

The official publication of the NC State Grange

March / April 2017

GRANGE NEWS

**SERVING WILMINGTON AT
FAMILY CONFERENCE**

**CELEBRATING AG WITH OUR
NATIONAL GRANGE PRESIDENT**



- 3 **A Note From Jimmy**
NC State Grange President
- 4 **Award Winning Recipes**
From the 2016 State Convention
- 6 **Family Conference**
Serving Wilmington
- 8 **Beaufort County Grange**
- 9 **Celebrating Ag Day**
- 10 **Capitol News**
In Memoriam
- 12 **Gotcha Covered**
Madewell Wins Award
- 13 **Winter Youth Conference**
- 14 **Being A Servant**
Gentry Wins Award



FAMILY CONFERENCE

State Officers

President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Program Director	Laurie Barnhart
Steward	Missy Mueller
Assistant Steward	Raymond Hayes, Jr.
Lady Asst. Steward	Crystal Allen
Chaplain	Josh Barfield
Treasurer	Sidney Albright
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Greeter	Martha Suther
Ceres	Dianne Hudson
Pomona	Frances Suther
Flora	Carolyn Jernigan

Board of Directors

Chairman	Robert Cayton
Vice Chairman	David Allen
	Kelli Rapp
	Vinnie Duncan
	Carlton Barefoot
	Charles Forrister
President	Jimmy Gentry
Vice President	Ned Hudson
Secretary	Deborah Welch
Treasurer	Sidney Albright
<i>Emeritus</i>	Hubert Hege

Department Heads

Family Living Activities	Joyce Clodfelter
Insurance Programs	Mark Davis
Membership Director	Jessica Horton
Legislative Director	Laurie Barnhart
Youth/Young Adult Director	Jennie Gentry
Junior Director	Emily Hartsell
Community Service Director	Joyce Clodfelter
Publications Director	Jessica Horton

Events

2017	
April	Grange Month!
June	18-24 Caravan
July	9-15 Grange Camp
	TBA Southeastern Regionals





Foreign Agricultural Workers Vital

Currently, farmers can get legal agricultural labor through a program known as H-2A. While it provides a legal means to obtain workers, it is an expensive and cumbersome effort for farmers. The workers can remain in the US for 10 months, and then they return to their homes. Farmers must submit applications to obtain the workers which is complicated and involves several Federal agencies. Once approved, the farmers are required to pay for their transportation expenses and provide free housing.

They are required to pay an established wage which will be \$11.27 per hour in 2017. This is a 3.9% from 2016, or a total of 55 cents per hour. There are a lot of North Carolina employees who will not receive as much as a 3.9% increase in their salaries this year.

Why do we depend on H-2A workers? It is simple. Even at their best efforts, farmers cannot find enough North Carolina workers to fill the jobs. It is difficult to find people who will do the kind of work required in the fields. Accusations have been made that by bringing in foreign guest workers jobs are being taken away from Americans. This is simply not the case.

For years, the State Grange and other agricultural groups have advocated for reforms to the H2-2A program to make it more streamlined and less costly. Farmers I have spoken with have stated that they like the program, but it is too expensive. It is likely that a more streamlined and less costly program would lead to a reduction in the use of illegal workers.

Congress has never been willing to reform the H2a program separate from dealing with immigration issues. Now that President Trump has made known some of his think-

ing regarding immigration reform, we want to be sure that a reliable and affordable agricultural guest worker program remains in place to supply the labor that we need. The political wrangling surrounding immigration issues could lead to fear among guest workers. We do not want this to happen. I would love for the White House to assure legal guest workers that their well-being is safe.

Grangers across North Carolina should contact their member of Congress in the House and Senate, advocating for an affordable legal guest worker program that meets the needs of North Carolina. We need to further emphasize that immigration reform should not interfere with guest workers coming to this country to do the work that needs to be done. To learn more about the H-2A program, you can contact Laurie Barnhart or me. The US Department of Labor website is also a good resource for information.

North Carolina Grange News (USPS 392-780) is the official publication of The North Carolina State Grange, 1734 Wilkesboro Hwy, Statesville, NC 28625 and is published bi-monthly. The yearly subscription cost is included in the annual membership dues for members of The North Carolina State Grange. ISSN # 0279-5914—Periodical Postage Paid in Statesville, NC and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The N.C. State Grange, 1734 Wilkesboro Highway, Statesville, NC 28625.

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.

CRANBERRY CHIP COOKIES

SHARON BLACKMAN | GRANTHAM GRANGE
1ST PLACE ADULT BERRY COOKIE

1 CUP BUTTER, SOFTENED
1 CUP WHITE SUGAR
2 EGGS
1 TEASPOON VANILLA EXTRACT
2 ¼ CUPS FLOUR
½ TEASPOON BAKING POWDER
¼ TEASPOON SALT
1½ CUPS WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS
1½ CUPS DRIED CRANBERRIES
1 CUP CHOPPED PECANS
½ CUP ENGLISH TOFFEE BITS

IN A LARGE BOWL, CREAM BUTTER AND SUGARS. ADD EGGS, AND VANILLA EXTRACT; MIX WELL.

COMBINE THE FLOUR, BAKING POWDER AND SALT; GRADUALLY ADD TO THE CREAMED MIXTURE AND MIX WELL. STIR IN WHITE CHIPS, CRANBERRIES, PECANS AND TOFFEE BITS. (DOUGH WILL STIFF).

COVER AND REFRIGERATE FOR 1 HOUR OR UNTIL EASY TO HANDLE. DROP BY ROUNDED TABLESPOONS 2 IN APART ONTO UNGREASED BAKING SHEETS. FLATTEN SLIGHTLY. BAKE AT 350° 11-14 MINUTES OR UNTIL SET AND EDGES ARE LIGHTLY BROWN. COOL FOR 2 MINUTES BEFORE REMOVING.

YIELD ABOUT 6 DOZEN.

PECAN PIE

LINDA ALBRIGHT
PATTERSON GRANGE
2ND PLACE NUT PIE

2 9" PIE CRUSTS
4 TABLESPOONS BUTTER (MELTED)
1 BOX BROWN SUGAR
4 EGGS
1 TEASPOON VANILLA
2 CUPS NUTS
4 TEASPOONS WATER

MIX ALL INGREDIENTS TOGETHER AND POUR INTO 2 SHELLS AND BAKE AT 350 DEGREES UNTIL DONE.

FRESH APPLE CAKE

JOYCE HOOD
GRANTHAM GRANGE
2ND PLACE APPLE CAKE

3 CUPS PLAIN FLOUR
2 TEASPOONS CINNAMON
1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
1/2 TEASPOON SALT
2 CUPS PACKED BROWN SUGAR
1 1/2 CUPS CANOLA OIL
4 CUPS PEELED CHOPPED FINE, APPLES (GRANNY SMITH)
1 CUP CHOPPED PECANS
2 TEASPOONS VANILLA

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES. GREASE AND FLOUR A 10-INCH TUBE PAN. COMBINE FLOUR, CINNAMON, SODA AND SALT; SET ASIDE. BEAT TOGETHER SUGAR, OIL AND EGGS IN LARGE BOWL. GRADUALLY ADD FLOUR MIXTURE. STIR IN APPLES, PECANS AND VANILLA. POUR BATTER IN PREPARED PAN. BAKE 55 MINUTES OR UNTIL TOOTHPICK INSERTED NEAR CENTER COMES OUT CLEAN. COOL ON WIRE RACK 10 MINUTES. REMOVE FROM PAN ONTO CAKE PLATE. GLAZE: BOIL 1 CUP BROWN SUGAR, 1/4 CUP MILK, 1 STICK MARGARINE 3 MINUTES. ADD 1 TEASPOON VANILLA. WHILE HOT, SPOON OVER HOT CAKE.

HERSHEY'S PERFECT CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

KELLEE PAYNE
1ST PLACE YOUTH
CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE

2-1/4 CUP ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
1/2 TEASPOON SALT
1 CUP (2 STICKS) BUTTER, SOFTENED
3/4 CUP GRANULATED SUGAR
3/4 CUP PACKED LIGHT BROWN SUGAR
1 TEASPOON VANILLA EXTRACT
2 EGGS
2 CUPS (12-OZ PKG.) HERSHEY'S SEMI-SWEET CHOCOLATE CHIPS

HEAT OVEN TO 375 DEGREES. STIR TOGETHER FLOUR, BAKING SODA AND SALT. BEAT BUTTER, GRANULATED SUGAR, BROWN SUGAR AND VANILLA IN LARGE BOWL WITH MIXER UNTIL CREAMY. ADD EGGS; BEAT WELL. GRADUALLY ADD FLOUR MIXTURE, BEATING WELL. STIR IN CHOCOLATE CHIPS. DROP BY ROUNDED TEASPOONS ONTO UNGREASED (PARCHMENT PAPER) COOKIE SHEET. BAKE 8 TO 10 MINUTES OR UNTIL LIGHTLY BROWNEED. COOL SLIGHTLY; REMOVE FROM COOKIE SHEET TO WIRE RACK. COOL COMPLETELY.

PEACH PLUM BLUEBERRY PIE

PEARL WARREN
WESTBROOK GRANGE
2ND PLACE BERRY PIE

2 9" PIE CRUSTS
5-6 PEACHES, PITTED, PEELED SLICED
5-6 LARGE PLUMS PITTED, SLICED (3 CUPS)
2/3 C BLUEBERRIES
2/3 CUP LIGHT BROWN SUGAR
1 TEASPOON FRESH LEMON JUICE
1/2 TEASPOON ALMOND EXTRACT
6 TABLESPOON FLOUR

PREHEAT OVEN TO 400*. MIX FRUIT, 6 TBSP FLOUR, SUGAR, LEMON JUICE AND EXTRACT. SPOON INTO CRUST. ADD TOP CRUST; CRIMP EDGES. CUT CENTER VENT. BAKE 30 MIN ON LOWEST RACK. REDUCE OVEN TEMP TO 375*. BAKE 50 MINUTES UNTIL CENTER JUICES BUBBLE. LET COOL 6 HOURS.

SERVING WILMINGTON AT FAMILY CONFERENCE



Bushy Fork Grange members, Charles Howerton and his son, Cade fill an order.

By: Jessica Horton

Grangers from as far west as Murphy, NC gathered in Carolina Beach and Wilmington, NC for a weekend of serving. The NC Grange teamed up with NC MedAssist, a nonprofit based out of Charlotte, NC to provide over-the-counter medication to those in need.

Grangers began the weekend at the Carolina Beach Marriott on Friday evening for brief staff updates and refreshments. Lori Giang, NC MedAssist's CEO spoke to the attendees about how her organization works, and who it serves.

Giang explained that North Carolina has a gap between those who qualify for government medical assistance and those who do not, mainly those who are single, or have no dependents. These are people who live in poverty, but rely on medications to assist in their quality of life. NC MedAssist partners with doctors and pharmacies across the state to provide prescription medication to those in need.

NC MedAssist also hosts over-the-counter events in various communities to provide simple items most of us take for granted, such as cold medicine, vitamins and even bandaids. This is the event the NC Grange sponsored during Family Conference. Grange members signed up prior to the weekend for various jobs, such as shopper, greeter, stocker, setup, etc. during three different shifts.

Community members interested in receiving over-the-counter medication arrived and completed a simple form designating what items they wanted. They

then handed off their list to a shopper. The shopper fulfilled their order, returned it back to them and offered them the opportunity to collect a few additional items, like eye drops and nicotine gum.

Over 400 community members were served during the event and Grangers spoke so highly of the event, they want to continue the partnership with NC MedAssist for future projects and giveaway days. If you or your Grange is interested in working an event or sorting medication at their office, visit medassist.org and click the “volunteer” tab for a list of events with which you can help. They currently have opportunities to assist in High Point, Greensboro, Duplin County, Cleveland County, Anson/Union County, Dare County and Gaston County.

Upon their three hour shift completion, Grangers were free to explore the lower Cape Fear region, some chose to explore the USS North Carolina Battleship which is docked in downtown, and the Fort Fisher Aquarium, just a few miles from our hotel at Carolina Beach.

Attendees gathered again on Saturday evening for our annual talent show. Laurie Barnhart, NC Grange Program Director coordinated the show and announced winner, Kasey Vann from Grantham Grange. She will go on to represent North Carolina at the Evening of Excellence at National Convention this November in Spokane, Washington.

Sunday morning, Grangers met one last time for a worship service led by NC Grange Board Member Deb Welch. Her talk about serviced-themed, the perfect message for our weekend. It was suggested that her service be printed in this issue of *Grange News* and can be found on page 14.

While this weekend was completely different than previous Family Conferences, attendees expressed their love of the change, and the way they were able to impact community members in Wilmington. The NC Grange will continue a serving theme at future events!



BEAUFORT COUNTY GRANGE CELEBRATES AGRICULTURE LEADERS & WELCOMES NATIONAL GRANGE PRESIDENT



Left to right: NC Grange President, Jimmy Gentry, National Grange President, Betsy Huber, Beaufort County Grange President, Robert Cayton

The Beaufort County Grange brought 145 community members, leaders and elected officials together to celebrate the agriculture community in Beaufort County.

Beaufort County Grange, Beaufort County Farm Bureau and the Beaufort County Extension office hosted the dinner and celebration. Awards were presented to community members, and special guest, National Grange President, Betsy Huber and North Carolina Grange President, Jimmy Gentry were in attendance.

Ronnie and Richard Huettmann, owners of Acre Station Meat Farm were in attendance to receive the Beaufort County Grange Agribusiness of the Year award. The brothers began working in the family meat farm at ages 16 and 19, and pride themselves on providing fresh meat and groceries, as well as a grill serving breakfast and lunch six days a week.

Timmy Douglas was present and was named the Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year for his farm, Douglas Farms. Douglas began working on the farm at a very young age, and presently works with his father Steve and son, Austin on the day-to-day operations.

Huber spoke about the importance of agriculture, and the emphasis the National Grange places on making sure the leadership in Washington, D.C., understands how vital it is to our economy.

She relayed that the health care crisis we are facing is directly impacting rural America, especially farmers. She also spoke of the work with needed for tax reform and getting broadband to rural areas, so that the farmers may have the same benefit other business owners have in urban and suburban areas.

**Submitted by Jessica Horton, and reprinted from the Wasington Daily News in Beaufort County.*



Left to right: Betsy Huber selling a copy of Good Day to Joyce Hood, Betsy Huber speaking, Huettmann borthers accepting award, Timmy Douglas accepting award

CREATING AGRICULTURE AWARENESS IN NORTH CAROLINA



Left to Right: Jennie Gentry, Laurie Barnhart, Anita Gentry, Ashley Pekrul, Betsy Huber & Jimmy Gentry

National Ag Week was started in 1973 as part of an effort to celebrate and create awareness in our country of the importance of agriculture. It is always astonishing to learn that so many of our citizens (and not just children) truly believe that groceries come from the grocery store. Two years ago North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, determined to educate not only the general public but our North Carolina General Assembly, decided to expand on National Ag Week by gathering our commodities and supporting organizations together for Ag Awareness Day. The NC State Grange, the NC Farm Bureau and the NC Agribusiness Council formed a steering committee to assist the Dept. of Ag in hosting this event in March of 2015 and again on March 15th of this year. Each partner played a key role in making this a tremendously successful event.

Most Grangers know that agriculture is North Carolina's largest economic driver. Not only does it bring approximately 84 Billion dollars to our state but it supports more than 600,000 jobs. That means one in six jobs are agriculture related. Unfortunately, out of our 50-member Senate, we have only 1 farmer, and from our 120-member House of Representatives we have only 4. It has been and becomes increasingly imperative that the agriculture community educate our lawmakers on the value this industry brings to our state.

To assist in this effort many of our NC commodities were represented on Ag Awareness Day including the Pork Council, the Sweet Potato Commission, the Cattlemen's Assn., the Strawberry Assn., the Fisheries Assn., NC Catch, the NC Green Industry Council, the Nursery & Landscaping Assn., the Poultry Federation, the Soybean Assn., the Small Grain Growers, the Egg Assn., the Peanut Assn., the Vegetable Growers, the Watermelon Assn., the Pine Needle Producers, the Agritourism Networking Assn., the Wine & Grape Council, the Dairy Goat Breeders Assn., the American Dairy Goat Assn., the Eastern NC Christmas Tree Growers Assn., the Specialty Foods Assn., NC Dairy Advantage and the NC Dairy Producers Assn. We also had an educational element that included NC State Extension, Carolina Stewardship, NCSU-College of Ag and Life Science, the Univ. of Mt. Olive, NC Agromedicine Institute, Soil & Water Foundation and the Assn. of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. There was even a harvester simulator that was provided by the NC Cooperative Extension-Northeast Ag Expo Team from Gates County.



Mother Nature bestowed a beautiful day on the Capitol City for the 2nd biennial 2017 Ag Awareness Day; however, my weather app was showing only 24 degrees when I stepped out at 7 AM to meet many of our commodity exhibitors that were participating. Unlike two years ago when Commissioner Troxler and the Department of Agriculture decided to host this event, all events were moved inside including the rally and lunch due to the frosty temperatures and high winds. The frigid temperatures did not stop farmers from all over the state from showing up to support agriculture and to remind their House of Representatives and Senators just how important agriculture is to North Carolina. We were very happy to see our North Carolina State Grange well represented. We had members visit from many of our Granges across the state including Capitol, Troutman, Queen City, Corriher, Grantham, St. John's and Southern Wake. We were very pleased to also have with us National Grange President Betsy Huber.

The Ag Awareness Day rally, emceed by Commission Troxler was held at the Museum of History conveniently located across the street from the NC General Assembly. Introduced and on stage with the Commissioner was our NC State Grange President Jimmy Gentry, NC Farm Bureau President Larry Wooten, A&T School of Ag and Environmental Sciences Dr. Shirley Hyman-Parker, NCSU-College of Ag & Life Sciences Dean Rich Linton, House Ag Committee Chairs Rep. Jimmy Dixon, Rep. William Brisson and Rep. Mark Brody, Senate Ag Chairs-Sen. Norman Sanderson, Sen. Bill Cook and Sen. Andy Wells. Full appropriation chairs Rep. Chuck McGrady and Sen. Brent Jackson were also introduced. The rally ended with a brief speech from Governor Roy Cooper, Speaker Pro Tem Phil Berger and Rep. John Bell-House Majority Leader who gave us an update from the Speaker's office.

The day was completed by a lovely reception hosted by the Agribusiness Council held at the History Museum and attended by quite a few of our exhibitors, General Assembly members, the Ag Awareness Day Host Committee, and other Agriculture friends. It was a wonderful day in the Capitol City and I think we were all proud to be part of this celebration that recognizes the significant role that agriculture plays in the great state of North Carolina.

It is almost impossible to believe that Spring is here and we are already into the third month of the 2017 General Assembly Long Session. To date, legislation in the form of bill filing compared to previous years has been rather slow. 317 bills have been filed by the Senate and 404 by the House. The deadline for filing a bill in the House is April 25th and in the Senate-March 30th. Given those dates there is a high probability that there will be many more to come.

There has been quite a bit of activity over the past week on Jones Street in the Capitol City. Gov. Cooper gave his state of the state address on Monday night, March 13th. His address again emphasized the struggles between a Democratic Governor and a Republican Legislature. Gov. Cooper also exercised his first veto power on HB 100 (Restore Partisan Elections/ Sup. & Dist. Court) which would have restored District and Superior Court Judge races back to partisan elections. The General Assembly will more than likely issue an override which is in their purview because of their Republican majority. Additionally, on March 3rd, Gov. Cooper signed his first bill, HB 39 into Law which reduces the number of members elected by the General Assembly to the Board of Governors from 32 to 24 members.

During the week of March 13th both the Senate and the House released their tax proposal packages. The highlights of House bill (HB 356: Tax Reduction Act 2017) are below:
 Increases the standard deduction for personal income from \$17,500 to \$18,500 for married couples filing jointly.
 Exempts mill machinery from retail sales and use taxes.
 Simplifies franchise tax calculation by eliminating a current requirement that a corporation determine its franchise tax base by calculating the appraised value of its real and tangible property and its total actual investment in tangible property.

The Senate as of this week has not filed a tax bill but their proposal is as follows:
 Reduce personal income tax to 5.35% and corporate income tax to 2.75%.
 Standard deduction for a married couple filing jointly will increase from \$17,500 to \$20,000.
 There will be an increase in the current tax credit for families with children that earn less than \$12,000 annually.
 The amount that mortgage interest & property taxes can be deducted will increase from \$20,000 to \$22,000.
 Proposed to switch to market based sourcing for tax calculation (which relies on income received by customers in the state) instead of employment and capital investments.
 In conjunction with the Senate's tax proposal they have passed SB 75: Constitutional Amendment – Maximum Income Tax Rate of 5.5%.

The House reports that their tax bill will save businesses \$135.8 million per year, and individual taxpayers will save \$64.5 million in the 2017-18 fiscal year and \$124 million in the following year. According to the Senate, their plan will save businesses and individual taxpayers \$1 billion the first year.

There have been several bills filed that pertain to our Grange Policy. They are as follows:
 HB 68 & SB 65 Bright Futures Act Sponsors: Sen. Meredith & Rep. Szoka
 HB 35 Protect NC Workers Sponsor: Rep. Cleveland
 SB 34 Eminent Domain Sponsor: Sen. Jackson

These bills are in committee but have had very little movement. The Bright Futures Act has the potential to be of interest to the Grange as it pertains to adding the digital infrastructure necessary for economic development and innovation in key markets which would include broadband, retail online services, internet, grid power, healthcare and training and education. The following is the "Whereas..." portion of the bill that I thought would be of interest to our Grangers.

Whereas, North Carolina's population of residents living in rural areas is the second largest of any state, with more than 3.3 million people living in the 85 counties considered rural; and
Whereas, these areas have historically been last to receive the necessary investment for the infrastructure required to support advances in economic development, including investment for basic roads, water, electricity, or telephone service, requiring public and private leaders to develop new and innovative approaches or business models to encourage or assist in the development of this infrastructure; and
Whereas, the rapid advances in gigabit connectivity and automation threaten the economic viability of these areas if steps are not taken to develop the digital infrastructure necessary to allow those in rural areas to take advantage of digitally integrated products and services; and
Whereas, the General Assembly has long recognized that digital computing and communications technology is the key element of infrastructure for connecting each person to the economic development opportunities of the twenty-first century and has taken steps to directly advance the development and use of this infrastructure where possible through programs like the School Connectivity Initiative and Digital Learning Plan; and
Whereas, it is the intent of the General Assembly to rapidly develop the digital infrastructure necessary for economic development and innovation in key market segments, including Broadband, Retail online services, Internet of things, Grid Power, Health care, and Training and education, known col-

lectively by the acronym "BRIGHT" markets, and to use all means necessary to promote and encourage the development of this infrastructure so that each person in North Carolina has the ability to connect to opportunities presented by the growth in these BRIGHT market segments.

Two members of Governor Cooper's cabinet were confirmed by the NC Senate this week. Erik Hooks, Secretary of the Department of Public Administration was confirmed as was Secretary of Transportation Jim Trogden. Secretary appointees Michelle Sanders and Tony Copeland have been issued subpoenas for confirmation for the Department of Administration and the Department of Commerce respectively. Dr. Mandy Cohen, the Governor's appointee as Secretary of Health & Human Services also received a subpoena to appear for a confirmation hearing.

Three bills of interest were recently introduced. They are as follows:

HB 250/SB 256: Body Art Regulation Changes

This bill will require tattoo artists to hold a permit with their local health department and they will also be subject to inspections. Currently they are not held to any health or safety regulations.

HB 328: Athletic Associations Accountability Act

The NCAA as well as the ACC has enjoyed tax exempt status in North Carolina. As a repercussion from the backlash of HB 2, better known as the "bathroom bill", HB 328-Athletic Associations Accountability Act has been filed. This bill will require Speaker of the House, Tim Moore, and President Pro Tem of the Senate, Phil Berger to file a tax-exempt organization complaint with the IRS against NCAA and ACC.

HB 363: The Pollinator Protection Act

Because of the demise of the bee population this bill will limit the use of Neonicotinoids to only farmers, licensed applicators and veterinarians. Neonicotinoids is the most commonly used pesticide in the United States and is associated with the declining bee population. Unlicensed home, garden and landscape application which equates to 25% will no longer be allowed.

From the Hill

Betsy Huber, our National Grange president issued a statement in response to the Trump Administration's proposed budget which was released the week of March 12th.

"We appreciate the administration providing a basic roadmap for spending priorities in the 2018 budget blueprint, in which the

President shows continued opposition to EPA regulations that have caused great expense in time and money for our farmers without improving water quality. We applaud his strengthened support for our military men and women. However, we are concerned with the suggested deep cuts to the budget of the US Department of Agriculture, which houses rural and agricultural services vital to all Americans.

"Since the beginning of this decade, net farm income has been in free fall, down about 50 percent in only four years. America's food system begins with farm families who struggle to make a living wage while caring for their land and animals. We urge Congress to remember this when they are creating the final 2018 budget and stand in support of our farmers and ranchers and through them the people of the world who rely on them for sustenance.

"When members of Congress meet with the farmers and ranchers of their districts - those who may have thousands of acres or only two or three - they know that those involved in agriculture are exceptionally generous and have sustained large budget cuts in the past, but can only bear so many losses. We have faith that Congress can work for the good of all people, who as consumers are each a part of the agricultural system, based on its past efforts that have netted significant savings while strengthening essential programs that support producers.

"I am proud that for 150 years the Grange has been the advocate of agriculture and rural Americans, but I am most proud that the Grange has always lobbied with perspective. We understand the need for deficit reduction and accountability in government spending of taxpayer dollars. We will continue to work with those in the administration and Congress to ensure our food system's security and affordability by retaining and reinforcing necessary programs and security nets such as funding for conservation efforts and crop insurance. And we will continue to advocate for important USDA programs for rural Americans such as rural broadband internet infrastructure support and rural development programs."

In other news, Sonny Perdue, President Trump's nominee for Secretary of Agriculture, is slated for his confirmation hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee March 23rd. Perdue, served as the 81st Governor of Georgia from 2003 to 2011. He was the first Republican Governor of Georgia since the Civil War. If confirmed, which is expected, Perdue would only be the 2nd Secretary of Agriculture from the Deep South.

In Memoriam

*Mr. Barton Stanley
Mr. Robert Jackson
Mr. Bruce Bost**

*Greenwood Grange
Westbrook Grange
St. John's Grange*

“What is the Plan?”

The heading of a recent article in one of our papers was quite disturbing to me. It read “Man tells 911 he’s going to kill brother.” Variations of this Western Piedmont news reverberated across the state as I looked at the internet references to this story. It appears that inherited family land was at the root of this violent scene. The expectations of one (or both) of these boy(s) fell short on the land was division, now one is dead and the other in jail.

I can imagine that their parents/grandparents – and I strongly suspect the brothers contributed sweat labor as well - worked hard to acquire the property and they had lofty dreams of being able to pass this farm to several generations of their heirs. I am positive they had no inkling of the bitter fruit this land would create between these siblings. Then I wonder, did their parents fail to head off this situation. Did they just do nothing, figuring the boys would just work it out? Did one boy stay on the farm while the other worked in town creating a perceived unequitable split of the land – or maybe no split at all? Did the parents talk about their desires and wishes often and prior to their death with both boys? There are a lot of what if questions in this story. This is an extreme example of a rift that many families experience when settling family estates. Just like a snowflake, each of our situations are unique and there is not a one size fits all solution. However, we all have some common threads in the estate distribution design.

The NC State Grange Insurance Program recently connected with The Principal Group and their Agribusiness program. This program design is to pass the Agribusiness (farm) in a manner the owners desire, minimizing family conflicts and hurts that can happen, as evident in proceeding example. The process starts when the owner completes a survey, which includes a schedule of assets, their ideal distribution of those assets, and any current succession/estate plan(s) in place. Once we receive this survey back, we send it for analysis to “map” a plan to accomplish the desires of the owners. This analysis typically takes between ten to fourteen days to complete. When the results come back, it reiterates the owner’s profile, goals, and financial summary to insure all the assumptions are based on good facts. The report includes various business structure models in consideration for tax strategies, operation succession strategies, estate planning, as well as retirement income options within a transition plan.

Keeping a plan fresh and up to date requires a regular periodic review, making sure the plan reflects the current situation(s). The review should not only include the owners, but it should be discussed with the heirs as well, preferably at the same time. If the heirs are present together, they hear the owners wishes at the same time and know what to expect when any transition occurs, which should reduce any conflict and additional family stress. Explaining the “why” while the owner is still present will defuse a lot of issues.

Quite often we see where there may be one sibling in the family carrying on the family operation with the parent and the other sibling(s) take employment elsewhere and have very little involvement in the operation – until it is time to settle the estate – then they want their “fair share.” Much like in a divorce situation, the one that remained active in the operation now faces the liquidation of the operation (farm) or coming up with the capital to buy the others out. In either case, it is a serious and strenuous strain on cash flow. If keeping the operation intact is the goal, then an “equal” distribution may not be feasible. Remember that “Fair” distribution does not mean “Equal.” If one of the sibling (or in-law) has worked the operation for twenty plus years, they have also contributed to the increased value of that operation compared to the one that only visits the operation for holidays and birthdays.

Would be interested to learn more about this program? Give us a call today! We will assist you in every possible way.



MADEWELL WINS NATIONAL GRANGE ACTIVISM AWARD

By: Jennie Gentry

Darby Madewell, member of Southern Wake Grange, has become the first Grange youth from North Carolina to receive the National Grange Grassroots Activism Award. A sophomore at North Carolina State University, Darby is double majoring in Electrical Engineering and Political Science. She has become very passionately involved in activism in her local community, and has worked on several political campaigns.

To apply for this special recognition, Darby completed an extensive application that included letters of recommendation and demonstration of her local volunteerism and activism in the grassroots political arena. She also had to complete an analysis essay illustrating the merits of Grange policy and an

action plan for Grange members across the country to advocate for that policy.

Only two applicants across the country received the award, and we are excited to announce that Darby is one of the winners. She has received a travel scholarship to participate in the National Grange Fly-In later in April in Washington DC.

Darby is a true example of excellence in youth leadership. She served two years as a member of the State Grange Youth Team, and served last year as our State Youth Female Ambassador, representing NC at the 150th National Grange Convention in Washington DC last fall. She has made quite a positive impression on those who work with her, and is a wonderful role model to her peers. Darby grew up in the Junior and Youth Programs in the Grange, and we are so proud of her for receiving this incredible honor.

YOUTH Say “YES” To Making an Impact

By: Jennie Gentry

What do you get when 60 youth gather for a retreat? An amazing weekend! Winter Youth Conference was held February 19 – 21 at the beautiful Camp Caraway in Asheboro, NC, starting off another great year for our youth program. Youth attended the retreat to fellowship, learn, build leadership skills, and spend time with friends. The theme for the weekend was “YES,” in which youth engaged in mini workshops to learn how to make a positive impact on their communities and the world around them. As part of the program, young adults Cody Stevens and Ashley Pedersen helped emcee by leading “YES” games to help youth engage in volunteering.

Throughout the weekend, youth were honored and received various awards. National Grange Youth Achievement Awards were given out, and Katie Leonard was honored for receiving the most Achievement Awards in 2016, setting a new record for the most every received by an individual NC youth. Youth moving up to the youth program this year from the Junior program were also honored on Saturday, as were our 2016 State Youth Officers.

State Contests were held throughout the day Saturday. Winning first place in the Youth Public Speaking Contest was Ashley Drop of Arcadia Grange. First place winners of the Group Sign-a-Song Contest were August and Baylor Howerton of Bushy Fork Grange. Baylor also won first place in the Individual Sign-a-Song Category. All of these speech and sign-a-song winners will compete at the Regional Youth Conference in July for a chance to perform at the National Grange Convention this year.

Fifteen youth competed in our annual impromptu speech contest, which brought great entertainment for conference attendees. Winning first place was Katie Leonard; second place went to Landon Woolard; and third place went to Nora Smith. All speakers did an incredible job. We are especially thankful to the State FFA Officers who attended the weekend conference and judged the speaking contests.

Elections for State Youth Officers were also held Saturday afternoon. Margie Griffin of Troutman Grange was elected the 2017 State Grange Youth President, and Katie Leonard of Arcadia 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. Five adults on the committee interviewed the applicants in order to select the leaders for the year, a tough decision with so many wonderful candidates. All applicants did an amazing 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 2017 State Youth Ambassadors are Katie Leonard, Arcadia Grange, and Landon Woolard, Beaufort County Grange. The youth selected to serve on the 2017 State Youth Team are Marcus Aven-

dano, Southern Wake Grange; Hannah Bright, Troutman Grange; Kirsten Cash, Troutman Grange; Margie Griffin, Troutman Grange; Zac Mazag, Troutman Grange; and Amber Long, Bushy Fork Grange. Each leader accepted their new position with either tears of joy or smiles of excitement, ready to serve the Grange through this wonderful opportunity. Along with the introduction of the new team, Saturday evening’s festivities included dancing, games, and special vespers led by Bennett Yeargan, Darby Madewell and Josh Phillips from the 2016 Youth Team.

Youth departed Sunday morning after a worship service and special friendship circle, sharing hugs and expressing their eagerness to see each other again at Grange Camp. Our youth all had a wonderful weekend together, 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.



BEING A SERVANT

By: Deb Welch

Jesus Christ was the first servant. The scriptures tell us in Philippians 2:6-7 “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

Genesis 1:27 “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them”.

We are called to be servants, are we not? Well, what does a servant do? He (or she) carries out the will of his master. A servant doesn't tell his master what to do -- he performs whatever tasks the master requests of him. A servant doesn't choose what days or times it's most convenient to serve his master. A servant's function is simply to follow and obey his master's instructions. A servant does not develop a vision for the master either. The master is the one with the vision -- and he wants his servants to be ready and available to carry out that vision and bring it to fruition.



In our organization, I consider President Gentry as our leader. He has the vision and we must help achieve that vision. His vision becomes our vision. We, as members, are to help make the vision possible.

How can we experience fulfillment in our lives? The world encourages us to seek counterfeit fulfillment -- power, success -- prosperity. The more of these things we gain, the more our flesh wants more. It is our sinful human nature. We will never find true fulfillment when we seek these things.

We must become servants if we want to experience true fulfillment. We need to become lowly, meek and humble. As God's servants we should have no other agenda, except to do His will. When we become faithful to do His will, then He will fulfill the aspirations He desires for us in our lives... and even those things we desire!

Everyone wants to lead; no one wants to be a servant. We would rather be generals than privates. Even Christians want to be “servant-leaders,” not just plain servants. But to be like Jesus is to be a servant. That's what he called himself.

How can we do this?

1. Empathy and compassion: Psalm 103:8 “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.” He is our example and this is what we should follow. Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

2. Godly work ethic: The Bible frequently warns against idleness, asserting that it leads to ruin. Work is not a punishment from God but a means by which we develop character. People who comprehend the purpose of work – and who find satisfaction in a job well done – are most likely to behave in ways that will improve their world. 1 Thessalonians 5:14

“And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.”

3. Volunteering, serving and giving: In God's economy, our time and money are not our own. We are stewards of his earthly kingdom. People who understand and act on this principle set themselves up to receive abundant blessing, in this life and the next! Romans 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” Luke 9:62

“Jesus replied, No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” We must look forward!

4. Discernment in Servanthood: Compassion must be tempered by wisdom. James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. “ Proverbs 2:6 “ For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

In the “Grange” we are servant leaders. We serve our communities, legislators, agricultural needs, and each other. In the book of Philippians 2:1-4 “He says, “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, hav-



Are you currently in 6th or 7th grade?

Have you been to Grange Camp at least once?

Do you want to be a leader?

If you answered **YES** to all three of these questions, then you need to apply for the 2017 Junior Leadership Team.

Go to:
form.jotform.com/70185627684162
and apply. The deadline is April 28th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at junior@ncgrange.com.

-Emily Hartsell

NC Grange Junior Director

ing the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,

but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

On my way to work last week, I heard a song by the Talley's called “What are you leaving behind”. It struck home! What are we leaving for those in our families and communities.

My question to you is “Are you ready to serve our Heavenly Father and are you ready to serve as Grange members”.

Galatians 5:13 “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; but rather, serve one another humbly in love.”

The scriptures challenge for us is found in Luke 12:35 “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning.” What are you leaving behind?

Gentry Receives Excellence in Agriculture Award

By: Jennie Gentry

The NC Grange is proud to announce that its very own State President, Jimmy Gentry, received the distinguished Excellence in Agriculture Award for 2017. Presented by Commissioner Steve Troxer at the Breakfast with the Commissioner event on February 3 to support the Tobacco Farm-life Museum, Gentry was recognized for his comprehensive involvement in the promotion and continued growth of the agriculture community in North Carolina.

Gentry has spent his entire career in agriculture. He was a public educator for 30 years, having taught agriculture and later working as a school principal, before becoming the president of the North Carolina State Grange in 2003. Regarding the recognition, Gentry said, "It is a great honor to be selected as a recipient of the Excellence in Agriculture Award. Being able to work within the agricultural community of North Carolina is a great privilege, and I am thankful that the Grange provides me with this opportunity. There are a lot of great people in this state who believe that a healthy agricultural economy is important, and I really enjoy working with many who share this appreciation for agriculture. I am very appreciative to those associated with the Tobacco Farm Life Museum who made the decision to recognize me in this way."

Gentry is the 12th recipient of this prestigious award, joining a list of excellent agriculture leaders who have been recognized in the past including Commissioner Steve Troxler, Dean Richard Linton of NC State University, and Dr. Bill Collins. Attending the breakfast to support Gentry on his recognition were his wife, Anita; his daughter, Jennie; Grange staff; and several board members and Grange members from the surrounding area. We are proud to have such an excellent leader who works hard to support our organization, its members, and the agriculture community.



Anita Gentry, Jimmy Gentry, Jennie Gentry



Receiving award from Commissioner of Agriculture, Steve Troxler



YOUR NEW 2017 NC STATE GRANGE YOUTH OFFICERS

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| President: | Margie Griffin, Troutman Grange | Flora: | Liz Cartwright, Guilford Grange |
| Vice President: | Katie Leonard, Arcadia Grange | Executive Committee: | Cole Settle, Little Mountain Grange |
| Program Director: | Hannah Bright, Troutman Grange | | Celeaha Swaim, Troutman Grange |
| Steward: | Tyler Leonard, Arcadia Grange | | Caroline Vandaveer, Southern Wake Grange |
| Assistant Steward: | Zac Mazag, Troutman Grange | | Hannah Gentry, Little Mountain Grange |
| Lady Assistant Steward: | Nayhive Gonzalez, Bushy Fork Grange | | Kirsten Cash, Troutman Grange |
| Chaplain: | Nadia Punt, Troutman Grange | Drill Coordinator: | Landon Woolard |
| Treasurer: | Marcus Avendano, Southern Wake Grange | | |
| Secretary: | Nora Smith, Southern Wake Grange | | |
| Gatekeeper: | Lucas Carter, Southern Wake Grange | | |
| Ceres: | Zipporah Hayes, Taylor's Bridge Grange | | |
| Pomona: | Emma Stack, Cape Fear Grange | | |



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

REGISTER FOR GRANGE CAMP!

VISIT NCGRANGE.COM TO SIGN UP

