drive time standard, or a 20-day wait-time standard for primary care, mental health and non-institutional extended care. This proposal is in line with National Grange policy and is an important step for rural and small town veterans who may be located long distances from VA facilities.

IMMIGRATION & AG WORKFORCE

The dire need for agricultural labor is beginning to get more attention in Washington. USDA continues to work on a plan to allow farmers to apply for H-2A foreign labor through USDA rather than the Department of Labor. California's Representative Jimmy Panetta and Senator Diane Feinstein have co-sponsored a

"Blue Card" bill to provide agriculture a more stable workforce which provides a pathway to citizenship. The National Grange works closely with the Ag Workforce Coalition which is pushing for:

- An available, dependable and legal ag labor supply
- A "Card" that allows workers to enter the country legally to work in agriculture
- Modification of the H-2A program to be more timely, more responsive and less burdensome.
- Creation of a program to allow trained and skilled ag workers (milkers, machinery operators, animal care workers, managers, etc.) to stay longer.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal Privacy Law Needed

A new internet privacy law with a single, uniform standard for the internet will provide clarity for millions of online users who value their privacy, according to National Grange President Betsy Huber in an editorial in the February 13 Morning Consult. Lawmakers across party lines recognize the need to give internet users better protections to oversee companies that collect and use their personal online information. Congressional action on a uniform privacy standard for all internet companies should come quickly. Already this issue is percolating in state legislatures and individual state action could lead to continued confusion among consumers as they engage in daily online activities.

Rural Broadband Providers Get More Time to Apply

USDA has given telecommunications companies until late May to apply for its Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program. Congress has awarded \$1.1 billion for the pilot. These investments are expected to prioritize projects that deploy broadband infrastructure to rural areas which will expand both the availability and speed of rural broadband service.

APPLESAUCE POUND CAKE

LINDA ICARD | EDNEYVILLE
FIRST PLACE APPLE CAKE

CAKE

1 CUP VEGETABLE OIL
3 CUPS PLAIN FLOUR
2 CUPS SUGAR
1/3 TEASPOON SALT
3 EGGS
1-TEASPOON BAKING SODA
1 TEASPOON VANILLA
1/2 TEASPOON NUTMEG
3/4 CUP WALNUTS
1 TEASPOON CINNAMON
1-1/2 CUPS APPLESAUCE

COMBINE OIL AND SUGAR MIX WELL. ADD EGGS BEAT AFTER ADDING. COMBINE FLOUR, SPICES, SALT, SODA. ADD DRY INGREDIENTS TO MIXTURE. FOLD IN APPLESAUCE & NUTS. BLEND WELL. POUR IN 10 INCH TUBE PAN WHICH IS GREASED & FLOURED. BAKE AT 325F FOR 1-HR & 15 MIN OR UNTIL DONE. INVERT ON DISH AND FROST WHILE WARM

CARAMEL FROSTING

3/4 BROWN SUGAR
1/2 STICK BUTTER
1/3 CUP WHOLE MILK.

BOIL UNTIL THICKENED
DRIZZLE OVER THE CAKE
SLOWLY.

ENJOY!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

bless and be blessed

by: Jerry Snyder, NC Grange Chaplain

My heart is heavy today as I think about what our churches are having to be involved with that take away from the mission of the church.

The Methodist Church just concluded a called special session in Kansas City Missouri to discuss human sexuality and the church's teachings. The delegates refused to go along with the Bishop's, "One Church Plan." It would have allowed every church to do whatever they wanted to do. The traditional plan was upheld by a 54 percent, plus, of the vote. The Presbyterians and Episcopal churches have split over this issue.

The other night after the Methodist men's meeting, where we had the leader of the Greensboro Ministry as our speaker, I met a man waiting outside who needed help. This man is in his fifties, has a job at a trucking company for minimum wage and needed help to buy gas to go to work. He does not read or write. His mother died when he was fourteen or fifteen. He buried his father last year. He has no family, no support group to help him.

The speaker was telling us that many people are a flat tire away from poverty. If they have a flat tire and can't drive to work, or have to buy a used tire for \$25.00, it comes out of the rent money. They seldom are able to catch up. They live paycheck to paycheck. If they cannot read or write, they are always stuck in a minimum wage job. This is what our churches should be talking about. How do we help the marginal people in our society? How do we show love to the unwanted and the unwashed? There are thousands of stories and opportunities all around us. There's a story on almost every street corner waiting to be told.

So my thought today is, "What is your church doing to help?" Is your pastor involved in your community? Are you and your Grange involved in your community? Jesus said, "As you do to the least of these, you do it unto me."

PEACE

GRANGE PROVIDES HURRICANE RELIEF SUPPORT

by: Jimmy Gentry

A number of years ago a Disaster Fund was created to provide relief to Grange members who are impacted by events such as weather or fire. A fund-raiser is conducted each year at the State Convention to raise money for this fund. Last fall North Carolina was hit by a damaging hurricane, and a tropical storm. We conducted an assessment to determine which Grange members needed assistance. Several were identified, most of which are farmers that suffered heavy losses. Payments approved by the Board were sent to assist those that were identified. In some cases, the damages were so severe that the checks we sent were just a token compared to the losses.

In addition, we received contributions to the NC Grange Foundation from two Granges in Pennsylvania, Shavers Creek and Valley. Individuals from Pennsylvania and New York also sent donations. These funds were designated to be used for Grange farmers, so those funds were sent to a couple of our farms that suffered heavy damages. We very much appreciate our friends from Pennsylvania and New York for their support.

The Disaster Fund has proven to be a valuable entity for the State Grange so that our members can receive assistance in their time of need. It is not an insurance policy and is not intended to cover all damages; but it is a way to provide some measure of help when needed.



In Memoriam

Mr. Thoma Williams
Mr. Bob Nutter

Westbrook Grange
Schley Grange

You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.

Psalm 118:28
* 50 Year Member

from Joyce

by: Joyce Chadfeller, Family Living
and Community Service Director

Here it is, March already! Spring is just around the corner. I missed not getting to have our annual Family Conference and seeing many of you. As fast as time goes, we will be at State Convention in Durham before we know it.

Here is hoping that many of you have been searching for that perfect recipe or recipes and will be bringing that special dessert to convention in September. I look forward to seeing what comes about with the baking changes that have been made. Please see the Contest Guide at ncgrange.com/events for all the changes. See you in September and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Our 2019 Community Service Project is the Durham Rescue Mission which serves many men, women and children on a daily basis. These individuals need our help with necessities that most of us just take for granted. Please make an all out effort within your local grange to collect socks and undergarments, larger sizes are especially needed. We will collect these at State Convention and present them to a representative from the Rescue Mission that weekend.

I hope our membership will be blessed by our donations to this most worthy cause. May it truly be a Community Project across our state that everyone will participate in. This will be our way of showing how the Grange supports those in need! Thank you for your support of this 2019 Community Service Project.

NATIONAL YOUTH AMBASSADORS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON DC

by: Rylee Furr

National Agriculture Day was celebrated in Washington, DC on March 14. Washington was filled with FFA members, people who work in agriculture, and the National Grange Youth Team on which Zac Mazag and I are serving this year. Zac and I had the honor of meeting with our NC Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr, and Representative Richard Hudson of Cabarrus County. We were greeted at each office with smiles and warm welcomes as it was said that, "it is always nice to see people from the great state of North Carolina." At Richard Hudson's office, we were even offered Cheerwine and NC Peanuts, so they really made it feel like home.

With each representative and their legislative or agricultural aids, we were able to discuss issues like rural broadband and the crisis surrounding the pork industry in North Carolina. Senator Tillis's office noted that broadband is one of their main concerns right now and that President Trump recently set aside \$6 million in his latest budget to increase rural broadband. It was also noted that the representatives from North Carolina are working with representatives in other states to ensure that law suits are controlled as best as possible for the sake of the agricultural community in the future. Getting to meet with our leadership in DC is something that we may not have ever experienced without the Grange.



did you know?

by: Vinni Kirmss

In our last article we talked about the fact that the founding fathers of the Grange pictured an organization that would bring farmers together and improve their standing in society. In the same issue our North Carolina State Grange, President Jimmy Gentry, in "A Note from Jimmy" talked about the need of relationships in today's Grange. These two articles have much in common.

In the early days of the Grange farmers lived outside the towns. They worked from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. They went into town to buy supplies that they could not make or grow on the farm, to pick up or send mail and to go to church. They went into town only if plowing, seeding or harvesting did not need to be done. Children only went to school when they were not needed on the farm. Because they lived a fairly secluded life, they had little social life and few ways as farmers to enhance their way of life. The founders saw the Grange as a way to improve this. They visualized the Grange as a place where the members could meet and discuss how they could get the best prices for their crops and get them to market in spite of railroad monopolies and other farm issues that may have been happening. They visualized a place where the entire family could meet and join others in having fun while at the same time learning and being inspired with prayers and songs (the lecturer's program). This "gathering" became a way of life for the Grangers. They built relationships that developed into helping each other in good times as well as bad.

Jimmy's quote from the local Grange manual for the closing of a Grange meeting reads, "Let us be quiet, peaceful citizens, feeding the hungry, helping the fatherless and the widows, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world." These words are a perfect send off for the end of any Grange meeting. It reminds all Grangers that we are not only a part of an organization but part of a larger community that continues to grow as we add new members.



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