

The official publication of the NC Grange

May / June 2019

GRANGE NEWS

*NEW YOUTH TEAM
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS*



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Assistant Steward	Wayne Stack
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
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Pomona	Frances Suther
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Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Sharon Carter Underwood
Publications Director	Jessica Horton

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 7-13	Grange Camp Eastern 4-H Center
July 19-21	Eastern Regional Conference Tennessee
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:

I am pleased that Sharon Underwood has agreed to serve as Community Service Director for NC Grange. A few years ago, Sharon moved back to her native Ferguson community after retirement. She is energetic and enthusiastic, and is quite interested in community service, which is evidenced by the great projects happening at Ferguson Grange. I've known Sharon for a long time going back to the days when we were involved in the Grange youth program.

Growing up in the Ferguson community, Sharon was involved in church, 4H and Grange-attending camp, conferences and participating in competitions. After college, her career was in education as a Cooperative Extension 4H agent, and later in a public school teaching Consumer Science. Sharon is married to Roger Underwood, a retired pastor, and they have two grown children, Caleb and KT. Sharon's hobbies include flower gardening, sewing, and music. She believes strongly in community service and loves this quote by Mother Teresa, "We are pencils in the hand of God." Sharon says, "We all have gifts, talents, and blessings that we can share with others to make our world a better place."



2019

NC GRANGE
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

KASEY
VANN

GRANGE:
GRANTHAM
SCHOOL:
ECU
STUDY:
BIOLOGY



BRAYDEN TYLER
COATS

GRANGE:
WESTBROOK
SCHOOL:
CAMPBELL
STUDY:
MUSIC EDUCATION



GRANGE:
ARCADIA
SCHOOL:
UNC-CHARLOTTE
STUDY:
HIGH SCHOOL ED



KAYLA
COLGLAZIER

GRANGE: LITTLE
MOUNTAIN
SCHOOL:
APPALACHIAN
STUDY:
BUSINESS



HANNAH
GENTRY

GRANGE: LITTLE
MOUNTAIN
SCHOOL:
NC STATE
STUDY:
POULTRY SCIENCE



LIZ
CARTWRIGHT

GRANGE:
GUILFORD
SCHOOL:
UNC-CHARLOTTE
STUDY:
BUSINESS



FAYDRA
LACKEY

GRANGE:
SOUTHERN WAKE
SCHOOL:
NC STATE
STUDY:
AGRICULTURE ED

Welcome

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST GRANGE MEMBERS!

Carolyn Hodge - Cape Fear
Brian & Laura Allen - Corriher
Renaë Karriker - Corriher
David Parker - Corriher
John Kirkman - Corriher
Jesse, Jade, Noah & Layla Wilson - Corriher
Michael, Amber, Alicia & David Henderson -
Edneyville
Mike & Fay Kennedy - Ferguson
Mary Best - Grantham
Jeff Sutton - Grantham
Sheila Hodges - Grantham
Raymond Smith - Grantham
Molly Hood - Grantham
Virginia Bannigam - Old Richmond
Randall & Nora Patterson - Patterson
Chris Smith - Patterson
Cathy Farrington - Patterson
Larry Howard - Patterson
Anna Young - Southern Wake
Max Hagaman - Southern Wake
Whitney Bost - St. John's
Gary & Deborah Hall - Westbrook
Donald & Tara Carter - Westbrook
Kermit & Linda Williamson - Westbrook
Jamie Alexis Bonilla - Westbrook



BY: JESSICA HORTON

The Sunbelt Ag Expo is an annual event held in Moultrie, Georgia. This agricultural trade show has become known as “North America’s Premier Farm Show.” This event has more than 1200 exhibitors showcasing the latest in farming technology with harvesting demonstrations, equipment driving ranges, irrigation technology and educational exhibits.

This year, the featured state is North Carolina. The North Carolina Grange, along with NC State University, NCA&T University, NC Farm Bureau and the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, has teamed up to create an exhibit representing North Carolina. This will be an interactive exhibit, taking up an entire building at the show. The theme is “Mountains to the Sea, Diversified Agriculture, Unified Vision.” The building will showcase the three regions of North Carolina and all the state has to offer agriculturally.

We invite you to attend this event and encourage you to make your travel arrangements early. Please visit www.sunbeltexpo.com to learn more about this event, how to get there and where to stay. We hope to see you there!



CAPE FEAR GRANGE SPRING SERVICE PROJECT

BY: KEN PLUMMER

Our area continues to recover from the impact of Hurricane Florence as many members of surrounding communities like Spring Lake are still unable to return to their homes. In cooperation with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), on March 16, 2019, we installed insulation in exterior walls and the ceiling of a home and began installing flooring. This home was badly damaged during Hurricane Florence. David Fowler, a local UMCOR representative (and Cape Fear Grange member), was very pleased with the work completed. "The progress made today gets us a step closer to returning a family to their home."

We also completed one of our regular activities where we serve breakfast to homeless members of our community at Operation Inasmuch.



Ken Plummer and Richard Everett install insulation in the ceiling of the home.



Larry Waddell works to secure flooring in the house.



Caption: Work Team in front of the home: From left – Steve O'Connor, Richard Everett, Larry Waddell, Ken Plummer, Mike Packer, and David Fowler (not shown – Lois Plummer).



The Cape Fear Grange team served breakfast at Operation Inasmuch on March 18, 2019: From left: Mitch Guy, Steve Runkle, Julia Stack, Wayne Stack, Richard Everett, Lois Plummer, and Ken Plummer.

APPLE BARS

LINDA ICARD | EDNEYVILLE
FIRST PLACE APPLE COOKIE

COMBINE DRY INGREDIENTS
1-1/4 CUP WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR
1 TEASPOON CINNAMON
1/2 TEASPOON BAKING SODA

SET ASIDE
1/4-TEASPOON SALT
3 TABLESPOONS VEGETABLE OIL
2 EGGS SLIGHTLY BEATEN
1 TEASPOON VANILLA
2 CUPS CHOPPED APPLES

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350F. LINE A 13 X 9 PAN WITH FOIL OR
PARCHMENT PAPER. SPRAY WITH NON-STICK SPRAY.

COMBINE AND BEAT OIL, EGGS, VANILLA.
ADD DRY INGREDIENTS.
ADD APPLES AND MIX WELL.
TURN MIX INTO BAKING PAN.

TOPPING
2 TEASPOON WHITE WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR (PLAIN)
1 TEASPOON BROWN SUGAR
1 TEASPOON CINNAMON
CUT IN 2 TABLESPOONS BUTTER WITH FORK
SPRINKLE ON TOP OF BARS.

BAKE FOR 20-25 MIN. UNTIL DONE. COOL COMPLETELY.
CUT IN BARS BY LIFTING THE PARCHMENT PAPER STARTING
WITH THE CORNER AND SLICING INTO SQUARES. ENJOY!

2019 YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

AMBER LONG (Ambassador)

Grange: Bushy Fork
Hometown: Roxboro, NC
School: Freshman at NC State University studying Elementary Education
Hobbies: Netflix, NCSU sports events
Honors: 2019 State Grange Youth President, 2018 National Grange Community Service Award Winner, first recipient ever



TYLER LEONARD

Grange: Arcadia
Hometown: Clemmons, NC
School: High School Senior, Will be attending UNC-Charlotte to study Secondary Education
Hobbies: reading, hiking
Honors: 2019 State Grange Youth Assistant Steward, 2018 National Grange Treasurer



NICK JONES (Ambassador)

Grange: Southern Wake
Hometown: Garner, NC
School: Freshman at UNC-Charlotte, studying engineering
Hobbies: Time with friends, playing sports
Honors: 2019 State Grange Youth Steward, 2016 & 2018 State Grange President's Award



ASHLEY DROP

Grange: Arcadia
Hometown: Clemmons, NC
School: Freshmen at UNC-Charlotte majoring in Communications and Political Science
Hobbies: running, reading
Honors: 2019 State Grange Youth Lady Assistant Steward, 2018 National Grange Public Speaking Winner



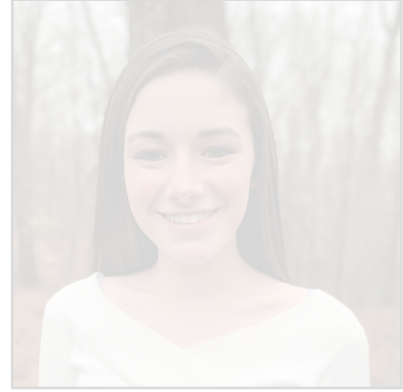
"I'm really looking forward to getting to know our team members much better."

-Nick Jones





BAYLOR HOWERTON
Grange: Bushy Fork
Hometown: Timberlake, NC
School: High School Senior; Will be attending ECU studying health sciences
Hobbies: reading, baking, learning sign language
Honors: 2019 State Grange Youth Program Director, 2018 National Grange Group, Sign-a-Song Winner



“This year, I’m really looking forward to building friendships, strengthening leadership and fellowship with other Grange youth.”

-James Lesley



JAMES LESLEY
Grange: Southern Wake
Hometown: Marshall, NC
School: College Freshman at Asheville-Buncombe Tech
Hobbies: fishing, playing guitar
Honors: 2019 State Grange Youth Treasurer, Farms full-time overseeing his family’s farm



“I look forward to becoming a better leader this year and to positively impacting people’s lives.”

-Ashely Drop



HANNAH GENTRY
Grange: Little Mountain
Hometown: Elkin, NC
School: High School Senior, Will attend NC State University to study Poultry Science
Hobbies: raising chickens, cheerleading, shooting sports
Honors: 2019 State Grange Youth Chaplain, 2018 National Grange Secretary, President of East Wilkes HS FFA



COLE SETTLE
Grange: Little Mountain
Hometown: Elkin, NC
School: Freshman at Appalachian State University, studying Criminal Justice
Hobbies: camping, playing guitar, shooting sports
Honors: 2019 State Grange Youth Vice President, 2018 National Grange Youth Gatekeeper

CAPITOL NEWS

by: Laurie Barnhart

In this issue of *Grange News*, I have attempted to pass along legislative information that I think will be of significance and interest to our membership. There is so much news and information during this period of the legislative season that it is a daunting task to share it in a manner that is beneficial. I hope that you will find this informative as well as interesting.

The NC General Assembly certainly started at a slower pace this year, but have seemingly made up for it in April and May. This year, 1,014 bills were filed in the House and 673 in the Senate. Collectively that is 1,687 bills that were filed during the 2019 Biennial long session.

The House has passed a \$23.9 billion budget for the upcoming 2019-20 biennium including a proposed \$24.9 billion budget for FY 2020-21, a 4% increase from the FY 2018-19 budget. The Senate will release their budget in the upcoming weeks. After the Senate has passed their budget, a committee of conferees will be formed with both House and Senate members to resolve differences between the two versions. Highlights from the House budget are below.

House Budget Highlights

HB 966: 2019 Appropriations Act

- **Rural Broadband - GREAT Program:** Transfers \$15 million in recurring funds to the Department of Information Technology to provide competitive grants to private providers of broadband service and to expand broadband availability in rural areas.
- **Rural Health Loan Assistance Repayment Program:** Provides funding for loan repayment incentives to recruit doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse midwives to rural areas. The revised net appropriation for rural health recruitment and retention is \$3.8 million in FY 2019-20 and \$2.8 million in FY 2020-21.
- **Education:** \$14 billion in the first year and \$14.3 billion in the second year of the biennium will be used to fund education related programs throughout the state. Teachers, assistant principals, and school principals would see salary increases at an average rate of 4.6%, 6.3%, and 10% respectively. An additional \$30 million in FY 2019-20 and \$53.2 million the following year would be used to fund five School Safety Grants: one for school resource officers, services for students in crisis, school safety training, safety equipment in schools, and additional school mental health support personnel. The budget would eliminate

the current classroom and teacher supply fund and replace it with a \$15 million appropriation annually to establish the Teacher Directed Classroom Supplies Allotment that would allow teachers to use an app to purchase textbooks and other supplies specifically for their classrooms. A provision is included that would maintain the 15-point grading scale to measure school performance, changing the weighting of the school achievement component to 51% and the school growth component to 49%.

- **Medicaid:** Medicaid Transformation projects will receive a nonrecurring appropriation of \$232.9 million in the first year of the biennium and \$198.4 million in the second in order to support the efforts of transitioning the state to a managed care system. Additionally, the Health and Human Services portion of the budget allocates \$150.2 million and \$11.4 million in respective years of the biennium to pay for the runout of claims for individuals transitioning to managed care.
- **Transportation:** The Department of Transportation will receive \$98 million in additional funds for the contact resurfacing of roads and other general maintenance projects. The budget also allocates approximately \$58 million in funding for Rail Infrastructure efforts and includes provisions to remove restrictions specific to light rail projects. \$15 million recurring dollars from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund will be used for the GREAT grant program to help bring broadband providers to rural areas of the state.
- **Tax Laws:** The budget contains several provisions to change North Carolina's tax laws. Multistate corporations would be required to calculate their sales based on the percentage of their income that is due to products and services provided throughout the state. Tax and regulatory relief would also be granted to out-of-state businesses conducting disaster related work in North Carolina after a natural disaster, such as Hurricane Florence.

Crossover at the NC General Assembly was May 9th. Crossover is the day when a bill must be passed in the chamber it was originated in and accepted by the opposite chamber for consideration. The exception are bills that have appropriations and/or redistricting bills. If a bill does not make crossover, it is either dead or it can possibly be taken up during the short session.

Bills of interest to the NC State Grange that made crossover are below:

HB 3-Eminent Domain

Subject to approval by the voters at the March 2020 primary election, this bill amends Article I of the North Carolina Constitution by adding a new Sec. 39 to prohibit the taking by eminent domain of private property except for a public use only. It directs that just compensation be paid to the

private property owner and provides that either party may request that the amount of just compensation be determined by a jury.

HB 144-Hands Free NC

Adds to proposed GS 20-137.3A, which prohibits distracted driving, and now provides that distracted driving includes the use of handheld mobile telephone and the use of a handheld electronic devices. It previously was use of an electronic device.

HB 308-Expand Agricultural Outdoor Advertising

Expands outdoor advertising for bona fide farms on their own property.

SB 310-Electric Co-op Rural Broadband Services

Allows Electric Membership Corporations to form and operate separate business entities to provide or support high speed broadband service.

SB 86- Small Business Healthcare Act

Expands businesses eligibility for Association health plans to include employers under an association that has been established for at least two years, share a common interest, and covers at least 500 people.

Other bills that are not subject to crossover that the Grange is following are below. These are bills that include appropriations or contain redistricting provisions.

HB 140-The FAIR Act

An act to enact the Fairness and Integrity in Redistricting (FAIR) Act and to amend the constitution to establish nonpartisan redistricting criteria.

SB 388-Funds for NC Troopers Assoc. Caisson Unit

Appropriates \$25,000 in recurring funds for 2019-20 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, State Highway Patrol Division to assist the North Carolina Troopers Association Caisson Unit with the upkeep and maintenance of its facilities, vehicles, and teams of horses.

SB 315- The NC Farm Act of 2019

Please see this link for details: <https://lrs.sog.unc.edu/billsum/s-315-2019-2020>

Below are 2 bills that have passed the General Assembly and have been signed into law by Gov. Cooper:

HB 127/SB 77-Ag Disaster Fund/Certain Counties

Deems eligible for financial assistance set out in Section 5.11 of SL 2018-136 (Hurricane Florence Agricultural Disaster Program of 2018) persons who experienced a verifiable loss of agricultural commodities as a result of Hurricane Michael whose farm is located in a county that received a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration, as specified, between January 31, 2019, and February 15, 2019.

SB 505-Rural Job Retention Act

An act to expand the job maintenance and capital development fund to include heritage manufacturing projects.

Governor Cooper vetoed S.B. 359, the Born-Alive Abortion

Survivors Protection Act. This bill passed the General Assembly on April 16th. The veto was overridden on April 30th by the Senate and is on the House calendar for May 29th. Details of this bill can be found at this link: <https://lrs.sog.unc.edu/bill-summaries-lookup/S/359/2019-2020>

National Update

Following is our update from Burton Eller, Legislative Director for the National Grange in DC.

Agriculture & Food

Census of Agriculture Documents Change

The USDA's latest ag census shows that the major trends in agriculture since the 2012 census are continuing:

- Dairy farm numbers declined 17 percent but milk sales increased 4 percent as dairy operations grow larger and smaller producers are squeezed out. Overall, the number of all farms decreased by 3.2 percent.
- The number of farmers increased by 6.9 percent as young, beginning and female farmers took on decision-making roles.
- The average age of all farmers rose to 57.5 years compared to 56.3 years in 2012.
- One in four producers is a beginning farmer with less than 10 years of experience and an average age of 46.3 years.
- A record low 105,453 farms produced 75 percent of all sales, down from 119,908 farms in 2012.
- 96% of American farms and ranches are family owned.

New Dairy Margin Coverage Program

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized the DMC which is a voluntary risk management tool that offers dairy producers financial protection when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by producers. Sign-up for the DMC begins June 17 through USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Farm Bill Tackles Feral Swine

Between funds authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill and additional funds appropriated by Congress, USDA now has \$30.5 million in fiscal 2019 to reduce feral swine damage to crops and land across 35 states. Wild hogs destroy anything in their path including crops, land, fencing, roads, wildlife and can spread disease to domestic pigs.

AG Workforce & Immigration

The agriculture community continues to push Congress to pass legislation that would assure producers access to sufficient, flexible, legal and dependable labor. The House Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship held a hearing in early April on the availability of farm labor to meet seasonal and year-round needs. There appears to be increased bipartisan support in the House for an agriculture-only workforce bill. But judging from past experience, there will be pressure to add a

While conducting business with another insurance agent friend, he reminded me that our planning, or lack thereof, can create peace or havoc in family situations. The situation he shared with me resulted in litigation between family members and a deep rift between the insured surviving spouse and his children.

His story resurfaced the memory of a couple of farmers that I worked with as their loan officer in my past employment. The first farmer could be described as a down-to-earth guy who loved farming with his wife. When his son was not working his regular off-farm job, he would also pitch in with the farm chores. The son lived next door to his parents in the old farmhouse, and they saw each other daily. When they were not farming, all three enjoyed practicing martial arts. In fact, they enjoyed it so much that one corner of their farm shop was devoted to floor mats and a hanging martial art punching bag.

Life was good on the farm until one early spring night. The farmer had put in a good day's work preparing the land for planting season. He then headed to the shop for some equipment maintenance and repairs. He and his wife worked until after dark before walking across the yard to their home for a quick supper. After their meal, the farmer took a quick bath and headed for bed where his wife was already reading a book. He settled in for just a few moments before he jolted up, clenching his chest, and then fell back on the bed. His wife immediately called 911. A close family friend who was also a registered nurse lived less than a ¼ mile from the couple. She hurried over and was administering CPR when the rescue squad arrived. Despite live-saving efforts, it was suspected that the farmer died before his head even hit the pillow.

Thankfully, over the years that I worked with this couple, they believed in covering their debts with insurance. I heard of his passing early the next morning. I immediately had their records checked to make sure their insurance was sufficient for their debts because I intended to visit the wife and son at their house, as they were not only customers, but also good friends. Upon arriving at the farmer's house later that morning, I was able to somewhat comfort the widow when she discovered that her husband had enough insurance to clear their debts. While I was sad at the loss of my friend, I experienced great relief and personal satisfaction that I was able to bring some good news to this grieving widow and her son on one of their darkest days. Even with the great loss of a husband and father, they would not struggle financially. They wouldn't have to pay debts, sell assets or face the possibility of losing their homes and farm because they could not pay off the

GOTCHA COVERED

WHAT IS THE "B" PLAN?!

by: Mark Davis

loans from the loss of historical income. They were taken care of.

The second farmer also farmed with his son. The farmer's wife worked in town and had minimal involvement in the farm operation. The teamwork of the father and son was impressive. It appeared that they could read each other's minds without a word spoken. Together, they built a significant operation

that mainly operated on a cash basis. Occasionally, they would purchase another tract of land and borrow a minor amount against it. Then they would pay that debt off in roughly a year. As their operation continued, the large tract of land that adjoined the main farm was placed on the market and these two gentlemen were given the first option to purchase the land. In a few short weeks, we were all in the attorney's office for the deed transfer and loan closing. After the paperwork was completed, the farmer asked to use the phone so he could speak to his wife to let her know they had completed the transaction.

This farmer was thrilled with this acquisition to say the least. He and his son had already worked out a plan to pay the 20-year note off within the next four to five years. The first scheduled payment was due that fall, and sure enough, they brought in enough funds to make at least four normal payments. A few months later, several inches of snow had fallen on the ground with at least a half inch of ice on top of that. To say the roads were impassable is an understatement. Unfortunately, this farmer also had a heart attack late that afternoon. Due to the road conditions, it took considerably longer for paramedics to answer the 911 call than it would have taken under normal conditions, and the farmer did not survive. Unfortunately, the father and son did not want to include life insurance in "their five-year plan" as both appeared healthy. Plus, should something happen to one, the other was capable of managing the farm operation which would continue without missing a beat. However, because the title to the land transferred as Tenants In Common between the father and son, the widow now controlled fifty percent of the land and debt. She was close to retirement age and her retirement plan was significantly relying on her husband's ability to continue to generate a significant farm income. Faced with the loss of her husband and his income, her plan of action was to either not pay off the note early or to sell the new tract of land, especially since development pressure from the neighboring county was bearing down on them, and they could make a handsome profit on the land.

The son's plan was to continue the accelerated debt liquidation by throwing all excess cash towards the debt. Their two plans were

ENTER YOUR GREAT GRANGE PUBLICITY
MATERIALS INTO THE 2019 NATIONAL LECTURER'S

PR Contest



Read contest rules and download forms at tiny.cc/nglcontests

not compatible with each other. It was literally like watching two mules hitched together and both

pulling the opposite way. Eventually, things came to an impasse where the note went past due, the farm was put up for sale, and the son moved away to another part of the county. The rift was so great that neither spoke to the other, and they basically disowned each other. I am sure that this is not what the farmer desired. I cannot help but wonder how different things would be for the family today if life insurance had been part of the father and son's plan.

There are a couple of points that I would like for you to take away from these two examples. First, make sure that you communicate your wishes clearly to all parties and that they have also bought into your plan. In the second example, the wife and son clearly had different objectives and interests when life threw them a curve ball. A life insurance plan to provide the widow with financial security might have kept the farmer's "five-year liquidation plan" on track and could possibly have avoided a family rift, a wound that has not healed, even twenty plus years later. Second, our actions (or inactions) can have a long-lasting effect on our self, our immediate family members, and our extended family and friends. In the case of the first farmer, his actions allowed the son and his mother to draw strength from one another without any financial pressure. They still live beside each other on the family farm and jointly manage a small farming operation.

The last point to make involves communication. If you know you have two different underlying interests, make provisions so that these individuals are not "yoked" together to avoid creating stress. I am going to paraphrase a saying that I recently obtained from an estate planning session. It goes something like this: "Equitable does not always mean Equal." Give one of our NC Grange Agents a call today, and we will be delighted to assist you with an insurance review and give you possible suggestions if your current plan needs an update.

Register for Grange Camp!

NCGRANGE.COM

July 7-13
Eastern 4-H Center



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pathway to citizenship for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (Dreamers) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries to any immigration legislation that makes it to the House floor. The more provisions that are added the less likely the bill is to pass. In the meantime, the Department of Labor is collaborating with USDA to streamline the H-2A visa application process for ag employers.

Conservation, Land & Water

Permanent conservation easements are generally presumed to benefit the natural environment, but their purpose and results can vary widely. For agriculture, they can be double-edged swords, protecting and preserving farming and ranching or, conversely, blocking some farm uses forever. House Agriculture Chairman Colin Peterson says he wants to review these easements with a common-sense approach “to think about what we’re doing, why we’re doing it, and what effects these easements have.” Peterson intends to review all types of conservation easements as part of hearings on farm bill implementation. Most farmers and ranchers prefer working-land conservation initiatives rather than land-idling conservation programs.

Health Care

Dangers of Imported Drugs

The National Grange continues to alert members of the rural and small town communities about the dangers of taking imported non-FDA approved prescription drugs. The National Grange joined over 100 cosigners on a Partnership for Safe Medicines letter to the President and members of the Senate and House of Representatives. The letter pointed out that historically, attempts to import drugs from “safe countries” like Canada result in Americans getting counterfeit, substandard or black market medication. These substandard substances are often transshipped from third world countries through Canada’s free -trade zones but these drugs never enter the Canadian regulatory sphere to assure safety and efficacy for the patient.

Prescription Drug Rebates to Patients

The Department of Health and Human Services should finalize its proposed rule to reduce patients’ out-of-pocket costs at the drug counter according to the National Grange. Currently, prescription rebates are negotiated between biopharmaceutical manufacturers, insurance plans and pharmacy benefit managers aimed at lowering the net cost of medicines. Unfortunately, these rebates have been used to lower a plan’s overall costs instead of lowering patients’ out-of-pocket costs at the drug counter.

Telecommunications

Rural Broadband Maps Need Work

Maps that show broadband coverage in rural areas are not accurate. The Federal Communications Commission collects

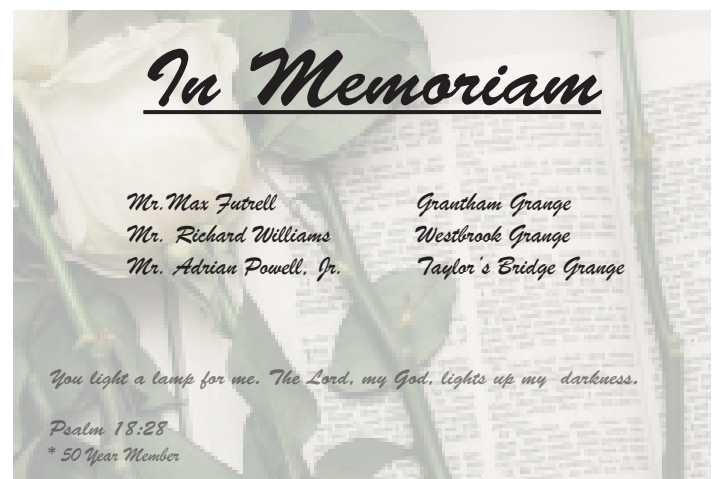
rural broadband data by census block. If just one home or business in an entire block has internet service, everyone in that block is counted as having service available. Rural census blocks cover large areas where a few miles can mean the difference between having broadband or not. During the April National Grange Fly-In, attendees met with Preston Wise, Special Counsel to FCC Chairman Pai, and urged the FCC to place a priority on upgrading rural broadband coverage maps.

Protect Online Privacy

Recent investigations reveal how mobile apps share personal, business, and location information with Facebook, Amazon, Google, and other, and that Facebook in particular stores incredible amounts of personal data on just about everyone. National Grange president Betsy Huber was featured recently in Washington’s Morning Consult calling for Congress to establish a uniform national privacy standard for everyone on the internet. The Senate Judiciary, Senate Commerce, and House Energy and Commerce Committees have all held hearings on privacy and are urging prompt Hill action before states pass a patchwork of individual laws.

Trade

American farmers, ranchers, processors, vintners and bakers are losing sales to Japan as foreign competitors lock in new business under preferential trade pacts. Member countries of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) are seeing tariffs on their agricultural exports to Japan reduced for a second time. The United States withdrew from the TPP before ratification. As a result, U. S. wheat, beef, pork, dairy, wine, potatoes, fruits and vegetables, and more are seeing their Japanese market share decline. The National Grange and other agriculture groups are asking the Administration to negotiate a bilateral agreement with Japan that restores access and expands markets for American producers.



From Sharon

by: Sharon Carter Underwood,
Family Living and Community
Service Director

Greetings and happy spring! I am Sharon Carter Underwood and I am from Ferguson Grange. Jimmy Gentry has invited me to become the Community Service Director this year and I have accepted. Being a retired educator, I fully believe in the wonderful benefits that come with helping others through community service projects. It has always been a big part of being a Grange member.

Joyce Clodfelter has done a fantastic job and our deep appreciation goes out to her for her successful work in the many Grange projects she has coordinated. She wears many hats and will now put her energies toward the Family Living area.

As a reminder, Joyce wrote in her last column, 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.

As we look and plan toward our 2020 NC Grange Community Service project, I would really appreciate your input. As a local Grange, please discuss needs in NC and if you have ideas of possible community service projects, please share them with me by emailing shaunderwood1@gmail.com.

ARCADIA GRANGE CELEBRATES GRANGE MONTH

by: Kelli Rapp

Arcadia Grange has carried out several activities during the month of April. We hosted an awards night and dinner to recognize outstanding community members as well as Grangers. We have also been busy baking cookies at the Hospice House, getting certified in CPR, and visiting and delivering blankets to shut-ins and cancer patients.



FERGUSON GRANGE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

by: Sharon Carter Underwood

Ferguson Grange is promoting and beautifying our community with two new small barn quilts attached to our Ferguson Grange sign across from the Post Office. Thank you to our talented member, Pam McCarrick for sharing her talents with us!



Ferguson Grange also toured Patterson School in Happy Valley, Caldwell County, for a recent meeting. Farm Manager William Ritter and Sculpture Director Joe Bigley gave an interesting program about their work and plans for the school where many agricultural and cultural arts programs are being offered. We also learned of the exciting programs and future renovations the Patterson School Foundation is planning for their lovely property.



NORTH CAROLINA GRANGE
1734 WILKESBORO HWY
STATESVILLE, NC 28625
704-878-0000
NCGRANGE.COM

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Happy Summer!